

Vol. 42, No. 1

Spring 2020

# Vital Signs

Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

1980-2020

Years of Purpose



# 40 Years of Purpose From the Dean

The year 1980 was a turbulent and eventful one. Americans were captivated by news of the Iranian hostage crisis, John Lennon's murder, and the eruption of Mount St. Helens. The Rubik's Cube was debuted at the International Toy Fair. And the Pac-Man video game was released.

The dynamic spirit of the year set the tone for the coming decade and fed the public's fascination with Princess Diana, who encouraged diligence and humanity in making the world a better place. "I want to walk into a room, be it a hospital for the dying or a hospital for the sick children, and feel that I am needed," Diana said. "I want to do, not just to be."



Far above the clouds, in 1980, NASA's Solar Maximum Mission was embarking on a flight to study the sun during the peak of the solar cycle. And below, the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine was graduating its charter class of 31 physicians. Built on a parcel of land not far from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, our medical school was one of five created by the Teague-Cranston Act to help medically underserved areas. Our mission today remains as community-focused as it was then—it has helped us graduate 3,534 alumni.

This issue of Vital Signs celebrates the 40th anniversary of the first class to graduate from the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. There is much to celebrate. In just 40 years, this place and thousands of faculty, staff, and students who have labored and learned together have created something remarkable.

I first came here in 1982 as a faculty member in the Department of Surgery. Our school back then was known as the Wright State University School of Medicine, and it had a smaller footprint. Our offices were still housed in the Medical Sciences Building.

Today, we are the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. The Boonshoft gift made possible some of the tremendous growth we have enjoyed. You'll read about that part of our history in this special edition. We celebrate other

prominent figures, like the Kettering Family, who have helped our school over the years. We also note some of the important programs and milestones that show how special the Boonshoft School of Medicine really is.

We are so proud of all that has been accomplished, and yet we know that more work remains to be done. Our students both inspire and propel us, as they're the reason we are here. It is a sentiment shared by Barrett Bolton, M.D., a professor emeritus of internal medicine and pharmacology and toxicology, who served on the admissions committee for nearly 30 years. He helped interview and select applicants dating back to the days when Wright State's Dayton campus was mostly a corn field.

Today, like then, we are instituting innovative programs that drive student success and the improvement of health care in Dayton and beyond. We are launching a three-year M.D. program for high-achieving students interested in family medicine and pediatrics. Our efforts in rural health continue, as we have expanded the Wright Rural Medical Scholars program so that many medical students have the chance to experience rural rotations.

We're delighted to celebrate other noteworthy milestones. We are so proud of the relationship we have enjoyed with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center over the decades. Our Anatomical Gift Program continues to serve as a vital connection with the local community. And the Department of Population and Public Health Sciences celebrates 15 years of achieving its mission.

The results of these and many other great accomplishments over the past 40 years include the best alumni a medical school could have. We feature several successful alumni in this edition, including one who is pioneering a practice in telemedicine while releasing a new book and another who is on the frontlines of the fight to cure sickle cell disease.

What we have done at the Boonshoft School of Medicine over the past 40 years is truly special. We continue to lead the way in improving health, both in our communities and beyond. Without the support of the Wright State family and our alumni and friends, none of this would have been possible.

Thank you for your continued devotion to our mission and for supporting the spirit that has made our medical school so great. It has been a distinct privilege and an honor to serve as your dean.

Margaret Dunn, M.D., M.B.A., FACS, Dean

# 40 Years of Purpose What's Inside



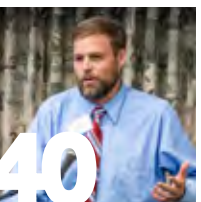
**Issues In Depth**  
Take a look back at the Boonshoft School of Medicine's first 40 years and see how far we've come.



**A Closer Look**  
Boonshoft School of Medicine begins three-year track to M.D. degree



**Giving Thanks**  
David Roer, M.D., '84, volunteers more than 30 years of service to medical school.



**In Residence**  
Brian Merrill, M.D., teaches medical residents and treats opioid addiction in Dayton.

## Faculty in Focus

Margaret Dunn, M.D., makes mark on medical school 26

Barrett Bolton, M.D., served on admissions committee for nearly 30 years 27

## A Closer Look

Veteran's Affairs medical center longstanding partnership 29

15 years of Public Health leadership 31

## Giving Thanks

Boonshoft family gift transformational 32

Kettering family gift established medical school 33

## In Residence

Internal Medicine resident leads research into chemotherapy toxicity of military veterans 42

## On the Move

1,000 Words 46

## Future Docs

Wright Rural Medical Scholars sees continued growth 48

## In Memoriam

## In Good Company

Celest Reese-Willis, M.D., '02 releases book on vitality 52

Patricia Oneal, M.D., '98 studies Sickle Cell disease at the National Institutes of Health 54

## Alumni Notes

## Fond Farewell

Founding chair of geriatrics retires 58

# Vital Signs

Vol. 42, No. 1  
Spring 2020

**Assistant Vice President for Advancement**  
Angela Clements, C.P.A.

**Senior Writer and Editor**  
Daniel Kelly

**Design**  
Lisa Coffey  
Josh Trippier

**Contributing Writers**  
Tom Beyerlein  
Lisa Coffey

**Photography**  
Erin Pence  
Chris Snyder  
Josh Trippier

**How to contact us:**  
Editor, *Vital Signs*  
Wright State University  
Boonshoft School of Medicine  
3640 Col. Glenn Hwy.  
Dayton, Ohio 45435

**Tel:** 937.245.7634  
**Fax:** 937.245.7949

som\_mc@wright.edu  
medicine.wright.edu

**To submit Class Notes:**  
som\_adv@wright.edu  
**Tel:** 937.245.7634

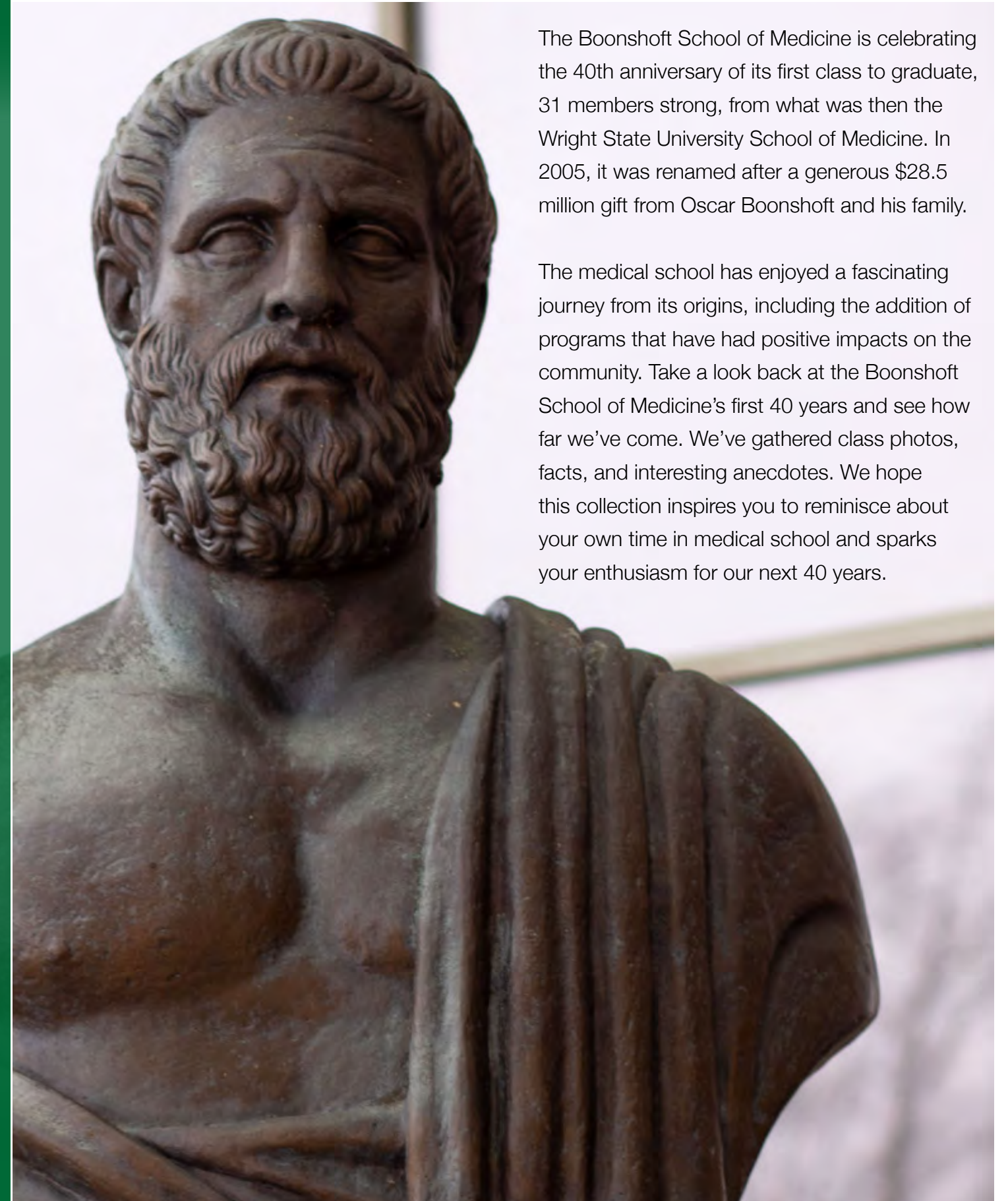
*Vital Signs* is published each year for alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine.

© 2020 Wright State University  
Boonshoft School of Medicine

**View *Vital Signs* online at**  
[medicine.wright.edu/vitalsigns](http://medicine.wright.edu/vitalsigns)



# 40 Years *of Purpose*



The Boonshoft School of Medicine is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its first class to graduate, 31 members strong, from what was then the Wright State University School of Medicine. In 2005, it was renamed after a generous \$28.5 million gift from Oscar Boonshoft and his family.

The medical school has enjoyed a fascinating journey from its origins, including the addition of programs that have had positive impacts on the community. Take a look back at the Boonshoft School of Medicine's first 40 years and see how far we've come. We've gathered class photos, facts, and interesting anecdotes. We hope this collection inspires you to reminisce about your own time in medical school and sparks your enthusiasm for our next 40 years.



# 1970

Three years after the Ohio General Assembly officially charters Wright State University as an independent state university, **university leaders ask for support for a new medical school.** They present a feasibility study based upon what they call the “concept of community” and outline the broad base of support they have identified for developing such a school.

# 1972

Congress passes the Veterans Administration Medical School Assistance and Health Manpower Training Act, also known as the **Teague Cranston Act**, providing financial support for establishing five new U.S. medical schools, including one at Wright State University. The Veterans Administration awards the school a \$19.5 million, seven-year grant for faculty support and facilities. Other major founding donors include Mrs. Virginia Kettering, who contributes \$1 million in unrestricted funds, and the Fordham Foundation, which provides \$500,000 for a medical library.



Virginia Kettering

# 1973

The **Wright State University School of Medicine is established** by the Ohio General Assembly.

# 1974

**John R. Beljan, M.D., is hired as the founding dean** of the Wright State University School of Medicine. He is considered a leader who can bring to life the community service vision of the school’s founders. Beljan holds this position until 1980.



John Beljan, M.D.

The **pediatric residency program begins** at Wright State University School of Medicine. In the early 1980s,

the program would partner with Dayton Children’s Hospital and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Medical Center’s pediatric clinic to form the nation’s only civilian-military integrated pediatric residency program. To date, over 350 residents have graduated from the pediatric residency program.

# 1975

The **Department of Psychiatry is formed** at Wright State University School of Medicine. This is one of the first departments in the school of medicine.

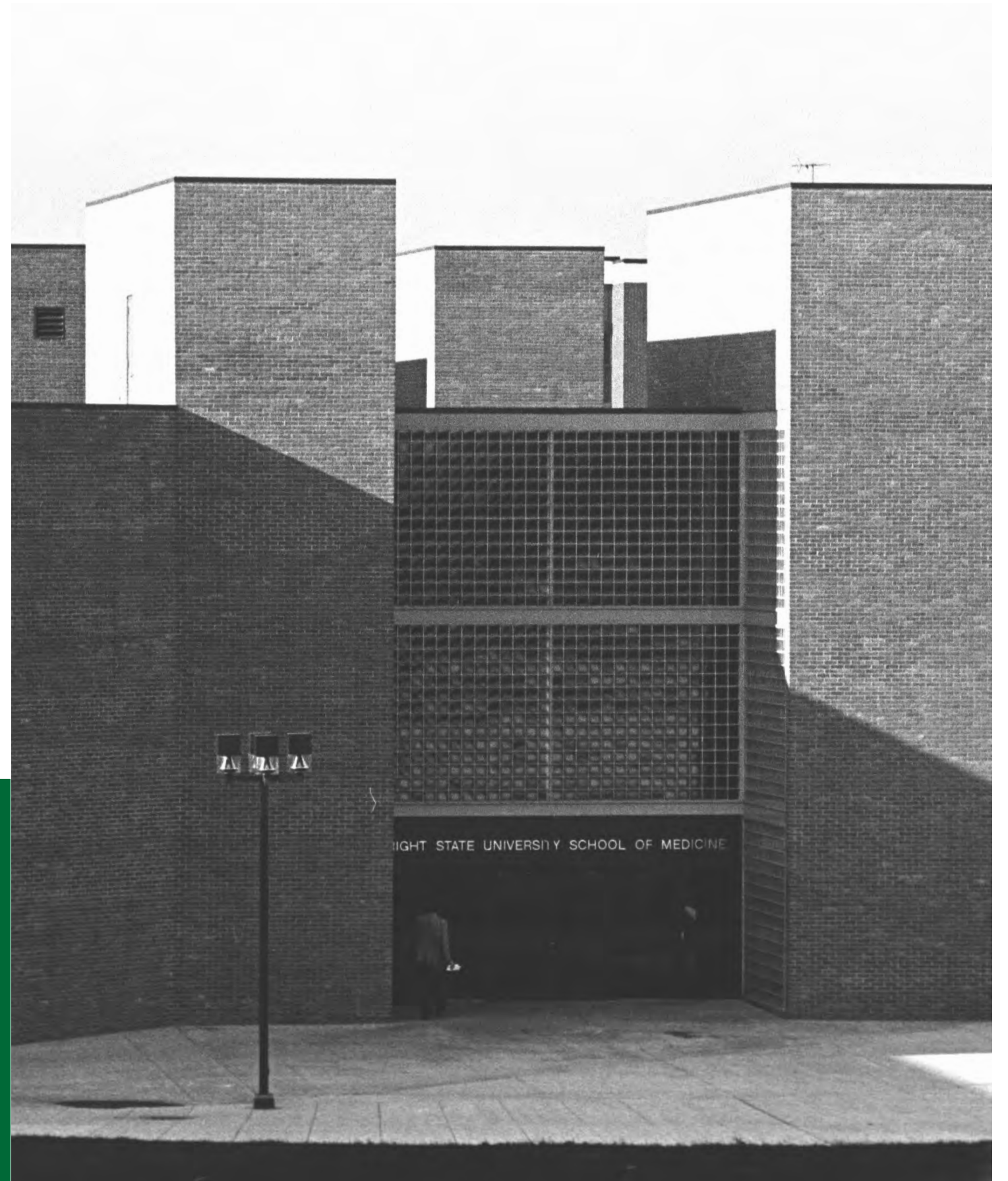
# 1976

The Wright State University School of Medicine **charter class begins studies.**

## Through the Years

A chronological look back at our alumni.

