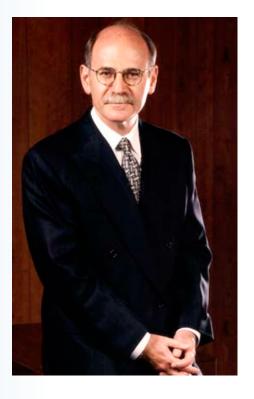


## About the Covers:

In preparing the physician workforce for tomorrow's practice, geriatric care has been interwoven throughout the curriculum at the Boonshoft School of Medicine. Year III students, Meredith Angner and Meredith Sullivan, visit with a patient at Indian Ripple Health Center as part of their Family Medicine Clerkship.



workforce trends, the Boonshoft School of Medicine anticipated the need for more physicians, especially more physicians with advanced training in the care of our elders as our society ages. With the strong support of community partners, particularly Premier Health Partners, the Boonshoft family, and the Dayton VA Medical Center, we were able to establish one of the first geriatric departments in the nation. Our feature story introduces the chair of the department and shares some of his goals and recent accomplishments.

In the research arena, our most recent accomplishment was the receipt of a Program Project Grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. This very

competitive grant requires collaborative, multidisciplinary research, and five of our laboratories have joined efforts to better understand why there are limits to recovery after nerve injury at the peripheral nervous system level.

Another accomplishment is the patent pending for a health information exchange system, which was the brainchild of a community coalition and developed by our Center for Healthy Communities. The web-based system is designed to be HIPAA compliant and to serve as a central data repository for both human services and health care services data. The system has been widely tested in the community and is poised to expand to regional and statewide use.

For medical education, we feature two critical components: our new William A. Bernie Anatomy and Surgical Training Center and our Anatomical Gift Program, the largest program of its kind in Ohio.

While faculty and staff are mindful of achieving our tripartite missions today, obviously we are also focused on the needs of the future for patient care, research, medical education, and community outreach.

Sincerely,

Howard M. Part, M.D.

Thought Part, M.D.

Dean



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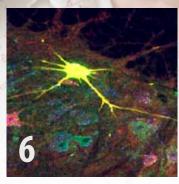
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# Caring for Our Elders—

"It Takes a Small Urban Area"

ithin the Boonshoft School of Medicine, the intersection of education, research, and patient care of the elderly is directed by Larry Lawhorne, M.D., chair of the Department of Geriatrics and professor of geriatrics and family medicine. "Inherent in every facet of the medical profession is that each specialty and primary care practice has aging adults who need care and consideration. Yes," he contends, "even pediatrics. All those grandparents raising grandchildren—they, too, need to be taken into account when a pediatric patient's health and wellbeing is considered." From trauma-related care in the emergency room to family practice in a rural office, all medical fields interact with the increasing population of aging adults.

"Crafting a vision for care of the elderly has been part of the Boonshoft School of Medicine's mission for a long time," says Dr. Lawhorne. The school's new Department of Geriatrics was the result of a community collaboration, which included Premier Health Partners, the Dayton VA Medical Center, and the Oscar Boonshoft family. Now, the new department is working collaboratively with the school's other departments, affiliated hospitals, and many area agencies to bring the vision of comprehensive geriatric care to the forefront. "By the year 2030, the population of people over the age of 65 is estimated to reach approximately 72 million, nearly double what it is today," says Dr. Lawhorne. "Our goal is to be able to provide excellent integrated medical care for them."

Faculty participating in teaching geriatrics to students and residents come from all over the Miami Valley and are affiliated with local area hospitals and institutions such the Dayton VA Medical Center. Most faculty in the Department of Geriatrics hold joint faculty appointments in other clinical departments within the Boonshoft School of Medicine.



Larry Lawhorne, M.D., chair of the Department of Geriatrics and professor of geriatrics and family medicine.

Some participating faculty are from the university in related areas, such as the College of Nursing and Health, the School of Professional Psychology, and the Departments of Social Work, Sociology, and Biomedical, Industrial and Human Factors Engineering. All are helping advance the education and training experiences of students and residents in the area of geriatrics.

## Medical Student and Residency Education

"Since the late 1960s and early '70s," says Gordon Walbroehl, M.D., professor of family medicine and geriatrics and vice-chair for academic and community development, "leaders throughout this country's medical education system have put forth a concentrated effort to prepare for the aging baby-boomer generation." One such preparation at Wright State has been the integration of information about specific facets of elderly care throughout the curriculum for medical students and residents.

"Courses such as human development include segments on human psychology in aging, dying, and bereavement, but these integrated courses also endeavor to help the new generation of physicians understand that old age is a continuation of a person's life span and not a disease," says David Bienenfeld, M.D., professor and vice chair of psychiatry. "An important aspect we try to teach students is that having an optimism toward life and

"We are learning to break out of the stereotypical image of what an older person is perceived to be."

living is a very important tool for a patient—no matter the age. Older people have a lot of life in front of them, and with all people every day is a new start. There's always help to provide and there is always wellness to be achieved."

"We are learning to break out of the stereotypical image of what an older person is perceived to be," adds Dr. Walbroehl. "The new older generation is no longer a person sitting in a rocking chair or in a nursing home eating mashed food. It is a generation of people who may still be running marathons at the age of 75. Perception is key in the proper treatment and diagnosis of ailments in an older person."

## Multidisciplinary Approaches

"At Wright State, interdepartmental collaboration helps to mainstream information on caring for this aging population," says Dr. Bienenfeld. "A course like neuroscience, for example, teaches specifics about the anatomy of neurological systems, but also includes segments on depression, anxiety, and sleep. It also specifically includes what happens to each of those states as a person gets older. And, in clinical clerkships, 'aging elements' are grafted throughout what students are taught, thereby providing a continuity of education across the entire life span."

"Interdepartmental collaboration helps to mainstream information on caring for this aging population."

One of the Department of Geriatrics' educational goals is to assist each of the other departments in the school define how it provides care to the older adult. "We are asking departments, what are you already doing? How are you integrating geriatric principles? What do you think is working? Is there room for improvement? And, how can the Department of Geriatrics help you better achieve the integration of geriatric principles and content into the learning process?" explains Dr. Lawhorne.



Gordon Walbroehl, M.D., with Year III students Meredith Sullivan and Meredith Angner.

David Bienenfeld, M.D., a geriatric psychiatrist, in class.



## Continuing Medical Education

Another intersection of geriatrics is education of faculty, other health care professionals, and the general public on issues relating to care of the elderly. At a recent Continuing Medical Education (CME) symposium, cosponsored by the Departments of Family Medicine and Geriatrics, the complex issue of pharmacotherapy of the elderly was addressed. "We attempted to teach those attending that for the elderly sector of the population there are nuances to administering and prescribing medications, and that the cumulative effects of such in that population can also be subtly different than for the general population," says Mark Clasen, M.D., Ph.D., chair of family medicine and professor of geriatrics.

