

# VITAL SIGNS



# DEAN'S MESSAGE



*Dean Howard Part, M.D.*

More than 30 years ago, our community united to form a medical school to better meet the health care needs of our community. Since then, steadfast support has allowed Wright State University School of Medicine to thrive, garnering national recognition for innovative medical education and outstanding community service. Our model of medical education, with its vibrant teaching community, has produced skilled, compassionate physicians for our region and beyond.

Again, community partners have recognized a health care need—the need for more geriatric training and resources to care for the burgeoning population of individuals over 65. A new infrastructure will enhance geriatric curriculum for undergraduate and graduate medical education, expand clinical resources, and advance a geriatrics research agenda. By pooling expertise and resources, our community can better address the health care needs of its residents. The feature story gives additional information on the new, community-based Department of Geriatrics.

Other stories focus on geriatric research and patient care. Aerospace Medicine, now celebrating its 25th anniversary, shares some of the advances that NASA research has brought to earth. The effects of spaceflight on the human body mimic the effects of aging, and many innovative clinical treatments have resulted from space exploration. In patient care, innovative vascular techniques are extending and improving the quality of life for individuals using minimally invasive procedures and better diagnostic tools for aging veins and arteries.

Sincerely,

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

Howard M. Part, M.D.,

Dean

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## **About the Covers:**

*Wright State University medical students spend time in geriatric settings to hone their skills and gain understanding of the needs of the elderly. The cover photos were taken at Friends Care Center in Yellow Springs and feature Zolte, a yellow Labrador pet-in-residence.*

## **Front:**

*Marcia Braun, Year III, visits with Alma Davidson.*

## **Back:**

*Timothy Miller, Year III, with Roger Pitstick.*



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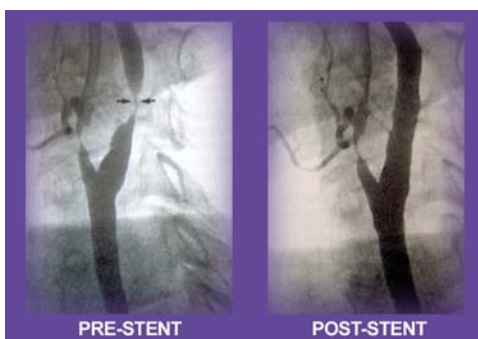
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# *Developing the Infrastructure for the Graying of America*

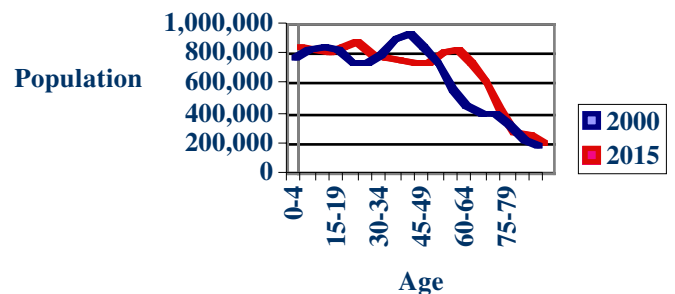
## *The Need Is Real*

Taking care of a burgeoning elderly population is an issue that cannot be ignored. In 1900, the percent of our population over the age of 65 was a mere 4.1 percent, for over the age of 85, a scant .2 percent. The percentages for both of these populations increased slowly during the last century. In 2000, the U.S. Census listed the over-65 population as 12.8 percent and the over-85 at 1.6 percent. However, projections for 2030 raise the over-65 percentage to more than 20 percent. One in five Americans, it is predicted, will be over the age of 65, and one quarter of those will be over the age of 85.

We can attribute much of the graying of America to 76 million baby boomers. Classified as a birth between January of 1946 and the end of 1964, the baby boom generation represents the largest sustained population growth in U.S. history. While this generation nears retirement, modern medicine and

improved public health are extending life expectancy for all Americans. The implications for society, particularly health care and medical education, are enormous.

**Ohio Baby Boomers' Impact on Demographics**  
2000 Census & 2015 Projections of  
Population by Age Group



“Providing for an aging society is a community issue,” says Howard Part, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine, “that requires coordination across medical specialties, facilities, health care providers, and health care organizations. This broad issue must be addressed by an infrastructure that will provide the backbone to meet the challenging needs of our elders. Community support is key to bringing about the rapid changes necessary in medical education and health care delivery.”

## *Community Partnerships Form a New Department of Geriatrics*

A recent task force composed of faculty and community geriatric specialists declares, “Existing resources are insufficient to meet the current, let alone future, challenges faced by this medical school in preparing all physicians to care properly for the growing older population.” Its recommendations include: coordinating geriatric undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education; expanding geriatric assessment and consultation;





enhancing clinical resources for the community; and establishing a collaborative research agenda in geriatrics. To accomplish these daunting tasks, the group recommended a new department, one that focused upon gerontology and geriatric medicine. Community support for this idea has been remarkable.

The board of Premier Health Partners Inc. (PHP) has committed \$5 million to the project and offered to help raise additional funds from community partners. Fred Weber, chairman of the board of trustees for Premier Health Partners, says, “We have had a long association with the School of Medicine and being a partner in the creation of this program is a natural fit for us. As a system, PHP, with two hospitals, Miami Valley and Good Samaritan, saw a need for additional training of physicians to care for our aging population. This program will fit that need, allowing for a greater sensitivity in addressing the health care concerns of this segment of our population.”

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*“We have had a long association with the School of Medicine and being a partner in the creation of this program is a natural fit for us.”*

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The Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) has committed two new faculty members as well as critical resources, including an adult day care program, Alzheimer’s unit, home-based primary care program, skilled nursing care, rehabilitation program, geriatric assessment center, hospice, nursing home, and palliative care program. In addition, the Dayton VAMC offers clinical research potential and data mining opportunities.

Steve Cohen, M.D., director of the Dayton VAMC, has been a strong supporter for the project. “The VA and Wright State University School of Medicine have always been closely aligned,” he



(L-R) Alma Davidson, Marcia Braun, and Cynthia Olsen, M.D. ('85), and Zolte.

says. “This new department is a good fit for not only the VA, but the community as well. The VA has numerous programs related to geriatrics, with 36 percent of our veterans currently from WWII and the Korean Conflict. I am very pleased to be part of this effort, and I believe it will give us additional opportunities to improve on the excellent care we provide.”

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*“I am very pleased to be part of this effort.”*

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The School of Medicine will provide space for the new department, support one new faculty line, reallocate the current resources for the Office of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, and dedicate existing faculty expertise. The school will also seek additional funding from state, federal, foundation, and private sources.





### *Expanding Today's Efforts*

Wright State University School of Medicine has taken active steps over the years to prepare its graduates to care for an older population. "We believe," says Marshall Kapp, J.D., professor of community health and the director of the Office of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, "every graduate should have the knowledge base and clinical skills to care for older patients. We weave geriatric content throughout the curriculum."

Specific skills needed for history taking and physical examination of older patients are incorporated into Introduction to Clinical Medicine courses in Years I and II. During the clerkship for Internal Medicine, students receive substantial exposure to older patients in a variety of settings. The Family Medicine Clerkship has a two-week geriatric component that requires students to perform an individual assessment of a nursing home resident and a team assessment of an older patient in his or her

home. Didactic lectures cover several aspects of aging and geriatric psychiatry topics such as dementia, depression, and bereavement. Student electives cover a wide range of advanced study, including a one-month experience in the Geriatric Evaluation and Management unit at the Dayton VA Medical Center.

Recognizing the need to better prepare physicians to care for an aging population, Virginia Kettering and the Kettering Family Fund endowed a \$1 million scholarship to support geriatric medical education at the School of Medicine. Since 1996, 11 alumni have received the \$25,000 scholarships to further develop the specialized skills and knowledge they will need to treat an older population. Recipients commit to practice in the Dayton area for at least two years after they have completed residency training.

The Center for Healthy Communities offers strong community outreach programs for older residents and advocates at the local and state level for issues that affect an older population, including the special needs of parenting grandparents. The Lifespan Health Research Center studies aging and helped produce the charts on the elderly used by the World Health Organization. Age-related vision loss research is studying cause and effect of retinal damage seen usually in individuals over 65. Other elder issues, such as sleep disorders, Alzheimer's, and osteoporosis are also under study. Issues related to ethics and the law, elder abuse, and appropriate home and assisted living care are studied and shared with the community through the Office of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology.

These community outreach and medical education activities will need to increase, as will the number of physicians with expertise in geriatric medicine. Because the care of elders crosses discipline boundaries, the new department will be interdisciplinary.