1980



Wright State University School of Medicine, 1977.



# 1977

The Fels Research Institute and the Fels Longitudinal Study becomes part of the Wright State University School of Medicine, and data from the Fels Study is published in the nation's pediatric growth charts from 1978 to 2000 for children from birth to 3 years of age. The Fels Study was originally designed to study child growth and development. Later, the Fels Longitudinal Study focuses on physical growth, skeletal maturation, body composition, risk factors for cardiovascular disease and obesity, skeletal and dental biology, longitudinal biostatistical analyses and aging.



The Wright State University School of Medicine **Academy of Medicine is founded.** The academy is a community-based service organization dedicated to supporting excellence in medicine. The organization supports medical education at the School of Medicine by providing low-interest loans to students and awarding students and faculty achievement. To date, more than \$4.3 million in simple, low-interest loans have been provided to students.



Academy  
of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY



Students with instructor, 1978.

# 1979

**Horizons in Medicine is established** at Wright State University School of Medicine to provide under-represented minority high school students exposure to science and careers in medicine.



William Sawyer, M.D.

# 1980

**William Sawyer, M.D. is selected as Dean** of the Wright State University School of Medicine, a position he holds until 1987. Under his leadership, the School of Medicine builds a reputation for diversity of its student body and dedication to community service.



Wright State University **School of Medicine graduates its charter class.** Since then, more than 3,500 M.D.'s have graduated from the school.

# 1982



# 1983



# 1984



# 1985



# 1986



# 1987





Wright State University School of Medicine **Donated Body Program** holds its first internment ceremony, the first school in Ohio to hold a memorial service for donors. The Donated Body Program supports donation of remains to the Wright State University School of Medicine for educational purposes. To date, the program has registered 25,933 donors.

The **first emergency medicine residency class graduates** from the Wright State University School of Medicine. The department is only the fourth full academic Department of Emergency Medicine in the United States, and one of the first 10 Emergency Medicine Residency programs in the nation. To date, over 400 residents have graduated from the program.

The Wright State University School of Medicine Center for Interventions, Treatment and Addictions Research (CITAR) is founded by faculty member Harvey A. Siegal, Ph.D. CITAR is involved with substance abuse services, and academic and services research. The goals of CITAR are understanding substance abuse, intervention, and management.

**1981** The **Frederick A. White Center for Ambulatory Care** is dedicated. The center, named for Frederick A. White, provides Wright State University School of Medicine students and faculty with a facility where they engage in office practice. White, an engineer, was a close follower of the development of Wright State as a university. He was

appointed business manager of the university development process, and was referred to as Wright State's "first employee."

**1982**

Otolaryngologist, and Wright State University School of Medicine faculty member, **Robert Goldenberg, M.D.,** develops the first adult cochlear implant in Dayton. Six years later he would develop the first pediatric cochlear implant in the area.



Robert Goldenberg, M.D.

**1987**

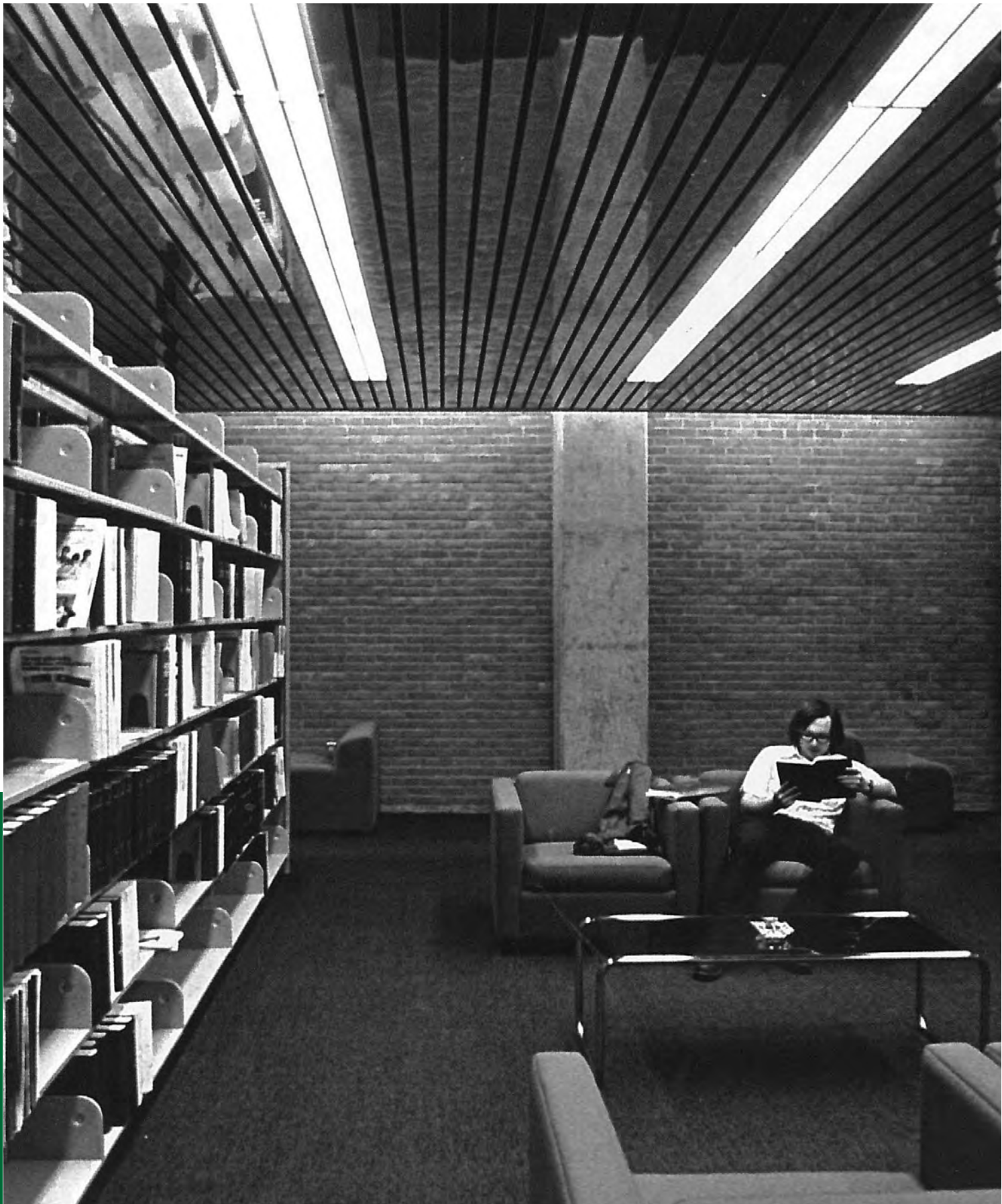
The **Student to Student Program** at Wright State University School of Medicine begins providing health education to Greater Dayton Area schools. Student to Student is a community education program run by Wright State University School of Medicine students. Medical students visit area schools to communicate about medicine and health.



William Kaplan, M.D.

**1988**

**William Kaplan, M.D.,** begins his tenure as dean of Wright State University School



Student studies in the Fordham Library in the Medical Sciences Building, 1980s.





of Medicine. Kaplan would be dean through 1990.  
Kaplan's vision for the medical school is one of identifying and meeting community needs, and being an active partner in the community.

Wright State University School of Medicine Department of Dermatology organizes the **first annual community-wide skin cancer screening**.

# 1990

**Kim Goldenberg, M.D. is selected as dean** of Wright

State University School of Medicine, a position he holds until 1998. Dr. Goldenberg makes significant contributions to the medical school, even receiving the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine Appreciation Award in 2007 for his contributions and outstanding leadership.



Kim Goldenberg, M.D.

Otolaryngologist, and Wright State University School of Medicine faculty member, **Robert Goldenberg, M.D., develops a middle ear implant system** for hearing reconstruction.

# 1991

**The Partnership for Community Health Development**, later called the Center for Healthy

Communities, is founded, and is part of the Wright State University School of Medicine office of the dean. In 1994, it becomes part of the Department of Community Health, known today as the Department of Population and Public Health Sciences.

The organization is a community-academic partnership committed to improving the health and well-being of the community, educating its health professionals and serving as a force for change.



Computer technology, 1995.

# 1992

**The University Medical Services Association (known today as Wright State Physicians) Psychotherapy Clinic is formed.** This clinic is a

nationally recognized Wright State University School of Medicine resident physician training site focused on providing psychotherapy treatment to the community in the areas of anxiety, depression, relationship issues, and traumatic life events.

# 1993

**The Mall at Fairfield Commons opens** 2 miles away from Wright State University, providing students a new place for entertainment and shopping.



# 1994

**Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues (SARDI) program begins** to examine the correlation between substance abuse and disability conditions. The SARDI Program at Wright State University School of Medicine seeks to improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities, including those who are also affected by behavioral health issues.

The Wright State University School of Medicine Department of **Surgery initiates the Greater Dayton Area Injury Prevention Center.**

The Wright State University School of Medicine Donated

1990



1991



1992



1993



1994



1995





Body Program is renamed the **Anatomical Gift Program**.

# 1995

**Al Batata, M.D.**, Wright State University School of Medicine faculty member, begins work on cancer genetics.



*Al Batata, M.D.*

Emergency Medicine provides **toxicology consultation** service to the community.

# 1996

Student Affairs organizes the **West Dayton Area Health and Wellness Project**, to provide free health screenings in local African-American churches.

The Greater Dayton Area Injury Prevention Center, initiated by the Wright State University School of Medicine Department of Surgery **wins the national award for community service** from the American Hospital Association.

# 1997

Faculty from the **Center for Healthy Communities** begin a statewide training program to better integrate student learning and community service.

Commitment to community is a hallmark of the Wright State University School of Medicine. That commitment is recognized nationally when the **Association of American Medical Colleges** grants the school the prestigious **Outstanding Community Service Award**.

# 1998

**Howard Part, M.D.**, is selected as dean of the **Wright State University School of Medicine**. Part would hold the position until 2011. Part is significant in fundraising and forging partnerships with donors, making possible the opening of the Gandhi Medical Education Center at Wright State University. He is also instrumental in the creation of the Department of Geriatrics, Center for Global Health Systems, and the Wright State University and Premier Health Partners Neuroscience Institute.



*Howard Part, M.D.*

# 2000



Students initiate the Wright State University School of Medicine **International Education Program**. This leads to the forming of the Global Health Initiative, the student-run service organization that assists with fund-raising and coordinating student travel.

1998



1999



2000



2001



1996



1997



2002



2003





**2001** Dean X. Parmelee, M.D., joins the Wright State University School of Medicine as associate dean for academic affairs, where he partners with colleagues to transform the curriculum into one that engages medical learners. He is instrumental in the **design and implementation of many team-based learning modules** incorporated throughout the medical school's curriculum. Wright State University School of Medicine is one of the first medical schools to utilize a team-based learning approach. Wright State University School of Medicine faculty experts have provided training in Team-Based Learning™ and curriculum development to medical and health profession schools throughout the United States and worldwide.

**2005** The Wright State University School of Medicine **changes its name to the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine**, in recognition of the Oscar Boonshoft family, which gives the Wright State University School of Medicine its largest philanthropic gift. Oscar Boonshoft was an engineer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base who, after retiring, dealt in trading of commodity futures exchanges.



Oscar Boonshoft

The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine **Anatomical Gift Program celebrates its 25th anniversary.**

Restaurant and popular student hangout Tuty's, 2 miles from the Wright State University campus, burns to the ground. Tuty's would later rebuild and today is still a favorite destination for Wright State students.

The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine Department of Emergency Medicine celebrates its 25th anniversary.

**2006** The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine **Department of Geriatrics is created**, a result of a community collaboration that included Premier Health Partners, the Dayton Veteran's Affairs Medical Center and the Oscar Boonshoft family. The creation of this department helps solidify a vision for care of the older adult and has been part of the Boonshoft School of Medicine's mission since its inception.

**University Medical Services Association (UMSA) changes its name to Wright State Physicians.** Originally formed in 1977, the name change is intended to better reflect the organization's role as the faculty practice plan for Wright State University.

**2007**

The **Matthew O. Diggs III Laboratory for Life Science Research** opens on the Wright State



Students analyze x-ray images, 1988.





University campus. The 45,000-square-foot building houses highly productive research labs for the Environmental and Biomedical Sciences Programs and Molecular Genetics as well as the medical school's Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Center for Genomics Research.

**2008** Wright State University Boonshoft School of medicine opens the new Medical Education Center in White Hall. The new facility is the result of a three-year project to completely renovate the former Frederick A. White Health Center for Ambulatory Care and to expand the building with an 18,000-square-foot addition. In total, the facility now includes more than 84,000 square feet of lecture halls, classrooms, laboratories, offices, study spaces, computer labs, and common areas, all devoted to the specialized training of tomorrow's finest medical professionals.



**2010** The Neuroscience Institute is founded by Wright State University and Premier Health. Designated as a University System of Ohio Center of Excellence, the Wright State University and Premier Health Neuroscience Institute represents a groundbreaking public-private partnership that unites the Dayton region's most advanced biomedical research institution with the clinical resources of its largest hospital system. The Neuroscience Institute develops a Neurology department and Neurology Residency Program, created in partnership by the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and Premier Health. The department attracts top clinical neurologists to the region to improve patient care in the community.



*The Annals of Internal Medicine* ranks the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine fourth in the nation for its social mission. The study, entitled "The Social Mission of Medical Education: Ranking the

*The Annals of Internal Medicine* ranks the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine fourth in the nation for its social mission. The study, entitled "The Social Mission of Medical Education: Ranking the

**1980** The year the first class graduated from the medical school. Also that year...



**Post-It Notes**  
were first sold.



**Pac Man**  
was created.



**\$7,000**  
was the cost of a new car.



**\$2,321**  
was the average annual cost for in-state tuition and fees at the Wright State University School of Medicine.

**2009** The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine creates the Division of Tactical Emergency Medicine, which is part of the school's Department of Emergency Medicine. The division focuses on providing care for public safety personnel, and on developing and teaching best practices for personnel and the medical providers who serve them and work alongside them.

Schools," measures the percentage of graduates who practice primary care, work in health professional shortage areas and are underrepresented minorities, and combines the data into a composite social mission score.

**2012**

Wright State Physicians (WSP) opens its state-of-the-art facility on the



2006



2007



2008



2009



2010



2011





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

**Marjorie Bowman, M.D. is appointed dean** for the Boonshoft School of Medicine, and would remain in the position until 2015. One of Bowman's contributions to the Boonshoft School of Medicine was the partnership with Premier Health, culminating in the Neuroscience Engineering Collaborative.



Marjorie Bowman, M.D.

**Clinical Trials Research Alliance (CTRA) is founded.** This public-private health care clinical trials initiative was formed by a partnership between the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and Premier Health. CTRA provides cutting-edge scientific study into new medicines and better ways to prevent, detect, diagnose, control and treat illnesses.