The issue of aging was also the emphasis during last year's Mini-Medical School, which was attended by more than 100 community participants. Faculty members in the Department of Geriatrics and some of their university and community partners participated in multidisciplinary discussions, panels, and presentations on different aspects of aging during the four-week series.

# Caring for the Community

The Department of Geriatrics has focused on planning, funding, and evaluating the health and social services and continuity of care for our community's elderly populations. Faculty affiliated with the department are working with local community-based organizations, such as the Area Agency on Aging, Alzheimer's Association, and others, with the mutual

goal of assisting the frail and homebound elderly. "The issue of transitional care becomes complicated for not only the patient but also for the health care providers and health care institutions involved. These transitions—home-to hospital-to home-to nursing facility-back to hospital, etc.—slow the flow of information and create situations where patients become hard to track." explains Dr. Lawhorne. "Our focus is to assist in developing and better integrating seamless models of care for this population and for those who care for our older adults."

The department's current area of focus is geriatric trauma. Personnel from the Departments of Surgery and Emergency Medicine recognized the gaps in trauma assessment that may happen when elderly or frail patients present at a hospital or trauma center. Surgeons Peter Ekeh, M.D.,

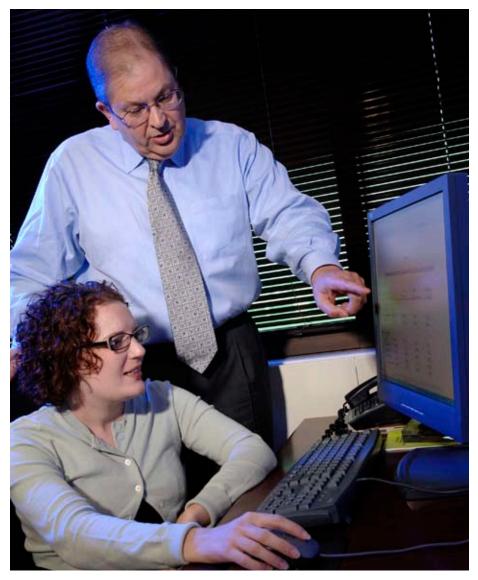
Mary McCarthy, M.D., and Kathryn Tchorz, M.D, and emergency medicine physician John Michael Ballester, M.D., are working alongside the Department of Geriatrics in the research of non-hip-fracture traumas in the elderly. Soon the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, which cares for hip fractures in the elderly, will join this research into hospitalized elder care.

# Research and Development

Long-term plans include research and development of new traumarelated assessments for the elderly. "Current assessments for trauma care were mostly developed through the U.S. military. These criteria may not be ideal for assessment of the elderly or frail elderly patient," says



Mark Clasen, M.D., Ph.D., with Year II students (L-R) Katie Tessel, Howard Bowers, and Nicole Zanin.



Larry Lawhorne, M.D., reviews research data with Year II student Nicole Zanin.

Dr. Lawhorne. With hospital admittance of the frail elderly in the Miami Valley at more than 1,200 patients per year, re-evaluation of trauma of the elderly is a critical educational element.

A recent research project completed by second-year medical student Nicole Zanin through the Department of Geriatrics is "Diagnosis of Delirium in the Acute Care Setting." Funded by a Boonshoft School of Medicine seed grant, the research was performed in collaboration with geriatric clinical nurse specialists

at Miami Valley and Good Samaritan Hospitals. Through a survey of more than 200 hospital care workers, researchers were able to elucidate direct care workers' conceptualization of delirium and propose methods to facilitate earlier recognition. The ultimate goal is to develop a computer-based educational module for hospital workers that will allow them to recognize, assess, and manage delirium more efficiently.

"One of the best facets in working in this department, for me, is the expert research guidance, vision, and

opportunities provided and also being involved in an area in which I am deeply interested in making my life's work," says Nicole.

A few new endeavors for the Department of Geriatrics include: the development of a geriatric fellowship; the joint hiring of a new geriatrician/researcher at the Dayton VA Medical Center; and the addition of a board certified geriatrician at Miami Valley Hospital, who will assist in some of the geriatric trauma research projects.

# "Taking care of our elders is a priority."

The overall goal for the department is to provide enough physicians skilled in the care of the elderly to meet the future needs for our region. Because of the integration of geriatrics throughout the medical school curriculum, the residency training programs, and medical practices, the department also plans to ensure that physicians, regardless of the medical specialty, will know how to provide better care for our older adults. "It's that village thing again," says Dr. Lawhorne. "Taking care of our elders is a priority not just for the school but for our local community and across the nation as well. It really does take a small urban area, like Dayton, to take care of our elders."

-Nancy Harker



# After Nerves Regenerate

ur wired communication system sends and receives electrical impulses from the central nervous system (CNS) through a highly specialized peripheral nervous system (PNS). Damage or disease of the PNS, peripheral neuropathy, includes more than 100 classifications, each unique in its presenting symptoms, based upon the type of nerves damaged—motor, sensory, or autonomic, or combinations of these. The most common cause of

peripheral neuropathy is trauma, as in carpal tunnel syndrome. But, chemotherapy and a wide range of systemic

diseases, including diabetes mellitus, vascular disease, and kidney disorders, also damage nerve cells. Unlike the CNS, the damaged PNS can regenerate both neurons and nerve circuitry.

"We know that damaged peripheral nerves regenerate, but regenera-

tion is not synonymous with recovery," says Timothy Cope, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology and director of the Comprehensive Neuroscience Center. "Neither sensation nor movement return to pre-injury levels after nerve regeneration. Although regeneration of the PNS is necessary to restore voluntary movement, injury initiates changes in the spinal cord that do not reverse with regeneration. Problems

"Getting this grant places us in an elite category in neuroscience research."

remain in timing and strength of muscle contraction, problems that prevent normal movement."

Why this is so is the focus of the school's most recent grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). A team of researchers received a pres-

Neurons radiate branch-like extensions, including axons which may travel outside the brain and spinal cord to send signals that activate muscles and to receive sensory information from muscles, skin, and joints. The axons are vulnerable to injury and disease which can sever these motor and sensory connections. Fortunately, damaged axons in the peripheral nervous system can regenerate, reconnect, and restore function to some degree. Unfortunately, damage induces changes within the brain and spinal cord that are not reversed by regeneration, and these problems substantially limit recovery. [Motoneuron image courtesy of Drs. Fyffe and Cope]

tigious Program Project Grant—the first Program Project Grant Wright State has received. These grants are extremely competitive, and the five-year, \$4.8 million grant award underscores the high caliber of neuroscience research being conducted at Wright State.

"Getting this grant places us in an elite category in neuroscience research," says Howard M. Part, M.D., dean for the Boonshoft School of Medicine. "Our team's impressive accomplishment reflects the hard work and dedication of our outstanding scientists, as well as the continued support of our community,

## **Program Project Grants**

especially from The Kettering Fund and from the Oscar Boonshoft family."