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***“The community need is palpable, and the school is committed to meeting that need.”***

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“A new Department of Geriatrics,” says Dr. Part, “will improve our community’s overall health and prepare health care providers and agencies to better serve a burgeoning population while making our community competitive for state, foundation, and federal funds. This infrastructure advances the community’s capacity for geriatric assessment and increases needed clinical resources. The community need is palpable, and the school is committed to meeting that need.” 📺

—Judith Engle

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### ***Expected Outcomes***

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- » ***Coordinated and interdisciplinary education in geriatrics***
- » ***Expanded geriatric assessment and consultation***
- » ***Increased number of trained physicians***
- » ***Collaboration with related community agencies***
- » ***Enhanced geriatrics research agenda***
- » ***Established infrastructure for securing competitive funds***
- » ***Improved community health***



# Space Research is Down to Earth

**C**an you remember the wink of the *Sputnik* satellite as it moved across the night skies? Perhaps you watched on a black and white television set as the first American in space, Alan Shepard, made a suborbital flight on May 5, 1961, lasting just over 15 minutes. If you were among 76 million Americans born during the baby boom, 1946 to 1964, you have watched the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) reach many milestones in spaceflight. Since its creation in 1958, NASA has sent several hundred astronauts into space. As missions to space become longer and more complex, data is being gathered and analyzed regarding the effects of spaceflight on the human body. This information is already being put to use in the field of medicine here on Earth.

Mary Anne Frey, Ph.D., physiologist and professor in the Aerospace Medicine Residency Program, Department of Community Health, has made a career of research in spaceflight physiology. She lists the symptoms that astronauts experience in space and on return to Earth: impairment of blood pressure control and a decrease of aerobic capacity; loss of muscle tissue and muscle strength, especially of the legs and back; loss of calcium from the bones; changes in the nervous system, including difficulty maintaining balance; mild anemia; depressed immune system function; and sleep disturbances.

*“Many of the effects of spaceflight are similar to changes with aging. With spaceflight, these effects occur more rapidly and are—so far have been—reversible.”*

“Many of the effects of spaceflight are similar to changes with aging,” says Dr. Frey. “With spaceflight, these effects occur more rapidly and are—so far have been—reversible.” Although the mechanisms behind these changes may not be the same, performing research on the effects of spaceflight helps us understand the aging process.

One of the primary culprits behind the “aging” effects of spaceflight is the absence of gravity. Without

*Astronaut Edward T. Lu, Expedition 7 NASA science officer and flight engineer, wearing squat harness pads, performs knee-bends using the Interim Resistive Exercise Device on the International Space Station.*



the accustomed load of gravity on muscle and bone, humans in space experience below normal levels of exertion as they stand, walk, run, jump, or lift objects. And, without the directional push of gravity on the body, humans in space can become disoriented: there is no sense of up or down, and even awareness of the location of one's own limbs is reduced in micro-gravity.

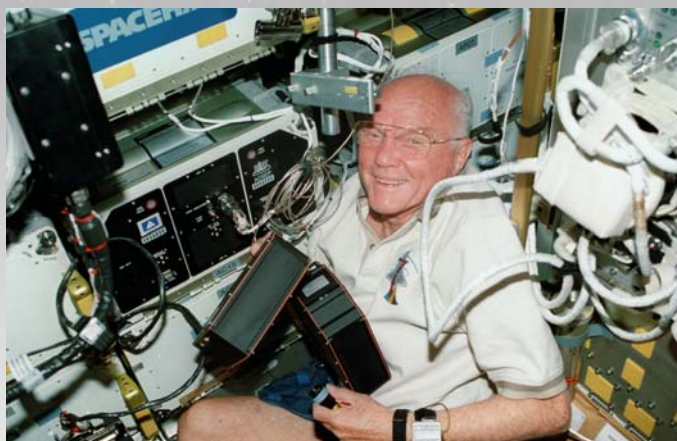
The longer a person remains in space, the more severe the effects of spaceflight become, and the longer it takes to recover. Dr. Frey cites the case of one U.S. astronaut who lost 12 percent of his bone mass after four and a half months in space, and who took a year to make a full recovery. Normal aging can cause 1 percent bone loss in one year; in space, the loss averages 10 percent per year. NASA flight surgeons prescribe programs with gradual resumption of rigorous exercise in order to safely rehabilitate astronauts upon their return to earth. A long-term program, the Longitudinal Study of Astronaut Health, has tracked astronaut health data since the 1950s to determine whether astronauts' unique occupational exposures are associated with special health risks.

As an integral part of its mission, NASA has continuously created new technologies, often with exciting new medical applications. NASA “spinoffs” have included imaging processes (MRI, CT, ultrasound, and



DEXA) made possible by digital processing developed for the Apollo program. Technology and software developed to analyze data from the Hubble Telescope have been put to use for digital guided biopsies and digital mammograms. Cardiac pacemakers, laser angioplasty, and virtual reality techniques for neurosurgery and other surgery are just a few medical innovations made possible by NASA technology.

If humans returning from space can reverse the “aging” process experienced during spaceflight, Dr. Frey suggests that aging people might take control of their own health in a similar manner. “As many people age,” she says, “they adopt a sedentary lifestyle, in which they are not working against gravity; their lifestyle, rather than the mere passing of days and years, may be the cause of their so-called ‘aging changes’.”



*U.S. Sen. John H. Glenn Jr., payload specialist, works with the Advanced Organic Separation experiment inside the SPACEHAB facility onboard “Discovery.” Sen. Glenn joined five astronauts and a Japanese payload specialist for the nine-day STS-95 mission in Earth orbit.*

Thirty-six years after making history as the first American to orbit the earth, Senator John Glenn returned to space on Shuttle mission STS-95, at the age of 77. On this spaceflight he made 134 orbits of the earth; spent a total of 8 days, 21 hours, and 44 minutes in space; and traveled 3.6 million miles. According to Dr. Frey, Senator Glenn made a rapid and full recovery from the effects of his second space mission. NASA has great news for the generation of the baby boom, and for all Americans. With a little help from space technology’s medical spinoffs and the will power to keep our bodies active, the “effects of aging” can be slowed or even reversed. 📺

—Sue Rytel



*Faculty and staff of the Division of Aerospace Medicine gather before an autographed portrait of U.S. Senator John H. Glenn. (L–R) Stanley R. Mohler, M.D., M.S.; Farhad Sahiar, M.D.; Betty Somers; Mary Anne Frey, Ph.D.; and Robin E. Dodge, M.D., M.S.*

### **Residency Program Celebrates Anniversary**

The Wright State University Aerospace Medicine Residency program celebrates its silver anniversary this year. Aerospace medicine promotes the health and functional well-being of pilots, astronauts, flight crew members, and others traveling in air or space. Wright State’s program is the oldest civilian program in the country and claims more than 100 graduates, representing more than 20 countries around the world.

Stanley R. Mohler, M.D., the program’s director since its inception in 1978, notes that the program’s graduates play a major role at NASA, FAA, and developing space programs around the globe. They fill the roles of flight surgeons for space exploration, medical directors of airlines and the FAA, and aerospace medicine researchers and instructors. The highest ranking physicians at the Johnson Space Center and the Kennedy Space Center are both graduates of the program.

Medical residents study and perform research activities in the areas of epidemiology, biostatistics, health services administration, and environmental health. They also complete clinical rotations at such facilities as Kennedy Space Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the FAA, and commercial airlines.

Accredited by the American Board of Preventive Medicine, the Aerospace Medicine Residency Program emphasizes primary care in the work environment. The program includes a Master of Science in Aerospace Medicine.



*“Wright State, with its emphasis on the importance of good physical exams and history taking in our first year of training and on through medical school, thoroughly prepared me for this challenging experience.”*

## Learning Through Service: Awe, Medicine, and Education in Guatemala

Equipped with stethoscopes and blood-pressure cuffs, and lugging containers of medical supplies and low-cost eyeglasses, three Wright State medical students helped operate family health clinics in rural Guatemala last spring. “At first the language barrier seemed overwhelming and uncomfortable to us,” Tamara Chandler states. “But, once we became more familiar with the environment and working with interpreters, our medical training took over and we knew we could make a difference in people’s lives.”

Deanna Allgeyer, Tamara Kelly Chandler, and Melissa Schloneger, all 2003 graduates, spent four weeks under the supervision of Drs. Sergio Mollinedo and Juan Orasorio. The students helped operate health clinics out of community centers, village churches, and even an outdoor basketball/recreation field. The team was organized by Melissa and her husband, Mark Schloneger, M.D. ('01), a family practice resident at Miami Valley Hospital. Also included were Tamara’s husband Michael Chandler, M.D., an internal medicine-pediatrics resident at The Ohio State University, and Mr. Wendell Schloneger, a free-lance photographer. The experience was an elective, “Primary Care and Public Health in Guatemala,” and was planned and sponsored through Wright State’s Department of Family Medicine.