**2013** Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine **receives an American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Top 10**

**Award** for its consistent contributions to building the family physician workforce. Each year, the AAFP presents its Family Medicine Top 10 Awards to honor medical schools that, during a three-year period, graduated the greatest percentage of students who chose first-year family medicine residency positions

**2014** **Wright Rural Health Initiative is created** at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of

Medicine. This initiative is in place to improve rural health care access by increasing the number of medical students and residents who train and practice in rural communities. The Boonshoft School of Medicine's collaboration with Wright State University-Lake Campus allows medical students who wish to pursue a career in a rural area to



complete clerkships while living at the Lake Campus on Grand Lake St. Marys between Celina, Ohio and St. Marys, Ohio.

The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine and Premier Health Neuroscience Institute, together with Dayton Children's Hospital, announce the **affiliation of Dayton Children's with the institute to boost pediatric neuroscience research** in the region and enhance pediatric care.

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine **receives, for a second consecutive year, an American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Top 10 Award**, for its consistent contributions to building the family physician workforce

**2015**

**Margaret M. Dunn, M.D., M.B.A., FACS, is appointed dean** of the

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. In her more than 30 years at Wright State, she has made significant contributions to the growth and operation of the school's clinical, educational and research programs. She is responsible for the construction of the Wright State Physicians Health Center. Dunn is the first woman to practice general surgery in the Dayton region.



Margaret Dunn, M.D., M.B.A., FACS

The \$37 million **Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration (NEC) Building opens** on the Wright State campus, spawning pioneering research and medical



breakthroughs by housing the collective brainpower of top neuroscientists, engineers and their teams. The Wright State University & Premier Health Neuroscience Institute unites the Dayton region's most advanced biomedical

research institution with the clinical resources of its leading hospital system. The \$37 million Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration Building is unique in bringing together basic researchers, clinical researchers and engineers to develop not only new treatments and cures but also medical devices and imaging technologies that will revolutionize medicine.

**2016**

The nationally known Institute for the Study of Health and Illness, founded and directed by



Orientation, 2015.



author Rachel Naomi Remen, M.D., joins in partnership with the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, to expand its reach and ensure its future. In recognition of Remen's unique and invaluable contribution to medical education, Wright State renamed the institute the **Remen Institute for the Study of Health and Illness (RISHI)** in Remen's honor.



The **Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)** honors **Dean X. Parmelee, M.D.**, professor of psychiatry and pediatrics and associate dean for medical education at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, with the Alpha Omega Alpha Robert J. Glaser Distinguished Teacher Award. Dr. Parmelee is an early pioneer of team-based learning and medical education innovation for more than three decades.

The **Wonka Golden Ticket Scholarship Fund** is created at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. This fund supports the unique orientation tradition "golden ticket program." The golden ticket program involves candy bars distributed to all first-year medical students during orientation. Five contain a winning golden ticket worth \$500. This program is developed by retired



Boonshoft School of Medicine Admissions Officer ,  
Debbie McNeely.

The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine Department of **Community Health** changes its name to the **Department of Population and Public Health Sciences**.

**2017** 38 Wright State physicians and faculty of the **Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine** and **Wright State**

**Physicians are named to the 2017-2018 Best Doctors in America® List.** They represent 88 percent of the 43 Dayton-area doctors named. Five of the 43 physicians are Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine alumni, and nine are alumni of the medical school's residency programs

**Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine launches WrightCurriculum**, a lecture-free education style that focuses on collaborative, team-based learning and fosters students' personal and professional growth. It is built on three phases: Foundations, Doctoring, and Advanced Doctoring.

**2019** School of Medicine **Horizons in Medicine** program celebrates its **40th anniversary**. This program has given more than 600 high school students in the Dayton area the opportunity to prepare for careers in science and health care.

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine medical students, residents and the **School of Professional Psychology** collaborate with **Verily Life**



Students in class, 2014.





**Sciences** in the launch of a new full-service addiction treatment center in west Dayton, Ohio. The center could serve as a prototype for similar efforts in other cities nation-wide.

The **14th annual Global Health Initiative Symposium** is held at Wright State University. This event helps raise funds for medical students participating in the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine International Education Program.

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine rural health initiative expands to become the **Wright Rural Medical Scholars Program**. The expansion means a permanent rural program is created that can continue the effort to increase the number of physicians in rural Ohio.



Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine **Dean Margaret Dunn, M.D., M.B.A., FACS, announces her retirement**, a search for her predecessor is underway.

The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine partners with the Wright State University Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology and Physiology to offer the **Wright Start Bridge Program**. This program offers Wright State students a graduate certificate in anatomy with an emphasis on preparation for medical education.

**2020** The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine begins **three-year track to M.D. degree** program.



This program allows a small select number of students at the Boonshoft School of Medicine to complete their Doctor of Medicine degrees in three years. Students selected to participate in

the program are given conditional acceptance to residency and begin residencies in family medicine or pediatrics.



Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine today.





## Margaret Dunn, M.D., M.B.A., FACS, leaves mark on the medical school

No dean has known the medical school better than Dr. Margaret Dunn. With the end of her time as dean approaching, the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine will say goodbye to a leader whose wisdom has guided the school, in one form or fashion, for nearly four decades.

Dr. Dunn will return to a faculty position with the Department of Surgery after her service as dean is over. Many have had the good fortune of working with her over the years. Her leadership and service to the medical school will be dearly missed.

The oldest of four children, Dunn grew up in a large, extended Irish Catholic family that included 46 first cousins. She was raised on Long Island, as were her parents. They moved from New York City to Oakdale on the south shore when Dunn was four.

Because her maternal grandfather was unable to work, her grandmother supported her five children by working in hospitals, which led to Dunn's interest in medicine. Although her grandmother's

formal education had ended before high school, "She was a really smart woman," said Dunn. "She never let the lack of formal education make her think she wasn't a bright person. Which, of course, she was. She had five kids to raise."

Although there were no physicians in her family, Dunn remembers getting interested in the idea of becoming a physician at the young age of 10 or 11, and she soon became a candy stripper. "It seemed like a way to help people, and it was intellectually interesting," Dunn said.

In her teens, she applied to an accelerated medical school program at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia that combined an undergraduate and medical education into six years. She was accepted and began medical school at the age of 18.

After graduation from Jefferson in 1977, Dunn did her residency at Einstein-Montefiore in the Bronx, where she served as chief surgical resident. She met her future husband, Bill Spohn, when he was an

intern doing a pediatric residency. He was her classmate's resident.

After finishing his residency in pediatrics in Delaware, Spohn followed her to New York. He joined the Public Health Service and worked in the Lower East Side of Manhattan for two years. "And then he did his pediatric pulmonary fellowship at Mt. Sinai, so we ended up finishing up at the same time," she said. They married in 1982.

Dunn was offered a faculty position at Einstein Montefiore. She would have stayed, but her husband could not find a position he liked because there were so many pediatric pulmonologists in New York. Since many positions were open in other parts of the United States, he landed an interview for a Wright State University position at Children's Medical Center of Dayton. Although he considered it a practice interview, after interviewing he decided he really liked the position and Dayton. "I told him he could decide where we moved next," she said.

Dr. Dunn first landed a faculty position in the Department of Surgery at the Wright State University School of Medicine in 1982. She became the first woman on the surgery faculty and one of the very few women faculty members in the medical school. At that time, the surgery department was located at Kettering Hospital, but Dunn spent most of her time at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

*In her nearly 40 years working at the medical school, Dunn has helped the 3,534 alumni who know Wright State as their alma mater.*

Dr. Dunn went on to serve as surgery clerkship director for 13 years. In 1998,

she was appointed associate dean for faculty and clinical affairs. It wasn't long after that she became president and CEO of Wright State Physicians, the school's faculty practice plan.

Dunn was instrumental in the creation of the Wright State Physicians Health Center on the Wright State University campus that provides much needed medical care to Wright State students and the residents of Raider Country. The \$15 million facility has helped retain outstanding medical faculty and staff in support of clinical, research, and community service activities.

She was named associate executive dean of the Wright State University Boonshoft

(AWS), and has served as the organization's president. In 2012, the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) honored Dunn with its most prestigious award, the Nina Starr Braunwald Award, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the advancement of women in surgery.

Dunn was in the charter class of the prestigious Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program for women in medicine. Dunn has won numerous teaching and research awards, including the Wright State University Academy of Medicine's award for Excellence in Medical Education and Research. She was selected for the prestigious



Dr. Margaret Dunn with her family in 1990.

School of Medicine in 2007. She is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and serves on its Board of Regents, a position she was elected to in 2011. In the same year, she was named one of the Ten Top Women of 2011 by the Dayton Daily News.

Dunn helped to launch the Neuroscience Engineering Collaboration, an effort to bring together the scientists and physicians affiliated with the Neuroscience Institute and Wright State University's systems research engineers to create a unique synergy between biomedical research and engineering.

She was instrumental in the formation of the Association of Women Surgeons

Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) fellowship at Hahnemann University in Philadelphia in 1995.

Dunn was appointed dean of the Boonshoft School of Medicine in 2015. As dean, Dunn has graduated more than 600 medical students. In her nearly 40 years working at the medical school, Dunn has helped the 3,534 alumni who know Wright State as their alma mater.

Dr. Dunn will continue to touch the lives of those who are fortunate enough to learn from her as she returns to a full-time faculty position in the Department of Surgery.

—Daniel Kelly

## Barrett Bolton, M.D., served on admissions committee for nearly 30 years

Dr. Barrett Bolton had a view of the history of the medical school at Wright State University. He remembers when the Dayton campus of Wright State University was just a corn field.

Around the time that the medical school was founded, he was working at Miami Valley Hospital as director of residency training for internal medicine. Before that, Dr. Bolton served in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Puerto Rico. He completed residency training in Iowa City, Iowa, and completed a fellowship in cancer chemotherapy.

Bolton was the founding chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Wright State University, among many other important roles, and helped to train countless medical students as they became competent physicians focused on the care of their patients and communities.

It was one of the values he looked for as a member of the school's admissions committee, which is in charge of reviewing applications, interviewing applicants, and offering prospective students seats at the medical school. In his mind, that was one of the hallmarks of a medical education at Wright State University.

"To me, you know, if they were interested in research, that's OK. But it's more that they're interested in patient care," Bolton said. "A focus on patient care, that really is



favorable. No matter who interviews, you want to be sure that they can relate to patients.”

He served on the admissions committee for decades, and helped interview applicants each week for eight to nine months out of the year. It was one of the busiest committees he served on. An applicant’s interview was very significant to whether or not they were offered a seat at the medical school, he said. Bolton welcomed the responsibility.

interviewed the following year, and got in.

“I wondered what happened to that guy. I looked at his application again and he and his wife both wound up coming to Wright State. They both graduated very high in their class,” Bolton said. “Last I knew, they were off in Alaska working in a public health-hospital arrangement out in the wilderness.”

Since he served in the position for so long, he interviewed the children of medical students who had graduated in the past. He met

Affairs Medical Center for many years, where he was chief of staff for research and education. Bolton also served patients at the Yellow Springs clinic for a year. He ultimately went back to work at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, while serving as vice chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, before his retirement.

He was a voluntary faculty member in the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology for 10 years, where he assisted with about 20 percent of the courses offered by the department.

Today, he is a professor emeritus of internal medicine and pharmacology and toxicology.

Dr. Bolton decided to retire from the admissions committee because he felt that the practice of medicine had changed quite a bit. He didn’t know if he was still in a position to know which applicants would be best

suited for medical practice. While specialties such as surgery and obstetrics-gynecology have changed little over the years, primary care and internal medicine have changed drastically. Many practitioners see patients in outpatient environments only, and many work as hospitalists.

“I always used to give a little talk to the applicants about how they should start introducing themselves to patients if they got into medical school and they are seeing patients. Find out their name and be polite; you cannot be too polite,” Bolton said. “Find out something about them that you like, because when you do that, it means that you like them and they will like you too. You wind up getting better patient histories and eventually the patients become your friends.”

—Daniel Kelly

*“A focus on patient care, that really is favorable. No matter who interviews, you want to be sure that they can relate to patients.”*

applicants who were involved in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) like he was in his youth. It was the prelude to his time in the U.S. Army and his service at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

“I had excellent ROTC instruction in the first two years of my college and it was an excellent experience,” Bolton said. “I learned about

military jurisprudence and all kinds of useful stuff that left me in good stead.”

The interview process is a little different at Wright State University. At the Boonshoft School of Medicine, the interview lasts at least an hour. At other schools, it might only take 15 minutes. That is just too little time to adequately assess an applicant, he said.

Bolton worked at the Dayton Veterans

“It was fun because you got to talk to prospective students. And it was like having a new patient,” Bolton said. “We had a full hour to schmooze with them and find out what their interests were, what their qualities were.”

He remembers an applicant who went through the process many years ago. The applicant was impressive and gave a good interview, but didn’t accept a seat that year. The applicant’s wife was



## Veterans Affairs Medical Center a longstanding partner of the medical school

In 1867, what would become the Dayton Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center was then known as the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Central Branch. In Dayton, it was simply known as the “Soldiers’ Home.” At its peak in 1884, the Home provided all levels of care to over 7,000 veterans and, by 1910, over half a million Americans were visiting the Home each year.

In addition to spending time with the Civil War veterans who lived there, visitors came to see the Home’s formal gardens and working dairy farm, its deer park, and a tiny zoo that housed alligators and a bear. The Memorial Hall housed an assortment of plays, concerts, and speakers.

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, with 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.

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

In 1885, the medical staff at the hospital included a chief surgeon and two assistants, an eye and ear specialist, and 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 that year had some form of heart disease. Their average age was 53 years.

After more than 150 years of service, what Lincoln started has grown into one of Ohio’s largest integrated health care systems.



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 in 1942. 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 and deer park have long since passed from the scene, but the National Cemetery remains the final resting place available to all eligible veterans.

In 1972, Congress enacted another law with historic impact for Dayton. The Veterans Administration Medical School Assistance and Health Manpower Training Act, also known as the Teague-Cranston Act, provided financial support to create five new American medical schools. One of the schools chosen to receive funding was at Wright State University.

Teague-Cranston made a long-term investment in the future of veterans' health by linking the Dayton VA Medical Center patient care with Wright State's medical education mission. Veterans Affairs allocated \$19 million in 1974 to help establish the medical school. This led to the construction of two new buildings at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center, one dedicated to medical education and the other to basic science research. Before the Medical Sciences Building was completed on Wright State University's main campus, the dean of the medical school and other administrative staff worked in offices on the Veterans Affairs campus. Then, Wright State and Veterans Affairs began the joint process of faculty recruitment.

Over the past several decades, the emphasis has shifted from inpatient to outpatient services. Wider access to health care for veterans is a primary goal and the system has provided an increasing amount of care in outpatient clinics, particularly in smaller communities and rural areas across Ohio. It ties in perfectly with Wright State's mission as a community-based medical school.

The Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center provides continuity of care for tens of thousands each year. The center's Patient Tower has only half the number of inpatient beds as the 1870 Home Hospital, but its outpatient clinics receive hundreds of thousands of visits each year. Over the years, the Veterans Affairs system has continued to evolve along lines similar to the nation's health care system as a whole. The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine continues to be an important partner.

