



Answering the call

Old-fashioned house calls find a place in modern care, UMKC School of Medicine training

Dimitri Golfinopoulos, D.O.
UMKC resident, 1992-1995

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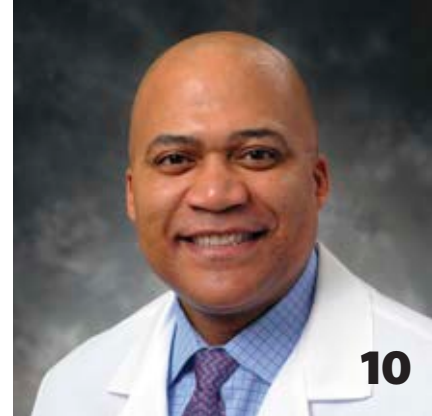
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Old-fashioned house calls are finding a place in modern care, and UMKC alumni and residents are playing a part.



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Cover photo by Brandon Parigo



COURTESY WELLSTAR HEALTH SYSTEM

UMKC Medicine

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EACH MONTH, I MEET with a group of students for afternoon tea and cookies. After the students each talk a little bit about themselves, I spend a few minutes telling them about some of the remarkable individuals who have graduated from this medical school over the last 46 years. Sometimes I talk about alumni with whom I have spoken in the preceding week or two; sometimes I talk about those who have a recent noteworthy accomplishment; and sometimes I talk about those who work in an area that overlaps with a student's interests. I like to share stories of our school's alumni and their notable achievements because I think it gives current students a sense of the history of their school, enriches their thinking as they are developing their own professional identities, and helps them connect to the school in a meaningful way.

That's one reason why spring is such a special time at the School of Medicine. Each May, family, friends, faculty, staff and students gather to enjoy commencement ceremonies as we add new alumni (more than 140 this year) to the growing UMKC School of Medicine family.

This issue of *UMKC Medicine* presents the wonderful stories of several alumni. It features four graduates—William Cooper, Toi Blakley Harris, Mike Munger and Carl Noback—who are exemplary leaders in medicine. We also highlight alumni and residents—Aron Burke, Dimitri Golfinopoulos, Noushin Ansari and Jessica Richter—who are playing significant roles in the contemporary use of house calls to serve patients. And we showcase our newest alumni—from the class of 2017—representing five of our school's academic programs: the six-year B.A./M.D. program, physician assistant program, anesthesia assistant program, master's degree program in bioinformatics and master's degree program in health professions education.

Please join me in congratulating the class of 2017 as we welcome them to the health care profession. And please stay connected and keep sending stories of your successes, so that we can continue to share them with current students.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven L. Kanter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Steven L. Kanter, M.D.
Dean, UMKC School of Medicine



UMKC Chancellor Leo Morton (left) presented prizes to the winners of the first Interprofessional Education and Collaboration Healthcare Reasoning Competition (starting second from left): Diana Jun, medicine; Isioma Amayo, medicine; Hanna Miller, nursing; Kate Ragan, pharmacy; Gift Maliton, pharmacy; and Asad Helal, medicine.

Inaugural competition draws Hospital Hill disciplines together

NEARLY 50 STUDENTS from the School of Medicine and the schools of dentistry, nursing and pharmacy worked together as members of nine interprofessional teams to compete in the first Interprofessional Education and Collaboration Healthcare Reasoning Competition.

The daylong, case-based simulation competition took place in conjunction with the fifth-annual Interprofessional Education Faculty Symposium, held March 3 and 4 at the School of Medicine.

The competition was the brainchild of a smaller group of students from different disciplines who formed a UMKC IPE Student Interest Group to promote interprofessional education.

“This started with the IPE interest group,” said Stefanie Ellison, M.D., associate dean of learning initiatives and IPE coordinator for the School of Medicine. “Seven or eight students were really interested in this. It was their energy that made it happen, and everything fell in place.”

One student group member, Robert Weidling, said the group developed the competition after taking part in a similar event at Creighton University. The team spent the next eight months working on the structure of the competition. Ellison provided faculty guidance along with Emily Hillman, M.D., assistant program

director and clerkship director for emergency medicine, and faculty sponsor for the school’s Sim Wars team.

“The most important goal of our event was to help students understand the importance of interprofessional teamwork,” Weidling said. “We wanted students to be put into a position where they were forced to augment their weaknesses with the strengths of the other interprofessional students.”

For the competition, at least two different schools were represented on each team of five or six students.

A case with pertinent patient history and vital statistics was given to each

team, which then had 90 minutes to prepare a treatment plan. The teams gave 10-minute presentations to a panel of judges made up of faculty from the health sciences schools. Each presentation included how the team worked together to develop the plan.

The top four teams from the first round then received a new case to prepare without using any outside resources.

Teams were evaluated on skills such as collaboration, demonstration of medical knowledge, ability to manage healthcare decisions, use of their individual roles and responsibilities, and use of evidence-based medicine.

Women’s Council awards foster research

THE UMKC WOMEN’S COUNCIL Graduate Assistance Fund has announced its awards for 2017, comprising 14 Outstanding Merit Awards and the financing of 74 fellowships. Four of the recipients from across the university are from the School of Medicine: Ravali Gummi, for glaucoma research; Kaitlyn Hill, to attend an anesthesiology conference; Komal Kumar, for pregnancy ultrasound research; and Carlee Oakley, to present research findings at a national conference.

Also on Hospital Hill, the School of Dentistry had three recipients, and the School of Pharmacy and the School of Nursing and Health Studies each had nine. On the Volker Campus, the College of Arts and Sciences led the way with 16 recipients, followed by the School of Education with 13 and the Conservatory of Music and Dance with 10. The recipients were honored at an awards reception in February.

'04 alumna leads research showing success of scalp-cooling caps in curbing hair loss during breast cancer patients' chemotherapy

JULIE NANGIA, M.D. '04, says when she works with breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, "often the first thing they ask is, 'Will I lose my hair?' Many of them start crying."



Nangia

So it's gratifying for Nangia, an assistant professor at the Baylor College of Medicine, to be in the forefront of research on reducing such hair loss, known as alopecia.

Her research team's study, published in February's *Journal of the American Medical Association*, involved seven trials tracking 95 women using a cap that cooled their scalp before, during and after their chemotherapy treatments. The study found that hair loss was substantially reduced or eliminated in half of the women who used the cap, versus substantial hair loss for all 47 women in a control group who underwent similar treatments without using the cap.

The Orbis Paxman Hair Loss Prevention System uses two caps, one that circulates a refrigerated fluid next to the scalp while an outer, insulated cap helps keep the inner layer in place and maintain its temperature. Nangia explained that the caps, by cooling the scalp and constricting the blood vessels there, reduced the amount of chemotherapy drug delivered to the hair follicles. The lower temperature also could slow the drug's chemical reaction, further reducing its effects on the follicle cells.

Nangia is hopeful that the caps will get FDA approval soon for her patients and others. A similar cap, the DigniCap Scalp Cooling Device, already has the FDA's blessing.

Being the lead author on research published in *JAMA* was a milestone for Nangia, who works at the Lester and Sue Smith Breast Center within the Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Centers. The research, along with similar findings

for the DigniCap, also drew attention from the national press including *The New York Times*, NPR, NBC and CNN.

But the publicity, Nangia said, was nothing compared with the progress in stemming patients' hair loss.

"Hair loss takes a tremendous toll on the patient's body image," she said. "They lose their anonymity. Everyone can see that they're sick."

Nangia, an internist, traces her interest in cancer and research back to her days at UMKC.

"Some of your experiences in medical school really shape your life," she said. "The clinical experience at UMKC is amazing. Coming into my residency and fellowship, I could tell I had a lot more actual exposure to practicing medicine."

Her docent, Dennis Palmer, D.O., encouraged her to do a medical mission, so she went to Cameroon for a month.

"I distinctly remember some of the cancer patients from when I rounded there," Nangia said. "I found those cases

very interesting. I also have an aunt who had cancer twice, and I wanted to know more about what she had gone through."

After UMKC, Nangia had an internship and internal medicine residency at the University of Texas and a fellowship in oncology and hematology at Rush University. Her position at Baylor then gave her a chance to continue to work with breast cancer patients. In her recent research, the positive clinical results and absence of serious side effects raised hopes for approval and wide use of the cooling caps.

Another big step will be using the caps to combat hair loss during treatment of other types of solid-tumor cancers, she said. Breast cancer treatment was just the most logical place to start.

Follow-up research also could help get insurance coverage for the caps. Nangia said half of her work time is spent at a county safety-net hospital, and access to good treatment for all patients is very important to her.



COURTESY BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

The Orbis Paxman system circulates a cooling fluid over the patient's scalp.



Kayla Briggs (left) sent blog posts and photos, including this group selfie, throughout her surgical team's eight-day medical mission to the Dominican Republic.

Blog sends medical mission experience back home

KAYLA BRIGGS, A SIXTH-YEAR student at UMKC School of Medicine, was part of an 11-person group that made an eight-day medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic in March. She kept a blog and filed daily posts with photos to keep friends, family and classmates apprised of how things were going.

The team consisted of physicians, nurses, paramedics, an interpreter and Briggs. Working from the Good Samaritan Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic, the group spent two days in clinics meeting patients and assessing needs before spending

the rest of its time performing surgical procedures.

The team staffed two operating rooms, usually one for adult cases and one for pediatrics. Elective procedures predominated, such as repairing hernias, removing gallbladders and excising masses, all in hopes of preventing patients from encountering more serious complications in the future.

One day, two cesarean sections were performed, and Briggs wrote, "We had so much fun fawning over the babies; they were so cute."

The team did face some challenges,

Briggs shared, including a three-minute power outage that knocked out a camera, "taking away our 'eyes' just as we were achieving our critical view." But when power was restored, that surgery was completed successfully, along with several others the rest of that day.

Briggs served as the first assistant in the operating room. She already had completed seven months of surgical rotations at UMKC. The day before leaving on the mission was Match Day, and Briggs learned that she would begin a surgical residency at the University of California-Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, California, this summer.

Briggs said she had done medical mission trips before but never a surgery trip, so she was particularly excited for the mission, a collaborative effort with the Dominican Republic Medical Fellowship.

When it was over, Briggs wrote, "This has been the adventure of a lifetime and I'm so thankful for the opportunity to share it with you! I hope to return to La Romana in the future as a surgery resident."

Other members of the mission team: Glenn Talboy, M.D., chair and program director of the UMKC Department of Surgery; Edna Talboy, interpreter; Teisha Shiozaki, M.D., chief resident, UMKC general surgery; Patrick Murphy, M.D., section chief, Children's Mercy Department of Urology; John Gatti, M.D., director of minimally invasive urology, Children's Mercy Department of Urology; Louise Davis, CRNA and mission trip coordinator; Reidun Fuemmler, CRNA; Scott Davis, CRNA; Vahe Ender, paramedic; Matt Libby, paramedic.