Using a local physician’s house as their home base, the team traveled to pre-designated places usually about an hour away from the city. The team would set up a treatment center in different locales

each day. They would arrive in a village early in the morning and quickly put up a bare-bones clinic that included three basic areas: a pharmacy, medical stations, and an eye-exam station.

### The Unseen Seen

“We purchased inexpensive kits to put glasses together according to the individual refraction required through a company called In Focus. Their goal is to help get eyeglasses to people in developing countries,” explains Melissa Schloneger. The team also bought reading glasses for \$1 a pair for free distribution to their patients. “One of the long-lasting things we could do for these people was to give them eyeglasses,” she says. “When someone can’t see anything, can barely even get around, and you give them glasses, they smile, laugh, sometimes even shout, ‘Oh my gosh!’ They can now see their friends and family. They are able to read,” Melissa recalls.

“One patient was a seamstress. She hadn’t been able to see what she was doing while sewing. When we gave her glasses, she was so excited and happy to see again and to be able to keep doing her seamstress work, all she could do was look around in awe and smile! It was a very happy, rewarding moment.”



*A seamstress responds positively to her new glasses, which were distributed at the clinic.*





(L–R) Wendell Schloneger; Melissa Schloneger, M.D. ('03); Mark Schloneger, M.D. ('01); Deanna Allgeyer, M.D. ('03); Tamara Kelly Chandler, M.D. ('03) M.D.; and Michael Chandler, M.D.

*Deanna Allgeyer, M.D. ('03), at the pharmacy section of the Guatemalan clinic.*



## One Diagnosis: Education

At the medical stations, without the benefit of the technology available here in the United States, rotating team members relied heavily on history taking and physical exams to make diagnoses. “Wright State, with its emphasis on the importance of good physical exams and history taking in our first year of training and on through medical school, thoroughly prepared me for this challenging experience,” Melissa states.

“Our clinic was truly a family medicine clinic,” adds Tamara. Chronic pain, worms, and upper respiratory infections, along with inappropriate antibiotic use—because antibiotics are over-the-counter drugs—were common. Most patients were mothers with four, five, six, or more children. “It was eye opening to realize that lack of education was one of the barriers we continually encountered,” Tamara recalls. “For example, moms would wash their children in the residual strong bleach water they had used for washing clothes. Therefore, the children ended up with mysterious rashes over their entire body.” Dr. Chandler, who had previously done medical missions, knew to ask about the soap families were using. “It is my hope that by educating these parents we were providing preventive medicine that will benefit our patients long after we are gone,” states Tamara.

## Handing out Medicine: A Challenge

In the pharmacy area, the doctors and students under their supervision would take turns preparing the proper doses of each medication required. Sometimes a creative combination of liquids, tablets, and capsules of the same medication had to be used, “because that was all we had to give,” explains Tamara. “We became very familiar with our *Sanford Guide*, and having hands-on access to the medications, seeing what medications look like, figuring dosing schedules and amounts, and practicing the process from start to finish was very satisfying.”

“This trip proved a poignant lesson for us in not taking things for granted. I realize how lucky I am to live in the United States where we have not only quality health care, but clean running water, shelter that is not three-sided, and opportunities for good education,” states Tamara. 📺

—Nancy Harker



# New Endovascular Techniques Promise to Improve Outcomes

**W**hen it comes to stroke, the third leading cause of death in this country, the evidence is overwhelming that an ounce of prevention really is worth a pound of cure. And, there's little doubt that the most effective way to prevent stroke is to stop the disease process before it starts, through life-style changes, diet, and exercise.

"The main treatment for stroke is prevention," agrees vascular surgeon Gary W. Lemmon, M.D., FACS, professor of surgery and associate residency program director at Good Samaritan Hospital. "While some patients may benefit from surgery to clean out the carotid arteries—called an endarterectomy—most patients are treated with medical therapy and strict control of their risk factors."

Unfortunately, physicians who specialize in treating patients at risk for strokes and other vascular disorders rarely have the opportunity to intervene before the disease process is well advanced. Many of the patients at risk of stroke who are treated at the Samaritan Vascular Institute (SVI), for example, suffer from more than one serious disorder, according to Dr. Lemmon, who is SVI's medical director.

"Lots of our patients have a range of complex problems," he says. "They often are being treated for conditions like hypertension, coronary artery disease, diabetes,

and kidney failure as well as stroke. Many smoke, or they're overweight." As a consequence, many different medical specialists are involved with patients who are referred to the institute.

"Historically, treatment of vascular disease has been very fragmented for that reason," Dr. Lemmon explains. "We felt that it was important to develop an institute that brings people from all these different disciplines together to choose the best options for each particular patient. The team approach is the wave of the future in this field."

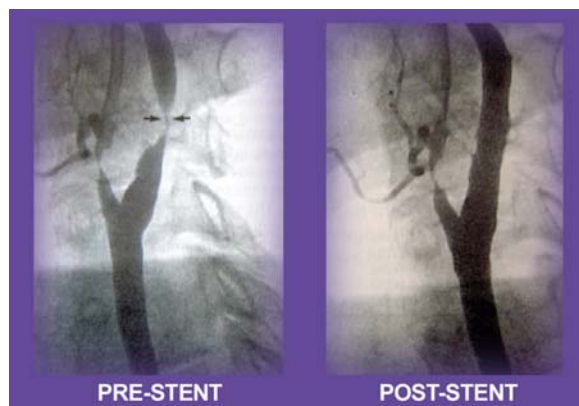
A blocked carotid artery is the most common cause of stroke. "We get concerned when people have had a stroke or have a narrowing of the carotid artery that is more than 60 to 70 percent. That's when we consider surgery or intervention," Dr. Lemmon says.

In a carotid endarterectomy, vascular surgeons open one of the arteries in the neck to remove atherosclerotic plaque to reduce the risk of stroke. The most common vascular surgery performed in the United States today, a carotid endarterectomy reduces the risk of stroke "by as much as 55 percent," according to the National Stroke Association Web site.

Although the procedure has a high success rate, it can result in complications, including stroke,

heart attack, infection, increased blood pressure, and intracerebral hemorrhage. The surgery may be too risky for those who are elderly or frail, have already had a similar procedure, or have extensive blockage too close to the brain, Dr. Lemmon points out.

A procedure combining carotid angioplasty and stenting is a new treatment option Dr. Lemmon and his colleagues offer high-risk patients. A kind of endovascular surgery, it is minimally invasive and involves a shorter hospital stay and recovery time. Using radiologic images to guide the way, endovascular surgeons thread a balloon-tipped catheter through the artery in the groin to the blockage in the carotid artery. The balloon is used to open up the blockage and a stent (a small metallic cylinder) is then placed in the same area to help keep the artery open.



"We've been doing carotid artery stenting since 2001 with good outcomes," Dr. Lemmon says. "At Samaritan Vascular Institute, we're involved in clinical trials involving some of the newer devices and techniques being developed in this field." Good Samaritan Hospital was the first hospital in the area to perform carotid artery angioplasty and stenting.

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***‘We’re involved in clinical trials involving some of the newer devices and techniques being developed in this field.’***

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“With endovascular surgery, we can take several of our usual problems and reduce the risks while increasing the likelihood of a positive outcome,” he explains. “Another example is abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA) treatment, which used to require major surgery. Now, it can frequently be taken care of with aortic stent-grafting. Open surgical repair requires up to 10 days in the hospital and three months of recovery. With endovascular surgery, patients can recover with an overnight stay, and there’s less morbidity.”

Standard surgical therapy is still preferred for younger, healthier AAA patients because little is known about the long-term outcomes of stent-grafting, he explains. “We have about seven years of data now. The FDA only approved this procedure in 1999. But it seems to be a good option for high-risk patients. More than 25,000 people have had stent-grafts placed in the past two years, and the results are probably equal to standard surgery.” Endograft technology has saved the lives of thousands of patients who could not have been treated surgically.

Exposure to cutting-edge endovascular procedures and the team approach to caring for patients help Wright State surgical residents and medical students gain a broader perspective than they might else-

where, Dr. Lemmon maintains. “We believe they should not only learn about the surgical procedures they may be involved in, they also should see the outcomes for the patient,” he notes.

“All residents and students who participate in a procedure are required to come to our office for follow-up meetings with others involved in the patient’s care. We want them to learn that a physician can’t make patient management decisions without understanding all that is involved. Surgery may be what we like best, but it’s less than half of what we do as physicians.” At University Vascular Associates, Dr. Lemmon works closely with Douglas H. Bryan, M.D., FACS, assistant professor of surgery and assistant program director for the residency program at Good Samaritan. In addition to treating carotid artery disease and abdominal aneurysms, they work with patients with a range

of vascular disorders, including peripheral vascular disease, vein disorders, renal failure, and diabetes.