Program Project Grants are designed to "encourage multidisciplinary research approaches to a diverse array of nervous system disorders," according to NINDS, and the guidelines require at least three interrelated projects that contribute to the program objective. Five collaborative projects, each led by a Wright State National Institutes of Health-funded investigator, will work through a shared instrumentation core to better understand the recovery—or lack of it—from neurotrauma.

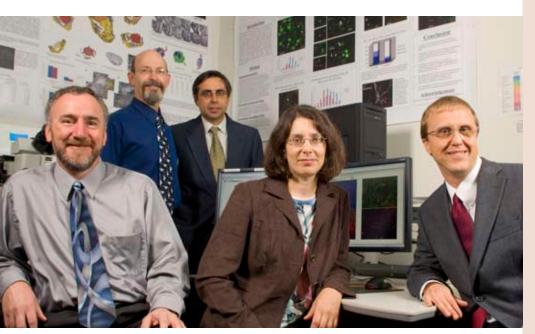
The team of Wright State investigators—Drs. Francisco Alvarez, Timothy Cope, Kathrin Engisch, Robert Fyffe, and Mark Rich—are accomplished researchers in fields covering developmental biology, synaptic function, and sensorimotor behavior of the spinal cord and PNS. "The wide array of approaches and expertise that we have as a team is likely to accelerate our understanding because we can attack the problem

of limits on regeneration with greater insight and technical expertise than any one of us could achieve alone," says Dr. Cope.

Cutting-edge methodologies will be shared across the five projects. Studies will examine neurons and synapses using electrophysiological tools to evaluate their function. Microscopy and associated imaging techniques will assess structure and changes in protein expression. "Collaboration with the other team members is critical to placing our findings in the context of functional and structural changes that are occurring in the CNS and PNS after nerves regenerate," adds Dr. Fyffe.

"Essential details about the mechanisms underlying changes following PNS injury are largely unknown and must be obtained in order to develop clinical applications to many common human conditions, including spinal cord injury," adds Dr. Cope. "How can we get the nervous system to regain normal function? Our studies should help answer this question."

-Judith Engle



The team of Wright State researchers who were awarded a highly competitive Program Project Grant: (L–R) Robert Fyffe, Ph.D., Timothy Cope, Ph.D., Francisco Alvarez, Ph.D., Kathrin Engisch, Ph.D., and Mark Rich, M.D., Ph.D.

Project One: Circuit Plasticity Timothy Cope, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair of Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology

Director, Comprehensive Neuroscience Center "After nerve damage and regeneration, we lose the stretch reflex in affected muscles, adversely affecting our ability to control movement. We suggest that damage to the PNS creates problems in spinal/neural circuits which do not reverse after nerve regeneration."

Project Two: Excitatory/Inhibitory Balance Francisco J. Alvarez, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology

**Director of Imaging Core Facilities** 

"Motoneurons control the activity in our muscles, but their function is in turn modulated by a fine balance between excitatory and inhibitory influences. We suspect that deficits in reacquiring this balance following nerve injury and regeneration are partly responsible for the incomplete restoration of motor function."

Project Three: Synaptic Plasticity
Mark Rich, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Neuroscience, Cell
Biology, and Physiology

"Injury changes how the synapses transmit at the neuromuscular junction and we theorize that reduced cellular activity at the time of injury adversely impacts signaling strength."

Project Four: Molecular Regulation of Release Kathrin Engisch, Ph.D.

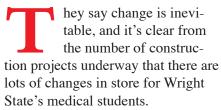
Associate Professor of Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology

"We are examining the underlying molecular mechanism caused by the change of cellular activity. The process at the molecular level indicates that the protein Rab3A plays a major regulatory role."

Project Five: Postsynaptic Excitability Robert E. W. Fyffe, Ph.D. Associate Dean for Research Affairs

"Our laboratory will use new imaging techniques to help determine how the excitability and electrical properties of motoneurons are regulated after nerve injury."

# The Foundation of Medical Education



Since this past January, medical students have attended lectures and studied gross anatomy in a new 18,000-square-foot addition to White Hall, formerly known as the Frederick A. White Health Center. The existing building is undergoing extensive renovation, to be completed by mid-2008, that will convert it to a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to medical education.

The new William A. Bernie Anatomy and Surgical Training Center at White Hall affords a spacious, safe environment in which students are able to study the intricacies of the human body. The expanded facility incorporates modern ventilation, surgical lighting, and wireless connections and can accommodate as many as 18 dissection tables. While the building will incorporate the latest technology, Boonshoft School of Medicine faculty know there is no substitute for the handson learning provided in anatomy studies. Gary Nieder, Ph.D., director of the Human Structure Course and professor of neuroscience, cell biology, and physiology, and Frank Nagy, Ph.D., associate professor emeritus and director of the Anatomical Gift Program, say that anatomy is the foundation upon which every medical student's education is built.

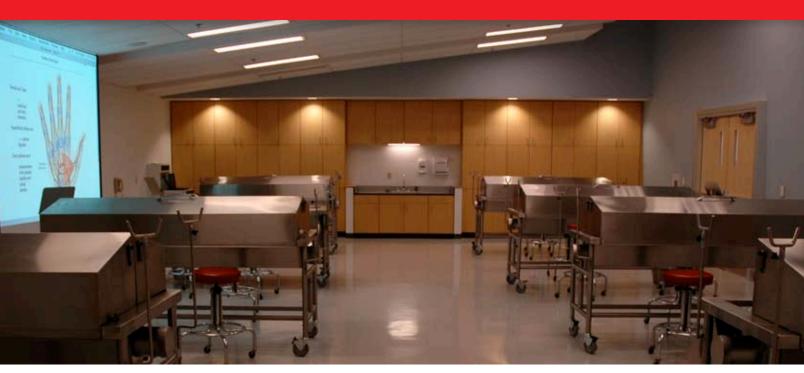
"The biggest thing that has happened in the study of medicine is the time crunch," says Dr. Nieder. "Basic science has expanded in all areas, and we've had to make room for the study of those areas and provide clinical relevance in what we teach."

While some medical schools have eliminated the traditional dissection from anatomy courses because of time constraints, the Boonshoft School of Medicine has preserved it because of the invalu-



Gary Nieder, Ph.D., producing virtual images for the Quick Time Virtual Reality library.





The Class of 2011 is the first to use the state-of-the-art William A. Bernie Anatomy and Surgical Training Center. The ten-week Human Structure Course involves six-person groups, which divide their time among dissection, team-based learning sessions, clinical correlation lectures, and computer-based laboratories.

able knowledge that is gained through hands-on study. This was the impetus for and the continuing rationale for the school's Anatomical Gift Program, a program that provides medical and nursing students the opportunity to learn from both normal and pathologic tissue as well as training and research for a host of medical professionals.

"The amazing variance in each donor teaches us how different we are as individuals, but also how similar we are as human beings."

