UNCOVERING THE MYSTERIES OF HIV

RESEARCHERS CONDUCT CLINICAL TRIALS FOR PROMISING NEW TREATMENT
Welcome to the second issue of MU Medicine. I am delighted to share with you the recent accomplishments of our researchers, physicians, students and alumni of the University of Missouri School of Medicine. Our researchers are making great strides in innovative research that will improve patients’ lives. Stefan Sarafianos, PhD, a professor of molecular microbiology and immunology and the Chancellor’s Chair of Excellence in molecular virology, has dedicated more than 20 years of his career to uncovering the mysteries of HIV, and he continues to work toward discovering new treatments.

In October, we announced the newest MU Coulter Translational Partnership Program award recipients. Those research teams of clinicians and engineers received funding to accelerate their successes and take products developed at laboratory benches to patients’ bedside.

The medical school is moving forward and growing from the strength of our programs and applicants. We received 2,167 applications for the class of 2020, marking the highest number ever received by the school. Our incoming class also is among the most diverse, with 28 students self-identifying as an ethnic minority. Additionally, 27 students are from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, 19 are from rural areas and 89 students are from Missouri.

The class-expansion project continues, and construction nears completion on our new medical education building, the Patient-Centered Care Learning Center. We are excited to keep you updated on the progress at medicine.missouri.edu/morephysicians.

It was a pleasure to see so many alumni and friends during Mizzou’s Homecoming and our Physicians Alumni Weekend. I always enjoy reminiscing about the history of the medical school and discussing hopes and dreams for its future. To learn more about events and accomplishments at the MU School of Medicine, visit us online at medicine.missouri.edu, or share your feedback on our Facebook page or other social media sites. I look forward to hearing from you.

Patrick Delafontaine, MD
Hugh E. and Sarah D. Stephenson Dean
University of Missouri School of Medicine
Professor of Medicine and Medical Pharmacology and Physiology

MU Medicine

MISSION STATEMENT
MU Medicine is published twice yearly to share updates that highlight the accomplishments of the MU School of Medicine’s community of researchers, clinicians, students and alumni.

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ON THE COVER:
Professor Stefan Sarafianos, PhD, is developing promising treatments for HIV and other viral diseases while training the next generation of virologists.


INNOVATION

Coulter Translational Partnership Program awards $500,000 in grants to accelerate promising biomedical research innovations into products that improve patient care

MANUFACTURED FORM OF LACTOFERRIN, A NATURALLY OCCURRING PROTEIN IN BREAST MILK, COULD HELP PROTECT PREMATURE INFANTS FROM DEADLY INFECTIONS

ACHIEVEMENT

School of Medicine receives record high 2,167 applications for the Class of 2020, welcomes 104 first-year medical students

MU MEDICAL ALUMNI ORGANIZATION PRESENTS WHITE COATS AND STETHOSCOPES TO FUTURE PHYSICIANS DURING ORIENTATION WEEK

VISION

First graduate of MU’s four-year medical school program commits portion of his estate to fund four new scholarships for students

FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS “TOPPED OFF” THE $42.5 MILLION PATIENT-CENTERED CARE LEARNING CENTER BY SIGNING THE FINAL BEAM

CONNECTIONS

Hundreds gather for 39th Annual Physicians Alumni Weekend, featuring a scientific program, alumni banquet, tailgate, class reunions and more

DAVID BARBE, MD ’80, A FAMILY PHYSICIAN FROM MOUNTAIN GROVE, MISSOURI, IS THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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Uncovering the Mysteries of HIV
Researchers conduct clinical trials for promising new treatment

More than 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV, and, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in eight of them are unaware they have it. Stefan Sarafianos, PhD, professor of molecular microbiology and immunology and the Chancellor’s Chair of Excellence in molecular virology in the University of Missouri School of Medicine, has dedicated more than 20 years of his career in biochemistry to uncovering the mysteries of the virus and discovering possible new treatments.

“Infectious diseases claim the lives of millions every year and are a major health concern,” Sarafianos said. “Moreover, the challenge of drug resistance is an increasing problem that threatens the effectiveness of existing treatments. Our laboratory has been working to meet these challenges.”