“Our practice at University Vascular Associates is our teaching ground. It’s a hugely busy practice. We’re doing a lot of procedures, and I enjoy working with the residents and students. They allow me to have a keener edge and force me to keep current. After five years of private practice, I joined the faculty because I felt an obligation to give back to my profession, a responsibility to pass on what I’ve learned.”

When he runs into graduates of the surgery residency program at meetings of the American College of Surgeons, he says their self-confidence is his reward. “They tell me they’ve had no problems competing with graduates from the most prestigious programs for fellowships in any subspecialty. They’re like good scouts, prepared for anything.”

—Robin Suits



***(L-R) Back Row: Douglas Bryan, M.D., and Gary Lemmon, M.D.  
Front Row: Theresa York, Office Manager; Robin Coffield, Billing Specialist; Debbie Akemon, R.N., B.S.N.; and Gaye Watson, Medical Assistant.***



## New M.D./M.B.A. Program



*(L-R) Dr. Richard Schuster, Oscar Boonshoft, and Dr. Howard Part.*

Starting next year, medical students at Wright State will be able to pursue an M.B.A. with health care concentration, along with their M.D., thanks to a \$2 million gift from Dayton philanthropist Oscar Boonshoft.

The new physician leadership development program, which can be completed in five years, will help students develop management and leadership skills as well as knowledge of health economics and population-based medicine. According to Richard Schuster, M.D., the program's creator and the Oscar Boonshoft Chair of the Division of Health Systems Management, the premise behind training physicians in business is to return health care administration to those professionals with hands-on medical experience.

Half of the gift will fund the development of the program, and the other half will provide scholarships for select medical students.

"It is my expectation that this leadership program will create many of our future health care CEOs, leaders who can improve patient care and health care systems," said Mr. Boonshoft.

In addition to his current commitment to the development of physicians as leaders, Mr. Boonshoft's generosity led to the creation of the Division of Health Systems Management in 1999 with a gift of \$2.5 million to endow the Oscar Boonshoft Chair of Health Systems Management.

Mr. Boonshoft obtained his mechanical engineering degree from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey. After a 30-year career as a project manager, U.S. Air Force contracting officer, and supervisory production engineer at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, he retired in January 1970. Mr. Boonshoft and his wife Marjorie have supported science and medicine in a number of capacities. He is a member of the Wright State University Foundation Board of Trustees.

## Creating New Paths to Discovery

Wright State University School of Medicine has received more than \$1 million in computer software, known as the Genomics Knowledge Platform (GKP), from Acero Inc. The generous in-kind contribution will further the school's groundbreaking work in genomics research.

"The GKP is designed to enable scientists to create new pathways through the vast amounts of data that are being generated now by genomics research. This software will help scientists share data and ideas in new ways, speeding up the discovery process," says Robert E. W. Fyffe, Ph.D., professor of anatomy, director of the Center for Brain Research, and associate dean for research.

Acero and Wright State partner in the Genome Research Infrastructure Partnership established in 2001 to foster collaboration among research institutions and companies in southwest Ohio.

## Gift to Advance Heart and Brain Research

Thanks to a sizable gift from the estate of Henry A. and Emily J. Webb, scientists at Wright State will be helping more Americans lead healthier lives by conducting important heart and brain research. Mr. and Mrs. Webb were longtime residents of Dayton, both having successful 34-year careers with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.



**Dr. Lawrence Prochaska**

“Last year Emily shared with me that she hoped that her and her husband’s gift would enhance the research being done here, and ultimately benefit all people afflicted with heart disease and brain disorders,” said Daniel Organisciak, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. “These funds will be put to good use by Lawrence Prochaska, Ph.D., a noted scientist and friend of the Webbs. The university is deeply grateful for their support and has confidence in the important research endeavors taking place at Wright State.”

Mrs. Webb, who passed away on December 24, 2002, was preceded in death by her husband.

## We’ve Got Your Hook-Up!



If you haven’t visited the Medical Alumni Association’s web page lately, now is a great time to log onto [www.med.wright.edu/alumni/](http://www.med.wright.edu/alumni/). The site features information on upcoming events and important alumni resources. Interactive features include a searchable database of alumni class notes, an online survey, secure online giving, and a password-protected e-mail directory. While you’re there, you can securely order from our new line of alumni apparel. And be sure to sign up for the monthly alumni e-newsletter!

## Bed and Board is Back!

The Medical Alumni Association is relaunching the Bed and Board Program. This program matches up fourth-year medical students traveling to visit residency programs with alumni across the country. Traveling can be a stressful experience, and alumni participating in the program can help ease this burden by providing students with accommodations, helping acquaint students with a new area, or offering insight into prospective residency programs.

If you would like to sign up, please contact the Office of Advancement at (937) 775-2972, or sign up online at [www.med.wright.edu/alumni/](http://www.med.wright.edu/alumni/).

## Dragons Outing



*On July 5, the Medical Alumni Association hosted the third Annual Alumni Night with the Dayton Dragons. The event gave alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends an opportunity to join in the weekend celebration of Inventing Flight activities while enjoying an evening of baseball.*



## 1980

**Walter W. Jacquemin, M.D.**, is director of the emergency room at Alpena General Hospital in Alpena, Mich. He and his wife Barbara have three children. Sally, 19, is a freshman at the University of Michigan; Katie, 17, will start at MSU next year; and Joe, 14, is on the high school swim team.

## 1983

**James J. Augustine, M.D.**, is vice chair of Emory University Department of Emergency Medicine. He lives in Atlanta, Ga., with his wife Linda. The couple has three children: Jill, Josh, and Jenna.

**Elizabeth E. Knepp, M.D.**, practices with East Suburban Ob/Gyn Associates in Monroeville, Penn. She is married to **Timothy A. Van Fleet, M.D.** ('83), who is assistant director of emergency services at UPMC St. Margaret in Pittsburgh, Penn. He has led many medical mission trips to the Guatemalan highlands. The couple has two children: Abigail and Samuel.

**Barbara M. Geiger, M.D.**, is retired from practice in internal medicine and lives in Lake Oswego, Ore., with her husband Robert. The couple has two daughters: Mandy and Emily, ages 19 and 17.

**Jeffrey W. Petry, M.D.**, practices family medicine at Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton. He and his wife Margie have three children: Jay, Jenny, and Jon, ages 16, 14, and 12, respectively.

**Charles M. Ware, Jr., M.D.**, practices with Mishawaka Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine in Mishawaka, Ind. He has served in both Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He and his wife Liz have three children: Noel, Chad, and T. J., ages 20, 18, and 14.

## 1986

**Derek K. Bair, M.D.**, practices neonatology at Oakwood Hospital and Medical Center in Dearborn, Mich., where, in 2001, he was selected to be corporate director of neonatology. In 2003, he was selected as the chairman of the State of Michigan Subcommittee on Newborn Screening. Also in 2003, he was physician spokesperson for the Michigan Chapter of the March of Dimes "Prematurity Campaign" kickoff, speaking in various cities around the state and the capitol with senators and representatives. He and his wife Christina have two children: Emily and Nicholas, ages 11 and 10.

**Susan P. Corzilius, M.D.**, is in family practice with Kaiser Permanente in Woodland Hills, Calif. She is married to David C. Shall, executive vice president of business and legal affairs at 20th Century Fox Television. The couple has three children: Alexandra, 14; Hannah, 11; and Samantha, 8.

## 1987

**John A. Gabis, M.D.**, has served as Ross County (Ohio) coroner since 1993. He also serves as a medical director for Adena Health System. He and his wife Janine have four children: Brionne, 18; Katy, 15; Stefan, 14; and Drew, 8.

**Gary M. Onady, M.D., Ph.D.**, is an associate professor of pediatrics and internal medicine at WSU School of Medicine. He served as director of the Combined Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Residency Program at WSU from 1991 to mid-2003. He also is director of the Dayton Adult Cystic Fibrosis Program, division head for Internal Medicine at Children's Medical Center, and a member of a Jazz Sextet (Segundo Venida, trumpet,

flugelhorn, writer, and arranger). He and his wife, **Alice Onady, M.D., D.D.S.** ('88), live in Dayton. The couple has two children: Dia, 13; and Rena, 9.

## 1988

**Diane M. LeMay, M.D.**, established practice in October 2001 with Licking Memorial Family Practice/Pediatrics in Licking County, Ohio.

**Kathy D. Dixon, M.D.**, practices family medicine in Marion, Ohio. Two years ago, she served as president of the medical staff at Marion General Hospital. She has also served as health commissioner for Marion County and as team physician for a local high school football team. She and her husband Mark have one child, Grace Davis.