In addition to serving as a primary training site for internal medicine residencies, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center offers

integrated residencies in surgery and dermatology. Internal medicine residents, who are encouraged to assume maximum patient care responsibilities commensurate with their clinical abilities and training levels, have immediate access to 30 full-time Department of Internal Medicine and Neurology faculty for supervision and support.

Medical residents rotating there receive comprehensive training in primary, secondary and tertiary care. Because the medical school also uses the collaboration as a focal point for clinical research, residents experience research programs as an integral part of their education. The Veterans Affairs Medical Center offers the use of an extensive, modern medical library; access to the most up-to-date computer system in the Dayton area; and education in computer applications within medical care.

Although the third oldest Veteran Affairs Medical Center in the country, numerous enhancements and upgrades, including a state-of-the-art simulation center and endoscopy facilities, enable the center to provide the highest level of care to veterans in the region. The simulation center features life-sized, computer-



The Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center today.

activated mannequins with heart rates, blood pressures, breath sounds, and other bodily functions, which are regulated in a control room by medical staff. There are six simulation rooms, three task-training rooms, and five debriefing rooms.

State-of-the-art audio/visual systems allow recording and playback of simulated events to enhance the learning experience. The simulation center also includes a nurse's station, a medication and code cart room, and an auditorium with 125 seats. Medical students in the Prematriculation Program, a four-week summer program for incoming students, and residents from the medical school, have utilized the facility. In addition, students from the medical school's Horizons in Medicine Program, a unique program designed to give disadvantaged high school students a sense of the career possibilities in

health care, have visited the simulation center.

The Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center is also home to a virtual medical center that is designed to enhance clinical outcomes, promote collaborative health care, and provide care to veterans in virtual clinics. Veterans today are more tech savvy and embrace virtual technologies, which allow geographically

separated veterans to communicate with medical staff.

Wright State University has long been highly ranked for its ongoing work to support veterans. Many alumni from the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine also go on to work in Veterans Affairs hospitals around the country.

—Daniel Kelly

## Boonshoft School of Medicine begins three-year track to M.D. degree

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine is embarking on a program in 2020 that will allow select students at the school to complete their Doctor of Medicine degrees in just three years. Students admitted to the three-year track will receive conditional admittance to a Wright State University residency program, starting with the Departments of Family Medicine and Pediatrics.

Up to four students per year will be selected for the two spots in family medicine and the two spots in pediatrics. Selected students will progress through medical school with their classmates, but they will complete their graduation requirements within three years instead of the traditional four years. They will graduate with less debt due to finishing medical school in just three years.

As the program matures, other Wright State specialties may add three-year track options. The Boonshoft School of Medicine has been approved to allow up to ten percent of the students in each class to be in a three-year track.

Interested medical students will apply for the three-year track in January of their first year, which gives the students time to complete several modules prior to application. By this time, the students will understand the rigor and pace of medical school and be capable of assessing if an accelerated pathway is the best route for them to pursue, as well as determining if they are ready to commit to one specialty and to staying in Dayton for their residency training.

The program may be particularly appealing to non-traditional students at the Boonshoft School of Medicine who already have strong backgrounds working in the medical field. They are often ahead of the curve in knowledge, and already have

clinical comfort working with patients.

Medical students accepted into the accelerated program will complete a portion of their first clerkship the summer between the first and second year of medical school. While their second-year classes will be the same as their classmates in the traditional curriculum, the three-year track students will have monthly clinical days throughout the second year, receiving mentoring from departmental faculty.

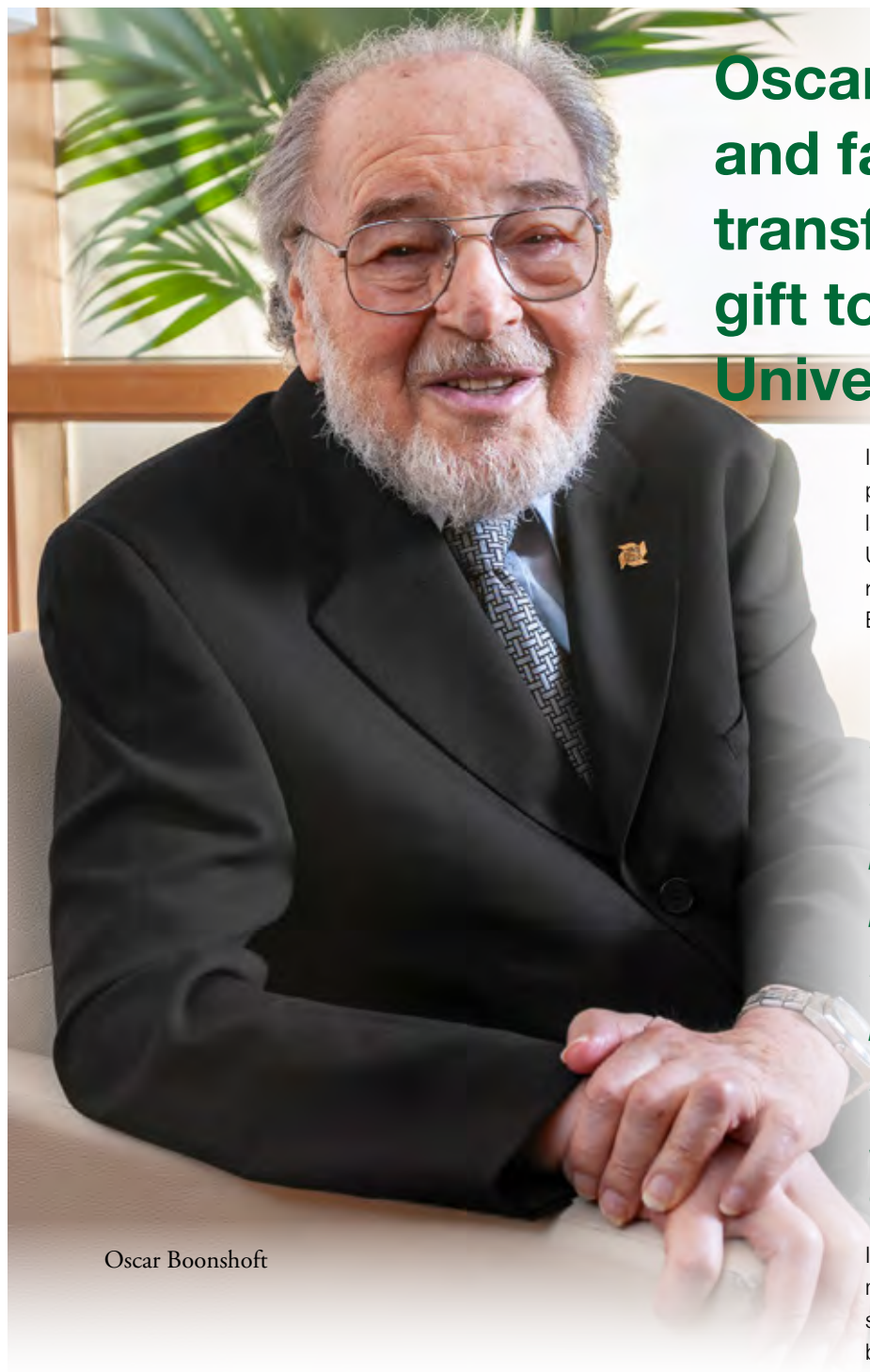
In their third year of medical school, the three-year track students will complete the same clerkships as their colleagues, while also completing the required sub-internship and emergency medicine clerkships prior to the end of the third full year in medical school. Students in the three-year track are required to complete all graduation requirements, take Step 1 and Step 2 exams, interview with their residency program, and go through the match process.

After a short break, their residency training in family medicine or pediatrics will begin at Wright State. The major difference between the three-year track and the traditional curriculum is that accelerated students do not take electives. Students in the three-year track will always have the option to opt out and return to the traditional curriculum prior to the match.

"This is a win-win option for a select group of students who know they want to stay in Ohio for residency and practice either family medicine or pediatrics," said Brenda Roman, M.D., associate dean for Medical Education. "It's also a great benefit for the residency programs to recruit top talent."

— Daniel Kelly





Oscar Boonshoft

## Oscar Boonshoft and family made a transformational gift to Wright State University

In 2005, the Oscar Boonshoft family presented to the medical school the largest gift ever received by Wright State University. In gratitude, the school was renamed the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine.

*The medical school has focused on leveraging that gift to promote progress in physical space, innovative research programs, geriatric medicine, expanded global health efforts, and scholarships.*

In accepting the extraordinary gift, the medical school leadership took very seriously Oscar Boonshoft's charge to build on his family's support in order to achieve even greater success as an institution and to assume a leadership role in advancing science, improving health care delivery, and expanding access to quality care.

In the years since the gift was presented, the medical school has focused on leveraging that gift to promote progress in the areas of physical space, innovative research programs, geriatric medicine, expanded global health efforts, and support for scholarships — the hallmark is the Boonshoft Scholars program, which every year awards one-year and four-year scholarships to deserving medical students.

The gift helped to support the renovation of the Gandhi Medical Education Center in White Hall, which opened in the fall of 2008. The center is a showcase for the medical school. It is just one of many transformations that were made possible

by the gift from Oscar Boonshoft and his family.

The allocation of \$2.5 million from the Boonshoft family gift provided the foundation for a very successful fundraising campaign that made the renovation of White Hall possible. By leveraging the initial investment, the school was able to generate \$10.5 million in additional funding to cover the cost of the historic project.

The Gandhi Medical Education Center has more than 84,000 square feet of specialized learning spaces and replaced the Medical Sciences Building as the home of the medical school. It contains large lecture halls, versatile classrooms,

high-tech laboratories, computer labs, administrative offices, and abundant study spaces.

The Boonshoft gift also helped the school in winning several grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). It also helped in purchasing scientific equipment that made possible studies of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and the toxicity of nerve agents. The gift also made possible trainings in the Dayton region that helped local residents improve their health literacy skills.

The grant awards helped establish the Comprehensive Neuroscience Center,

*continued on p. 42*



## Gifts from Kettering family established medical school and helped it thrive

The Kettering Family Foundation was founded by Eugene W. Kettering, son of Charles F. Kettering, and his wife Virginia W. Kettering in 1956. Today, the Foundation supports a broad range of charitable activities of interest to the Board of Trustees, which is composed of members of the Kettering family.

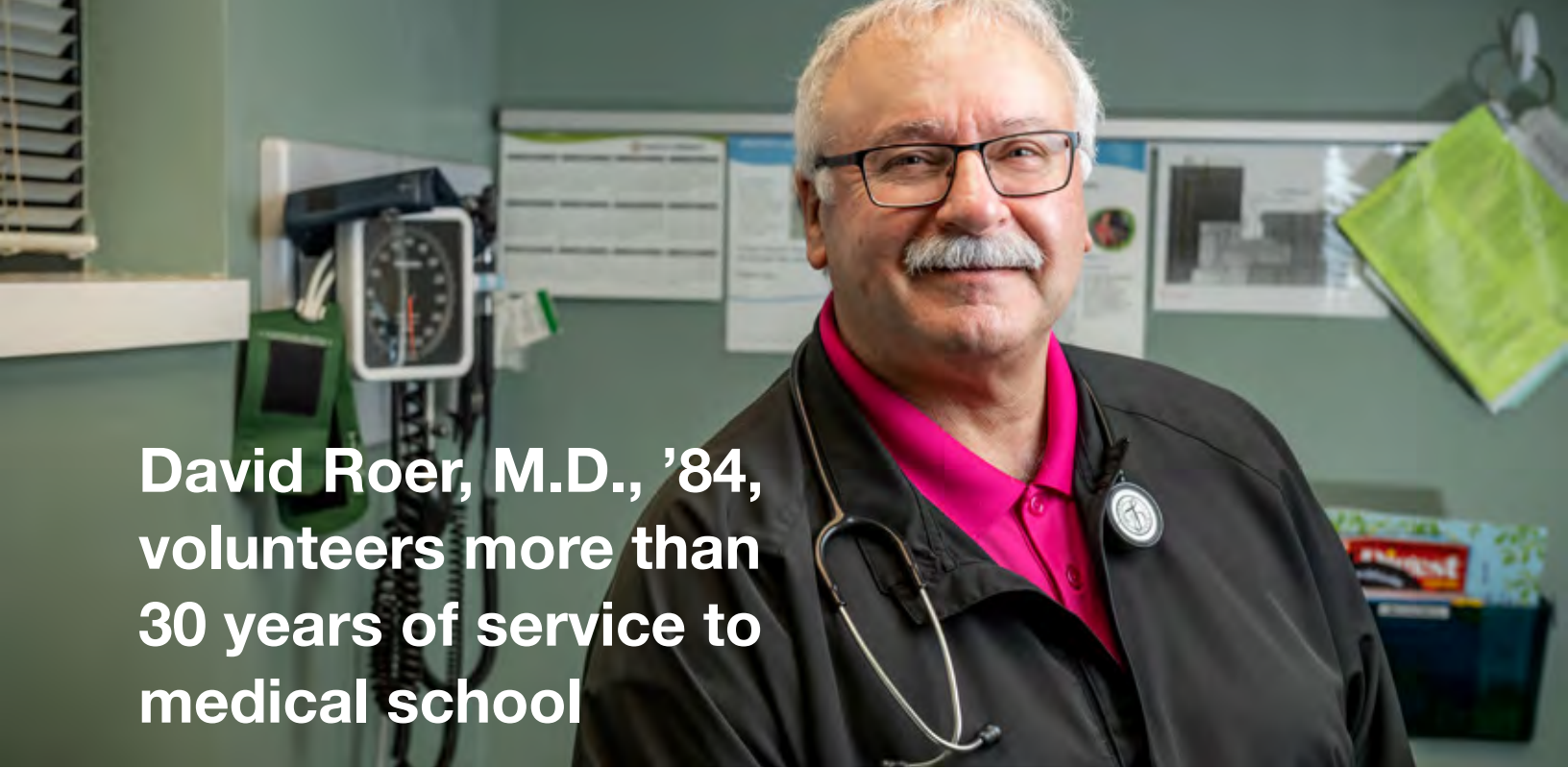
*The Kettering family contributed \$1 million to help found Wright State University School of Medicine. Other founding donors included Mrs. Virginia Kettering, who contributed \$1 million in unrestricted funds.*

In 1974, the Kettering family contributed \$1 million to help found Wright State University School of Medicine. Other major founding donors included Mrs. Virginia Kettering, who contrib-

Virginia W. Kettering

*continued on p. 35*





# David Roer, M.D., '84, volunteers more than 30 years of service to medical school

Dr. David Roer always knew he wanted to go into medicine. As a youngster, he watched his mother, a nurse, take care of patients. It seemed like medicine was the best career fit for him.

Roer grew up in Mountandale, New York, in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. After graduating from the State University of New York with a biology degree, Roer attended The Ohio State University to study cytogenetics. The field involves testing samples of tissue, blood, or bone marrow to discern the changes that occur in chromosomes, among other things.

But a career in lab research didn't seem like the best fit for Roer, who graduated with the class of 1984 at the Wright State University School of Medicine.

"Why pediatrics? As my wife Jenni says, I'm just a big kid," Roer said. "I have always loved seeing patients and families and developed a love for pediatrics."

Roer began his medical career at Dayton Children's Hospital, where he completed his residency. Much of his training took place in the emergency room there. He would go on to finish his residency in 1987. In 1989, he started Pediatric Associates of Dayton with local partners.