And, with the aid of technology developed by Dr. Nieder, medical students can review any part of the skeleton and many organs 24 hours a day via the Internet. With funding from the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Nieder produced Quick Time Virtual Reality, a library of virtual anatomic specimens. The

virtual images are created from digital photographs of real structures. Quick Time computer software allows users to visualize anatomical structures globally by rotating them 360 degrees in all directions.

"I think back to the first day of anatomy class, the first class of my medical education. I remember the apprehension, the excitement, the doubts, and the curiosity. The class progressed quickly and I moved from those feelings to thoughts of amazement and wonder as my classmates and I delved into learning about the infinite, beautiful complexity that is the human body," said Benjamin Radcliffe, Yr. III, at a memorial service for anatomical gift donors.

Wright State's Anatomical Gift Program, begun in 1975, was the first in Ohio to hold memorial services for the donors. Wright State's medical students actively participate in the annual memorial services, which have been conducted each fall since 1980. Donors may be interred at Rockafield Cemetery, the 19th century hallowed burial ground

located on Wright State's campus, or elsewhere according to the family's wishes.

While there is no doubt that medical students benefit from the ready access to the virtual reality program and the other technologies made available to them at Wright State,



Frank Nagy, Ph.D., director, Anatomical Gift Program.

students recognize the value of mixing these with more traditional approaches to the study of medicine.

"No matter how much advanced technology has been used in learning, with plastic models and computer images, nothing will replace the way that we learn about the body from the donors," Pooia Fattahi, Yr. IV, said at a recent donor memorial service. "The amazing variance in each donor teaches us how different we are as individuals, but also how similar we are as human beings."

-Pamela Ferris-Olson

# Health Information Technology: "Patent Pending"



Mary Crimmins, Kate Cauley, Ph.D., and David Roberts (L–R) form the primary development team for  $HIEx^{TM}$ .

What if community health and human services professionals could share electronic care records pertaining to their uninsured and most vulnerable patients? What if records were organized into households, so that safety net services could be delivered to entire families? Wouldn't it be great if the system were customizable, offered at low cost, and came with local training and support? In the greater Dayton area, HIEx<sup>TM</sup> (patent pending), a webbased health information exchange system, does all that and more.

HIEx™ was conceived by HealthLink Miami Valley, a com-

munity-based coalition of healthcare stakeholders, to fill the need for a shared community health record. Physicians, social workers, hospital administrators, public school nurses, and community members assessed the unique requirements of the community. They identified a need for a locally owned and operated system that could track eligibility for Medicaid, expedite health care and social service referrals for the uninsured, especially children, and provide data mining capability for research purposes and public health monitoring.

For Kate Cauley, Ph.D., director of the Center for Healthy Communities, the development of HIEx<sup>TM</sup>

was both a challenge and a powerful opportunity. "As a unit of a community-based medical school, backed by the resources and expertise of the university, we found ourselves in an excellent position to serve as the 'trusted third party' to house a central data repository for regional health information exchange. HIEx<sup>TM</sup> has provided a nexus for collaboration by demonstrating improved coordination of care, reduced duplication of services, and increased administrative efficiency."

The primary development team consists of Dr. Cauley, Mary M. Crimmins, M.A., research associate, David A. Roberts, B.S.E.E., MIS programmer /analyst, and members of the HealthLink Regional Health Information Organization. Additional internal support from the Boonshoft School of Medicine, Fordham Library, Computing and Telecommunications Services, Raj Soin College of Business, College of Engineering and Computer Science, Office of General Counsel, and Research and Sponsored Programs led Mary Crimmins to conclude, "Wright State University is our greatest toolbox for HIEx TM."

"We found ourselves in an excellent position to serve as the 'trusted third party' to house a **central data repository** for regional health information exchange."

Created with commercially available products using open-source coding, HIEx<sup>TM</sup> is being built to the standard of the Continuity of Care Record (CCR) developed by the American Society for Testing and Measurement for health information exchange. While the CCR provides a road map for the data set, the National Library of Medicine's Unified Medical Language System provides standards for terminology. Security of the records is critical, and virtual private network technology creates a secure Web portal for user access. A full HIPAA audit trail is created for all data view and entry. The system generates customized reports and is designed to accommodate everexpanding amounts of data.

HIEx™ subscribers enjoy a high level of support, and feedback is encouraged. Frequently, enhancements to the system are based on their suggestions. "We act quickly, test, and go with it," says developer David Roberts. Even the training is being adapted for user convenience: Mary Crimmins' hands-on classes will soon be supplemented with electronic training modules that can be accessed anytime.

At the heart of the HIEx<sup>TM</sup> user base are Community Health Advocates (CHA), responsible for connecting people with community services. CHAs receive referrals from health and human services providers, faith-based communities, public and private schools, community social service centers, food pantries, and others. CHAs interview clients and obtain permission to enter their data in HIEx<sup>TM</sup>. They generate Medicaid applications and scan social security cards, birth certificates, and other documents into the system. CHA Barb O'Meara endorses HIEx<sup>TM</sup> as a time saver: "It cuts way down on paperwork, and it's easy to use."

As additional users come on board, they often discover a significant number of their clientele already have records in the system, from the CHAs' input and data imported from Dayton Public Schools. Their 28 nurses use HIEx<sup>TM</sup> to record clinic visits and to track immunizations and medications. Local health care and social services providers use a tool through HIEx™ supported by HTP, Inc., a developer of software for the healthcare industry, to check Medicaid eligibility and access both individual and household records, facilitating more comprehensive care.

Initially, HIEx™ was funded with a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Now, it is sustained by annual subscriptions costing \$1,000 per year, per user, a cost expected to decrease as the number of subscriptions increases. Currently, more than 52,000

records (within 20,000 households) are in the system. Twenty-nine percent of the clients are uninsured, and 41 percent are children.

In the future, as new functionalities are added to HIEx<sup>TM</sup>, the system will be able to serve an ever-broadening group of stakeholders. State level agencies in Ohio have expressed interest in HIEx<sup>TM</sup> as a possible model for statewide use. Collaboration is underway with companies that provide data warehousing services to support the kind of data analytics and advanced data mining so critical to disease management and improved health outcomes. "As the number of records in HIEx™ increases, it will provide an important data source for biomedical research and biosurveillance. The possibilities seem limitless," says Dr. Cauley.

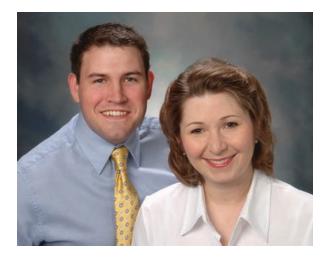
—Sue Rytel



# Alumni Profiles

# Drs. Amy and Shawn Howerton ('03)

ast spring, the Wright State Alumni Association recognized Drs. Amy and Shawn Howerton, both graduates of the Class of 2003, with the Recent Graduate Award, given annually to alumni who have graduated in the past 10 years who have quickly excelled in their professional careers and service involvement.