**David E. Hanpeter, M.D.**, practices trauma surgery and critical care in Northridge, Calif. He completed his residency and critical care fellowship at Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, Mo.

**Frank J. Marino, M.D.**, has a solo family practice in Huntington Beach, Calif., and has been elected twice to serve as chief of staff at his hospital.

**Barry S. McCorkle, M.D.**, practices with Belmont Physicians Internal Medicine in Dayton.

## 1990

**Mark S. Pack, M.D.**, recently started a general surgery practice at Holzer Medical Center in Jackson, Ohio. He completed his surgical training at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Augusta, Ga.

## 1991

**Leslie Mormol Green, M.D.**, practices with Generations Family Medicine in Gahanna, Ohio. She lives in New Albany with her husband Harold N. Green, M.D., an obstetrician/gynecologist. The couple has two children: Erica, 10; and Ilise, 7.

## 1992

**Matthew J. Fox, M.D.**, practices with the Plastic Surgery Institute of Dayton and resides in Centerville.

## 1993

**Sibel S. Gullo, M.D.**, practices internal medicine/pediatrics at Lexington Clinic Veterans Park in Lexington, Ky. She and her husband Christopher have three children: James, Joanna, and Anthony, ages 9, 6, and 13 months.

**James R. Dorado, M.D.**, practices internal medicine/pediatrics with Central Ohio Primary Care in Columbus. He and his wife Leslie have two children: Olivia and Matthew.

**Gina M. Love-Walker, M.D.**, practices with Suburban Internal Medicine in Columbus, Ohio, where she is medical director. She also is a clinical associate professor in internal medicine at The Ohio State University. She and her husband William have two children: Austin and Alexis.

**Jennifer A. Schweitzer-Ahmed, M.D.**, practices with Dorset Family Care in Troy, Ohio. She and her husband Mahtab Ahmed, M.D., have two children: Anjali and Lilly Ann.

**Austin T. Welsh Jr., M.D.**, is doing a fellowship in geriatrics with the University of Hawaii. He and his wife Mary have six children: Tommy, 15, Margaret, 12, Peter, 10, Charles, 8, Anna 4, and Eva, 1.

## 1994

**Thomas W. Englehart, M.D.**, completed his clinical anesthesiology residency at The Ohio State University Medical Center in 1998. He remained at Ohio State as clinical faculty/staff anesthesiologist through December 1999 and is employed by Consultant Anesthesiologists Inc. at Mount Carmel Medical Center in downtown Columbus, specializing in cardiac anesthesia. He and his wife Ginny will soon be celebrating their 19th anniversary. The couple has three children: Andrew, Cara, and Emily.

**Nancy M. Vaughan, M.D.**, formerly with Columbus PM&R, is joining the Ohio Orthopedic Center of Excellence in Columbus.

## 1996

**Thomas J.A. Reid, M.D.**, practices gynecology/oncology at the University of Michigan. He lives in Dexter, Mich.

## 1997

**Mark Harding M.D.**, and his wife **Kristen Harding, M.D.**, recently moved to Minocqua, Wisc. Mark completed his vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Utah on June 30, 2003. He will be doing both vascular and general surgery in Minocqua. Kristen will be doing family practice there.

**Robert E. Newman, M.D.**, has been in practice for three years at Southern Ohio Medical Center (SOMC) in Sciotoville. He was joined by **Chris Woodard, M.D.** ('99), in September 2002. Robert is a member of the SOMC executive committee and physician effectiveness committee, a member of the board of the Scioto County Medical Society,

and president of the Scioto County Academy of Family Practice. He has also been president of the local Gideons Camp, taught teen Sunday school class, and been worship leader at Sciotoville Church of the Nazarene. He and his wife Pamela have two daughters: Abby and Hannah.

## 1998

**Cynthia P. Cook, M.D.**, practices with Pediatric Associates of Fairfield in Fairfield, Ohio. She and her husband G. Todd Cook have three children: Hannah, Chance, and Jessica.

**Merrilee I. Cox, M.D.**, is practicing pediatrics with the U.S. Air Force at the Kadena Air Base in Okinawa, Japan. She earned board certification in pediatrics and became a fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2002. She and her husband John have three children: Dave, Stephen, and Grace.

**Tricia K. Croake-Uleman, M.D.**, practices with Loveland Family Medicine in Loveland, Ohio. She and her husband Jon have two children, Lauren and Cameron, and another was due in July 2003.

## In Memorium

The School of Medicine wishes to extend its deepest sympathies to the following families: Terrence S. Schneiderman, M.D., Class of 1982, and Philip M. Shue, M.D., Class of 1984.

**Melissa Jarboe Van Tassel, M.D.**, is working for a large group serving East Boulder County in Colorado. She specializes in family medicine and has a special interest in women's health procedures and adolescent medicine. She is married to Jim Van Tassel.

**Juanita K. Bhatnagar, M.D.**, practices with Pediatric Medical Group, Inc., in Austin, Texas. She and her husband Vijay have twins: Raghu and Jaya.

**Douglas P. Collins, M.D.**, is doing missionary work in Cambodia. He and his wife Heidi have a son, Taylor Jacob, and another child on the way in November.

**Lori Crosby Henrock, M.D.**, practices oncology with University Hospitals of Cleveland. She and her husband Justin have one child, Jacob.

## 1999

**Robin R. Rinehart, M.D.**, finished her internal medicine residency at Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) and started a renal fellowship at OHSU in July 2003. She and her husband Steve, a registered nurse, have one child, Emma. They live in Portland, Ore.

**Nancy A. Schuster, M.D.**, completed her residency in internal medicine at the University of Vermont in June 2002. She served an additional year as chief resident before relocating to Long Island, N.Y., and will be working as a locum tenens physician for the Indian Health Service.

## 2000

**Linda M. Hermiller, M.D.**, is completing an endocrinology fellowship at the University of Cincinnati.

**Sherri L. Morgan, M.D., M.P.H.**, joined the faculty of the Wright State University Department of Family Medicine as an assistant professor in August 2003 and works at the Yellow Springs Family Health Center. She is also a member of the board of the WSU Medical Alumni Association.

## 2001

**Jill S. Waibel, M.D.**, is a dermatology resident at Wright State. In 2003, she joined the board of the WSU Medical Alumni Association.

## 2002

**Monica M. McHenry-Svets, M.D.**, is an obstetrics/gynecology resident at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio.





### Peter K. Lauf, M.D.

“A beautiful aspect of scientific research is that you look at something and think, ‘Wow!’ I see something here that really ought to be studied,” reflects Peter K. Lauf, M.D. “The possibilities seem, at times, endless.” Since 1985, Dr. Lauf has served Wright State University School of Medicine as chair and professor for the Department of Physiology and Biophysics. Stepping down from his chair position in July to study the molecular mechanisms of ion transport across biological membranes in a new, two-year National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant, he will continue to pursue his first-love—scientific research.

Fascination with all sciences has been part of Dr. Lauf’s lifelong journey. As a young medical student, he was deeply influenced by the knowledgeable teaching of a professor whose excitement for science ignited a curiosity and passion for physiology. During his tenure here at Wright State, and prior to that at Duke University in North Carolina, Dr. Lauf sought to pass on this same excitement and fascina-

tion to his students, coworkers, and international colleagues. The many honors he has received throughout his career, including being named University Professor in 2003 and Best Faculty Mentor in 2002, and receiving the Affiliate Societies Council Research Award in 1998, show that he has indeed ignited the flame in others.

Dr. Lauf is the author of more than 250 articles, book chapters, and abstracts, and has lectured nationally and internationally at 129 universities. He has served on the editorial boards of national journals and on NIH ad hoc committees, helped guide post-doctoral fellows, M.D., Ph.D., and M.S. students, and hosted 10 visiting international scientists. He formed the Ohio Physiological Society, which became the role model for many newly emerging chapter societies of the American Physiological Society, and has been an organizer of international symposia and conferences throughout his career.

Early in his research career, Dr. Lauf, along with his co-investigators, and especially Dr. Norma C. Adragna, serendipitously discovered the molecular mechanisms of K-C1 cotransport, a pathway that controls cell volume and is critical in the maintenance of organ function in the body. “Understanding membrane transport is a puzzle that is not solved, and there is no end in sight,” states Dr. Lauf. Through the years, technology has furthered the study of cellular mechanisms, even to the nanolevel. “The full impact of

our major discovery is still unfolding today, as evidenced by support from the NIH,” states Dr. Lauf. “Scientific research is captivating, rewarding, and something I plan to continue to pursue at Wright State’s School of Medicine for hopefully a long time.”