DEAN'S POP QUIZ

Latha Sivaprasad, M.D. '99, is the 2017 recipient of the UMKC Alumni Association's annual award honoring a School of Medicine graduate. (You can read about her on Page 30.) Can you identify which of the following distinguished alumni have won the award in the past? For the answers, see Page 27.

- A) Executive director and CEO of the American Academy of Pediatrics; previously commissioner of health for the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- B) Director of the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Sciences at Children's Mercy Hospital; specialties include autistic spectrum disorders and attention deficit disorders.
- C) Retired brigadier general and former assistant to the command surgeon for the Air National Guard; military honors including the Legion of Merit and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.
- D) Chair and professor of radiology at UC-San Diego's Institute of Engineering in Medicine. Former chair and professor of radiology at Boston University.
- E) All of the above



School *of* Medicine Grads Are Ready *to* Take *on* *the* World

Students from five programs share their memories, prepare to put varied skills to full use

By Kelly Edwards

The UMKC School of Medicine graduated its first full class of 33 six-year B.A./M.D. students in 1977. Forty years later, the school has produced almost 3,500 highly skilled physicians who are sought after leaders on all levels, renowned experts in their medical fields, and groundbreaking scientists uncovering new

methods of caring for the communities they serve.

Today, the school is producing health care professionals in many disciplines. In addition to a medical degree, the school offers master's degrees for anesthesiologist assistants and physician assistants, health professions education, and

bioinformatics. It also offers graduate certificates in several programs and an Interdisciplinary-Ph.D. program.

More than 140 students celebrated their degrees and graduate certificates at the School of Medicine's commencement ceremony on May 22—a far cry from that first class of 33 graduates 46 years ago.

B.A./M.D. Program

Wamkpah achieves her dream of becoming a doctor

Nneome Wamkpah says she knew by the time she was a sophomore in high school that she wanted to become a doctor.

Surrounded by a family of health care professionals, Wamkpah understood what it meant to help others. Five years into the UMKC School of Medicine's six-year program, she fully realized the gravity of her decision.

"It's so hard to know when you're young. You really don't understand just how much people depend on you until you're into it," Wamkpah said. "I understood from my family that I could make a difference working in health care, but to truly take care of another human being, that really came to me last year. It's a big responsibility."

Because of her extensive clinical training at UMKC, Wamkpah said it's a charge she feels fully prepared to accept. A May graduate, she will begin her post-graduate residency training in otolaryngology this summer at Barnes-Jewish Hospital at Washington University in St. Louis.

She said her School of Medicine experience had given her the confidence to succeed as a physician.

"It sets us up very nicely for residency training," Wamkpah said. "You kind of know already what to do in treating patients, how to talk to them, how to get their problems solved. A lot of schools take their time getting you to that point. We have a lot of practice in that, and the curriculum really supports great patient care and working as a great clinician."

Health care careers were common in her family, and while growing up, she heard her grandmother's many accounts of life as a midwife in their native Nigeria.

"She would always tell us stories about that," Wamkpah says.

Both of her parents earned nursing degrees at the University of Kansas and worked as nurses before branching into business and opening their



Nneome Wamkpah (left) shared an emotional Match Day with her classmates.

own medical equipment store. Her aunt is a nurse and an uncle in Spokane, Washington, is a transplant surgeon.

So it's no surprise that she followed a similar path.

"I had a lot of influences early on to go into the medical field," Wamkpah said.

UMKC allowed her to do that and stay close to home in nearby Leawood, Kansas. Wamkpah smiles when she explains that she was born at Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City, one of the school's primary teaching hospitals where she completed some clinical rotations.

"I wasn't looking to stay home, but this filled all the needs of wanting to become a doctor, doing so sooner (than traditional medical schools), and it was close to home," she said.

It also allowed her to follow another passion: teaching. Whether helping other students in the writing lab or tutoring them in biochemistry, Wamkpah said, teaching is another goal she plans to pursue.

"I want to be at an academic institution," she said. "That dynamic of teacher and student, learning from one another, is something that I really love. I think UMKC really supported my desires to do that by giving me so many opportunities to teach. You can impact patient care, but you can impact the next generation of doctors, too. That's important to me."

Master's of Health Professions Education

Staab prepared to spread her message about nutrition

Growing up in Mexico, Ara Staab developed an interest in health care when she saw family members battle diabetes and other health problems.

Studying pre-med at the University at Guadalajara, Staab decided an undergraduate degree in dietetics and nutrition science would allow her to help family members and others understand the importance of better nutrition and diet.



“For me, that was more intriguing,” Staab said. “I was thinking, these things can help my family and even more people in a broad way.”

For much of the past four years, Staab has taken her message to the local community, working for the University of Missouri Extension’s Family Nutrition Education Program in Kansas City.

This May, Staab added a master’s degree from the UMKC School of Medicine’s Health Professions Education program to her resume. While working on the two-year master’s degree, Staab was promoted at MU Extension to coordinator of the nutrition program’s Kansas City Urban Region.

Though she had been an educator, Staab said, “this program helped me understand curriculum development and needs assessment. Those are things I didn’t have the fundamentals for with a background in dietetic science.”

In addition to curriculum development, Staab discovered an interest in research. Last October, she received

a Sarah Morrison Student Research Award and worked on creating a nutrition curriculum for low-income and limited-resource families emphasizing the control of chronic health conditions through diet and other healthy changes in habits.

As a program coordinator, Staab will apply the lessons she learned at UMKC to conducting need assessments and modifying or creating programs to meet those needs.

“This program has greatly complemented what I’m doing at MU Extension,” Staab said.

Staab started her dietetics career directing the nutrition services program in the small border town of Nogales on the Arizona-Mexico border. There she met her husband. The two eventually moved to the Kansas City area, where she took a job supervising the nutrition care department at Overland Park Regional Medical Center.

Staab realized the need to expand her background in health education as she discovered that few at the hospital fully understood her role and how she could benefit other health professionals in

treating patients.

Staab now works at MU Extension with a staff of more than 20 nutrition educators. The Extension partners with many of the community service programs and health clinics throughout the Kansas City metro area.

“Advocating good nutrition to the community and the health profession is important,” she said. “It’s part of my goal to teach dietetic science and nutrition and bring that to other health professionals and projects.”

Master of Medical Science – Physician Assistant

Gaines to take physician assistant role back to rural roots

Blink at the Phillips 66 station exit on Interstate 70, about halfway between Columbia and St. Louis, and you just missed Jonesburg, Missouri.

This rural community of less than 800 people is where Stephen Gaines, at age 16, came home from high school and spent his free time as a volunteer firefighter. Junior firefighter was his official title. Gofer would be a more accurate job description.



COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI EXTENSION

Ara Staab has taken her message of the value of nutrition out into the community.

“It was go get this for me, hold this for me,” Gaines said. “I was just learning and going to training and getting experience. By the time I was 18, I had experienced a lot in the functions of the volunteer fire department and what we do, from medical calls to vehicle accidents to fires.”

He learned that the department provided a large part of the emergency medical care to Montgomery County, which has only two medical doctors, one dentist and an optometrist. Physician assistant was a foreign concept to Gaines.

“I had never heard of a physician assistant, let alone seen one,” Gaines said.

In May, Gaines became part of the second class at the UMKC School of Medicine to earn a Master of Medical Science Physician Assistant degree. This summer, he will enter a post-graduate fellowship at the University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia, where he will receive specialized training

Jonesburg. Folks there often wait several days with a severe illness or injury before deciding they need help, he said, and then may have to travel 45 miles to Columbia or St. Louis to see a doctor.

That’s why Gaines wants to return to a rural area to practice.

“But not too rural,” he said. “I want to work in emergency medicine, so that means I have to go somewhere that at least has a hospital, but a smaller-sized hospital.”

Gaines said he learned about physician assistants while he was a pre-medicine student at Truman State. Unlike physicians, who spend years of training and specializing in one area of medicine, PAs may work in several areas of the health care field with one license. To Gaines, who was married about a year ago, that was an intriguing opportunity.

“I kind of came in knowing that I wanted to do emergency medicine as a physician assistant,” Gaines said. “But I

also know that as a physician assistant, there are other opportunities. Should things change, if I have a family and I’m tired of working the night shifts and want to do more of an 8-to-5 thing in family medicine, that’s an option.”

Four schools in Missouri offer physician assistant

training. Gaines said he chose UMKC because it was the only program housed at a medical school.

“I knew that at UMKC, I would get an education from the same people who are teaching future physicians,” he said. “That was really attractive.”

Now, after training at several hospitals throughout Kansas City and experiencing a wide variety of patient populations, Gaines said he was prepared to return to his roots.

“I want to go back to the rural side of emergency medicine.”

Master of Science – Anesthesia

Hill prepared to ‘do so many different things’

Less than a year after earning her chemistry degree with a pre-medicine focus from Austin Peay State University, Kaitlyn Hill had a good job as a laboratory technician. But long hours of working in a room with chemicals brought her to a realization.

“I didn’t want to be in a lab all day,” Hill said.

In May, the former high school and college basketball player will receive a Master of Science in Anesthesia from the UMKC School of Medicine.

Months before receiving her degree, Hill had already secured a job offer as an anesthesiologist assistant. Instead of eight-hour days in a laboratory, she will put her medical interests and skills to work with patients in operating rooms at Kansas City’s Saint Luke’s Hospital.

“I’m going to have the opportunity to perform obstetrics cases, and pediatrics, and neurology cases,” Hill said. “They have a GI suite and MRI lab. I’ll be able to do all of that. Saint Luke’s has a variety of cases, and it’s great that as a graduate I’ll be able to do so many different things. That’s one of the reasons I chose to work there.”

After graduating from Austin Peay in Clarksville, Tennessee, Hill learned of the School of Medicine’s anesthesiologist assistant program from a friend. She began going to Mercy Hospital in St. Louis to shadow anesthesiologist James Gibbons, M.D., a strong proponent of anesthesiologist assistants.

Hill said she liked the idea of working with patients in a hospital surgery environment. She is part of the eighth class of anesthesiologist assistants to earn their MSA degree through UMKC’s



COURTESY SAINT JOSEPH MEDICAL CENTER

Stephen Gaines hopes to return to his rural roots as a physician assistant after graduating in May.

directed to the acute care of emergency medicine patients.

“You know, PAs are not on TV shows,” he said. “It’s not something that’s really well known in some parts of the country.”

Particularly in rural areas such as



Kaitlyn Hill is excited to start a new career as an anesthesiologist assistant at Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City.

27-month program.

"This program, from the very beginning, was very focused," Hill said. "Right away, we were doing procedures in the simulation lab, learning to ventilate a patient. There wasn't a lot of fluff."

Hill said the hours of practice and repetition in the School of Medicine's clinical training facility gave her a solid foundation for clinical rotations.