The couple dated during their second year of medical school, were engaged during their third year, and married during their fourth year. Despite the difficulties of residency training, both Shawn and Amy found the time to volunteer with Columbus Public Schools, the Columbus Health Department Free Clinic, and Recreation Unlimited, a camp for kids with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

In 2004, Amy was selected as a recipient of the American Academy of Family Physicians' (AAFP) Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Excellence in Education—awarded annually to recognize outstanding family medicine residents. Shawn was named chief resident of the Riverside Family Practice residency in Columbus, Ohio, and was also named Resident of the Year in 2002.

After completing their residencies in 2005, the couple, with newborn daughter Phoebe, moved to the rural, underserved town of Roseboro, North Carolina, and founded Howerton Family Medicine. "When you

start looking for a place to practice," says Amy, "you want a place that fits your personality. We were looking for a rural town that needed doctors."

And that's just what they found. As the sole medical practice in Roseboro, the Howertons are the only physicians within an hour's drive. So, their practice provides care for the entire family, including pediatric and geriatric medicine. Among the many challenges they faced was building a practice from the ground up. "When you go to work at an established practice, everything's already there," says Amy. "We had to order everything, even cotton balls."

Another obstacle was gaining the trust of the community. "A lot of people here just don't trust doctors," explains Amy. "So, we see a lot of patients who haven't been to doctors in years. They either didn't have access or weren't willing."

"When you start looking for a place to practice, you want a place that fits your personality. We were looking for a rural town that needed doctors."

But two years later, the practice is thriving and the Howertons are rooted in their community. Amy has been doing home visits for bed bound patients who otherwise would have to live in a nursing home. The couple plans to do more outreach into the community, and has already sponsored one health fair at their practice.

"There are hard days," said Amy, "but for the most part we feel great about what we're doing." And, of course, they do get to enjoy some of the perks of living in the country when patients bring in fresh sweet potatoes, peaches, and blueberries.

-Robert Boley

# Harry VanderWal, M.D. ('02)

arry VanderWal, Jr., M.D., his wife Echo, a PA-C, and their four boys (six-year-old triplets, Jacob, Luke, and Zebadiah, and three-year-old Zion), plan to spend eight to ten months each year in full-time medical missions. Since 2004 the family has completed five medical mission trips to Swaziland, Africa, and four other southern African countries have asked them to replicate their mobile clinic model in their countries.

"Our every effort, dream, and desire is to devote our lives to serving those without health care in the rural bush of Africa."

After Dr. VanderWal completed his internal medicine-pediatrics residency here in Dayton, the family moved to rural Sagle, Idaho, where he practices medicine when they are stateside. They have established a medical mission team called The Luke Commission to coordinate their international efforts.

The Luke Commission's team of volunteers is made up of medical personnel and others, working with local Swazis, who serve as translators. The entourage consists of three vehicles and two utility trailers that travel from a base camp in Manzini to remote bush communities, villages, chiefs' kraals, and schools. They provide free medical care, medicines, HIV testing and counseling, optical diagnoses, and eyeglasses. Every other day, while at base camp preparing for the next remote trip, the team assists new mothers in the maternity and pediatrics wards of Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital and distributes new baby clothes.

"Our every effort, dream, and desire is to devote our lives to serving those without health care in the rural bush of Africa," says Dr. VanderWal. These efforts began in Swaziland because it has the highest HIV positive rate in the world at 42 percent of the



The VanderWal family has made five medical missions to Swaziland.

population, and an average life expectancy of only 32 years. As a result, half of the children in that country are orphans.

"Over the next few years, as our support base expands, we will spend two to four months here in the United States preparing and fundraising, and the remainder in Africa," says Dr. VanderWal. The family is currently home in Idaho making preparations for their next full-time international medical relief.

For more information about the VanderWals' work and The Luke Commission, visit lukecommission.org.

—Robert Boley

# Student Profile

## Advancement

## Karah Harvey (Class of '08)

arah Harvey's introduction to Wright State University was a summer program in which she participated prior to her junior year in high school. She was impressed with the medical students involved in the program and how much they enjoyed teaching her, even though she was a high school student. She felt like she was included in a "big family." Five years later Karah applied to the Boonshoft School of Medicine. The M.D./M.P.H. program was in its inaugural year, and Karah's interest led her to apply for the integrated five-year program.

The studies in public health have given Karah an understanding of the social determinants of health. She considers how behavior is determined by actions and thoughts when developing a treatment plan for



her patients. Karah believes her interactions with other health care professionals through the M.P.H. component have resulted in a better understanding of their roles in the health care system.

A highlight of the program for Karah was her experience at the Rocking Horse Center in Springfield, Ohio. The Rocking Horse Center provides comprehensive health care to 5,500 children regardless of their ability to pay. In addition to health care, families receive educational assistance, crisis intervention services, and information about available resources. In addition to

typical clinical interactions at the Rocking Horse Center, Karah worked with children and families as well as with child advocacy groups.

She says that her experience at the center was inspirational. "I have learned that many physicians are unaware of available community resources," she explains. "Being able to provide a comprehensive health care plan for patients involves knowing the patients' non-medical issues. Knowledge of community resources allows a physician to provide for more of the patient's needs, resulting in better overall health for the patient. The concept of a 'medical home' should be integral to any physician's advocacy for his or her patients and should be included at the core of medical practice."

Karah's research project at Rocking Horse Center focused upon the American Academy of Pediatrics' policies for children with special health care needs. She is comparing and contrasting those guidelines with the policies and functions of a "medical home" to determine if the medical home concept is a good fit for children with special health care needs.

-Gwen Sloas



#### **Drive for a Difference**

The Fourth Annual Drive for a Difference Charity Golf Outing was held last May at the Beavercreek Golf Club. Organized annually by Wright State medical students, this year's event raised over \$8,000 for Reach Out of Montgomery County and the Jacob P. Deerhake, M.D., Memorial Scholarship.

Using the assistance of volunteer physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals, Reach Out provides free care to the underserved and uninsured. The Class of 2000 established the Jacob P. Deerhake Memorial Scholarship in memory of their classmate to provide financial support for medical students who reflect his strong values and character. Our thanks to this year's sponsors:

#### Main Event Sponsors:

Academy of Medicine Department of Orthopaedic Surgery Medical Alumni Association Class of 2007

#### **Eagle Sponsor:**

Good Samaritan Hospital

#### **Birdie Sponsors:**

Class of 2008 Kettering Medical Center Network

#### **Hole Sponsors:**

Class of 2009 Department of Internal Medicine Department of Pediatrics Department of Surgery

#### **Special Guest Media Sponsor:**

Neil "Hutch" Konerman, Weekend Sports Anchor, WDTN-TV

## Alumni





#### Other Supporters:

American Medical Association Atindra Chatterji, M.D. Medical School Student Council

To see pictures from this year's event, visit: med.wright.edu/driveforadifference/



REUNION WEEKEND 2007

On July 20-22, a record number of alumni celebrated their reunion in grand style. Located in nearby Cincinnati, this year's reunion featured a private, after-hours dinner and reception at Newport Aquarium, a CME brunch, a luxurious riverboat cruise, and a day of family fun at Kings Island. The Boonshoft School of Medicine Alumni Association would like to thank the alumni who volunteered their time and insights to plan the event:

#### Class of 1982

Howard B. Abromowitz, M.D. Chris J. Danis, M.D. John A. Dutro, M.D. Carl M. Ferraro, M.D. Judith Ann Harrison, M.D. Preston P. Richmond, M.D.