—Nancy Harker



### Thomas Mathews, M.D.

Florida, Patients, Neurology, Golf, Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), Malaysia . . . seemingly unrelated words unless you are Thomas Mathews, M.D., professor and chair of neurology.

Almost 25 years ago, Dr. Mathews became chief of neurology at the Dayton VAMC and began his Wright State tenure teaching medical students. He became chair of the neurology department in 1993. In that role, he organized teaching and student activities and handled the administrative tasks of the department.

Dr. Mathews, a perennial student favorite and frequent recipient of the Teacher of the Year Award, says of his teaching, “With the aging population,

neurological problems are increasing so we try to get students interested in the brain. My basic goal is getting them thinking about the nervous system, and one of my idiosyncrasies is to teach the student to listen to the patient. Do it the old-fashioned way. Talk to the patient. Examine them, rather than just go and do all the fancy diagnostic tests. The mistakes I have made and I see most students make are because they did not listen carefully to the patient. I try to teach them some of the important things of being a physician. One is to be humble. One is to be kind and compassionate to patients. Just facts alone are not what I want to teach them."

Of his experience as a Dayton VAMC physician, Dr. Mathews says, "I greatly appreciate the opportunity that I had in the last 25 years with Wright State and with the VA. I'm very, very grateful to the patients here, particularly the veteran patients. They have enabled me to teach. The patients have allowed students to observe all the examinations, testing, and care. The patients have helped me personally in developing as a physician. They've helped me personally in developing as a human being. I think I've learned a lot from my patients. They have given a lot and they are appreciated."

This past July, Dr. Mathews embarked on a new venture—retirement. After a trip to Malaysia to visit his family, Dr. Mathews moved to Florida to be near one of his four sons and grandchildren. Full-time

grandparenting may require many of the same skills he has used as a physician: listening, patience, compassion, and problem solving. In his free time, Dr. Mathews also plans to play a little golf and some bridge, and he would like to travel. He may even devote some time to a "little bit of practice."

Dr. Mathews will miss his patients and students most. "I've enjoyed teaching a lot and have found it very rewarding personally. The students are fun and it is good to see them develop. I see them from the early stages until they finish their clinicals. Many of them are practicing in the community. I think the school does a good job because most of the doctors we produce are of good caliber with good humanistic tendencies."

—Gwen Sloas



**Jane Scott, Ph.D.**

Sometimes with fear and trepidation, medical students begin their medical school tenure with human structure. For those fortunate enough to attend medical school at Wright State, their anxiety has been lessened by the supportive words and

positive attitude of Jane Scott, Ph.D.

In 1975, Dr. Scott was the third person to join the anatomy department at the newly formed Wright State University School of Medicine. She had just spent two years teaching anatomy in Nigeria. Her trip to Nigeria followed a teaching appointment at Eastern Kentucky University, master's and doctoral degrees, and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Kentucky.

In addition to teaching anatomy, Dr. Scott worked with the biomedical sciences program and in the Office of Student Affairs and Admissions at the School of Medicine. She recently retired as chair of the Department of Anatomy.

Following a summer of travel in Canada that included biking and hiking, Dr. Scott returned to the School of Medicine this fall in a part-time teaching capacity. She will be working in the Office of Academic Affairs with the primary responsibility of assisting with the first-year curriculum.

During her tenure of 28 years, Dr. Scott has seen change at the School of Medicine. "When I came, there wasn't even a building. I started out in the top floor of Fawcett Hall. It's been rewarding to watch the school grow," she says. "For me, the most memorable aspect has been helping to educate students from such diverse backgrounds. That's been very rewarding."

—Gwen Sloas



## NEW FACES

**Guy C. Asher, M.D.**  
**Assistant Professor,**  
**Internal Medicine**

**M.D.:** Indiana  
 University School of  
 Medicine

**Residency:** Wright-  
 Patterson Medical Center (internal  
 medicine)

**Fellowship:** University of California, San  
 Diego (nephrology)



**J. Kevin Bailey, M.D.**  
**Assistant Professor,**  
**Surgery**

**M.D.:** University of  
 Cincinnati College of  
 Medicine

**Residency:** University  
 of Cincinnati (general surgery)



**Amanda L. Bell, M.D.**

**Assistant Professor,**  
**Family Medicine**

**M.D.:** Wright State  
 University School of  
 Medicine

**Residency:** St.  
 Elizabeth Family  
 Practice Residency Program (family  
 medicine)



**Carla M. Clasen,**  
**M.P.H., R.N.**  
**Instructor, Community**  
**Health**

**M.P.H.:** University of  
 Texas Health Science  
 Center at Houston



## New Associate Dean for Air Force Affairs is Named

Colonel Penny M. Giovanetti, D.O., the new commander of the 74th Medical Group, Aeronautical Systems Center, Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, has been named associate dean for Air Force Affairs for the School of Medicine. As commander of Wright-Patterson Medical Center, she directs one of the Air Force's largest medical centers. With a total operating budget of \$160 million, the medical center employs a professional and technical



staff of 1,900 who support community healthcare, readiness, and medical education missions. The 65-bed facility provides care for more than 350,000 outpatient visits, 3,000 same-day surgeries, 3,500 admissions, and 28,000 dental patients annually. It also administers 11 graduate medical education programs.

Dr. Giovanetti received a master's degree in preventive medicine and environmental health from the University of Iowa and a doctorate in osteopathic medicine from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. She also holds a Master of Science in national security strategy from the National War College.

## The Center for Healthy Communities Receives National Recognition

The Center for Healthy Communities has received the second annual Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Award. The award, which highlights the power and potential of partnerships between communities and higher educational institutions, was presented at the Community-Campus Partnerships for Health's seventh annual conference. Winners are accepted from a competitive pool of nominees.

The Center for Healthy Communities is dedicated to improving access to and utilization of health care services for the underserved and improving health professions education. The center brings together allied health, medical, nursing, social work, and professional psychology training programs with public education, health and housing departments, social services and faith-based organizations, local and state government, hospitals, and HMOs to better integrate the public health safety net, to better coordinate and utilize existing resources, and to develop additional services as needed.

## New Surgery Chair Appointed



Alex G. Little, M.D., has been appointed professor and Elizabeth Berry Gray Chair of Surgery at Wright State University School of Medicine.

Dr. Little is a Georgia native who received his undergraduate education at the University of North Carolina. He holds an M.D. degree from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Following two years of residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital, he completed his training in general and thoracic surgery at the University of Chicago, where he studied the field of esophageal physiology with David B. Skinner, M.D. He served as a faculty member at the University of Chicago until 1988, when he was appointed professor and chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Nevada School of Medicine.

Dr. Little's clinical and academic interests relate to the field of general thoracic surgery, the surgical treatment of lung cancer, esophageal cancer, and benign esophageal diseases, including laparoscopic surgery for gastroesophageal reflux disease and hiatal hernia. He was chosen as an outstanding physician by two Las Vegas publications and has twice been included in *Good Housekeeping's* list of "Best Cancer Surgeons in America."

Certified by the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, Dr. Little has been a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society since medical school and was a Fellow in Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Little served as a visiting professor at 25 institutions and is a member of 27 international, national, and regional medical societies, including the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the American Surgical Association, and the Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons. He served as president of the American College of Chest Physicians. A prolific writer, Dr. Little has published more than 100 scientific articles and 75 book chapters, has coedited three books, and is the editor of a book in press.

## Ovarian Cancer Target of New Study

John J. Turchi, Ph.D., associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, has been awarded the Idea Development Award by the U.S. Department of Defense, Ovarian Cancer Research Program. The award of \$343,000 will further Dr. Turchi's study of the factors that contribute to a cancer becoming sensitive or resistant to drugs used to treat ovarian cancer.

## NEW FACES

**C. Michael Hendricks, M.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Psychiatry**

**M.D.:** Wright State University School of Medicine

**Residency:** Wright State University School of Medicine (psychiatry)



**Laveta L. McDowell, M.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine**

**M.D.:** The University of Texas Medical School at Houston

**Residency:** Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center (internal medicine, nephrology)

**Sherri L. Morgan, M.D., M.P.H.**

**Assistant Professor, Family Medicine**

**M.D.:** Wright State University School of Medicine

**Residency:** Mt. Carmel Family Practice Residency Program (family medicine)



**Kevin L. Mortara, M.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine**

**M.D.:** University of Arizona School of Medicine

**Residency:** Wright-Patterson Medical Center (internal medicine)

**Fellowship:** Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center (hematology/oncology)



## NEW FACES

**Desiderio Pina, M.D., M.P.H.**

**Assistant Professor, Psychiatry**

**M.D.:** Universidad Iberoamericana School of Medicine

**M.P.H.:** Columbia University Schools of Public Health and Business

**Residency:** Cabrini Medical Center/ Mount Sinai School of Medicine (psychiatry)



**Meera Ramakrishnan, M.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Pediatrics**

**M.B.B.S.:** University of Madras

**Residency:** Lutheran General Children's

Hospital (pediatrics)

**Fellowship:** Chicago Children's Hospital (pediatric intensive care)

**Julia Reichert, B.A.**

**Professor, Community Health**

**B.A.:** Antioch College (documentary arts)



**Kip D. Robinson, M.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine**

**M.D.:** Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences

**Residency:** Wright-Patterson Medical Center (internal medicine)

**Richard D. Sanders, M.D.**

**Associate Professor, Psychiatry**

**M.D.:** Wright State University School of Medicine

**Residency:** Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic (psychiatry)

## Death of Founding Dean of Wright State University School of Medicine

Services were held in July 2003 for John R. Beljan, M.D., the founding dean for Wright State University School of Medicine. Dr. Beljan was hired to start up the Miami Valley's new medical school in 1974.