"I've talked to other people who don't have the opportunities we get to learn to intubate, to start IVs and do other technical skills," Hill said. "Having played basketball in high school and college, I'm used to practicing and practicing and practicing before the game starts, so the repetition here is really good."

Students also travel to many areas of the country for their clinical rotations. After a month in St. Louis earlier this year, Hill was headed to Albuquerque, New Mexico, for her next rotation.

"I've been to Myrtle Beach. I've been in Wisconsin, in Oklahoma," Hill said. "We go to different hospitals and have so many different experiences. At some hospitals, we'll get more specialty training in areas like cardiac surgery, obstetrics and pediatrics."

All of that now has her on the path to a career she is excited about.

"I feel like I've gotten a great education," Hill said. "Everything I've needed, I've had at UMKC.

Master of Science – Bioinformatics

Qintar adds bioinformatics degree to his research arsenal

As a cardiologist, Mohammed Qintar, M.D., gets at the heart of the matter with his patients.

That, he says, means going beyond treating patients' diseases and assisting them through healing. It requires connecting with them on a more personal level.

"You often have to treat their life as a whole in order to treat their heart disease," Qintar said.

A research fellow in combined cardiovascular outcomes at Saint Luke's Mid America Heart Institute and the UMKC School of Medicine, Qintar focuses on the health status and outcomes of patients with angina and undergoing angioplasty.

Now he is adding another weapon to his research arsenal, a Master of Science in Bioinformatics from the UMKC School in Medicine.

"Cardiology is a data-driven field, and since early in my career, I have been involved in research," Qintar said. "I believe doing research

makes you a better clinician, and you can contribute much more being involved in research."

Qintar began specializing in cardiovascular outcomes after completing his medical degree at Damascus Medical School in Syria.

At the Mid America Heart Institute, Qintar was a finalist in the 2016 Young Investigator Award competition at the American Heart Association meeting on Quality Care Outcomes Research.

"Obtaining a Master of Science in Bioinformatics provides me the right tools to advance my career to the next level. It helps me deeply understand research."

He said the program had helped him develop critical thinking skills in design and methodology necessary to conduct successful, high-level medical research projects.

In particular, he hopes to devise novel strategies and tools to improve the quality of care for patients suffering coronary artery diseases.

"Understanding how to critically design and answer a research question in the best way is very important," he said. "This skill takes time and only comes when you are around top-notch researchers." ■



Mohammed Qintar, M.D., now has a bioinformatics degree, too.

COURTESY SAINT LUKE'S HEALTH SYSTEM



— PROFILES IN — LEADERSHIP

Four alumni of the UMKC School of Medicine—William Cooper, Toi Blakley Harris, Mike Munger and Carl Noback—exemplify the types of leaders the school produces all across the field of medicine.

By Greg Hack

DESIGNED BY VECTOR OPEN STOCK

A heart surgeon and author who has taken his turn serving in war zones.

A child and adolescent psychiatrist and university administrator in the forefront of educating and supporting tomorrow's physicians, allied health care professionals and medical researchers.

A longtime primary care physician at the reins of the top professional group for family medicine.

And an anesthesiologist turned serial entrepreneur who's always looking for the next opportunity to help physicians provide optimal care with maximum efficiency.

All four credit the UMKC School of Medicine for sparking their curiosity, imparting broad medical skills and giving them the values and vision they have needed to both serve and lead as their careers unfolded.

The school's ability to produce leaders was the subject of recent research, in which a survey of alumni identified as holding leadership positions was performed.

Respondents, much like these four doctors, cited the school's encouraging culture and system as one reason for the school's having a disproportionate number of graduates in leadership positions.

According to one author of the study, Jennifer Quaintance, Ph.D., UMKC associate professor of biomedical and health informatics and assistant dean for assessment and quality improvement: "Our alumni consistently spoke about their sense of feeling motivated by their participation in the docent teams and by early and frequent patient care experiences. They were held to high and meaningful standards by their teams and also felt supported and encouraged by them."

Quaintance said many survey respondents gave credit to the School of Medicine's combination of challenge and support for "helping them to obtain exceptional clinical skills which stood out in residency and led them to leadership positions throughout their careers."



COURTESY WELLSTAR HEALTH SYSTEM

William Cooper (right), M.D. '92, has done two Army Reserve tours in war zones.

William Cooper: The courage to lead

Many of the impressive achievements of William Cooper, M.D. '92, came from overcoming what could have been crushing events.

His mother died when he was 14, which spurred him to become a physician.

He lost five brothers and sisters over the years. Their premature deaths moved him to write a very personal book about heart disease and its prevention.

And he saw the horrors of war in Iraq and came home suffering memory loss. The healing process from that trauma also sparked his writing, and on a later tour of duty to Afghanistan he helped compile a trauma registry to aid other combat surgeons.

"So much of life is about facing tragedy, having to get through things no one should have to see," Cooper said. "I've made it through with the three F's—faith, family and friends. I've had help and great mentors."

But Cooper also tells people they have to find their sense of self: "That is the essence that will see them through the worst, and let them be so much

more than they can even imagine."

Cooper said the School of Medicine was a proving ground that helped him find his particular passion in medicine, and that strengthened his leadership abilities.

"That fast-paced, six-year program forced you to mature quickly," Cooper said. "If you had the discipline to do it, you were way ahead of the pack."

Cooper came from a small Missouri Bootheel town, Hayti, where his father and large family got him through his mother's death. He followed a cousin, Ozita Cooper, M.D. '90, to the School of Medicine.

"I learned from so many leaders—including the Sirridges and my docent, Chris Mullen—outstanding people who had a genuine understanding of the importance and the responsibility of taking care of another human being."

Cooper remembers that the way the school was set up gave students a sense of purpose and belonging.

"Sending you to the clinics early, you have to develop some basic leadership skills," he said. "I tell people all the time that UMKC has the best program, hands down, in terms of teaching how to approach a patient and have a

meaningful conversation.”

But Cooper also realized general medicine was not his calling.

“I wanted to be able to take more direct action, to fix things. When I got to my surgery rotation and got to work with Dr. Beaty Pemberton, who was chief of surgery at Truman Medical Center, I knew I had found my niche.”

After graduation, Cooper landed a general surgery residency at Emory and hoped to eventually do cardiac surgery.

“My very first day, I ran into Dr. Robert Guyton, a pioneering heart surgeon. I had on my new short coat; he didn’t even know whether I could tie my shoes. But he introduced himself as the director of cardiac surgery and said I should come by the OR and see what he does.”

That relationship blossomed into a residency and fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery, and an invitation to stay on staff and teach. When Emory wanted to provide heart surgery for the WellStar Health System, the largest not-for-profit health system in Georgia, Cooper and another surgeon were tabbed. When the other surgeon backed out during a long approval process for the program, Cooper was it.

“Emory took a big chance on me,” he said. “Three years after my fellowship, I was appointed to be a medical director. Big risk, bigger reward.”

Cooper, who joined the Army Reserve at age 17, soon had to take another big risk when he was called up on Christmas Day 2003 to Iraq.

Cooper said he came back “not really haunted by memories, but unable to remember. I thought, ‘I can’t be losing my mind here.’”

As part of therapy, he started keeping a journal, writing about memories of his family. A stateside deployment came in 2007, and he eventually felt he had gotten past the trauma.

In 2010 he deployed a third time, to Afghanistan, where he and another surgeon realized the Army had no organized data from operating in battle situations like theirs.

“So we got approval from the Pentagon to build a battlefield trauma

registry. We kept track of our cases, benchmarking how much time procedures took, in situations where every second counts.”

Cooper’s more personal writing project, “Heart Attack: Truth, Tragedy, Triumph,” was published last year. He wanted the book to be “human, not clinical,” so he included stories of how heart disease had affected families, followed by statistics about its widespread and devastating effects, and advice on making preven-

Toi Blakley Harris: Preparing the next leaders

For Toi Blakley Harris, M.D. ’92, a sense of discovery and a quest for lifelong growth have helped make her a leader in medical education.

At Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Harris is the associate provost for diversity and inclusion, and for student services. Harris also is a specialist in child and adolescent psychiatry and continues to lead, develop and implement programs for all students at her



Toi Blakley Harris (third from left), M.D. ’92, with staff and students at Baylor.

tive life changes.

Cooper’s working on another book with a preventive-health theme, “Put Me Out of Business.” And he continues to lead at his WellStar cardiology practice, using what he learned at the School of Medicine.

“So many members of the faculty set the foundation, that leaders have to be disciplined, have to be mature, and have a sense of empathy and selflessness about them. Being in that environment and seeing their examples—I can’t say enough about how important that was to me.”

health sciences university.

“I get to combine my passions for medical education—to help students succeed and find their own particular passions, and to stay curious and flexible,” Harris said. “With science and medicine expanding and changing at such a rapid pace, we also have to equip students to continue learning, to be open to careers they can’t even imagine.”

When Harris was in medical school, she never expected to be a dean, or in a provost’s office. She credits her faith, family, friends and educational roots:

“UMKC really provided the framework and the spirit to encourage us to become leaders. We were given opportunities to lead, from the junior-senior partner teams that we had on our docent units to being with the same group of people over time. You really got a sense of leadership.” An extended network of friends and advisers that started at UMKC also was instrumental, she said.

When she works on outreach and recruitment, Harris remembers what helped draw her to UMKC.

“I was the first physician in my family, but my maternal aunt was a nurse and an adjunct faculty member” at the University of Kansas School of Nursing. “That was particularly impressive, given the time, for an African-American woman in the 1950s.”

But UMKC, rather than KU, ended up

struggles of completing a rigorous academic program and the need to have supports in place to optimize student success.

Those experiences and activities, Harris said, led her to student affairs and diversity work.

She said UMKC’s six-year program encouraged the sort of exploration, flexibility and commitment to continued learning that she thinks is even more important today.

Many specialties were intriguing for Harris during medical school, including pathology and obstetrics and gynecology, but psychiatry grabbed her attention on one of her last core rotations. “I was really drawn to seeing what made each individual different—not just what was involved in their disorder, but also what made them resilient and could be a key to treatment.”

That interest, combined with the B.A./M.D. program’s flexibility, allowed Harris the opportunity to take an elective in child and adolescent psychiatry at Baylor.

Besides establishing practices affiliated with Texas Children’s Hospital and the Harris Health System, Harris participated in research and taught before moving into administration. She recently became a full professor.

“Both environments, UMKC and Baylor, have afforded me the mentorship and opportunity to grow and be challenged throughout my leadership journey.”

Mike Munger: Leading the medical family

Family physicians face many challenges, from coordinating care for thousands of patients to keeping up with technology and avoiding burnout. Rather than being daunted, Mike Munger, M.D. ’83, has become a champion for his field and a leader in helping other doctors.