Due to mutations in the virus’ genetic structure, different strains of HIV can become resistant to drug treatments and continue to multiply in the body. Sarafianos’ research findings have contributed to the redesign of clinical tools that detect HIV resistance mutations in patients and define the course of therapies.

“Using diverse research tools from the fields of virology, structural biology and biochemistry, we have been working on unraveling mechanisms of virus biology, drug action and drug resistance,” Sarafianos said. “These basic science studies are fundamentally important as prerequisites for the development of novel treatments of serious diseases.”

Early on in his tenure at MU, Sarafianos decided to engage more undergraduate students in his lab’s research. As a result, more than 70 of his undergraduate students have participated in research projects. Some have co-authored scientific publications; some have presented data at local, national and international conferences and related venues; and others have served as co-inventors of patents and invention disclosures.

“A major part of the satisfaction from my job as a researcher and professor is that we have built a lab that not only places strong emphasis on research accomplishments, but also one that is based on a culture of strong diversity.”

—Stefan Sarafianos, PhD, professor of molecular microbiology and immunology and the Chancellor’s Chair of Excellence in molecular virology in the University of Missouri School of Medicine

HIV patients often develop resistance to first-line drug therapies, such as Tenofovir, and are forced to adopt more potent medications. Sarafianos, along with his research colleagues, used a molecule called EFdA to develop compounds that are more potent than Tenofovir. Sarafianos is currently conducting clinical trials with EFdA for the treatment of HIV infection.

“EFdA, the molecule we are studying, is less likely to cause resistance in HIV patients because it is more readily activated and is less quickly broken down compared to existing drugs,” he said.

Other research conducted by the virologist has provided fundamental understanding of how current drug therapies work — and how they fail. Sarafianos said such information helps design better therapeutics that could benefit the lives of many patients.

“Because very often such knowledge is transferable to other diseases, it can also help by preparing us for the next epidemic by unknown pathogens,” Sarafianos said. “For example, based on our previous work, we have been able to quickly obtain leads for potential antiviral strategies against Zika.”

Along with HIV, Sarafianos and his research team study other viral diseases such as Hepatitis B Virus (HBV), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD). Sarafianos recently was awarded $3 million from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop new HBV treatments.

“With more than 240 million people chronically infected by HBV, it is an epidemic of epic proportions,” Sarafianos said. “We are working to develop therapeutic strategies that not only suppress the virus but also have the potential to eradicate Hepatitis B.”

In addition to the $3 million grant, the NIH also recently awarded Sarafianos $1.4 million to advance his research on drug resistance.

TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION

In addition to teaching graduate and undergraduate students, Sarafianos, who has been at MU since 2016, said a considerable part of his activities involve training the next generation of scientists.

“Since joining the School of Medicine, I have mentored more than 20 graduate students and trained more than 10 postdoctoral fellows and research faculty,” he said. “Some of these students have moved on to become professors themselves or research scientists in leading pharmaceutical companies.”

“I use my position as a researcher and professor as an opportunity for people around the world to unite in the fight against HIV/AIDS.”

—Stefan Sarafianos, PhD

Sarafianos currently is collaborating with researchers at the University of Minnesota, Rutgers University, University of Pittsburgh and Karolinska Institutet in Sweden to advance HIV research.

TO LEARN MORE

visit unaids.org/en/
resources/campaigns/
WAD2016.
MU AWARDS $500,000 IN GRANTS TO ACCELERATE BIOMEDICAL DISCOVERIES FROM LAB TO MARKET

The University of Missouri’s Coulter Translational Partnership Program awarded five grants totaling approximately $300,000 on Oct. 11, 2016. The grants are designed to accelerate promising biomedical research innovations into products that can improve patient care.

When the MU Coulter Program began in 2012, the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation agreed to fund it for five years. Although the partnership with the Coulter Foundation will end in mid-2017, MU will extend the program for five more years and provide $800,000 each year, with hopes to raise another $200,000 each year from grants and gifts.

“At MU, we are known for working across disciplines to solve complex problems and to make important discoveries,” said Patrick Delafontaine, MD, Hugh E. and Sarah Stephenson Dean of the MU School of Medicine. “Efforts such as the Coulter program position MU to transform ideas and discoveries into products, services and solutions that can dramatically improve patients’ lives.”