He served as dean, vice provost, and vice president of health affairs from 1974 to 1980, when

the charter class graduated and he was appointed provost of Wright State University. He also was trained as a biomedical engineer and held a secondary appointment in Wright State's College of Science and Engineering. He left the university in 1983.

The school's community-based model for medical education was innovative at the time. Using existing hospitals for clinical education for medical students was cost effective and ensured that the school and community developed close working relationships. The community-based model has since become more common.

A Detroit native, Dr. Beljan was a Phi Beta Kappa undergraduate of the University of Michigan and received his M.D. from the University of Michigan in 1954. He served as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force from 1955 to 1965, with the first four years of his service spent in advanced surgical training at University Hospital in Ann Arbor. Before his service was completed he earned the Decorated Commendation Medal and achieved the rank of major. Dr. Beljan also ran a research laboratory for NASA's space program and in 1964-65 served as a ground launch support team member for Project Gemini and the early Apollo missions. He was a pioneer in aerospace medicine and provided NASA with novel research on circadian rhythm and the effects of space flight on the human body.

Donations in his memory may be made to the John R. Beljan Scholarship Endowment, established in 1983, at Wright State University School of Medicine.



## Family Medicine Recognized

The Department of Family Medicine received the 2003 Bronze Percentage Award from the American Academy of Family Physicians for the percentage of graduates who entered an accredited family practice residency program.

## New Research Project Will Examine Drug Treatment Barriers

Research partners led by Wright State University School of Medicine's Center for Interventions, Treatment and Addictions Research have begun a new five-year project, Reducing Barriers to Drug Abuse Treatment Services. The \$4 million project is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse and is a controlled clinical trial designed to test the effectiveness of interventions within the context of Dayton's existing community resources.

The project is led by Harvey Siegal, Ph.D., principal investigator, and D. Timothy Lane, M.Ed., project director for Reducing Barriers. It will enable researchers and their community partners to assess two promising interventions: motivational interviewing and strengths-based case management. Through a random assignment of either of these interventions to the diagnosed volunteers, researchers can examine how the two treatment enhancements influence the way that people link to and engage in treatment protocols.

Key community partners for the project include: Miami Valley Hospital Turning Point; Montgomery County Center for Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Services; Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board; NOVA House Association, Inc.; Project CURE; Samaritan Behavioral Health and CrisisCare; and the Center for Interventions, Treatment and Addictions Research.

## Symposium on Cell Volume and Signaling Attended by Global Researchers

Researchers from around the world came to Wright State for the 2003 International Symposium on Cell Volume and Signaling. Hosted by Peter K. Lauf, M.D., Wright State University Professor and professor of pathology, the event was sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and Wright State.

"This conference is the third international symposium on cell volume and signaling and succeeds previous symposia held in Germany and Slovakia and was held for the first time in the U.S. here at Wright State," said Dr. Lauf. Wright State students and scientists participated in the lectures, with approximately 30 poster presentations.



## NEW FACES

**Susan K. Songer, M.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Psychiatry**

**M.D.:** University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

**Residency:** Wright State University School of Medicine (psychiatry)

**Courtney E. W. Sulentic, Ph.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Pharmacology/Toxicology**

**Ph.D.:** Michigan State University



**Eric J. Trueblood, M.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine**

**M.D.:** Indiana University School of Medicine

**Residency:** Wright-Patterson Medical Center (internal medicine)

**Fellowship:** Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center (pulmonary and critical care)

**Amit Vohra, M.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Pediatrics**

**M.B.B.S.:** All India Institute of Medical Sciences

**Residency:** The University of Illinois at Chicago (pediatrics)

**Fellowship:** Baylor College of Medicine (pediatric critical care)





## Faculty Notes:

**Mary Budzak, M.D.**, assistant professor of family medicine and pre-doctoral director for the Department of Family Medicine, has completed the National Institute for Program Director Development fellowship sponsored by the Association of Family Practice Residency Directors.



**Jay Dean, Ph.D.**, professor and acting chair of the Department of Anatomy and Physiology, has been named the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research by Wright State University. The

award recognizes outstanding research by a Wright State faculty member.

**Mark Gebhart, M.D. ('97)**, assistant professor of emergency medicine, has been named vice president of the Board of Advisors for the Miami Valley Division of the American Heart Association.

**Glenn Hamilton, M.D.**, professor and chair of emergency medicine, has been named chair of the Academy of Medicine, a community-based service organization dedicated to supporting excellence in medicine through education, research, and service.



**Marshall Kapp, J.D., M.P.H.**, professor of community health and psychiatry, has been chosen by the Gerontological Society of America to receive the Donald P. Kent Award. This award is given

annually to a member of the society who "best exemplifies the highest standards for professional leadership in gerontology through

teaching, service, and interpretation of gerontology to the larger society."

**Peter Lauf, M.D.**, professor of pathology, has been named University Professor by Wright State University. His appointment is for a period of five years and carries an annual cash award and a one-time grant for professional development. An internationally recognized scientist, Dr. Lauf was one of the first to identify and characterize mechanisms of potassium-chloride cotransport in red blood cell membranes.



**Arthur Pickoff, M.D.**, professor and chair of pediatrics, has been named the president of the Board of Advisors for the Miami

Valley Division of the American Heart Association (AHA). He most recently served as the advocacy chair for the board, now serves as a research grant reviewer for the Southern and Ohio Valley Affiliates, is on the Board of Directors for the Ohio Valley Affiliate, and was recently elected as a Fellow of the AHA by the Council of Cardiovascular Disease in the Young.

**Harvey Siegal, Ph.D.**, professor of community health, received the Al Hajj Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad Zafr Award for Outstanding Lifetime Achievement in the Alcohol and Other Drug Field presented by the Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services Board of Montgomery County.



**Javier Stern, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology, received the Wright State University Early Career Achievement Award. Dr. Stern was honored for his successful external research funding, mentoring of students at several levels, and scholarship activities.

**Adrienne Stolfi, M.S.P.H.**, instructor of pediatrics, received the Wright State University Outstanding Instructor Award. She was recognized for helping increase the scholarly activity and clinical research of the Department of Pediatrics.

**Ted Wymyslo, M.D.**, clinical associate professor of family medicine, received the 2003 Philanthropist of the Year Award from the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation.

## Staff Notes:

**Stephanie Ours**, administrative assistant in the Office of Faculty and Clinical Affairs, received the Wright State University President's Award for Excellence in Human Relations.

**Nancy A. Terwoord, R.N., B.S., CPHQ**, senior consultant at Health Systems Management, was recently elected to the office of president-elect to the Ohio Association of Health Care Quality (OAHQ). OAHQ is the state organization of National Association of Healthcare Quality. Nancy currently serves on the Ohio Board as the Team Leader of the Government Affairs Task Force. She will become president in January 2005.

## Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards

John F. Donnelly, M.D., and fourth-year medical student Peahen H. Gandhi were honored by the graduating class of 2003 with the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine awards.

A faculty member for more than six years, Dr. Donnelly is an associate professor of family medicine and community health. Nominated by students and fellow faculty members, Dr. Donnelly was chosen for the award because of his willingness to help others, consistency in demonstrating compassion and empathy in the delivery of health care to patients, and excellence in professional behavior toward students, fellows, and the community.

Peahen Gandhi was nominated by her fellow students and faculty members and was given the award for her “consistency in demonstrating compassion and empathy in the delivery of health care to patients and their families.” She is a graduate of Clearcreek High School in Amanda, Ohio, and holds a B.S. in biochemistry from Denison University in Granville. She is a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society and is also a member of several national organizations.