All physicians are leaders in some way, he says, but those in primary care are increasingly being asked to step to the forefront.

“We have to lead in promoting preventive care and continuity of care,

“I remember my great docents and mentors. ... I was always encouraged to pursue my passion.”

– Toi Blakley Harris

It wasn’t so much what was taught, she explained, but how it was modeled. “I remember my great docents and mentors, including James Walden and Alexander Tal, and I’m still in touch with one, Gladys Zollar-Jones. She was and continues to be a strong student advocate.”

Today, it’s hard to find a better description of Harris’ academic leadership than to say she, too, is “a strong student advocate.” And, she said, it’s easy to see her UMKC roots in what she is doing now.

Since 2011, Harris has overseen ever-expanding duties at Baylor in student services and diversity, first as an assistant dean, then as interim associate dean for the medical school and then as the inaugural associate provost starting in January 2015.

The provost’s office, Harris said, was established to bring together several functions across all four of Baylor’s educational programs: the medical school, allied health sciences, biomedical sciences and the country’s only school of tropical medicine.

attracting Harris.

“We moved to Missouri from Wyandotte County when I was in the 5th grade, and I participated in both Medical Explorers and UMKC’s Summer Scholars program,” which continues today as an outreach to students interested in science and medicine.

At Baylor, Harris now works on similar pipeline programs for K-through-12 students, with such names as Saturday Morning Science and Doctor’s Day Outreach.

She said diversity and inclusion weren’t bywords when she was a student, but they were built into the school’s embrace of all students and their many interests.

“I was always encouraged to pursue my passion. A group of us were interested in the Student National Medical Association, which supports medical students of African descent, and Dr. Reaner Shannon was very supportive of us. We had a banquet and raised money and established a scholarship fund for African-American students.”

She witnessed first-hand the

improving population health, integrating technology and combining efficiency and innovation,” said Munger, the president-elect of the nearly 125,000-member American Academy of Family Physicians.

“I believe family medicine to be the most vital specialty to the overall health of our country.”

Munger has been in family medicine and involved in the family physicians’ organization for 30 years. He traces his love for the field and his commitment to supporting other physicians to his time at the School of Medicine and his residency.

“My docent was Dr. Marjorie Sirridge, who had patients she had cared for over a lifetime in her practice,” Munger said. “And I had a lot of interactions with Dr. Jack Mulligan, who also was a docent at the time. He was a general internist and really talked a lot about the importance of relationships with patients.”

Munger’s residency program, at what then was Baptist Medical Center, was affiliated with UMKC and run by Jack Stelmach, M.D., a past AAFP president.

“Dr. Stelmach was absolutely committed to furthering general practice medicine and thought we all should be, too,” Munger said. “I really took it to heart, through organized family medicine.”

Munger worked his way up in the Missouri family physicians’ organization from 1987 to 2001, and did it again in the Kansas organization after he moved his practice “four miles west, across that pesky state line.”

Munger joined the AAFP’s national board of directors in 2013. He was chosen president-elect last September.

In his new role, Munger keeps in touch with many AAFP chapters and represents the academy in dealings with other medical associations. This coming September, he will become president and “the official voice of the academy.” That includes giving testimony in the House and Senate, talking with the media about policy and providing official responses to other organizations.

The academy is pushing on several fronts to help family physicians, Munger said.

“We are advocating for payment reform, for changes in graduate medical education to increase our workforce, and to decrease the administrative complexity that we face and the forms we drown in daily.”

Family physicians “have always been the ones to provide continuing care, driven by relationships,” Munger said. “The components we’re adding are coordinating care across the entire

give its members tools and resources to increase physician well-being and resilience.

“The relationships and bonds you develop in family medicine are amazing,” Munger said. “It’s something to recognize how much you impact not just patients, but families.”

However, if family medicine is the mainstream of medicine, Munger’s education was anything but mainstream—and he’s grateful for that.

When he started at UMKC in 1977, it was a fairly new school and the com-



Mike Munger, M.D. ’83, was flanked at the 2016 AAFP Congress of Delegates by Cora Christian, M.D., and Lee Carter, M.D., sergeants-at-arms for the convention.

medical neighborhood. We’re going to make sure we’re truly managing a population of patients.”

But do health care compensation codes, which greatly affect physicians’ ultimate income, adequately reflect the range of diagnostic, managerial, educational and relationship-building skills that go into good family medicine?

“Exactly,” Munger said. “That’s why payment reform is one of our top priorities.”

Family medicine also tops the list of specialties for physician burnout, he said. So the academy is working to

bin six-year B.A./M.D. program was unique. Munger said he had always felt that his education, because it was not mainstream, provided a good foundation and different viewpoint.

“My education, which integrated patient care and classic academic learning, was ahead of its time, and I can’t imagine why all medical education isn’t moving in that direction.”

At various events around the country, Munger talks about the benefits of UMKC’s approach.

At a recent workshop on physician burnout, some in attendance told

Munger it could start as early as medical school.

“One resident traced it to her first two years, which were mainly spent in the classroom on basic science, without any practical application to patient care,” Munger said. “She noted studies showing greater resilience if you have clinical training integrated throughout your education.”

That made Munger smile.

“Right from the start, UMKC was looking to the future,” he said.

Carl Noback: On innovation’s leading edge

The career path of Carl Noback, M.D. ’77, has led him from anesthesiology to entrepreneurship. Through it all, he sees a common thread of providing health care in the most efficient ways possible. And he traces it back to his days at UMKC—and even before.

“I was exposed to the development of the academic plan for the School of Medicine from my freshman year in high school,” said Noback, whose father is the school’s founding dean, Richardson Noback.

“I heard my father and colleagues like Homer Wadsworth, Nate Stark, Al Mauro and Vernon Wilson discussing a system focused from the start on the direct learning of skills from direct involvement with patients,” he said. “So I knew UMKC’s program was going to be more effective than sitting in the classroom for two years before getting to see patients.”

Noback today describes his main business as helping medical practices operate more efficiently. “All the principles I’m living right now—efficiency and timely, cost-effective delivery of the best patient care—are a direct result of the UMKC academic plan.”

Noback’s current entrepreneurial streak started almost a decade ago and turned into IPS, or Innovative Practice Strategies, which provides anesthesia services in outpatient settings.

“I was working alongside a national anesthesia staffing company, and some of us were trying to figure out how to efficiently provide anesthesia in

non-traditional settings—in-office surgeries, outpatient settings,” Noback said. “We went from nothing but an idea to providing anesthesia for more than 200,000 patients a year, all in outpatient settings.”

As IPS diversified, Noback met the venture capitalists of Triton Value Partners, for whom he remains a consultant.

“They had a lot of experience developing companies from scratch, getting them capitalized, and applying good business principles, and I had some health care ideas. So, independent of Triton and IPS, we founded Allyne Health.”

Allyne, Noback said, “applies Fortune 500 business principles to health care practices. If an independent practice wants to stay independent, we can help make that happen. We can help with efficiency and cost control, with finding added services to increase revenues, and with succession planning. If a practice wishes to prep for a sale, Allyne will increase the value of the practice for the seller.”

Even before Noback became a leader in practice expansion and management with IPS and Allyne, his career was anything but ordinary.

Noback attended Yale University

before UMKC and did his residency at the Mayo Clinic.

He had academic appointments at Mayo and Emory University and went into private anesthesiology practice for several years, with a subspecialty in pain management. In 1999 he tried his hand at business, opening a forensic medicine firm with an engineer.

“We did accident and injury reconstruction, from the kinematics of the event to research and testimony on what happened to the injured person—‘CSI’ kind of stuff,” he said.

“Then I was recruited to Harbor-UCLA to run the residency and pain management programs at their hospital.”

While at Harbor-UCLA, he also helped out at a clinic in Beverly Hills, work that proved to be an audition of sorts and led to a 2002-2006 stint as one of the four original doctors for the ABC plastic-surgery television show, “Extreme Makeover.”

Today, Noback remains a managing member at IPS, which is based in Florida, and chief medical officer at Allyne, based in Atlanta.

“It’s all about efficiency, and being open to new ideas, new possibilities, and for providing the best care in the best way possible,” Noback said. “We’re

the business doctor for the doctor’s business.”

Noback said the School of Medicine, besides having a curriculum and teaching approach that encouraged innovative thinking, exposed him to “so many classmates who brought different life experiences to medical school.”

He said it was “a monstrous advantage of UMKC, to interact with these very disparate peers and pick their brains. Combine that with the academic plan that integrated the humanities and the immediate experience with patients, and it’s no wonder UMKC has produced so many leaders.” ■



COURTESY CARL NOBACK

Carl Noback, M.D. '77, has started several companies.



HEALING

Yes, doctors still make house calls, and studies indicate their effectiveness in controlling costs for older patients. The School of Medicine offers students and residents a chance to practice the art.

By Greg Hack



G CALLS

Dimitri Golfinopoulos, D.O., calls on Sharon Thomason at her apartment to see how she is doing while recovering from a stroke. Monitoring her coordination and strength, adjusting her medications and making sure she has needed equipment are all part of the visit.

Aron Burke, M.D. '98, goes where most physicians don't—into patients' homes.

For Burke, who practices in Rock Port and Tarkio in northwest Missouri, house calls are just part of being a good small-town doctor.

"I have many patients with limited mobility," Burke said. "If one of them really needs attention, I think it's my obligation to be there for them."

And house calls, though still rare, appear to be making a comeback. More health care professionals are seeing them as cost-control efforts that reduce hospital visits for an aging population.

On the other end of the age spectrum, Burke welcomed a new patient into the world on a recent house call.

"It was a home delivery for a highly educated mother who wanted that," said Burke, the 2013 Missouri Family Physician of the Year. "It was her eighth baby, and I've attended three of her deliveries, one in the hospital and the last two at home."

Burke says he averages just a couple of house calls a month. And in a recent survey by the American Academy of Family Physicians, only 2.4 percent of family doctors said they made at least two house calls a week.

House calls once were common, accounting for 40 percent of doctor visits in 1940. But the post-World War II growth of specialized medicine and large hospitals equipped with expensive technology drove their decline, along with changes in insurance. By 1950, house calls were just 10 percent of doctor visits, a proportion that kept shrinking until it hit just 1 percent in 1980.

Now, as the over-65 population grows and the portability of high-tech medical devices increases, some physicians have been able to build entire practices around making house calls.

One of those is Dimitri Golfinopoulos, D.O., who graduated from the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in 1992 and completed his residency in internal medicine at the UMKC School of Medicine in 1995.

Golfinopoulos—Dr. Golf to his now



Monitoring and adjusting multiple medications is part of Golfinopoulos' house calls, along with checking on patients' diet and sleep.

hundreds of patients—said his practice mainly served geriatric patients, and "I rarely have to send a patient to the hospital."

Someone who lives alone and doesn't have a trusted physician "will call 9-1-1 when there's a crisis and end up in the

"You get to know their children's names, their dogs' names."