#### Class of 1987

Marilyn R. Adler, M.D.
Gary M. Onady, M.D., Ph.D.
Mary C. Pipik, M.D.
Deborah J. Richardson, M.D.
Patricia A. Swiney, M.D.
Randi Callahan Tracy, M.D.
Julian J. Trevino, M.D.
Linda Upp-Flora, M.D.

#### Class of 1992

David M. Hasl, M.D. Ranee Leder, M.D. Jeffrey L. Turner, M.D. Sheila K. Westendorf, M.D.

#### Class of 1997

Amanda L. Bell, M.D.
Thomas R. Dixon, M.D.
Julia L. Fashner, M.D.
Mark E. Gebhart, M.D.
Stephen E. Justice, M.D.
Kevin C. Meyer, M.D., FACEP
Michelle M. Milic, M.D.
Robert E. Newman, M.D.

#### Class of 2002

Kreg A. Burnette, M.D.
Thomas L. Carroll, M.D.
Aishwarya R. Deenadayalu, M.D.
Viju P. Deenadayalu, M.D.
Kevin D. Hopkins, M.D.
William J. Novak, Jr., M.D.
Leslie A. Spencer, M.D.
Monica McHenry Svets, M.D.









### Save the Date!

Reunion Weekend | July 18–20, 2008 | Cincinnati, Ohio Celebrating the Classes of '83, '88, '93, '98, & '03

## 1980s

Marc K. Allen, M.D., FACEP (1982), practices emergency medicine with Cleveland Metro Life Flight.

#### Gregory P. Hawker, M.D.

(1982), practices with Holzer Family Care Center in Jackson, Ohio. He and his wife Carol Hawker, RN, have two children: Matt and Lauren, ages 19 and 20.

**Greg Palmer, M.D.** (1982), practices with the Dermatology and Laser Surgery Center in Dayton. He and his wife Michele have two sons: Michael and Robert.

#### Richard P. Rood, M.D., FACP

(1982), became a Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association last year. This was a particular honor as it was the first-ever awarding of these fellowships and his mentor was president of the AGA at the time. Dr. Rood is a partner in the Center for Digestive Health, Inc., in Willoughby, Ohio. He has authored many articles and is editor of the book, Inflammatory Bowel Disease: A Guide for Patients and Their Families. He has served as president of the Northeastern Ohio Chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America and has also served on that organization's national board. Dr. Rood and his wife Shari have three children: Emily, Allison, and David. Emily is a third-year medical student at NEOUCOM, Allison is studying Digital Design at the University of Cincinnati, and David is a senior in high school and plans to study naval architecture.

Timothy L. Scarbrough, M.D. (1982), is an anesthesiologist at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

David M. Smith, M.D. (1983), has been named CEO of the Community Blood Center/Community Tisssue Services in Dayton.

#### Robert G. Carlson, Jr., M.D.

(1986), has presided over a minimally invasive cardiac and thoracic surgical practice in Sarasota, Florida, since 1994. Dr. Carlson performed his postgraduate training in general surgery at the University of Florida, where he received numerous research awards. including the prestigious Woodward Surgical Award. Among other accolades, Dr. Carlson has been named one of "America's Top Surgeons" by the Consumer Research Council of America, "Surgeon of the Year" and one of "America's Top Doctors." Dr Carlson is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and is board certified in general surgery, thoracic surgery, and through the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine. A two-time Ironman, Dr. Carlson has completed over 15 marathons.

Mary C. Pipik, M.D. (1987), practices with Ohio Pediatrics, Inc., in Dayton, Ohio.

## 1990s

#### Elizabeth A. Bender, M.D.

(1991), is a general and trauma surgeon at Akron City Hospital. She also is recognized for her expertise in wood carvings.

#### Mark W. Browne, M.D. (1991),

is currently the vice president of medical affairs for Trover Health System in western Kentucky. He has been a hospital administrator full time since 1999, and is currently enrolled in the master's degree program in medical management at Carnegie Mellon University, to be completed in February 2008. He and his wife Kathi have three children: Adam (15), Aaron (13), and Noah (10).

#### Sophia K. Apple, M.D., M.P.H.

(1992), is a practicing pathologist at UCLA School of Medicine, where she enjoys teaching residents and medical students. She and her husband Hal live in southern California.

Nancy Blevins, M.D. (1992), is starting a new position as a professor of family medicine with the University of Alabama at Huntsville beginning in October 2007. She and her husband Hal, a scientist with NASA, have three children: Joel, Daniel, and Grace.

Douglas V. Combs, M.D. (1992), practices with Southern OB/GYN at St. Joseph's Hospital in Breese, Illinois. He and his wife Elizabeth have one child: Katherine.

#### David DeSantis, M.D. (1992),

practices with Wayne Family Health Care, P.C., in Richmond, Indiana. He is also a part-time ECF medical director and hospice medical director. He and his wife Kim have three children: Lindsay, Piper, and Dominic.

#### Leonard Chike Ezenagu, M.D.

(1992), practices as an obstetrician/ gynecologist in a physician-lead, multi-specialty clinic under the Mayo Clinic Foundation. He specializes in pelvic reconstructive surgery.

#### Barbara A. Hill, M.D. (1992),

is an internist and medical director for Employee Health at Upper Valley Medical Center in Troy, Ohio.

#### Cheryl R. Kuck, M.D. (1992),

practices at the Pediatric Healthcare Center in Saint Marys, Ohio, where she specializes in children with special needs. She and her husband Jay have five children: Lara, Katrina, Tynan, Calen, and Jace. Kristina S. Schumacher, M.D. (1992), has a solo family medicine practice in Gahanna, Ohio. She and her husband James have two children: Eric and Olivia.

Peter K. Wong, M.D. (1992), is president of Anderson Primary Care, Inc., in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he has been practicing for the past seven years. He and his wife Miranda, a project manager/information systems analyst, have two children: Erika Kimberly and Brandon Matthew, ages 5 and 3, respectively.

Jay R. Pudupakkam, M.D. (1993), practices with Hospitalist Internists Associates in Dallas, Texas. He and his wife Deepa have two children: Ashna, 13, and Upasana, 6.

Shannon K. Bentley, M.D. (1997), practices with West Virginia University (WVU) Harpers Ferry Family Medicine. She completed an Obstetrics and Gynecology Fellowship in Austin, Texas. She was voted Faculty of the Year at the WVU Harpers Ferry Family Medicine Residency Program.