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation sponsors the annual Humanism in Medicine Awards at more than 80 of the nation’s medical schools. Its goal is to improve doctor-patient relations and foster health care professionals who exhibit the highest level of respect, sensitivity, and cultural competence for the patients and families they serve, and to nurture and perpetuate the tradition of the “caring doctor.” This award is presented to those who best demonstrate the foundation’s ideals of outstanding compassion in the delivery of care, respect for patients, their families, and health care colleagues, as well as demonstrated clinical excellence.



## Graduation 2003

Wright State University School of Medicine’s class of 2003 received the Doctor of Medicine degree in the beautiful new Schuster Performing Arts Center.

Robert Wicks, Psy.D., professor and chair of Graduate Programs in Pastoral Counseling at Loyola College in Maryland, challenged the class in the address, “Riding the Dragon—Remaining Passionate in the Field of Medicine.” His areas of expertise include the prevention of secondary stress disorders and the integration of psychology and spirituality.

Howard Part, M.D., dean for Wright State University School of Medicine, presented the Dean’s Award to Carolyn Long. The Dean’s Award is given to a graduating medical student who exemplifies the school’s goals and has made important contributions to the school. Carolyn is a native of Middletown, Ohio, and is one of 14 children of Bernard and Carolyn Long. She holds a B.S. in biochemistry from the University of Notre Dame in Southbend, Indiana, and an M.A. in education from the University of Portland.

This year’s Appreciation Award went posthumously to James B. Peoples, M.D., who was honored for his outstanding contribution to graduate medical education and leadership.





### Third Annual Healer as Artist Show

At the Third Annual Healer as Artist show, Lisa Patterson, M.D., associate professor of surgery, won the People's Choice First Place for her colored pencil drawing of a masked surgeon. The second place award was "Of One Mind," a sculpture by Carol Levine, M.D. ('94), assistant professor of internal medicine. Third place was awarded to second-year medical student Bradley Harward for his untitled, but functional, fountain.

The exhibit included art in several media: photography, engraving, drawing, pottery, and painting. The People's Choice Awards were generously provided by McCallisters Art Supplies in Dayton.

The Founders' Award was presented to Erin McConnell, Year I medical student, for her poem "Peas," reprinted here with her permission.

### Peas

True to genetics,  
i was hopelessly early;  
my mother—swollen to the dimensions  
of a prize-winning gourd,  
spent an aggravating day  
persuading my father  
that she was in labor.

Descent upon the maternity ward;  
but what was the rush?  
Two days crept along  
on three sloth toes,  
before the doctor—  
with the name of "Heiny"  
(i'll bet he was the butt of many jokes)—  
inserted a scalpel into  
the enormous pink ham of her abdomen  
and lifted the lid of tissue to reveal—  
nestled in the proverbial pod—  
my sister and i;  
tucked together,  
a placental sculpture of peace.

The cord being entwined around  
my sister's pin-thin windpipe—  
a crime she claims i authored (and i  
refrain from comment)—  
the knife-wielding steward  
scooped out the fetus and served it  
to an apprehensive nurse.  
Two beats later,  
i, too was portioned  
in a flailing, squawking flourish,  
with jaundice as a garnish.

Two weeks, we were guests  
at the lavish *Hostile Incubadora*  
where my anxious parents  
would furiously tap the window,  
while we glared at them with sun-dried  
tomato faces.

And i would kick my reedy legs —  
priming to whale upon my sister —  
and the little holes in my heels,  
where they punctured her newborn baby,  
broke my mother's heart.

— erin elizabeth mcconnell



### Student Clinician Ceremony

*The Class of 2005 celebrated a rite of passage before entering the third year of medical school at the Student Clinician Ceremony. Gary Leroy, M.D. ('88), associate professor of family medicine, was the keynote speaker and Steven Shane Konrad, from the class of 2004, led the students in the pledge, which begins: "I commit myself to a lifelong journey of learning how to cure, relieve, and comfort with humility and compassion."*



### White Coat Ceremony

*Welcome to the Class of 2007! Beginning with a welcoming family brunch hosted by the Class of 2006, new class members and their families arrived on campus August 3 for Family Orientation and Convocation. Janice Duke, M.D. ('96), assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, gave the keynote speech. Entering students received their White Coat as part of the ceremony and pledged their first oath of professionalism.*

# C A L E N D A R

**2003 Neuroscience Symposium**  
November 17–18, 2003  
Student Union  
For more information,  
contact: (937) 775-3018

**School of Medicine/VA Medical Center Mixer**  
November 20, 2003  
5:00 p.m.  
Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
For more information,  
contact: (937) 775-8812

**Faculty Meeting**  
January 15, 2004  
4:30 p.m.  
232J Frederick A. White Health Center  
For more information,  
contact: (937) 775-3010

**Wilderness Expo**  
February 21, 2004  
Student Union  
For more information,  
contact: (937) 775-2951

**Match Day**  
March 18, 2004  
Noon  
Medical Sciences Auditorium  
For more information,  
contact: (937) 775-2934

**Healer as Artist Exhibit**  
April 2004  
Frederick A. White Health Center lobby  
For more information,  
contact: (937) 775-2951

**DAGMEC Resident Research Forum**  
Date TBA  
Multipurpose Room, Student Union  
For more information,  
contact: (937) 775-3806

**Academy of Medicine Annual Distinguished Guest Lecture and Dinner Meeting**  
April 28, 2004  
For more information,  
contact: (937) 775-2972

**Faculty Meeting**  
May 20, 2004  
4:30 p.m.  
232J Frederick A. White Health Center  
For more information,  
contact: (937) 775-3010

**Skin Cancer Screening Week**  
May 17–21, 2004  
For more information,  
contact: (937) 775-2951

**Graduation**  
May 28, 2004  
6:30 p.m.  
For more information,  
contact: (937) 775-2934

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

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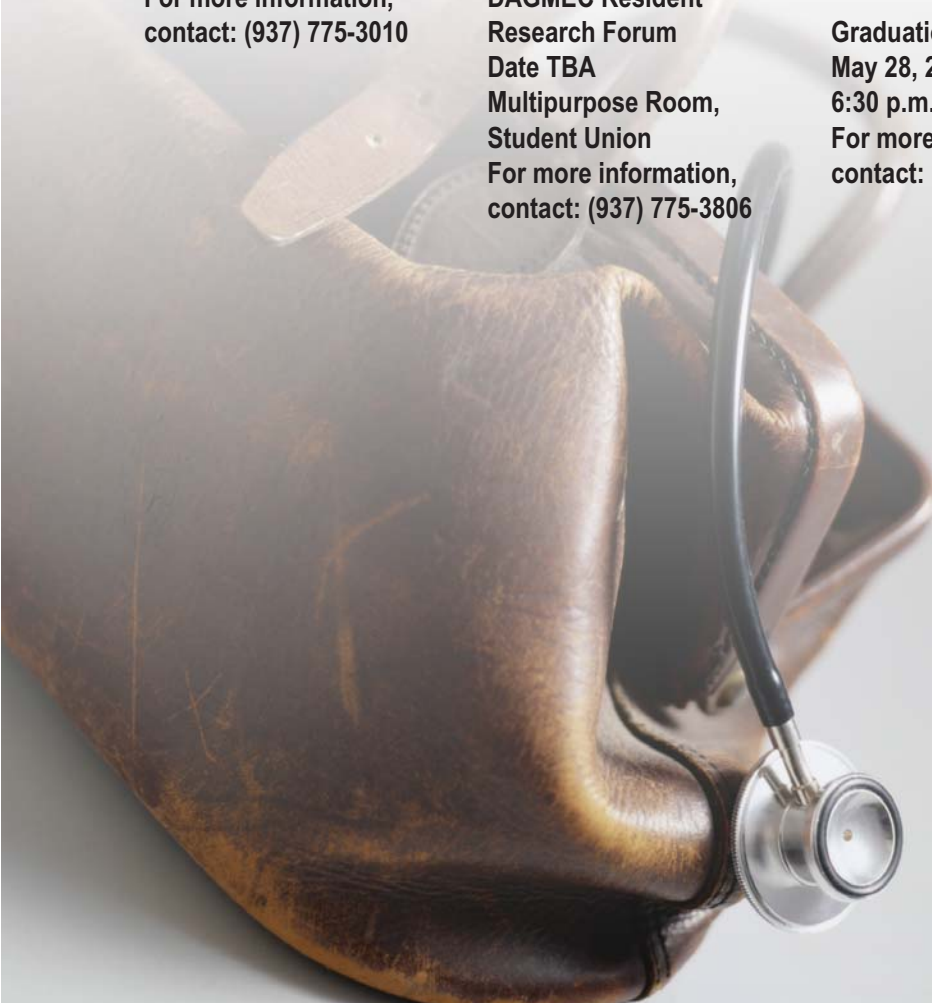
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