– Dimitri Golfinopoulos

emergency room," said Golfinopoulos. "I keep that from happening."

For example, a timely examination—with a chest X-ray if needed—and

antibiotic or other treatment could head off pneumonia for a patient with breathing difficulties.

And technology, whose cost and concentration at hospitals in the past worked against house calls, now is more mobile and available.

"Outside companies can provide whatever's needed—X-rays, ultrasound, EKG, lab testing," Golfinopoulos said. "You can bring an entire doctor's office to a patient's home."

One of his patients, Sharon Thomason, said Golfinopoulos' care and attention had been "amazing" as she recovered from a stroke. On a recent visit, his tests included checking her grip, which indicated she was adding strength on her weaker side. He also checked her medications, made sure she could continue physical therapy, and checked for carpet or furniture that could pose a hazard.

Seeing where and how patients live can be a key to preventive care, house call advocates say. Especially for new patients, Golfinopoulos said, he checks for hazards, as falls are a



severe problem for older patients. He can ensure that obstacles and unsafe features are removed and recommend safety features to be added.

He also said home visits can create trust and give patients a psychological lift.

“You get to know whether anyone visits them or looks in on them, and know their children, their children’s names, their dog’s names,” Golfinopoulos said.

Familiarity and trust can help, too, when cajoling patients to take better care of themselves. One patient, for example, hasn’t been able to quit smoking, but with Golfinopoulos’ encouragement she cut down by half.

On another recent house call, Golfinopoulos had less success in persuading Myrtle Jenkins to use her walker. “I’ll be 94 in September, and I’m getting around fine,” said Jenkins, who riveted B-25 bombers in World War II in the Fairfax district of Kansas City, Kansas. She said she felt recovered from a recent bout of bronchitis, though sometimes her legs swelled a bit.

That house call is a two-fer for Golfinopoulos, since Jenkins’ daughter, Nancy Delgado, has come to live with her mother. Delgado has multiple health problems, and Golfinopoulos spends substantial time checking on her conditions and deciding to change one of her medicines.

“I still drive,” Delgado said, “but it’s great being able to have the doctor come to us.”

Recent research supports Golfinopoulos’ belief that house calls cut costs, especially for patients with more than one chronic illness or disability. The federal Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services last summer found that a demonstration project delivering comprehensive primary care in homes helped keep Medicare recipients “with multiple chronic illnesses or disabilities” out of nursing homes, hospitals and emergency rooms.

According to the centers, people with more than three chronic conditions make up 37 percent of the elderly and disabled who are on Medicare, and they account for almost three-quarters of the program’s spending. One study found that hospitalizations for that population cost \$12,000 on average, supporting Golfinopoulos’ belief that the opportunities for cost savings are substantial.

In one Medicare demonstration project, providing home doctor visits saved an average of \$1,010 per beneficiary. In another study, the savings reached \$4,200 per person.

And 2014 research for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs found that home care for such multiple-illness Medicare recipients could save nearly \$4.8 billion a year.

The need for house calls is likely to grow. Today, one in 20

Americans age 65 and older are homebound. About 46 million Americans are in that age bracket now, and the number is expected to more than double by 2060, to 98 million people.

Medicare reimbursement has improved for home visits, and there’s evidence that house calls have increased. The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services say the number of Medicare Part B reimbursements for house calls increased from 1.5 million in 1995 to 2.1 million in 2005 and about 2.6 million each year from 2011 through 2015.

Such demand has helped Golfinopoulos build his practice.

‘He works long hours’

“We have worked with nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home health agencies; we get referrals,” Golfinopoulos said. “It took time, but we’ve recently added a nurse practitioner and an office assistant. We needed them to help us keep up.”

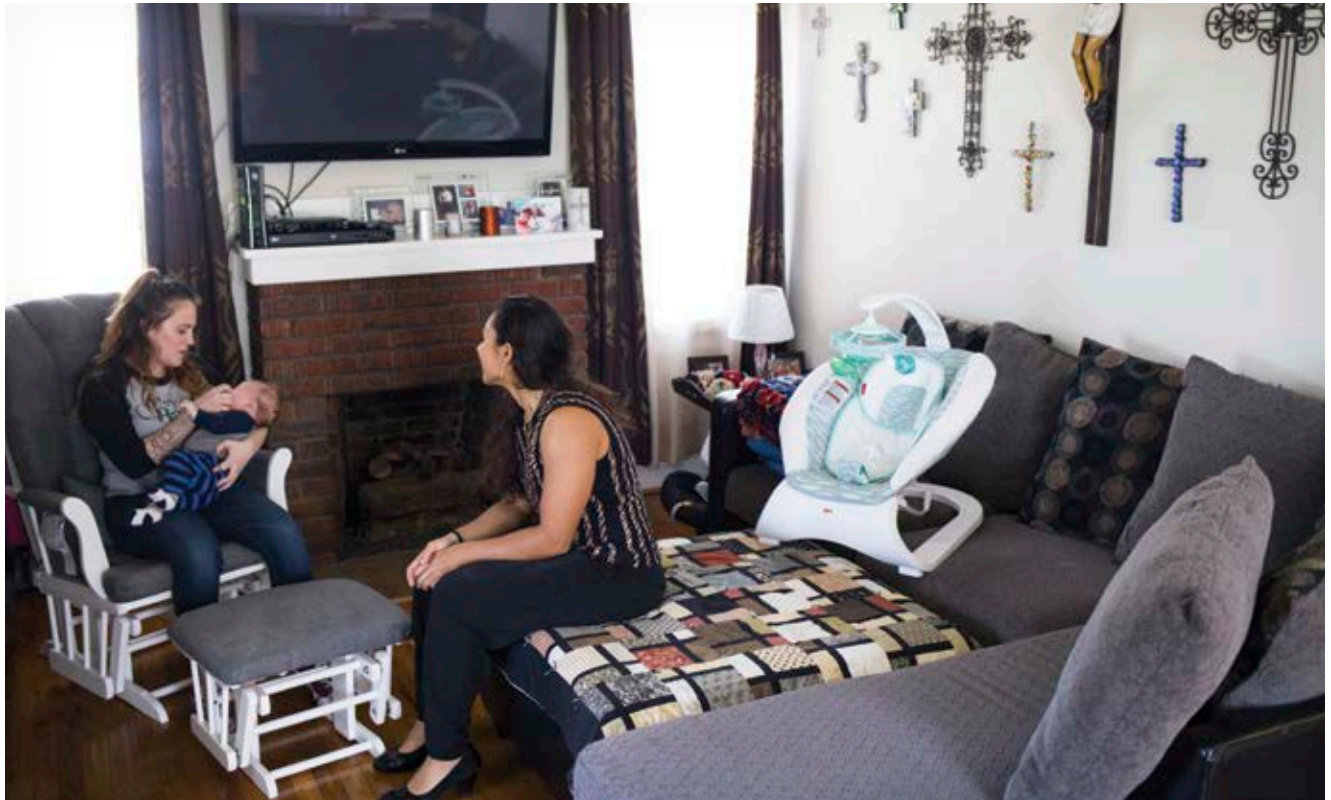
In Golfinopoulos’ practice, the “we” are the doctor and his wife, Dencia, who handles scheduling, finances and other business functions.

“He works long hours,” Mrs. Golfinopoulos said. “We always answer the phone. It has been very gratifying to see the practice grow.”

Golfinopoulos estimates his patient count around 800, nearly all of them on



Taking vitals is routine, but X-rays and other measures requiring sophisticated equipment can be arranged.



Breauna Williams and her son, Easton, got a new rocking chair, along with advice and assurance, from Noushin Ansari, M.D.

Medicare or Medicaid, and some living in subsidized housing. As a result, his practice also involves taking their finances into consideration.

“That’s another part of getting to know them, knowing their financial limits,” he said. With this knowledge, Golfinopoulos can prescribe less expensive generic medicines and, when possible, steer away from more expensive drugs that aren’t covered.

Golfinopoulos was a hospitalist for several years, but he got the idea to make a change on vacation in Arizona, where he noticed some house-call practices. Building family physician relationships again appealed to him, and he felt well grounded in the wide range of skills and procedures a home-care practice would need.

“My residency at UMKC was my fountain of knowledge and medical experience,” Golfinopoulos said. “It involved such great learning and tough, on-call challenges.”

At the School of Medicine, he split time between Truman Medical Center on Hospital Hill and Saint Luke’s

Hospital and “was exposed to a wide variety of difficult cases.”

Though making house calls wasn’t part of the residency back then, Golfinopoulos said that didn’t prove to be a problem because the training gave him all the skills he would need, including interacting well with patients.

Skills for any situation

Current residents in community and family medicine are required to make at least two house calls, one to a geriatric patient and another to a mother the resident saw during her pregnancy. Internal medicine residents also have opportunities to make house calls, though not as often since a federal program ended that financed a variety of expanded residency experiences.

Stephen Griffith, M.D., professor of community and family medicine, said, “We try to equip our residents to treat any patient in any situation, whether that’s the Serengeti in Africa, the ER at Truman, or in their home.”

Year 5 students in the B.A./M.D. program or Year 3 students in the M.D.

program also might make house calls depending on their rotations.

Jacob Rash, a Year 5 student who spent a month with Burke in a rural preceptorship, said he just missed out on attending the recent home birth.

“We were waiting and waiting, but I think her baby came the day after I left,” said Rash, who did get to see some patients where they live. “I accompanied Dr. Burke on several nursing home rounds. Thursday is his ‘day off,’ and he usually visits then.”

Noushin Ansari, M.D. ’15, and Jessica Richter, D.O., are both in the second year of their three-year community and family medicine residencies at UMKC, and both recently made their birth follow-up visits. That included assembling and delivering a glider rocker, provided free through the American Academy of Family Physicians’ national Rocking Chair Program.

Richter joked that she had a “proud moment” when the chair came together and seriously described the visit as a good experience for everyone.

“It could be kind of uncomfortable,

going into someone's house; that's not typical in this era," Richter said. "There was lots to do, observing how mother and baby are doing, how they interact."

Ansari also was happy to get to visit with her patients: Breana Williams and Easton, her thriving 2-month-old.

Ansari and Williams already had built a strong bond during the pregnancy and at Easton's 6-week well-baby visit at Truman Medical Center at Lakewood. The house call gave them even more time to discuss issues.

"Dr. Ansari has been wonderful," Williams said. "She answers all my questions and has helped me be more relaxed and confident."

Easton was pretty relaxed during the home visit, too, rocking to sleep in Williams' new chair.

For Ansari, the home visit and her other residency experiences "bring out the human side of medicine, the compassion and understanding." She also was looking forward to her house call on one of her older patients.

"I think that's the direction geriatric medicine may be going," she said.