Jeffrey A. Dean, M.D. (1997), is currently an orthopedic surgeon at a small Army facility in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He and his wife Jasmin have one child, Jonah.

Mark Harding, M.D. (1997), and Kristen L. Hecker-Harding, M.D. (1997), moved from northern Wisconsin to Cincinnati, Ohio, in June 2007.

Stephen E. Justice, M.D. (1997), practices family medicine with Primecare Physicians of West Central Ohio, located in Sidney. He and his wife Monica have two children: Caitlin and Erica.

Kevin C. Meyer, M.D., FACEP (1997), practices with Qualified Emergency Specialists, Inc., in Cincinnati. He has been named ER Preceptor of the Year for the University of Cincinnati Family Practice Residency, M.D. of the Year at Mercy Mt. Airy, and is currently the chief of medicine at Mt. Airy. He and his wife Shelly have two sons, Ethan and Blake, with a third child due this September.

Vicki R. Reed, M.D. (1997), is staff physician at the Cleveland Clinic, specializing in obstetrics/gynecology. She is also involved with medical student education at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University. She and her husband, Chad Michener (1997), have one child, Halina.

## 2000s

Rebecca S. Adams, M.D. (2002), practices with Van Wert Family Physicians in Van Wert, Ohio, where she works with both her husband, Jake Jones, and her father. She and her husband have two children: Jackson and Debbie.

Matthew W. Blanton, M.D. (2002), is completing a general surgery residency at Indiana University School of Medicine and plans on specializing in plastic surgery.

William J. Novak, Jr., M.D. (2002), has just completed a sleep medicine fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. He will be staying on as staff at the Cleveland Clinic with 50 percent of his time devoted to the field of neurology and the other 50 percent to the field of sleep medicine.

Nikole M. Scalera, M.D. (2005), and her husband Doeun Kuy expected their first baby in September 2007. She will begin an infectious disease fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic in 2008.

Submit your class note online at:

med.wright.edu/alumni/classnotes.html

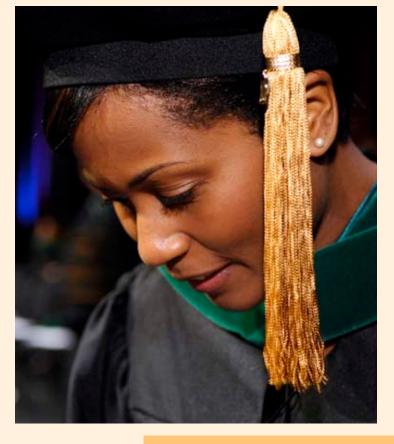
From this site, you can also search for class notes

by name, specialty, or class year.

## Graduation 2007











Ninety-three graduates received their Doctor of Medicine degrees at the Schuster Performing Arts Center in downtown Dayton in late May.

John E. Morley, M.B., B.Ch., was the guest speaker at the graduation ceremony for the Boonshoft School of Medicine Class of 2007. His address to the graduates was entitled "Agape, Science, and the Future History of Medicine."

Kim Goldenberg, M.D., president emeritus of Wright State University, received the Boonshoft School of Medicine Appreciation Award during graduation ceremonies. He was honored for his outstanding leadership and service to the school as dean and to the university as president.









Gregory J. Toussaint, M.D., USAF Colonel Retired, associate professor of pediatrics, received both the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award and the **Teaching Excellence Award** from the Boonshoft School of Medicine's graduating Class of 2007.

Michele R. Arthurs, M.D. ('07), was presented with the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award. She has begun a family medicine residency at Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C.



Kristen P. Massimino, M.D. ('07), was honored with the Dean's Award. She has entered a general surgery residency at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland.

# Of Primary Interest

#### **New Faces**

Syed A. Ali, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine M.B.B.S.: King Edward Medical

College, Pakistan

**Residency:** Wright State University

(internal medicine)

Fellowship: Wright State University

(gastroenterology)

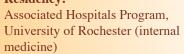
#### Charles O. Beauchamp III, M.D.,

Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Community Health M.D.: Duke University School of Medicine

Ph.D.: Duke University (biochemistry

(biochemistry)
Residency:



#### Merrilee I. Cox. M.D.



Assistant Professor,
Pediatrics
M.D.: Wright State
University School of
Medicine
Residency: Wright
State University
(pediatrics)

#### David M. Ellison, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine M.D.: Wright State University School of Medicine

**Residency:** Wright State University (internal medicine)

#### Laila Fernandes, M.D.

Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine M.B.B.S.: Grant Medical College, India Residency: Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn (internal medicine) Fellowship: Beth Israel Medical Center (infectious diseases)

#### **Faculty Notes**



**James E. Brown, M.D.,** associate professor of emergency medicine, has been appointed vice chair of the department.

**John S. Czachor, M.D., F.A.C.P.,** professor of internal medicine, has been appointed interim chair for the Department of Internal Medicine. He has been a faculty member since 1989 and serves as chief for the Section of Infectious Diseases and director of Travel Medicine.





Mark Gebhart, M.D. ('97), assistant professor of emergency medicine, received the "Early Career Achievement" award from Wright State University for his work in emergency preparedness.

**Jeanne Lemkau, Ph.D.,** professor emeritus of community health, was a co-presenter of "Love, Loss, and Longing: The Impact of U.S. Travel Policy on Cuban-American Families," an exhibit in photographs and words held most recently in Wright State's Student Union Art Gallery.



**Roger Pacholka, M.D.** ('85), associate clinical professor of emergency medicine, was Wright State's nominee for the Humanism in Medicine Award for 2007 to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

**Albert F. Painter, Jr., Psy.D.,** has been appointed assistant dean for faculty affairs. He has been a member of Wright State's faculty since 1978 and is a licensed clinical psychologist. He is the founding executive director of the Dayton Area Graduate Medical Education Consortium (DAGMEC).



**Larry Ream, Ph.D.,** associate professor of neuroscience, cell biology, and physiology, received the "Robert J. Kegerreis Distinguished Professor of Teaching" award from Wright State University.

#### In Memorium

Charles B. Payne, Jr., M.D., professor emeritus of internal medicine and faculty member since 1978, passed away this August. A pulmonologist, Dr. Payne served on the school's admissions committee and held a dual appointment with the Dayton VA Medical Center.

Mary D. Pryor, M.D., professor emeritus of family medicine and faculty member since 1978, passed away in June. Dr. Pryor worked in our community to create programming to meet the medical needs of adolescents, a group she thought was underserved. The Dr. Mary and Richard Pryor Endowed Scholarship Fund was established at the Boonshoft School of Medicine to support scholarships for women who plan to specialize in primary care.

#### **New Grants Extend Research on Gulf War Illness**

The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology has received a threeyear grant from the Department of Defense Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Research Program to examine the autonomic neural dysfunction associated with Gulf War Illness. The grant uses a mouse model to identify autonomic biomarkers for Gulf War Illness and to assess the effectiveness of current treatments.