After just completing his residency, Dr. Roer became a preceptor for the Wright State University School of Medicine in 1987. At the time, he was an attending and helped to teach the medical students working at Dayton Children's Hospital.

"I very much enjoy being a preceptor," Roer said. "Teaching medical students is rewarding, keeps me interested, and on my toes. It is always exciting to see students wanting to learn and absorb all they can."

Pediatric Associates of Dayton has grown to three locations in

the area. There are 16 pediatric health care providers who work there. Medical students from the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine rotate through the practice's offices in Beavercreek, Englewood, and Kettering.

Dr. Roer understands that medical school can be overwhelming, and he takes time to advise the students on their progress. As someone who has been practicing medicine for decades, Roer can give them a deeper perspective.

"My biggest advice for medical students would be, 'Don't get overwhelmed.' You can often wonder, 'How am I going to ever learn all of the things I need to know?'" Roer said. "But, you will. It takes time, patience, and perseverance, but you will succeed."

When he isn't guiding the next generation of medical students, Dr. Roer likes to spend time on the golf course. Most of the time, he finds the game very relaxing and it gets him outdoors for several hours at a time.

Roer also takes regular trips to Charleston, South Carolina. The history, golf, and food there are the highlights of his visits.

"I can honestly say that I love what I do. There is nothing better than being in a room with my patients and their parents. The relationships I have formed mean the world. They all become part of my family," Roer said. "Seeing my patients from being a newborn, grow up, attend graduate school, and become responsible adults is the best. And now, seeing them bring their children to me as patients — besides feeling old — makes me feel like I did something right."

— Daniel Kelly

uted \$1 million in unrestricted funds, and the Fordham Foundation, which provided \$500,000 for a medical library.

The gift to help found the medical school was just the beginning of a large number of gifts that the Kettering family has given Wright State over the years.

In 1996, the Kettering family donated another \$1 million to endow a scholarship fund for Wright State medical students who make a commitment to treat geriatric patients in the Miami Valley region.

In 1999, the Kettering Fund donated an additional \$500,000 to the medical school to launch innovative new projects in biomedical research. The Kettering gift was used for seed grants to develop new lines of research through the Medical Innovations Grant Program at Wright State. Six research projects were selected for funding in a competitive, peer-review selection process.

In the same year, Kettering Fund support also provided seed grants through the Medical Innovations Grant Program which resulted in more than \$4.5 million in competitive research awards from federal and state sources; an additional \$5.5 million came under review. Kettering support brought additional post-doctoral researchers to Wright State and established a new center of excellence, the Center for Brain Research.

In 2001, Wright State University School of Medicine received another generous gift from the Kettering Fund of Dayton. The grant established a new research center of excellence and expanded two other research programs at the medical school.

The center was located at the Miami Valley Research Park in Kettering, and combined internationally recognized research projects on cardiovascular disease and rehabilitation medicine. The center was the steward of the Fels Longitudinal Study, the world's largest and longest-running survey of human growth, body composition, and cardiovascular risk factors.

Kettering Fund support enabled the center's researchers to expand their investigation of human variation throughout the lifespan, from childhood to old age. A long-range goal of the research was developed for practical diagnostic tools for assessing health status and aging in older persons.

The Kettering Fund gift also helped augment research at Wright State's Gene Expression Laboratory and Center for Interventions, Treatment, and Addictions Research (CITAR). The laboratory was a collaboration between Wright State's medical school and the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

Using the latest chip technology to study changes in gene expression, the laboratory was able to conduct research on genetic factors involved in Gulf War Syndrome and cancer. Kettering Fund support enabled more Wright State scientists and

clinicians to use gene chips in their research. The new technology opened up avenues of exploration as well as new and more precise methods for diagnosing diseases such as cancer.

*A key feature of all the initiatives supported by the Kettering Fund has been research. By keeping research in the forefront, the medical school has sped the transfer of knowledge from the research bench to the hospital bedside.*

Kettering Fund support enabled CITAR to launch the first statewide research effort to monitor adolescent substance abuse and other health issues throughout Ohio. The program built on the research track record of the Dayton Area Drug Survey, which has monitored the incidence and prevalence of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use by Miami Valley teenagers since 1990. The program provided statewide data about teen tobacco use, as well as other substance abuse problems.

A key feature of all the initiatives supported by the Kettering Fund has been an emphasis on multi-disciplinary research, including collaboration between Wright State's biomedical scientists and clinicians. By keeping this research strategy in the forefront, the medical school has sped the transfer of new medical knowledge from the research bench to the hospital bedside.

—Daniel Kelly







Marietta Orlowski, Ph.D., Chair and Associate Professor, Population and Public Health Sciences

# Fifteen years of public health leadership in the Department of Population and Public Health Sciences

Fifteen years ago, in what was then the Department of Community Health at the Wright State University School of Medicine, the Division of Health Systems Management was created. The new division was a fledgling one, but it had high hopes.

There was a newly created graduate certificate in Health Care Management as a joint venture with the medical school and business school at Wright State University. The courses for the certificate could be applied to a redeveloped health care concentration in the Wright State University Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program. The department was serving health systems in the community by enhancing management

*“We really have shaped the public health workforce for Southwest Ohio and many health commissioners seek out our graduates.”*

skills in the health care system. But it seemed like the department could do more to advance public health in Southwest Ohio.

Soon, there were talks of starting a Master of Public Health program. An M.P.H. offering would strengthen the newly created health care M.B.A. and certificate program in health care management. Leaders soon realized that the M.P.H. degree is the passport to entry into leadership in public health. They set out to get the ambitious endeavor off the ground.

With support from Oscar Boonshoft, medical school leadership, regional health commissioners, and the Ohio Board of Regents, the Master of Public Health program became a reality. It was the very first in Southwest Ohio and has become an integral supplier of public health professionals to 22 health districts, including metropolitan areas in Cincinnati and Dayton.

Mr. Boonshoft provided \$3 Million to start the M.P.H. program as well as the dual-degree M.D./M.P.H. and M.D./M.B.A. programs. Today, they are known as the Physician Leadership Development Program. Mr. Boonshoft was so pleased with the creation of the programs and their success in helping the Dayton community, that just a couple of years later he gave his

big gift of \$28.5 million to create the Boonshoft School of Medicine.

“We’re a model academic public health partnership program,” said Marietta Orlowski, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Population and Public Health Sciences. “We really have shaped the public health workforce for Southwest Ohio and many health commissioners seek out our graduates.”

The launch of the M.P.H. program was a turning point for the department, as it saw growth in research efforts and academic programs. These helped to shape public health efforts in Southwest Ohio for years, and inspire its graduates to excel no matter where they have gone.

Most stay in the Dayton area, and for good reason. One of the hallmarks of the public health program is that students start and complete classes in a cohort. They get to know one another and make connections that set them up for success later in their careers. It’s a perk that online programs simply can’t offer.

“That’s part of being networked and how it offers students a competitive advantage. They come in as a cohort and they go through together,” Orlowski said. “We have made the purposeful decision not to become a fully online program because we really believe that our distinct advantage is our integration with local public health and our cohort network model.”

The department is poised to offer the most value in a Master of Public Health education while also offering convenience for working adults. There are some classes offered online, but core classes remain as they have been in the



Eric Balster, who received his M.P.H. in 2010, is just one of thousands who have completed the program.

M.P.H. program and hundreds of medical students have received dual M.D./M.P.H. degrees since the department began its Physician Leadership Development Program. All graduates

have benefited from the department’s close collaboration with public health departments and officials throughout Southwest Ohio. Job placement is very high.

Dr. Richard Schuster, the first Oscar Boonshoft chair of Health Systems Management, was instrumental in the formation of such successful programs. He helped to start the M.P.H. as well as the dual-degree programs for students wishing to pursue M.D. degrees and M.P.H. or M.B.A. degrees. He welcomed a \$3 million gift from Oscar Boonshoft that launched the programs.

“The M.P.H. is the passport to entry into leadership in public health. Public health professionals are an incredibly dedicated group. They really are committed to serve,” Schuster said. “They needed this education, and it became clear to us that this was part of our mission.”

James Ebert, M.D., was department chair after Dr. Schuster. He was the second Oscar Boonshoft Chair in the Department of Population and Public Health Sciences and was associate professor of population and public health sciences and pediatrics. Ebert was the first director of the Physician Leadership Development Program and program director for the Master of Public Health Program from 2008 through 2015. The current director of the M.P.H. program is Sara Paton, Ph.D., associate professor and epidemiologist.

“Nowadays, we’re becoming a more centralized, traditional department. We have incredible research centers here and we’re trying to incorporate those into the public health program. We’re doing really interesting work,” Orlowski said. “Our next step is to incorporate more of that research and those opportunities into our program.”

*“It gave me lifelong friendships and connections that have been essential every step along the way,”*

past. It’s a hybrid approach that offers flexibility for those who need it.

Thousands of students have completed the

The research centers include the Center for Interventions, Treatment, and Addictions Research (CITAR) and Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues (SARDI). The two externally funded research centers offer six graduate certificates. The centers specialize in substance use, behavioral health, and disability issue research.

Funders included the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research; Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; and several local service contracts.



The department collaborates with the U.S. Air Force and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. It has a longstanding Aerospace Medicine residency program and also a certificate program in Aerospace Medicine that wouldn't be possible without its partnership with the U.S. Air Force.

In the future, the department will seek expanded opportunities to work with the U.S. Air Force. Many undergraduate students also have taken advantage of the department's programming. There may be efforts to broaden undergraduate public health offerings so more may learn about all the possibilities of working in public health.

Of course, a big part of the future relies on continued support from the program's numerous alumni who routinely visit classes and contribute a lot to the robust expertise found within the public health curriculum. These alumni impart their wisdom, keep educators up to date on developments in the field, and help to get graduates internships and jobs.

*One of the hallmarks of the public health program is that students start and complete classes in a cohort. They get to know one another and make connections that set them up for success later in their careers.*

The next big frontier in the field is health equity. It is the idea that everyone should have a fair opportunity to reach their full health potential and that no one should be disadvantaged in reaching it. Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities.

"There are quality and health outcomes that are in part driven by some kind of fundamental issues related to housing, employment, the physical environment, and opportunities. For example, a lot of the work around substance use and maternal child health outcomes is in the health equity space," Orlowski said. "Not everybody has the equal opportunity to choose how to engage with healthy choices. And that's where we need to get if we believe in creating communities where everybody thrives."

—Daniel Kelly



# Boonshoft School of Medicine Anatomical Gift Program enters 2020

First called the Donated Body Program when it began in 1975, the Anatomical Gift Program at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine has seen a lot of growth in the intervening decades. All of them are marked by gratitude for the selfless gifts of those who have donated to the program.

The program was established two years after the medical school was founded. Its first director, and the first registered donor, was Antonio Zappala, M.D., Ph.D. He was the founding chair of the Department of Anatomy at the medical school.

In 1976, Kettering Medical Center Hospital transferred donors to the Wright State University School of Medicine from a program it used to run.

"They stopped their donation process, and it moved over to Wright State," said Rodney Guthrie, director of the Anatomical Gift Program. "Wright State had a program that absorbed the Kettering hospital program. This type of program has always been good for the community."

In 1977, Frank Nagy III, Ph.D., was appointed director of the

program. He served as director until 1982, when Joseph Zambarnard, Ph.D., became director. In 1994, when the program was renamed, Nagy was again appointed director and served in that role until his retirement from Wright State University. As director for such a long period of time, Nagy oversaw much of the development within the Anatomical Gift Program. For his service, he received the Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence in Professional Service from the university.

In 1980, Rockafeld Cemetery was developed to provide a serene resting place for donors. It was the same year that the charter class graduated. In addition, Wright State University became the first medical school in Ohio to hold a memorial service to honor donors to its Anatomical Gift Program. About 1,200 family members and friends attend the services each year. Medical professionals enthusiastically participate in the service as a way of publicly expressing their gratitude to the families of donors.

The service serves as an opportunity for the students to share their feelings with family members. Guthrie asks them to be truthful and to speak from the heart. The former and current students share how the program has affected them and how it will impact their future careers.

"We're developing friendships and relationships with donors, especially their families," Guthrie said. "A great sense of pride comes from the privilege of having our lives touched by the thousands of anatomical donors who have blessed us with their incredibly generous gifts."

The program very commonly collaborates with other health professions programs throughout the Midwestern United States and the state of Ohio, including those at Cedarville University, Cleveland State University, University of Dayton, University of Findlay, and Kettering College of Medical Arts, among others.

It makes a lot of sense, because setting up the Anatomical Gift Program took a lot of time and effort. The program has existing

staff, infrastructure, and databases that would be difficult to start from scratch.

"I think our growth will continue. I'm really glad the community has supported this program the way that it does," Guthrie said. "I would say we're very blessed to have this many people who want to come to Wright State."

Medical students and residents, as well as nursing students at Wright State University and other health care professionals, are fortunate to have such robust support. Not every medical school in the state of Ohio offers a program like this. Some rely on three-dimensional virtual reality to teach their students anatomy. Thus, they miss out on the advanced knowledge offered through hands-on training.

Part of the support owes itself to the fact that the medical school was started as a community-based medical school.

*"A great sense of pride comes from the privilege of having our lives touched by the thousands of anatomical donors who have blessed us with their incredibly generous gifts."*

The Boonshoft School of Medicine was made possible through donations from prominent community members and partnerships with local hospitals, as well as support from the Dayton area.

"Our students are out in the hospitals. They're meeting patients, and their patients are talking to family members. Many donations come through them," Guthrie said.

"People see the students doing rounds and residencies. Our medical students are a very good face for us in the community."

Today, the program continues achieving its mission. Guthrie thinks the program will continue to thrive. "We've always felt that if an individual is gracious enough to gift their remains to Wright State, we should honor that and do what we can," Guthrie said.

— Daniel Kelly





## Brian Merrill, M.D., teaches medical residents and treats opioid addiction in Dayton

As an undergraduate majoring in environmental geology, Brian Merrill was studying fossils of tiny, prehistoric creatures called graptolites when he had a revelation – not about graptolites, but about himself.

“I just didn’t want to spend the rest of my life in a lab,” he said. “I wanted to be around people.”

That realization led Dr. Merrill on a path that took him first to medical school, then to the field of psychiatry and now to the front lines of the war on opioid addiction.

Dr. Merrill, 37, is a 2011 Boonshoft School of Medicine residency graduate who now serves as an assistant professor of psychiatry at Boonshoft. He

is also assistant medical director at Dayton’s new OneFifteen, described by its leaders as “a non-profit ecosystem dedicated to the full and sustained recovery of people living with addiction.” It’s a joint project of Premier Health, the Kettering Health Network and Verily, a subsidiary of Google owner, Alphabet Inc.

OneFifteen, named in recognition of the 115 people who died daily in 2017 from opioid overdoses in the United States, is being developed in Dayton’s Carillon neighborhood. It includes a remodeled former tool and die shop at 257 Hope-land Street and leased space in Kindred Hospital, 707 S. Edwin C. Moses Blvd. It began seeing patients last October.