That's certainly how it has gone for Golfinopoulos. He can fit anywhere from eight to 16 visits into a day, he said, and the practice can handle even



Breana Williams and Easton were happy to get a house call from UMKC School of Medicine resident Noushin Ansari, M.D. '15.

more with the addition of its nurse practitioner.

Golfinopoulos said having more patients actually can reduce his driving time. He coordinates visits to see more than one patient in a particular neighborhood or apartment complex, or at an assisted living center.

But no matter the travel time, his patients make it more than worthwhile. "My patients are very thankful,"

Golfinopoulos said. "This practice is so rewarding, and seeing people in their homes lets me give very personal care."

That's something Burke also is able to do for his patients in rural northwest Missouri.

"It's important to know your patients, and I try to know all of mine fairly well," he said. "But you do learn even more when you get to see them where they live." ■

New app is always on call

Telemedicine has reached the house-call level in the Kansas City area, thanks to the Saint Luke's Health System, an affiliate teaching hospital of the School of Medicine.

Last year, Saint Luke's launched its 24/7 app, designed for smartphones and tablets, as well as useable on other devices that have a camera. The 24/7 program does not summon a doctor to your door, making its "house calls" more "call" than "house." But it does allow users to see and be seen virtually by a board-certified physician or nurse practitioner.

Through the program, health-care

providers, much like those at an urgent care or pharmacy clinic, treat a long list of typical ailments and symptoms. These can range from allergies to sprains to viruses.

Saint Luke's officials said more than 2,300 people had downloaded and registered for the service. According to the health system, 24/7 is a logical extension of its use of telemedicine and its commitment to provide continuing care in ways best and most effective for patients.

Saint Luke's telemedicine efforts started in 1998. At first, calls were related to serious conditions for which

specialty treatment options were limited, especially for patients in sparsely populated areas.

As technology improved and costs came down, the health system expanded its telemedicine offerings. When Saint Luke's decided to add online appointments for more routine care, several software systems had already been developed. Saint Luke's chose the MDLIVE system for its virtual house calls, and officials said it had been a great partner.

And patients, as they embrace technology, have an on-call partner when they need routine care.

Six promoted in executive changes

IN A ROUND OF CHANGES in School of Medicine administration, Dean Steven L. Kanter announced key appointments and promotions in March.

Paul Cuddy, Pharm.D., M.B.A.
Vice Dean

Nurry Pirani, M.D.
Associate Dean for Curriculum

Stefanie Ellison, M.D.
Associate Dean for Learning Initiatives

Michael Wacker, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Darla McCarthy, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Curriculum

Jennifer Quaintance, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Assessment and Quality Improvement

Cuddy will oversee associate deans for curriculum, learning initiatives, allied health, and assessment and quality improvement, and he will continue as the faculty lead for the coming LCME site visit in April 2018. Before his new appointment, Cuddy served as senior associate dean for academic affairs and as chair of the coordinating committee since 2003. He has been

a member of the UMKC faculty since 1981.

Pirani now serves as the associate dean for curriculum. Pirani joined the faculty in 2011 as a docent, and served as associate program director and chair of the clinical competency committee for the internal medicine residency program. Before her appointment to associate dean, Pirani served as the vice-chair clinician to the Council on Curriculum.

Ellison will now focus on service learning and interprofessional education initiatives at the school. Ellison served as associate dean for curriculum from 2010 to 2017, and she will continue to support two subcommittees preparing for the 2018 LCME accreditation visit. She joined the faculty in 2000.

Wacker, in his new role, will work with Cuddy on key academic affairs and faculty affairs initiatives. Before this appointment, Wacker served as assistant dean for student research. He joined the faculty in the Department of Biomedical Sciences in 2007.

McCarthy will serve as the school representative to UMKC undergraduate degree committees and will serve as a Council on Curriculum liaison to the Year 1-2 advising staff. She will continue to direct the USMLE Step 1 readiness assessment program at the school. McCarthy joined the faculty in 2012 in the Department of Biomedical Sciences.

Quaintance served the past four years as director of the Office of Assessment and Quality Improvement. She will coordinate the efforts of a cadre of staff responsible for implementing and monitoring a series of assessment measurements that the schools' councils will use to monitor the quality of the educational programs. She joined the faculty in 2005.

Students from KC Free Eye Clinic present research

THREE FIFTH-YEAR UMKC School of Medicine student members of the Kansas City Free Eye Clinic represented the organization and presented at the February meeting of the Society for Student Run Free Clinics National Conference in Anaheim, California.

Ravali Gummi, Mrigank Gupta and Ahsan Hussain presented a poster, "Distinctive Demographics of an Inner City Free Eye Clinic," that discussed a research project exploring the effects of the clinic on Kansas City's population. The findings were based on three years of patient data.

"The poster that we presented was unique because it was the only poster that focused on eye care in the underserved population," Gupta said.

Members of the society viewed posters by student organizations from medical schools throughout the country. Participants heard an inspirational talk from Rumi Abdul Cader, M.D., who started a free clinic in Los Angeles while a medical student at the UCLA School of Medicine.

Hussain said, "Students from other free medical clinics would approach our poster and ask us advice on how to provide vision services to their underserved population. They expressed the need for adding vision care to their services and the value that their patients constantly place on it, a value that our members are extremely familiar with."

Gupta also said the knowledge the students gained from the conference would help them improve the efficiency of the Kansas City Free Eye Clinic and its outreach to Kansas City's uninsured population.



Gummi



Gupta



Hussain

Lectures explore issues across health care and medical education

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE'S strong lecture lineup continued in 2017, the second year that several longtime endowed lecture series were augmented by the Dean's Visiting Professor Lecture Series. Topics ranged from right-to-die legal questions and community efforts to combat obesity, to making comic books to address tough medical issues. Here's a recap of some spring-semester presentations.

No laughing matter

At the Penn State College of Medicine, Michael Green, M.D., a physician and bioethicist, uses the medium of comics to help medical students share their experiences of medical school. Green, who is also the vice chair of the Penn State medical school's Department of Humanities, presented the 23rd William T. Sirridge, M.D., Medical Humanities Lecture in March.

Green said comics had gone from being superhero show-cases to mainstream literature addressing almost every topic in society. "So it's not surprising then that there would be some comics that have some relevance to medical education, as well."

Each year, Green offers Graphic Medicine, an Intersection of Comics and Medicine, a seminar-style class in which students are encouraged to create their own comic book to describe their time in medical school. Many of his students' comics describe and depict good experiences, but he added that some address mistreatment of students in medical school. Green said that was an example of how important topics that are difficult to talk about can be brought to the surface using comics.

National problem; community efforts

The 2017 Dr. Reaner and Mr. Henry Shannon Lecture in Minority Health, given by Daphne Bascom, M.D., was filled with compelling statistics and fresh insights into the importance of community health efforts. It also reinforced an old saying: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.



From left, Henry and Dr. Reaner Shannon and Daphne Bascom, M.D., chatted with an audience member after the lecture.



Michael Green, M.D., has med students create comic books.

Bascom, the senior vice president of community integrated health for the Greater Kansas City YMCA, focused her lecture, "Collaborating Across the Continuum to Create a Healthy Community," on efforts to combat obesity.

"The connection between rising rates of obesity and rising medical spending is undeniable," said Bascom, who spoke in February. She also noted that investing just \$10 per person in community efforts to reduce obesity could pay off in an estimated \$16 billion in annual health care savings.

Bascom said that as she looked for broader ways to improve people's health, her focus shifted from her surgical oncology practice. She took a job at Cerner Corp. as chief medical officer and now is at the YMCA, developing and promoting health partnerships and sustainable programs.

Communication key in end-of-life decisions

Laws regarding end-of-life decisions have changed with advancing technology, William Colby, general counsel for Truman Medical Centers, said during the February lecture in the Dean's Visiting Professor Series. But, he said, no law can adequately cover every contingency, so it is important to know what family members want.

Before joining TMC in 2009, Colby served as the family attorney in what became the high profile, right-to-die case of Nancy Cruzan, a rural Missouri woman with no brain function following an automobile accident. Colby talked about the nearly three-year battle the Cruzans waged to remove the feeding tube that kept their daughter alive.

It was the first right-to-die case to reach the U.S. Supreme Court, Colby noted, but it didn't resolve the predicament families and physicians face today deciding if and when to remove life support. "Decision making should not be driven by law, but by what's best for the patient," he said.

Colby, who eventually wrote the book "Long Goodbye: The Deaths of Nancy Cruzan," was a logical attorney choice for the Cruzan family. He had served as a senior fellow with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in Washington, D.C., before joining a large law office in Kansas City in 1985.

Mapping their futures

MARCH 17 WAS a day of great pride and deep emotions. It marked Match Day, when the School of Medicine's soon-to-be M.D.'s learned where they had been accepted for their residencies. Pins on the U.S. map marked their destinations, which included 23 assignments in Missouri, 13 of them in the Kansas City area. Nine of those will be UMKC residencies, and three will be at Children's Mercy, one of the school's partner hospitals. Overall, nearly 40 percent of this year's class matched to a primary care specialty, helping to address the national shortage of general physicians.



ANESTHESIOLOGY

Najid Ali Jackson Memorial Hospital-Miami, FL
Supriya Dasari Loma Linda U.-Loma Linda, CA
Arina Ghosh Jackson Memorial Hospital-Miami, FL
Anthony Philips New York U. School of Medicine-New York, NY
Furqaan Sadiq Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Washington U.-Saint Louis, MO
Danish Zaidi Icahn School of Medicine, Saint Luke's-Roosevelt Hospitals-New York, NY

CHILD NEUROLOGY

Jacob Arends Children's Mercy Kansas City
Rachel Nayak U. of Michigan Hospitals-Ann Arbor, MI

DERMATOLOGY

Vidhi Shah U. of South Florida College of Medicine-Tampa, FL
Reid Waldman U. of Connecticut School of Medicine-Hartford, CN
John Wuennenberg U. of Missouri-Columbia

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

Jordan Davis U.S. Air Force, San Antonio Military Medical Center-San Antonio, TX
Keyur Desai Pennsylvania Hospital-Philadelphia, PA
Tarana Gill Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center-Boston, MA
Saem Haque Loyola U.-Chicago, IL
Solomon Kim U. of Rochester, Strong Memorial Hospital-Rochester, NY
David Skelton UMKC
Kelechi Ukoha Southern Illinois U. School of Medicine-Springfield, IL
Zara Wadood Rhode Island Hospital, Brown U.-Providence, RI

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Jesal Amin UMKC
Sean Joseph Mark UMKC
Payal Patel U. of Illinois College of Medicine-Chicago, IL
Mohammed Moiz Qureshi Pennsylvania State U., Hershey Medical Center-Hershey, PA
Dylan Carter Wyatt New York Methodist Hospital-Brooklyn, NY