Also, a collaboration received a three-year research and development grant from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Department of Defense. James Lucot, Ph.D., associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology, is working with a researcher at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright-Patterson and with Cenomed BioSciences, LLC, of California. The project evaluates mechanisms of drugs for their ability to improve the treatment of nerve agent poisoning.

### **Grant for State-wide Program for the Deaf Received**

Ohio will better meet the needs of its deaf and hard of hearing residents through a three-year grant just awarded by the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to the school's Substance Abuse and Resources and Disability Issues Program. The \$1.5 million grant, "Deaf Off Drugs and Alcohol," will provide "e-therapy," group and individual counseling and case management via video conferencing and videophone technology. Funding was awarded starting October1, and the program will begin providing clinical services in January 2008.

#### **New Faces**

#### Michael Galloway, D.O.



Assistant Professor,
Obstetrics and
Gynecology
M.D.: Western
University, College
of Osteopathic
Medicine of the
Pacific
Residency: Wright
State University/

Wright-Patterson Medical Center (obstetrics and gynecology)

#### Julie M. Miller, Psy.D.

Assistant Professor, Psychiatry Psy.D.: Adler School of Professional Psychology (neuropsychology) Internship: Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County (clinical psychology)



Postdoctoral Residency: University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine (neuropsychology)

#### Guillermina Nava, M.D.



Assistant Professor, Surgery
M.D.: University of Rochester School of Medicine
Residency:
University of Virginia Health System (plastic surgery)

# Of Primary Interest

#### **New Faces**

Travis L. Perry, M.D.



Assistant Professor,
Surgery
M.D.: East Carolina
University School of
Medicine
Residency:
Louisiana State
University Health
Science Center

(general surgery)

**Residency:** Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center (general surgery)

**Fellowship:** University of Texas, Shriners Hospital for Children, Galveston (surgical critical care and burn)

#### Mohan I. Reddy, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Geriatrics
Ph.D.: University of Mysore/Central
Food Research Institute, India
M.D.: Central America Health Sciences
University, Belize Medical College
Residency: Michigan State University

(family medicine) **Fellowship:** Michigan State University (geriatric medicine)

#### Rosalyn P. Scott, M.D.

Professor, Surgery
M.D.: New York
University School of
Medicine
Residency: St.
Vincent's Hospital
and Medical Center
(general surgery)
Residency: St.

Clare's Hospital and Health Center (general surgery)

**Residency:** Boston University Medical Center (thoracic surgery)

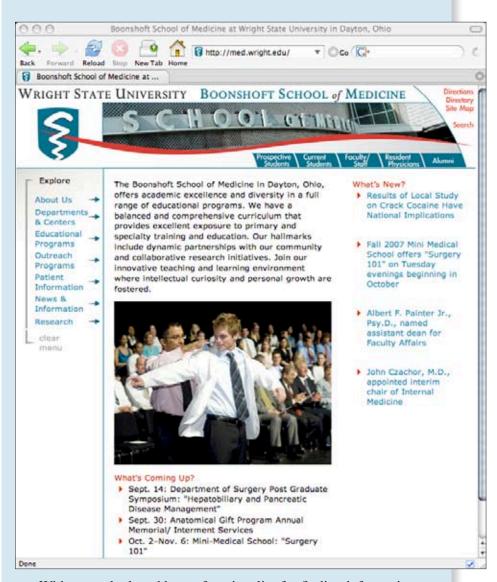
**Residency, Visiting:** New York Medical College (cardiac surgery)

Fellowship: Mary A. Fraley

Cardiovascular Research Fellow, Texas Heart Institute

#### **New Web Site**

The new Boonshoft School of Medicine web site, www.med.wright. edu, debuted July 9.



With a new look and better functionality for finding information, the school's 13,000-page site has expanded key areas, including a new product line and templates for CME and a new school apparel line. In addition to the products carried by the Wright State University Bookstore, an embroidered line of clothing with the medical school's new trademark is now available and can be ordered online. Items may be ordered individually or in bulk, and a portion of each sale goes to medical student scholarships. Links to both are at med.wright.edu/facstaff/ products/.

#### **Student Notes**

The Class of 2009 reaffirmed its dedication to the ethics and professionalism of medicine and the Class of 2008 recognized its outstanding resident teachers in a ceremony on July 16. Supported by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, the Student Clinician's Ceremony celebrates the students' entry into the third year of medical school, a year of rotations through Dayton's "teaching community." John Donnelly, M.D., associate professor of family medicine and community health, was the keynote speaker for the event. The following residents received Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards:



Jon H. Baker, Jr., D.O., Family Medicine Residency Program
Pamela J. Broderick, M.D., Psychiatry Residency Program
Toby J. Genrich, M.D., Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program
Brandon T. Grover, D.O., General Surgery Residency Program
Sarah M. Hedrick, M.D., Internal Medicine Residency Program
Jeremy M. Sikora, M.D., Pediatrics Residency Program

In addition to the recipients of the Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards, the faculty and student recipients of the Leonard Tow Humanism Award in Medicine, Gregory J. Toussaint, M.D., and Michele Arthurs, M.D. (07), respectively, were initiated into Wright State's chapter of the Gold Humanism Society. The following students in the Class of 2008 were also initiated:

William K. Cornwell, III
Daniel B. Flora
Bryan S. Jewell
Benjamin Kotinsley
Katherine Kotinsley
Aaron R. Patterson
Matthew M. Pellerite
Mark M. Ryan
Jenell C. Smith Wade
Lena A. Winkler



Initiates into Wright State's chapter of the Gold Humanism Society.

#### **New Faces**

William D. Spears, Ph.D.



Associate Professor, Community Health Ph.D.: The University of Texas School of Public Health (behavioral sciences)

#### Pedro Weisleder, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Professor,
Pediatrics
M.D.: Universidad
Nacional Autonoma
de Mexico
Ph.D.: University of
Washington
Postdoctoral:
University of Texas,
Austin



# Of Primary Interest



Maria Shaker, co-chair of GHI, with Mayan friends in Guatemala.

This past summer, 44 students from the Class of 2010 dispersed across four continents and into 14 countries to participate in a variety of programs ranging from disease prevention education to assisting physicians in rural clinics and local hospitals. Students who earned academic credit for their travels were required to take the Health Care in Developing Countries elective to better prepare for their cultural experiences. Two group trips—one to Jamaica and the other to Swaziland—are annually coordinated by the Global Health Initiative (GHI), a student-run organization. Through exposure to international health issues, GHI is dedicated to developing culturally sensitive physicians and heightening global awareness in the community.



Carefully selected from a competitive group of about 3,230 applicants, the Class of 2011, with families and friends, attended Convocation and the White Coat Ceremony July 29. Paula Termuhlen, M.D., chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology, associate professor of surgery, and program director for the General Surgery Residency, was the invited speaker for the event.



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

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