Dr. Merrill is involved in clinical care at OneFifteen’s outpatient clinic, and administrative work to open a 24-hour crisis stabilization unit in February 2020 and a 58-bed dormitory-style recovery unit this summer. OneFifteen also has a 32-bed acute care unit. Dr. Merrill said there will be a “diverse payer mix” including private insurance and Medicaid.

OneFifteen has ambitious goals. Not only will it have “a full range of clinical services on one campus,” Dr. Merrill said, but officials there plan to put technology to greater use in the fight against addiction.

There’s plenty of empirical evidence about the risk factors that lead to many physical maladies and how they can best be treated, he noted, but “we don’t have that level of understanding in psychiatry.” It’s a field “underserved by technology,” using “archaic medical records.”

At OneFifteen, “we aim to collect, organize and activate data that has already been collected as a routine part

of clinical care to answer the big questions that face addiction,” Dr. Merrill said. “How long should a patient be on medication for opioid use disorder? What kind of psychosocial intervention is most likely to help this person with addiction? These are questions that the medical community does not have evidence-based answers for, and (it) would benefit society greatly if we could figure it out.”

OneFifteen officials plan to “synthesize disparate health information” in data shared by the competing hospital systems to begin to get these answers, Dr. Merrill said.

In addition to his work at OneFifteen, Dr. Merrill also treats people with addictions at Dayton’s MonDay Community Correctional Institution, where eligible non-violent offenders get treatment in lieu of prison incarceration.

*A career in medicine “was an opportunity to work closely with people, but in a way that satisfied my interest in science.”*

He also holds an M.B.A. from Wright State University. He has served on the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Montgomery County.

Dr. Merrill juggles his addiction work while teaching residents as an assistant professor and raising three small children. “I try to be present when I am home, not distracted by my phone or laptop. I have three small children at home who need and deserve a ton of attention, so this balance is important.”

Born in Columbus, Dr. Merrill has been a resident of Kettering, Ohio, since he was 2 years old. He met his wife, Molly,

when they both attended Kettering’s Fairmont High School, where she now teaches. The Merrills’ children are ages 7, 5 and 4.

For Dr. Merrill, a career in medicine “was an opportunity to work closely with people, but in a way that satisfied my interest in science.” He said a rewarding stint as a college student working at a camp for developmentally disabled children was a factor in his decision to leave lab life behind and apply for medical school. “This experience, working with the kids and their families, was very important in propelling me toward a career in medicine.”

He had planned to focus on internal



Brian Merrill, M.D.

medicine or pediatrics, but changed his mind in his third year at Boonshoft when his first clinical rotation was in psychia-try.

The scientist in him was fascinated by “the changes in the brain that make it possible for a patient to experience a delusion, hallucination, mania or depression.” Dr. Merrill’s compassionate nature was struck by the human toll of severe mental illness.

He was particularly touched by the case of a bright, promising young woman who was slipping into psychosis. Diagnosed with schizophrenia, she grew paranoid and delusional, suffered from hallucinations and sometimes didn’t recognize her treatment team. “The burden of schizophrenia on a patient and their family is devastating,” he said, “and trying to help seemed like such a worthy use of my energy.”

Dr. Merrill joined the Boonshoft faculty following graduation from his child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship in 2016. He expects to be doing more teaching here.

What’s his advice for med students?

“I would encourage students to realize that they could probably be happy in a number of medical special-ties,” Merrill said. “That the life they want exists for them in several different forms — as an internist, pediatri-cian, pathologist, psychia-trist, dermatologist or whatever.”

“Our passions are something we develop and hone over time, not always something that grabs us,” he said. “I know that a lot of colleagues in medical school describe these ‘light bulb’ moments when they realized what specialty they wanted to pursue, but many others experience ambivalence

about selecting a specialty, and they take this uncertainty as weakness or evidence that they are not totally committed to their choice. Selecting a specialty is a huge decision and it is totally normal to doubt that process a bit.”

—Tom Beyerlein



which pulled together experts from several disciplines to advance research of neurological, developmental, cognitive, psychiatric, and trauma-induced disorders of the nervous system. The gift leveraged the first Program Project Grant awarded by the National Institutes of Health in the history of Wright State University.

The 2007 grant totaled \$5 million, and brought together several Boonshoft School of Medicine researchers funded by the NIH. The support helped medical school researchers to gain another \$4.6 million in funding six years later to study movements of synapses. The Comprehensive Neuroscience Center also helped the medical school to leverage \$5 million in private support from Premier Health to create the Wright State University and Premier Health Neuroscience Institute.

With the gift from Oscar Boonshoft and his family, the medical school also established a Department of Geriatrics. At the time, the Boonshoft School of Medicine was one of very few medical schools in the United States to have a department dedicated to the care of older persons.

To attract top students and residents to geriatrics, the medical school created a scholarship, which awards two geriatric scholarships each year to individuals in return for a commitment to practice geriatrics in Ohio for two years. Geriatrics is also a required rotation for all Boonshoft School of Medicine residents in family medicine, and the Department of Geriatrics regularly sponsors research projects that further care for the elderly.

Thanks to the transformational gift, the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine has likewise been able to increase its global health programming. The medical school created critical infrastructure needed to expand research and education in the areas of population health, quantitative analysis, clinical prevention, and health policy.

—Daniel Kelly

## Internal Medicine resident leads research into chemotherapy toxicity of military veterans

Sahana Venkatesh, M.D., a first-year internal medicine resident at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, is leading research into the toxicity of chemotherapy treatments on military veterans. The results of the effort may one day help health care providers to better tailor chemotherapy treatments to veterans suffering from cancer.

Dr. Venkatesh, who grew up in Beavercreek, Ohio, attended Northeast Ohio Medical University. After completing her Doctor of Medicine degree, she matched in internal medicine at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine.

Her study has recently begun, but it has already counted survey responses from 15 different veteran patients who have cancerous diseases. The surveys seek to learn about how each veteran responds to chemotherapy treatments.

Venkatesh is working with Dr. Geetika Kumar, associate professor of internal medicine and the palliative medicine

program director. She is also working with Dr. Srinivasu Chamarthy, a senior hematology-oncology fellow.

“I am extremely interested in hematology and oncology and this project was being developed by my mentors at the Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center,” Venkatesh said. “I wanted to become an active member in quality improvement at the hospital. The project is so interesting and it certainly has the means to make lasting changes in care.”

The ultimate goal is to create a quality improvement study, which means Venkatesh and others will look at current medical practices to see what can be done better. With this effort, they will use a toxicity score developed by the Cancer and Aging Research Group (CARG). The group’s mission is to unite geriatric oncology researchers across the nation in a collaborative way to design and implement clinical trials that improve the care of older adults with cancer.

Venkatesh and others are seeking to quantify the risks associated with adminis-

tering chemotherapy to each patient.

“We hope to be able to reduce patients’ dose of chemotherapy based on their toxicity scores,” Venkatesh said. “We are tailoring the project so that the data we obtain is valid and applicable.”

The CARG toxicity score requires calculations using the patient’s responses to a questionnaire. The survey is well suited to their disease state, and seeks to find how their bodies respond to chemotherapy treatments.

The numerical score that is calculated shows the overall risk of side effects associated with giving each patient chemotherapy. These are known to include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hair loss, loss of appetite, fatigue, fever, and mouth sores, among others.

“We are still in the early stages of this research in that we are gathering patient data,” Venkatesh said. “We hope to see that using this score in our veterans with cancer will help us quantify the overall risk associated with starting chemotherapy to better guide treatment choices.”

*The group’s mission is to unite geriatric oncology researchers across the nation in a collaborative way to design and implement clinical trials that improve the care of older adults with cancer.*

The next step for the researchers is to gather more survey responses and analyze the data. Venkatesh and others are looking to see if their interventions are effective and how they can be applied to clinical practice.

“We hope that the findings can be used to improve our ability to predict major side effects and adverse outcomes in our veterans with cancer,” Venkatesh said. “Hopefully this can help guide treatment decisions for oncologists.”

—Daniel Kelly





## Director, Diversity, Advancement

### Jennifer Daniels named director of Clinical Trials Research Alliance

Jennifer Daniels, M.S., has been named director of the Wright State University and Premier Health Clinical Trials Research Alliance (CTRA).

CTRA conducts clinical trials throughout Southwest Ohio in a variety of health care areas. The public-private initiative was founded in 2012 by the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, Wright State Research Institute and Premier Health.

Daniels is a knowledgeable researcher with more than 19 years of experience. As director of the CTRA, Daniels is responsible for oversight of clinical research activities, including clinical trials at Premier Health hospital campuses, practice sites of Wright State Physicians and additional community clinic locations.

Before joining the CTRA, Daniels was the clinical research regulatory manager at the University of Cincinnati (UC) and UC Health. She oversaw clinical research regulatory affairs and compliance within the university and supported all medical divisions from study start-up to closeout.

### Boonshoft School of Medicine names new diversity and inclusion specialist

Mel Brown, M.Ed., M.S., has joined the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine's Office of Student Affairs and Admissions as its new diversity and inclusion specialist. He comes to the medical school after serving in academic roles at various universities throughout Ohio.

Brown previously worked in advising roles at Central State University, University of Dayton, Sinclair Community College, Wright State University, and University of Cincinnati. He has 17 years of experience in higher education.

At the University of Cincinnati, Brown worked as an academic advisor in the College of Engineering and Applied Science. He served in a similar role advising graduate students at the university's College of Nursing. Brown advised and supported students along their educational journey, evaluated their readiness, and recommended actions that helped them reach their goals.

### Lisa Coffey, Josh Trippier join Advancement staff

The Advancement team at the Boonshoft School of Medicine welcomes two new members. Both will lend their expertise to the activities of the Office of Marketing and Communications.

Josh Trippier joins Advancement as web designer and videographer. Before Wright State, Trippier was a freelance creative, assisting clients with graphic design, video, photography, and digital marketing. Trippier is looking forward to contributing to Advancement web and graphic design and video, and the opportunity to be creative in multiple mediums.

Lisa Coffey has joined the Advancement team as marketing generalist. Prior to coming to Wright State, Coffey was a marketing specialist and graphic designer with a defense contractor in Beavercreek, Ohio. Coffey will provide graphic design, marketing and writing to Advancement. She looks forward to contributing to the Boonshoft School of Medicine and the marketing mission.



Jennifer Daniels, M.S.



Lisa Coffey



Josh Trippier



**Total**  
number of alumni.

3332

**Northeast**  
percentage of alumni.

7%

**Midwest**  
percentage of alumni.

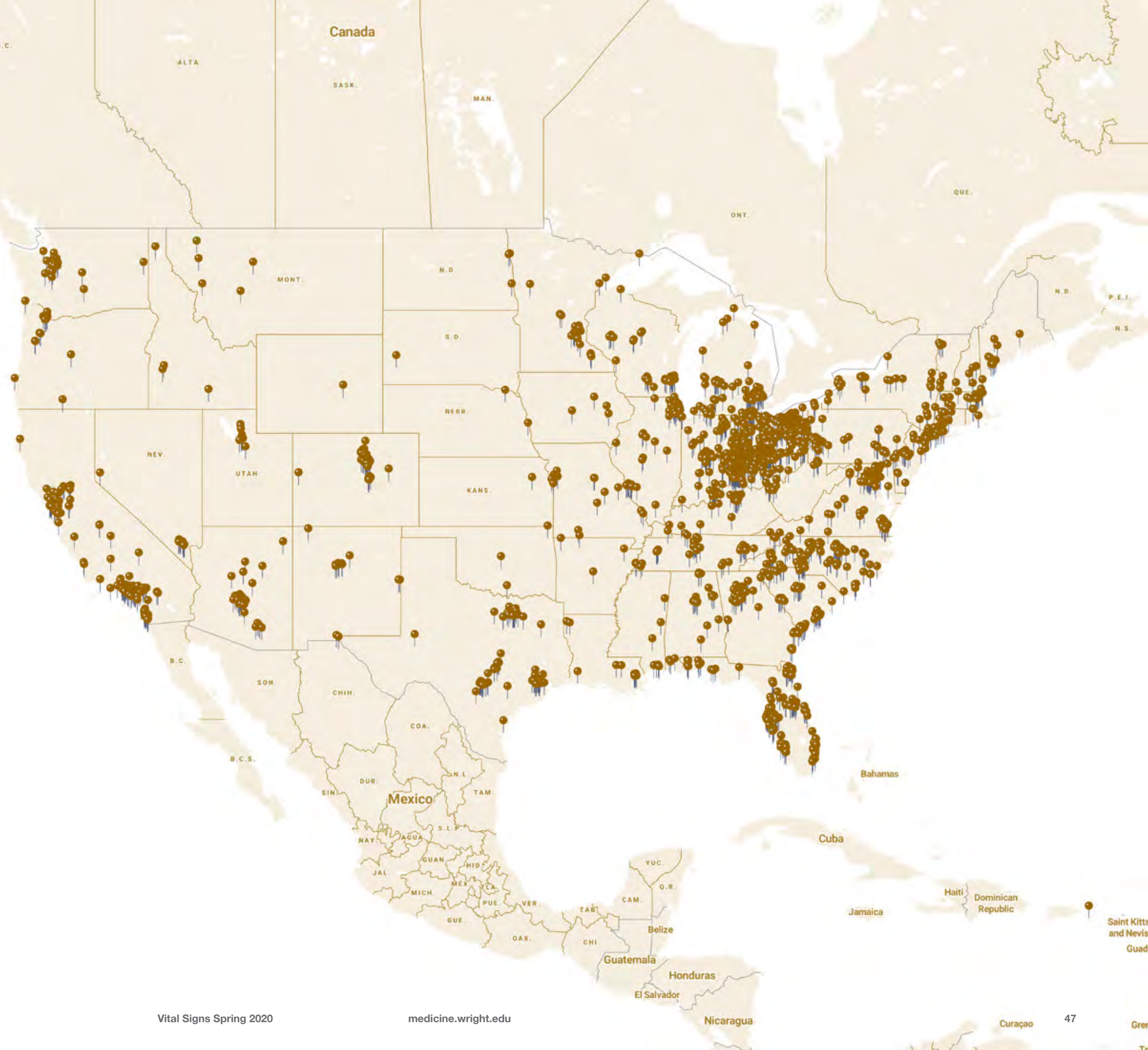
65%

**South**  
percentage of alumni.

20%

**West**  
percentage of alumni.

8%





# Wright Rural Medical Scholars program sees continued growth of popular rural health rotations

The Wright Rural Medical Scholars program continues its mission to develop and nurture physicians pursuing rural practice in Ohio by placing students from the Boonshoft School of Medicine into clinical rotations at health systems in rural West Central Ohio. While living and learning in rural communities near the Wright State University—Lake Campus in Celina, students gain knowledge of rural health, rural lifestyles, and help provide care to the area's residents.

There are three components within the Wright Rural Medical Scholars program. They include the rural track, stand-alone rural experiences, and Advocates for Rural Medicine, a student organization at the medical school. The rural track is for students who want an extensive rural clinical education experience and who plan to practice in a rural community after they complete their training. Acceptance to the rural track is competitive, and students apply during their first year of medical school. The students selected to be on the rural track are required to complete rural-based activities throughout their undergraduate medical education, including a scholarly project. Upon the successful completion of all requirements, those in the rural track will be recognized at graduation.