FAMILY MEDICINE

David Badami Christus Santa Rosa Health System-San Antonio, TX
Numan Choudhry U. of Texas Southwestern Medical School-Dallas, TX
Mitchell Elting Kootenai Health-Couer d'Alene, ID
Matthew Hendrix UMKC
Isha Jain U. of Illinois College of Medicine-Chicago, IL
Joshua Williams UMKC

GENERAL SURGERY

Kayla Beth Briggs U. of California-Davis Medical Center-Sacramento, CA
Molly Carnahan Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education-Phoenix, AZ
Rafael Lozano Nellis Air Force Base/U. of Nevada-Las Vegas, NV
Kirbi Yelorda Stanford U. Programs-Palo Alto, CA

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Hima Atluri Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Washington U.-St. Louis, MO
Shalini Chaliki U. of Central Florida/GME Consortium-Gainesville, FL
Sonya Chaudhari U. of Miami, JFK Medical Center-Palm Beach, FL
Leena Danawala U. of Arizona College of Medicine, South Campus-Tucson, AZ



Jasleen Ghuman
Kevin Gibas
Ian Greenberg
Jacob Hanin
Eri Elizabeth Joyo
Neil Kapil
Anthony Makovec
Nicholas Monaco
Amit Nanda
Luke Nayak
Nkiru Osude
Michael Pavlisin
Victoria Poplin
Srikanth Reddi
Navya Reddy
Dayne Voelker

Northwestern U., McGaw/NMC/VA-Chicago, IL
 Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center - Boston, MA
 U. of Chicago, NorthShore Health System-Chicago, IL
 Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Washington U.-St. Louis, MO
 U. of Southern California-Los Angeles, CA
 Emory U. School of Medicine-Atlanta, GA
 UMKC
 Coliseum Medical Centers-Macon, GA
 U. of Tennessee College of Medicine-Memphis, TN
 U. of Michigan Hospitals-Ann Arbor, MI
 Loyola U. Medical Center-Chicago, IL
 Naval Medical Center-Portsmouth, VA
 U. of Kansas School of Medicine-Kansas City, KS
 Harbor-UCLA Medical Center-Torrance, CA
 Orlando Health-Orlando, FL
 Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education-Rochester, MN

INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY

Bilal Alam
Ankit Mehta
 Rhode Island Hospital, Brown U.-Providence, RI
 Jackson Memorial Hospital-Miami, FL

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY

Timothy Marc Eastin
 Loma Linda U.-Loma Linda, CA

NEUROLOGY

Anthony Guidos
Brian Miremadi
 Saint Joseph's Hospital-Phoenix, AZ
 Harbor-UCLA Medical Center-Torrance, CA

OBSTETRICS-GYNECOLOGY

Josephine Doo
Alexandra Marie Johnson
Deborah Levy
Paige Martin
Alexis Vollmar
 U. of California-Riverside School of Medicine-Riverside, CA
 Saint Louis University-St. Louis, MO
 U. of Cincinnati Medical Center-Cincinnati, OH
 U. of Minnesota Medical School-Minneapolis, MN
 UMKC

ORAL SURGERY

Patrick Christopher
Matthew Foster
 UMKC
 UMKC

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Amanda Fletcher
Jeffrey Daniel Klott
Corey Wells
 Duke U. Medical Center-Durham, NC
 Indiana U. School of Medicine-Indianapolis, IN
 U. of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Hamot Hospital-Erie, PA

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Chelsea Hamill
Mark Spaw
 Case Western Reserve U.-Cleveland Medical Center-Cleveland, OH
 Tripler Army Medical Center-Honolulu, HI

OTOLARYNGOLOGY/RESEARCH

Nneoma Wamkpah
 Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Washington U.-St. Louis, MO

PATHOLOGY

Ingrid Hsiung
 Rush U. Medical Center-Chicago, IL



PEDIATRICS

Sally Azer
Emily Bonanni
Susamita Kesh
Siri Kommareddy
Simisola Kuye
Nathan LaVoy
Lydia Matthews

Eastern Virginia Medical School-Norfolk, VA
Children's Mercy Kansas City
Children's Mercy Kansas City
Stony Brook Teaching Hospitals-Stony Brook, NY
U. of Alabama Medical Center-Birmingham, AL
U. of Washington Affiliated Hospitals-Seattle, WA
Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine, Cohen Children's Hospital-New Hyde Park, NY
Indiana U. School of Medicine-Indianapolis, IN
Beaumont Health System-Royal Oak, MI
Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Medical Center - Cleveland, OH
Saint Louis University-St. Louis, MO
U. of South Alabama Hospitals-Mobile, AL

Huma Mujadad
Poonan Patel
Amina Qayum

Anchal Sethi
Lauren Thai

PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION

Bob Song Baylor College of Medicine-Houston, TX

PRELIMINARY MEDICINE

Bilal Alam Saint Vincent Hospital-Worcester, MA
Tarana Gill UMKC
Saem Haque U. of Missouri,-Columbia, MO
Solomon Kim UMKC
Ankit Mehta UMKC
Obada Obaisi UMKC
Anthony Philips New York U. School of Medicine-New York, NY
Amit Roy U. of Texas Health Science Center-San Antonio, TX
Vidhi Shah UMKC
Bob Song UMKC
Zara Wadood UMKC

Reid Waldman
John Wuennenberg

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center-Los Angeles, CA
SSM Saint Mary's Hospital-St. Louis, MO

PRELIMINARY SURGERY

Ahmed Ali
Najid Ali
Benjamin Castro
Abhishek Kantamneni

Case Western U., Cleveland Medical Center-Cleveland, OH
UMKC
Orlando Health-Orlando, FL
Vanderbilt U. Medical Center-Nashville, TN

PRIMARY MEDICINE

Sara Yusufaly Alameda Health System, Highland Hospital-Oakland, CA

PSYCHIATRY

Gabrielle Curry
Neha Fatima Husain
Tanvi Kohli

Howard U. Hospital-Washington, D.C.
Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center-Winston-Salem, NC
Rutgers U., Robert Wood Johnson Medical School-New Brunswick, NJ
U. of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix, AZ
U. of Missouri,-Columbia, MO
Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine, Zucker Hillside Hospital-Glen Oaks, NY

Brook Renee Mehregany
Cameron Myers
Kartik Sreepada

RADIATION ONCOLOGY

Comron Hassanzadeh
Amit Roy

Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Washington U.-St. Louis, MO
Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Washington U.-St. Louis, MO

TRANSITIONAL YEAR

Keyur Desai
Comron Hassanzadeh
Nicholas Lawson
Farhan Raza

Hurley Medical Center-Flint, MI
Mercy Hospital-St. Louis, MO
Tripler Army Medical Center-Honolulu, HI
U.S. Air Force, San Antonio Military Medical Center-San Antonio, TX



Building and fostering our unique legacy

AS I COMPLETE MY TENURE as president of the National Board of Alumni & Partners, my message is this: The UMKC School of Medicine has an extraordinary and unique legacy within its alumni, and your continued connection to the school (and to one another) is very important.

The School of Medicine's alumni now number 3,600 as we approach the 46th anniversary of the date the school began educating students to become patient-centered physicians under the vision of its founder, Dr. E. Grey Dimond. In its early years, the school was considered by many to be an experiment in medical education. The breadth of experience and accomplishment of the School of Medicine alumni has proven Dr. Dimond's vision was an innovation upon which the school continues to build.

Two years ago, the alumni and partners board was formed to map a path to expand connections between alumni, the school and its students, while using the considerable support of partners in the community. Our remarkable graduates are a reservoir of experience, expertise, insight and support, bringing tremendous value to the school and its students.

Over the past two years, dedicated alumni and community partners volunteering their services have guided the creation of a web-based Alumni Advisor Program. This initiative enables students to make contact with alumni with experience in line with the students' interests. The board has reviewed strategic plans with the dean and members of the school's leadership team. The board has taken particular interest in the school's community outreach and community health research as a means to give graduates a strong foundation in public health, while building upon the school's bonds with Kansas City. Through the assistant dean for Year 1 and 2 students, the board has tracked the school's programs to enhance support for students in those years, and the board has enjoyed interaction with those students.

I want to thank the alumni serving on the board and all alumni lending support to the School of Medicine. For those of you who have yet to join in, there are many ways to help. If you are reading this and have interest in reconnecting with the school, please make us aware of your interest by getting in touch with Fred Schlichting, the school's director of advancement, at SchlichtingF@umkc.edu.

Thank you for making my time as board president so fruitful and rewarding.

Lt. Gen. Mark Ediger, M.D. '78. M.P.H.
President, National Board of Alumni & Partners

DEAN'S POP QUIZ ANSWER

E) All of the above



A) Karen Remley, M.D. '80



B) Michele Kilo, M.D. '84



C) John Owen, M.D. '81



D) Alexander Norbash, M.D. '86

For the question, see Page 4.

Stay connected!

UMKC Medicine publishes information submitted by alumni, news released by employers of alumni and selected news stories that mention alumni and their affiliation with UMKC. Please send updates to medmagazine@umkc.edu or complete an online form at med.umkc.edu/magazine/submit.

Alumni weekend

A FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS during the April 21-22 alumni weekend provided several opportunities to reminisce and connect. A “Meet & Greet” with Year 1 and 2 students Friday afternoon at the School of Medicine was well-attended, as was the informal mixer that evening at Rockhill Grille. Saturday’s events started with a “Talk, Taste & Tour” at Diastole, sponsored by the Friends group and open to all students, alumni and parents. School of Medicine tours followed. Saturday night, a sold-out reception and dinner at Lidia’s closed out the weekend.



All names are left to right as pictured. 1) Timothy Wilson, M.D. '76, and Janice McGovney, M.D. '77. 2) Marc Taormina, M.D. '76, David Schall, M.D. '77, and Mark Ediger, M.D. '78, the outgoing alumni president. 3) Michael Marks, Denise Zwahlen, M.D. '97, and Priya Krishna, M.D. '97. 4) Members of the Class of 1987. 5) Daphne LeMon, M.D. '97, Meghan Kinealy, M.D. '97, and Sarah Wurster, M.D. '97. 6) Members of the Class of 1992. 7) Sandi Peterson-Cooper and William Cooper, M.D. '92. 8) Lucky Chopra, M.D. '92, Dean Steven L. Kanter, M.D., and Rajeev Mehta, M.D. '92. 9) June Scott, M.D. '92, Melissa Dana, M.D. '92, and Jennifer Horrell-Page, M.D. '92. 10) Andy Zimmerman, M.D. '87, and David Glaser, M.D. '87, at the Diastole event.



Sivaprasad receives Alumni Achievement Award

WHEN SHE LOOKS BACK, Latha Sivaprasad, M.D. '99, says there was no question about becoming a doctor.

"My thoughtful father was a physician and always brought this sort of grand intellectual nobility to the field."