Students not in the rural track still have opportunities to participate in rural activities, such as single rural clerkships or electives. These students often have a strong interest in underserved communities, and a rural experience gives them the opportunity to round out their education, which often also includes experiences with urban medicine in Dayton, as well as international experiences as part of the global health program. Single rural experience students often also have an interest in public health and learning more about how the public health challenges of a rural community are different from urban and suburban communities, even if the communities are not geographically that far apart, as is the case with the Wright State campuses in Dayton and Celina.

We have students who are very committed to a career in rural medicine,” said Lori Martensen, director of the Wright Rural Medical Scholars program. Our goal is to have three to five alumni in each class practicing in a rural community. If we accomplish this, we would be one of the leading allopathic schools in the nation for rural physician workforce development. An expert in the field recently said most medical schools average two alumni per class working in a rural setting.”

All Boonshoft School of Medicine students may become members of the student organization Advocates for Rural Medicine. Within the student organization, medical students learn about the unique challenges and rewards that come with practicing medicine in a rural community, such as the broader scope of work primary care physicians have, due to the lack of certain specialties in rural communities. Students also learn about how work and personal relationships overlap in rural communities, where physicians shop in the same stores as their patients, and the patients are often coaching or teaching the physician's children.

The goal is to keep interested Wright State medical students connected with rural areas as much as possible so that their desire to work in rural regions remains strong. The Wright Rural Medical Scholars program looks to place rural-focused students into rural communities “early, often, and for extended periods of time” during their medical education.

“We are listening to the alumni who plan to practice in rural areas. They tell us how valuable their rural clinical rotations were in helping them discern that they were on the right path with their career goals,” Martensen said. “The current rural track students tell us they will gladly take any rural placement they receive.”

Boonshoft School of Medicine faculty and staff have worked diligently to develop distance education options for didactics courses, which allow for full participation from students at rural sites without

requiring them to return to Dayton. Distance education is essential for the future growth of the rural program.

“We currently have students spending almost half of the third year at a rural site,” Martensen said. “In the 2020-21 school year, rural track students will be able to complete more than half their clerkship year at rural sites. With distance education options available, students have fewer required trips to Dayton, which allows them to become more fully immersed in the rural community. Students at our rural sites have housing provided for them, and we are starting to see rural track students give up apartments in Dayton or only have them for part of the year. At some of our rural sites six to nine months of the third year could possibly be done rural. But we have got some time before we get there.”

Martensen would also like to increase the amount of scholarship monies available to medical students who wish to complete rural rotations. Medical students in the Wright Rural Medical Scholars program have been able to take advantage of scholarships offered by health systems around the Lake Campus, but more support could greatly impact student success.

“We are the only medical school in Ohio whose rural program revolves around clinical rotations in rural communities. Other medical schools in Ohio have a rural pathway, but it is a student learning community where the activities are more classroom-based, such as case studies, guest speakers, or extra mentoring. One way is not better than the other, but we feel that by making our rural program all about the clinical experience, the Boonshoft School of Medicine is unique in what it is offering our students.”

The Wright Rural Medical Scholars program is funded by Ohio Area Health Education Center funds. Health Path of Ohio provided the program with more than three years of initial funding.

—Daniel Kelly



## Boonshoft School of Medicine mourns loss of Maurice Kogut, M.D., founding chair of pediatrics

The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine mourns the passing of Maurice (Maury) D. Kogut, M.D., who passed away on November 25, 2019. Dr. Kogut was the founding chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine, serving in the position for 18 years. He was 89 years old.

Kogut graduated from Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn in 1948 and he earned a B.A. (1951) and an M.D. (1955) from New York University. He later joined the U.S. Air Force and spent two years as a pediatrician stationed at a base in Fukuoka, Japan, where he met and married June Wenzel, a schoolteacher from Fairhaven, Massachusetts, who taught at the same base.

In 1959, Kogut and his wife moved to Los Angeles, where he became chief resident in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles. Kogut later became a fellow in pediatric endocrinology and joined the full-time faculty at the University of Southern California School of Medicine. At the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and USC School of Medicine, Kogut was program director of the Clinical Research Center (1968-1979), head of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism (1968-1980), and associate chairman of the Department of Pediatrics (1975-1980).

In 1980, he became professor and chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Wright State University School of Medicine (1980-

1998) and the medical director of the Children's Medical Center (1980-1997), in Dayton, Ohio.

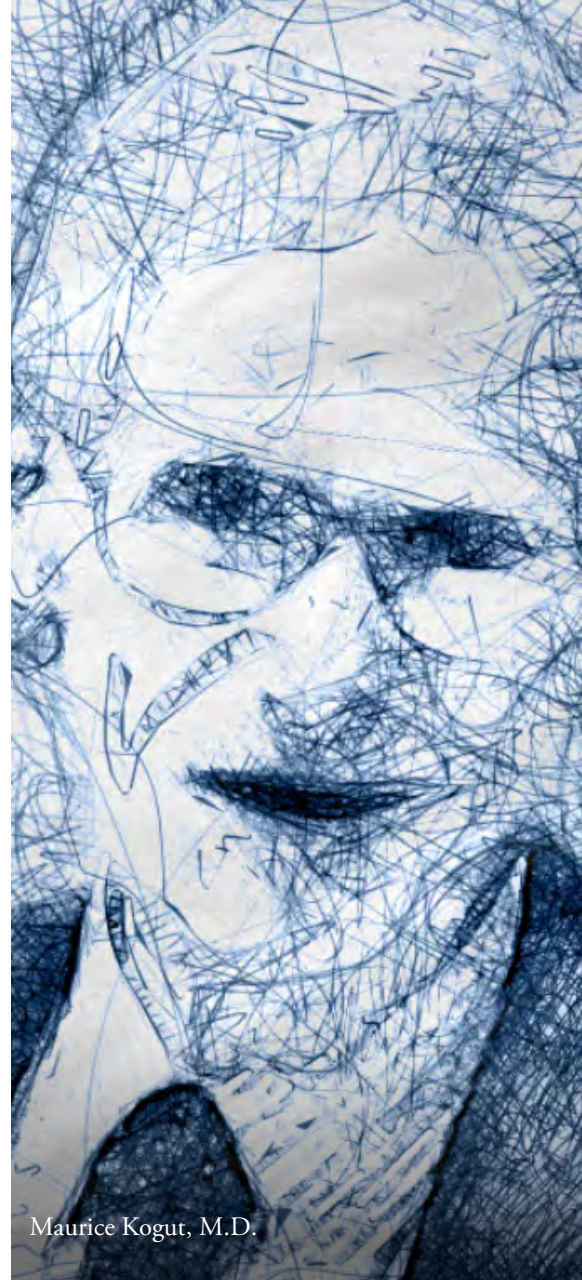
In 1998, Kogut retired from his positions in Dayton, and he and his wife moved to Centerville, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod, to be closer to their three daughters. Soon after their move to the Cape, Kogut was appointed to the faculty of Boston University School of Medicine and taught first- and second-year medical students through 2017. He was nominated by his first-year students to win a teaching award, and was delighted by this recognition.

Over the years, Kogut was a member of several test committees of the National Board of Medical Examiners and also served on several test committees of the American Board of Pediatrics. In 2007, the National Board of Medical Examiners selected Kogut to receive the Edith J. Levit Distinguished Service Award, recognizing his more than 20 years of outstanding volunteer service as a member and chair of many committees. He received numerous teaching awards throughout his career.

In addition to his wife, children, and grandchild, Kogut is survived by his sister-in-law Kathleen (Kitty) Kogut, his sister-in-law Leah Van Buskirk, and his nieces and nephews and their families. His older brother, Stanley Kogut, preceded him in death. He was very grateful for the care and company provided by Dean Sennett and Elizabeth Loiselle in his final years.

## Boonshoft School of Medicine mourns loss of Mary Frey, Ph.D.

Mary Anne Bassett Frey, 84, of Dayton, passed away on Friday, Sept. 13, 2019.



Maurice Kogut, M.D.

She was born to John E. and Frances E. (nee Walker) Bassett in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 15, 1934. She was a member of the Center for Spiritual Living.

Mary Anne earned her B.A. in Physics in 1969, and Ph.D. in Physiology from George Washington University in 1975, and her M.B.A. from Florida Institute of Technology in 1984. She most recently worked at Wright State University School of Medicine, and was professor emeritus in the Aerospace Medicine Program. For 18 years, Dr. Frey worked with the U.S. human space-flight programs (NASA). She was a program scientist for the Human Research Facility of the International Space Station; program manager for the Space Physiology and Countermeasures Pro-

gram; and was program manager for the Neurolab Spacelab Mission, which flew in 1998.

Dr. Frey was a consultant for National Institutes of Health National Center on Minority Health and NASA Bioethics Task Force. Dr. Frey worked for many years to encourage minorities and women in scientific careers and created the Frances E. Walker Fund at George Washington University for Women in Physics. She was an active member of Aerospace Medical Association, American Physiology Association, American College of Sports Medicine, International Academy of Astronautics, and Association for Women in Science. Dr. Frey's honors and awards include her Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Pi Sigma memberships; Louis H. Bauer Founders Award from Aerospace



Mary Frey, Ph.D.

Medical Association; Honorary NASA Flight Surgeon awarded by Society of NASA Flight Surgeons; and the NASA Silver Snoopy Astronaut's Special Award.

She enjoyed playing tennis and her Five Season's team went to the National Championships twice. Mary Anne loved to travel and took her family on many amazing vacations.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert James Frey; daughter, Dr. Laura (Teri) Frey Horn; and kitties Chester and Chelsea. She is survived by her daughters, Dr. Pie Frey (Michael Lent) of Nederland, Colorado; Karen (Robert) Anderson of Waynesville, Ohio; son-in-law, James Horn of Round-hill, Virginia; grandchildren, Melissa Smith and Laura Anderson of Colorado, Ophia, Michelle, and Jameson Horn of Virginia; brothers, Dr. John E. (Kay) Bassett of Michigan, Stephen (Carolyn) Bassett of South Carolina; great grandchildren, Alexander, Anderson and Isaac; several nieces and nephews; dog, Prince.

## Victor Sarabia, M.D., longtime friend of the medical school, passes at 91

The Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine mourns the passing of Victor Sarabia, M.D., FACS, a longtime friend of the medical school. Sarabia was a charter member of the Wright State University Academy of Medicine. He served as a clinical faculty member in the Department of Surgery from 1975 to 2006. Dr. Sarabia was 91 years old.

Sarabia received his medical degree from San Marcos University in Lima, Peru, in 1954. After moving to the United States, he completed residency at the Dayton Veterans' Affairs Medical Center between 1963 and 1966 before setting up a private practice.

In addition to solo practice, Dr. Sarabia was on surgical staff at many local hospitals, including Good Samaritan Hospital,

Miami Valley Hospital, St. Elizabeth Hospital, and Dayton Children's Hospital. He was active in providing care to underserved populations at the Hopeland Clinic, which ceased operations in 2000. Each year, Hopeland Clinic treated 10,000 adults and 3,000 children.

Sarabia shared with his family and friends a love of the arts, natural sciences, travel, literature and good food. He had a prodigious appetite for knowledge and was never too far from a book. He enjoyed baking and regularly treated his family to homemade bread and pastries. A sharp wit with a great sense of humor, he was a fan of political satire and Monty Python.

*Sarabia shared with his family and friends a love of the arts, sciences, travel, literature and good food. He had a prodigious appetite for knowledge.*

He was a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Sarabia retired from medicine in 2006.

Sarabia's remains have been donated to the Boonshoft School of Medicine Anatomical Gift Program. He is survived and greatly missed by his wife of 61 years, Trudy; four daughters; a son; six grandsons; two sisters; and many nieces and nephews.

—Daniel Kelly



## Celeste Reese-Willis, M.D., '02, releases book on vitality



VITALITY  
VITALITY  
VITALITY

Originally from Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. Celeste Reese-Willis moved back to the state after completing her Doctor of Medicine degree at Wright State University. She was not a fan of Ohio's cold winters. She also wanted to be closer to where she grew up.

For her undergraduate studies in biology, Reese-Willis attended the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She first heard about Wright State University through one of her aunts, who had a wonderful experience at Wright State. Reese-Willis applied on her aunt's recommendation and found that the medical school was the perfect fit.

"I had a wonderful experience there," Reese-Willis said. "I remember Dr. Alonzo Patterson and Dr. Mark Clasen. Clasen was my mentor when I was there, and he played a very large role in my going into family medicine as well as the style of practice that I have with medicine."

For much of the past 15 years, Reese-Willis has specialized in the practice of urgent care medicine. She has treated patients with all kinds of ailments, from the common cold to cardiac or lung issues. On some days, Reese-Willis has seen more than 80 patients. They are from all walks of life.

After working with so many patients over the years, she feels uniquely qualified to branch out into telemedicine. It's an area of medicine that is on the cutting edge, allowing her and other health care providers to see patients from anywhere and make faster care possible.

"Telemedicine is on the horizon and becoming a leading trailblazer in health care. I definitely wanted to be at the start of that as a telemedicine doctor," Reese-Willis said. "Telemedicine is the latest innovative technique to allow us to deliver health care to those people who live in remote areas or who don't have the access to health care that everyone else does because of the limitations of transportation or insurance."

Reese-Willis enjoys educating others on the best ways to take care of their own health needs. Her passions include enhancing the lives of others through education. She's found that many people don't have all the information they need to make the best decisions for themselves.

For example, while she was still in her first year of medical school, Dr. Reese-Willis was able to use the knowledge she had gained to help her mother avoid a heart attack. It also inspired Reese-Willis to focus more on her own health.

"My mom was telling me what her symptoms were. I was still learning medicine back then and it sounded like she was having heart problems. I sent her to her physician," Reese-Willis said. "It turned out my mom did have a blockage. They would not let her leave the hospital after her stress test. She was rushed to surgery because she had four vessels that were blocked."

The experience motivated Reese-Willis to take better care of her own health. It became clear that it is difficult for lay people to manage their own health because they do not have the knowledge they need to be more effective stewards.

It's one of the main reasons that she has written a book on vitality. The book came out in March 2020, and has insights that readers can use to more positively manage their choices in eating and exercising as they get older.

"It's a book that will assist a patient to help them remain a young, vital person as they age. It will help you know the things that you need to do to help take care of your health," Reese-Willis said. "It explains how to understand your family history of illness and what you can be doing in terms of preventive measures. It covers simple things like exercising and drinking more water, but it puts it in layperson terms as to how those things are beneficial. Like drinking water helps clear out toxins and improve kidney

function."

Dr. Reese-Willis has worked as a media consultant in the past for an urgent care corporation. The opportunity allowed her to communicate with many people across the state of Alabama and provide tips on improving health. She appeared on local television and answered questions from viewers. The experience helped her to learn how much she enjoys talking to others about medicine.

She also lays out the benefits of healthy choices to an audience that views her weekly live streams on Facebook. It's a great way of staying connected with the community and being a role model for good health. Her viewers interact with her and Dr. Reese-Willis enjoys being available to them.

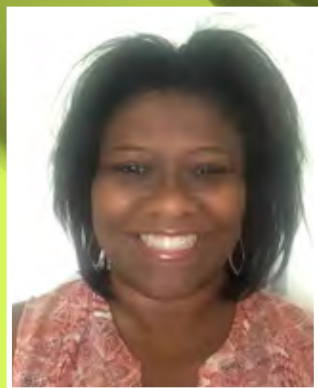
"I lay out the information and then they have to make a choice. I want to motivate my patients to make the right choice because I like them to make educated decisions. If they are not going to drink enough water, then they need to understand what they are compromising when they do that," Reese-Willis said. "I can make suggestions as to what they need to do, but in the end it's up to the patient to carry out the recommendation. The decision is with the patient about their health care."

Dr. Reese-Willis is branching out into concierge medicine. In that relationship, she would have private patients who retain her services. Currently, she is only seeing patients via telemedicine in Alabama, but she plans to expand those efforts to other states as she gains medical licensure elsewhere.

One day, Dr. Reese-Willis may also develop health care products that can help to decrease the spread of illness. She has started a second book, which covers women's health, fertility, and pregnancy.

—Daniel Kelly





# Patricia Oneal, M.D., '98, studies sickle cell disease at National Institutes of Health

Dr. Patricia Oneal, '98, grew up in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and is a fan of Blues music. But her love for science led her to pursue chemistry in college. She may have wound up performing research in a lab if it weren't for a friend.

While studying analytical chemistry at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Oneal met someone who was in the post-baccalaureate program for those interested in pursuing medical school. This friend convinced Oneal to go into the program and consider a future working in medicine.

"My mindset at that time was to get a Ph.D. in chemistry and work in someone's lab. But I completed the post-bacc program along with getting my master's at Southern Illinois," Oneal said. "And that's how I was first introduced to Wright State. Wright State was actually bringing people to tour and speak about the school and to speak about the mission of the school.

That is what compelled me to apply and I got in."

Oneal was engaged in research during her time in medical school. She fondly remembers collaborating with many faculty.

These include Bruce Binder, M.D.,

Ph.D., chair and associate professor of family medicine; Gary Leroy, M.D., '88, associate dean of Student Affairs and Admissions and associate professor of family medicine; and Alonzo Patterson III, M.D., clinical assistant professor of pediatrics.

Toward the end of medical school, in her third and fourth years, Oneal had the opportunity to do offsite rotations. One of those rotations led her to meet Ernest Turner, M.D., a pediatric hematologist oncologist in Nashville, Tennessee.

"We did a lot of work and research into sickle cell disease because he was the director of the newborn screenings in Tennessee," Oneal said. "All newborns in the state of Tennessee have a certain panel of genetic tests done and that also is included in looking at identifying if the baby has a hemoglobinopathy, whether that's sickle cell trait or actually sickle cell disease."

Dr. Turner encouraged her interest in studying sickle cell disease. Oneal was also interested in uncovering the pathologies and treatments of leukemia. She guessed that it would be a mix of malignant and non-malignant hematology, and Oneal enjoyed caring for others.

"I really loved taking care of patients in the heme clinic when I was doing my residency in Cook County in Chicago," Oneal said. "Dr. Turner, in my last year of residency, he actually became the chairman of pediatrics at Cook County.

He encouraged me to apply to the National Institutes of Health to do my fellowship. I didn't know what to do at the time, but I'm grateful that I applied."

The choice led her to a

career with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. Oneal is also affiliated with Howard University, where she is a prolific researcher in the world of sickle cell disease.

Oneal is an expert on the disease and on how specific drugs can offer treatment for disease while other approaches like bone marrow transplantation and gene therapies can offer the potential for a cure. At the Food and Drug Administration, Oneal is heavily involved with the review and approval process for novel pharmaceuticals that may one day make a difference for people suffering with sickle cell disease.

In Dr. Oneal's free time, she likes to watch independent films and goes to the theatre and opera in the nation's capital. One of her favorite authors is Daniel Black, who is a professor of African American Studies at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. She loves traveling, especially to Japan, as she has learned so much from venturing out of the areas with which she's familiar.

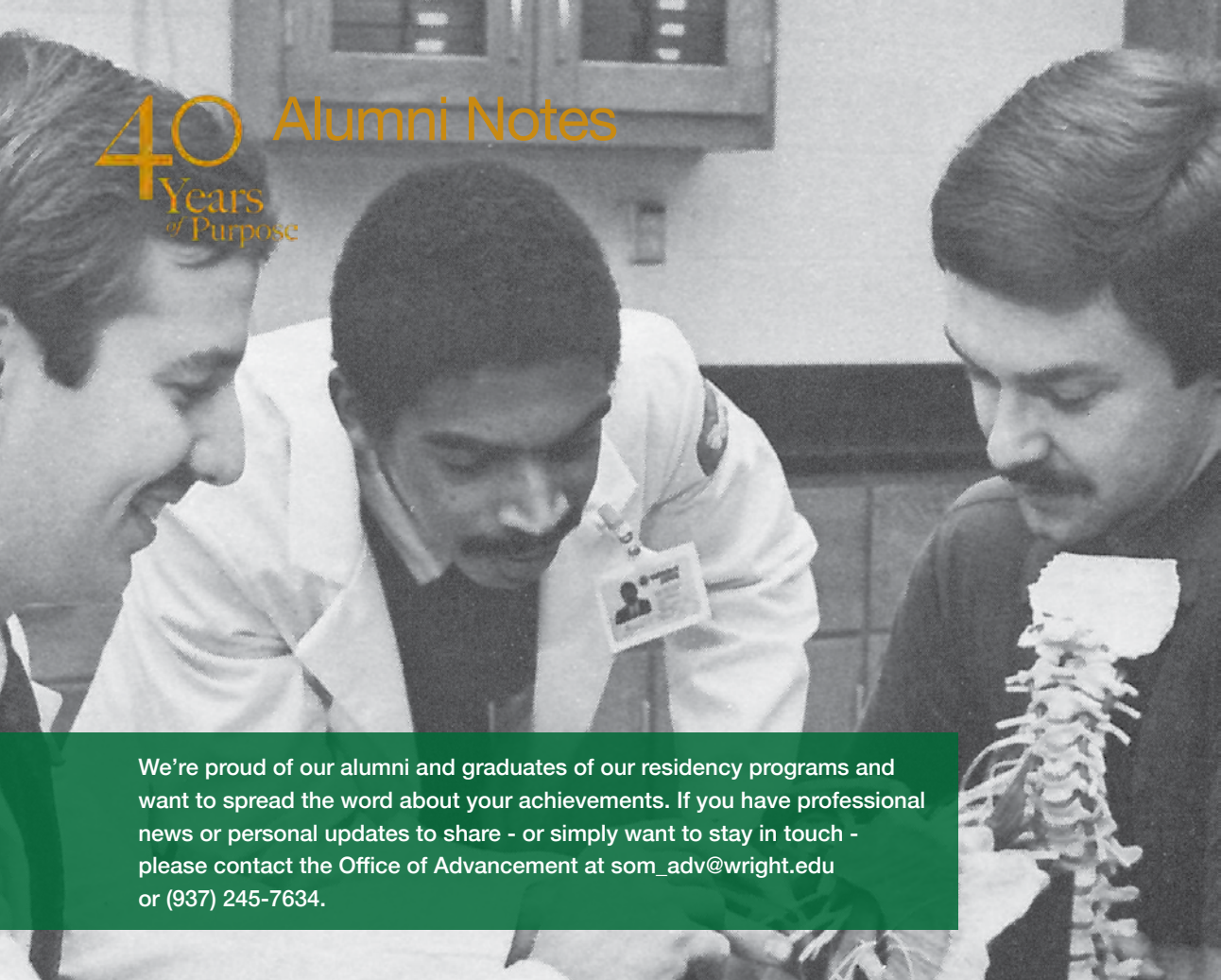
That is something that she advises medical students to do. Getting out of their communities is important for broadening their perspectives.

"It was very enlightening and I think, if you have the opportunity, traveling is a must. It doesn't necessarily have to be a big trip. Go outside your community and be with a totally different group of people. It is a different perspective and a different level of understanding," Oneal said. "And I think that's key, especially in this time when we are focused on self-identity and we're so polarized. People have fallen out of this understanding that we are more alike than we are different."

—Daniel Kelly



# 40 Alumni Notes Years of Purpose



We're proud of our alumni and graduates of our residency programs and want to spread the word about your achievements. If you have professional news or personal updates to share - or simply want to stay in touch - please contact the Office of Advancement at [som\\_adv@wright.edu](mailto:som_adv@wright.edu) or (937) 245-7634.



## 1986

**John T. Hanna, M.D.**, family medicine, has opened a primary care office in Ashland, Ohio.

## 1988

**\*John McCafferty, M.D.**, surgery, passed away in December of 2019. McCafferty was a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel who served on active duty as a surgeon for 32 years, including multiple overseas deployments. He was one of the first Critical Care Transport Team surgeons. He saved many lives during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and received several military decorations. He was also a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

## 1997

**Manish P. Patel, M.D., '97, R.Ph, FACS, FPMRS** has joined Vikor Scientific as Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Patel is a urologist in Charlotte, North Carolina whose specialty is male and female genitourinary reconstructive surgery.

**Laura (Burch) Concannon, M.D., M.B.A., FACP**, internal medicine, AMITA Health Regional Chief Medical Officer, Chicago metro region, was named to Crain's Chicago Business Notable Women in Health Care for 2019.

## 2001

**\*Alexander Asch, M.D.**, family medicine, is currently practicing with Beth Israel Lahey Health Primary Care in New Hampshire, an affiliate of Anna Jaques Hospital.

**Luis O. Amaro, M.D.**, internal medicine and pediatrics, is currently interim chief executive officer of Schneider Regional Medical Center in the Virgin Islands.

## 2002

**Emese Kalnoki-Kis, M.D.**, surgery, has joined Concord Hospital Plastic Surgery in New Hampshire.

**Andre T. Harris, M.D.**, obstetrics and gynecology, is Chief Medical Officer at Atrium Medical Center in Middletown, Ohio. Dr. Harris was honored at the 27th annual Parity Inc. Dayton Top 10 African-American Male Luncheon.

## 2003

**Chasity Takoma Edwards, M.D.**, obstetrics and gynecology, is with York Hospital in York, Maine.

## 2010

**Anthony Hesketh, M.D.**, surgery, is now a member of the

surgical team at Surgery Associates of York Hospital in York, Maine.

**Jeffery C. Thompson, M.D.**, physical medicine and rehabilitation, has joined Hillside Rehabilitation Hospital and Steward Medical Group in Warren, Ohio. He has also been named Medical Director of Hillside Rehabilitation Hospital.

## 2011

**Matthew T. Binkley, M.D.**, surgery, has joined the medical staff of Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, New York.

## 2012

**Daniel Persinger, M.D.**, surgery, is with Mercy Health General and Robotic Surgery in Springfield and Urbana, Ohio.

**Christine (Lee) Persinger, M.D.**, is practicing family medicine with Mercy Health - Northparke Internal and Family Medicine in Springfield, Ohio.

## 2013

**Daniel Luckenbill, M.D.**, an orthopedic surgeon, has joined Kettering Physician Network Orthopedics & Sports Medicine, Far Oaks Orthopedists in Kettering, Ohio.

**Bradley Kuhn, M.D.**, surgery, is now part of Bryan Trauma in Lincoln, Nebraska.

## 2016

**Thao Tran, M.D.**, family medicine, has joined Kettering Physician Network Primary Care at Englewood Health Center, in Englewood, Ohio. Dr. Tran specializes in preventative medicine, adolescent medicine and primary care.

## 2017

**Christen DeAnne Johnson, M.D., M.P.H.**, family medicine, was recognized as a Wright State University Alumni Association Graduate of the Last Decade, during the alumni achievement awards held on campus in October of 2019.

## 2019

**\*Divya Nallapuram, M.D.**, internal medicine physician, is now with Baptist Health in Indiana.

\*Residency Graduate



# LARRY LAWHORNE, FOUNDING CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF GERIATRICS, RETIRES AFTER 13 YEARS WITH THE BOONSHOFT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

He was a professor and founding chair of the Department of Geriatrics, and a staff physician with Wright State Physicians. A reception was held in his honor.

Dr. Lawhorne came to Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in 2006 to establish the Department of Geriatrics. At that time there were very few independent departments in the country.

With dedication and hard work put forth by then Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine dean, Howard Part, M.D., and gifts from Premier Health and the Boonshoft family, Wright State was able to establish the Department of Geriatrics.

"One of the reasons I chose to accept the opportunity here at Wright State was the welcoming nature of the institution and the School of Medicine leadership.

Drs. Howard Part, Margaret Dunn and Al Painter were instrumental in getting the department off to a good start."

In the early years, the support of department chairs, including Drs. Mark Classen, Arthur Pickoff, Gerald Kay and Glenn Hamilton, was especially helpful. Dr. Lawhorne credits Dr. Steven Swedlund for getting the fellowship program up and running and added that "he has mentored our fellows in his quiet competent way ever since."

Since establishing the Department of Geriatrics, Dr. Lawhorne has focused on building capacity, in both clinical and educational areas. The department is now engaged in research activities,

including the role of wearable sensors to help vulnerable adults remain in their homes longer and safer and the effec-

tiveness of a person-centered medical home for people with dementia and their families.

Dr. Lawhorne has been widely published throughout his career. Recent scholarly work includes outcomes of a person-centered home for people with dementia, an exploratory analysis of potential new biomarkers in cognitive function, and sleep quality prediction in caregivers using physiological signals. The last work was done in collaboration with Dr. Tanvi Banerjee in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and Dr. Jennifer Hughes in the Department of Social Work.

Of the many accomplishments while at Wright State, Dr. Lawhorne specifically noted, "The department's teaching sessions and precepting work with students,

residents and fellows. These activities have enabled us to incorporate the principles of geriatric medicine into the training programs in the medical school. Our students, residents, and fellows will soon be caring for the ever-growing population of older adults in Ohio and across the country. With the support of our capable and caring clinical staff, the care we have provided to older adults through Wright State Physicians has allowed us to touch many lives."

Dr. Lawhorne is also proud of the work the Department of Geriatrics has done in the area of community-based dementia care. Research on the effectiveness of a person-centered home for people with dementia led to the development of a weekly cognitive assessment clinic at Wright State Physicians.

*"One of the reasons I chose to accept the opportunity here at Wright State was the welcoming nature of the institution."*

After graduation from the University of Virginia School of Medicine, he went on to the University of Iowa, where he completed his residency in family practice. Following residency, Dr. Lawhorne spent the next 30 years in patient care at several hospitals, mental facilities, rehabilitation centers and clinics. During this time, he began to focus on neuropsychiatric conditions, including dementia and Parkinson's disease, as well as patients with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. He participated in several local, state and national professional organizations, both as a member and in leadership roles. He served as president of the American Medical Directors Association in 1997-98 and led its research network from 2000 to 2006

— Lisa Coffey





Boonshoft  
School of Medicine  
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

3640 Col. Glenn Hwy., Dayton, OH 45435-0001

40 Years of Purpose

## Donations for the 40th Anniversary

If you would like to make a donation in honor of the 40th Anniversary of the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine please visit, [wright.edu/give/bsomexcellence](http://wright.edu/give/bsomexcellence) to give online.

# THANK YOU.

*We are forever grateful to our alumni and friends who have helped guide the Boonshoft School of Medicine over the years. We appreciate this special school and all those who have called it home. Your care and contributions have made this possible. Thank you for making our 40th anniversary so memorable.*