This, Sivaprasad says, is what helped draw her to the profession, naturally and without any reservations. She attended UMKC's six-year B.A./M.D. program and, despite the rigors of the accelerated studies, simultaneously played on the UMKC women's tennis team.

Sivaprasad is the 2017 UMKC School of Medicine Alumni Achievement Award winner, as well as an expert in safety, quality and streamlining health care delivery. Her career has taken her to some of the nation's top hospitals, including Mount Sinai Beth Israel Medical Center in New York City, where she completed the Don Hoskins Fellowship in Quality and Patient Safety.

While serving as medical director for

quality and safety at Beth Israel, she led a team of physician leaders in developing and implementing leading-edge surgical initiatives to increase patient safety from pre-op to post-operative care.

She has received many awards for quality outcomes and, in 2014, was recognized as one of 25 health care leaders under 40 by *Becker's Hospital Review*.

Today, Sivaprasad works as senior vice president and chief medical officer at Rhode Island Hospital/Hasbro Children's Hospital, where she is responsible for graduate medical education, staff affairs and enhancing health care delivery at the hospital. This 750-bed organization has annual operating revenue of \$1 billion.

In addition to her responsibilities at the hospital, Sivaprasad teaches at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. The act of teaching has great meaning for her, she said, and she appreciates the expertise she can draw from several generations in the workforce. In



Latha Sivaprasad, M.D. '99

2012, Sivaprasad was inducted into the UMKC School of Medicine's chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, which recognizes high educational achievement and gifted teaching, while encouraging the development of leaders in academia and the community.

"The sustainability and quality of health care depend on our future physicians," she said.

Class notes

SONYA AHMED, M.D. '03, joined UC San Diego Health as the new chief of the Foot and Ankle Division in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery.

DANIEL F. ALDERMAN, M.D. '83, was welcomed by Rocky Mountain Vein Clinic to its Bozeman, Montana, office. Alderman joins RMVC from Intercity Radiology at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital.

DANIEL GARLOW, M.D. '11, is the new chief of staff at Cloud County (Kansas) Health Center.

PAMELA GRANT, M.D. '89, has joined the staff at Stormont Vail Health in Topeka, Kansas, as a maternal fetal medicine physician.

TIMOTHY HICKMAN, M.D., '80, M.Ed., M.P.H., F.A.A.C., associate teaching professor of biomedical and health

informatics, has been elected president of the board of the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research and chosen to represent the American Academy of Pediatrics on the March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign Collaborative.

REBECCA HIERHOLZER, M.D. '81, M.B.A., F.A.C.E.P., was recognized by Continental Who's Who as a 2016 Woman of the Year for her role as the CEO of COVERSA, the Collection of Victim Evidence Regarding Sexual Assault.

SANJEEV RAVIPUDI, M.D. '95, joined the medical staff of Brownwood (Texas) Regional Medical Center. He was a partner in Missouri Cardiovascular Specialists in Columbia, Missouri.

KRISTEN STRASSER, M.D. '10, has joined the medical team at Hannibal Regional Medical Group. She will be practicing Hematology/Oncology.

KAREN WOODS, M.D. '83, is a gastroenterologist at Houston Methodist Gastro Associates in Texas and the American Society of Gastroenterology Endoscopy president-elect. She specializes in therapeutic endoscopy.

In memoriam

BRIAN T. COLLINS, M.D. '88, an associate professor of pathology and immunology and chief of the cytopathology section at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, died Dec. 23 in Creve Coeur, Missouri.

SANDRA K. WILLISIE, D.O., who served as an assistant dean at the School of Medicine, and as a docent from 1988 until 2000, died March 26. During her career, she also served as executive vice president, dean and provost at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.

Hospital CMO, tech innovator Divya Shroff honored with 2017 Take Wing Award

WHEN WORD REACHED Divya Shroff, M.D., '00, F.H.M., that she had been selected to receive the UMKC School of Medicine E. Grey Dimond, M.D., Take Wing Award, tears filled her eyes.

"I'm not worthy," Shroff said. "That was my first response."

Her colleagues would beg to differ.

Having worked for two of the largest health care systems in the United States, Shroff has grown into a nationally recognized leader in bringing together medicine and technology to improve the quality of patient care.

Today, she is also responsible for the strategic leadership and oversight of a staff of nearly 1,800 physicians and



Shroff and a colleague discuss their work at TriStar Centennial in Nashville.



COURTESY TRISTAR CENTENNIAL MEDICAL CENTER

Divya Shroff, M.D. '00, is known for her work with electronic health record systems.

advanced practitioners as chief medical officer of TriStar Centennial Medical Center, in Nashville, Tennessee. With that comes the duty of maintaining the highest standards of quality and clinical excellence for the flagship hospital of the nation's largest for-profit health care corporation, Hospital Corporation of American (HCA).

It's a goal that Shroff and her team have consistently met since she took on the physician leadership role in 2013. For the past five years, the hospital has earned an A+ rating for quality and safety from the Leapfrog Group, a national non-profit organization that reports on hospital performance.

"It's a very busy clinical facility, and we want to make sure we're meeting the quality standards," Shroff said.

Before her appointment at TriStar Centennial, Shroff joined HCA's clinical services group as chief clinical transformation officer and vice president. The role made her responsible for implementing electronic health records systems throughout the corporation's more than 170 hospitals. Only a small fraction of those were using electronic health records when she arrived. Within a few years, all HCA hospitals across 20 states were on board.

Shroff began building a resume as a physician leader and medical technology innovator at the Veterans Administration in Washington, D.C. She said she honed her skills by knowing and working closely with the folks in the IT department. Developing those relationships

was important, as she played a vital role in projects such as using a Blackberry — before the days of the iPhone — to transmit EKGs to off-site cardiologists, developing an electronic providers hand-off tool, and implementing an interactive bedside TV for patients that communicates with the hospital's electronic medical records system.

She said her time at the UMKC School of Medicine helped her build the skills necessary to be successful.

"I think it's because of the core competencies the school teaches," said Shroff. "We were put in the hospital environment at such a formative point in our careers. It allowed us to look at things innovatively. As a student, you are empowered in a way that many medical schools don't allow."

She said the experience taught young physicians to take ownership of becoming outstanding patient care providers.

"What has allowed me to be successful in my role today is the foundation that I got from the UMKC School of Medicine," Shroff said.

Now, Shroff must share that charge of maintaining the highest quality of patient care with the medical staff of a large, full-service community hospital that is about to embark on a \$120 million expansion. Leaders at TriStar Centennial are also exploring the idea of adding a graduate medical education program.

"We want to be the hospital of choice for Nashville," Shroff said. "I'm honored to be part of that vision."

Expanded role adds opportunities for Wilson



Wilson

JAY WILSON, WHO HAS been director of major gifts for the UMKC School of Medicine, has a new, wider role and title: assistant vice president of health sciences for the UMKC Foundation.

The school isn't losing Wilson, who kept his office and his mandate to manage major gifts to the school, but he now oversees foundation funding for all UMKC Health Sciences schools. And as the UMKC Foundation moves closer to its next capital campaign, a focus on Health Sciences will be a major factor.

Wilson also will be working to secure more research funding, which he said should benefit the school "as research becomes a bigger component of medical education." Wilson noted, for example, that

the school's Department of Ophthalmology has a Vision Research Foundation, for which he is working to obtain "larger grants, contributions and funds for clinical trials and new treatment options."

Wilson, a father of two, is also involved in economic development outside of the UMKC Foundation. He is an elected board member of the North Kansas City School District and serves on the Planned Industrial Expansion Authority Board of Kansas City. He was recently selected as one of *Kansas City Business Journal's* 2016 NextGen Leaders, a group of 25 "up-and-coming, need-to-know" leaders representing both business and the community in Kansas City.

Wilson joined the foundation with 11-plus years of fundraising experience. Before being director of major gifts for the School of Medicine, he worked for institutions of higher education including the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences and Park University.

Recent gifts

RAFAEL M. HERNANDEZ SR., M.D., and his son, Rafael M. Hernandez Jr., M.D., both of Miami, recently made a \$10,000 contribution to the Vision Research Foundation toward purchase of an Optos Camera. The camera, which allows exceptional, ultra-wide imaging of the eye, is benefiting students and residents in the Department of Ophthalmology, as well as patients at its Vision Research Center. Both physicians completed their residencies at the Department of Ophthalmology, in 1972 and 1996, the first father-son team to do so.

JACOB CHEMMALAKUZH, M.D. '98, has contributed \$25,000 for a need-based scholarship fund in his family's name. Chemmalakuzhy is in practice with Dallas Cardiovascular Specialists and involved in the Circulatory Support and Heart Transplant program at Medical City Dallas. He credits his success as a cardiologist to the School of Medicine for a solid clinical education and to his family for unconditional support. He said the scholarship would be for incoming students to help ease their financial burden.

New advancement director's goal? Helping alumni connect

FRED SCHLICHTING, who spent 18 seasons with the UMKC men's soccer team as assistant and then associate coach, has joined the School of Medicine as director of advancement. In his coaching role, he was responsible for coordinating soccer recruiting, events and day-to-day administrative operations — skills that transfer well to his School of Medicine role.

Schlichting, a St. Louis native who played soccer and earned a degree in psychology at Notre Dame, said his move to the School of Medicine was a logical progression: "Soccer is a wonderful community, and I got to know a lot of great people, but I wanted to reach out to even more people in the Kansas City area and at UMKC."

Schlichting hit the ground running, meeting people and learning "how the school works and how I can be of assistance. I'd like to see increased exposure for the School of Medicine in our community and more events for alumni to stay connected. I'd like to highlight more points of pride from which we can tell our story."

Schlichting likes to keep active, running and playing soccer, and said spending time with his wife and two daughters was very important to him.

And he wants alumni to "express their needs and share their ideas, so I can create events and add to our communication in ways that meet those needs." He can be reached at SchlichtingF@umkc.edu.



Fred Schlichting with his family.



The more things change ...

IT'S A MILESTONE YEAR for the members of the Class of 1977, celebrating their 40th anniversary of graduation, and the Class of 1992, celebrating its 25th anniversary. As these 1977 and 1992 photos show, caps and gowns ensure that all graduations look somewhat alike, even as hairstyles, eyewear and other fashions change. But the two classes were quite different in number and composition, reflecting the substantial growth of the school in the 15 years that elapsed, and the shift toward more women at the school. The 1977 class had 35 graduates: 24 men and 11 women. The 1992 class had 93 graduates: 51 men and 42 women.

Good times and good will

The annual Snowball Dance was held March 3 at the Westin Crown Center Hotel. The Medical School Advisory Council was the host for the benefit event, which raised nearly \$3,000 for the school's Sojourner Clinic. Casino Royale was the 2017 theme, and dining and dancing were on the agenda. A chocolate fountain, just one part of the night's food and fun, was enjoyed by Year 2 students Shirene Philipose (left) and Priya Jain (right).