Since its inception, the Coulter program has extended the program for five more years and provided $800,000 each year, with hopes to raise another $200,000 each year from grants and gifts.

“MU is one of only 16 academic institutions in the country and the only university in Missouri offering a Coulter Translational Partnership Program.”

MU commits $4 million over next five years to support biomedical research

RENOWNED CARDIOLOGIST LEADS MEDICINE DEPARTMENT

Edward T.H. Yeh, MD, joined MU in September 2016 as chair of the Department of Medicine. Yeh comes to Missouri from The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he served as a professor and chair of cardiology since 2000.

Focused on understanding the relationship between heart disease and cancer, Yeh serves as the principal investigator on multiple research projects. These include a study on how specific human cells can be used to protect cancer patients from heart diseases caused by the chemotherapy drug doxorubicin. Yeh has received research grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Cancer Prevention Research Institute of Texas and the U.S. Department of Defense.

“Dr. Yeh’s cardio-oncology research represents a new level of personalized care for patients undergoing chemotherapy,” said Patrick Delafontaine, MD, Hugh E. and Sarah D. Stephenson Dean of the MU School of Medicine. “He has made landmark contributions to the fields of science and medicine and is an excellent addition to our leadership team.”

Yeh has written more than 200 scientific papers and book chapters in the fields of cardiology, biochemistry and medicine and has held prominent positions in medical societies including the American Society for Clinical Investigation and the Association of American Physicians. He has served as president of the Houston Cardiology Society, president of the board of the American Heart Association’s Houston Chapter and as a board member of the American Heart Association’s Texas and South Central Affiliate.

MU’s Department of Medicine is the medical school’s largest department, with more than 100 faculty members among 10 divisions:

- cardiovascular medicine
- endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism
- gastroenterology and hepatology
- general internal medicine
- hematology and oncology
- hospital medicine
- immunology and rheumatology
- infectious diseases
- nephrology
- pulmonary, critical care and environmental medicine
EXAMINING THE LINK BETWEEN DIABETES DRUG, VASCULAR PROTECTION

In a study published by Cardiovascular Diabetology in July 2016, researchers found that a diabetes medication offered protection against arterial stiffness in overweight female mice. The finding may have future implications for disease prevention in humans.

“Our current study sought to understand the effects, if any, of the diabetes medication in regard to preventing vascular stiffness,” said Vincent DeMarco, PhD, an associate professor of medicine. “DeMarco’s team observed 34 female mice that were fed either a normal diet or a simulated western diet for four months. Another group of mice were fed a western diet containing a low dose of linagliptin. The team used an ultrasound system designed specifically for mice to evaluate stiffness of the aorta.

“The mice fed a western diet without receiving linagliptin gained weight and developed aortic stiffness,” DeMarco said. “However, a big surprise to us was an almost total prevention of stiffness in the mice that were fed linagliptin, even though this group gained as much weight as the other mice.”

DeMarco cautions that more research is needed to determine if linagliptin could be used as a therapeutic tool in the future to prevent aortic stiffening and the cardiovascular risks associated with obesity and diabetes.

KEEPING AN EYE OUT FOR VACCINE-INDUCED CORNEAL INFLAMMATION

In use for more than 20 years, the varicella zoster virus vaccine for chickenpox and shingles is considered an essential medicine. However, researchers at the MU School of Medicine observed, in rare instances, a link between the vaccine and corneal inflammation.

Mike Sherman, MD, professor emeritus of ophthalmology and director of the Mason Eye Institute, led the study. Sherman and his colleagues examined a large database of corneal infections and found that symptoms of keratitis developed within 24 days of vaccination in adults and within 14 days of vaccination in children.

Using the World Health Organization classification system for adverse drug reactions, the researchers noted a probable relationship between the vaccine and keratitis.

“It’s important to note that keratitis associated with these vaccines is very rare and, by itself, is not a reason to forego vaccination,” said Raul Fraunfelder, MD, associate professor of medicine. “But patients who have a history of keratitis should talk to their primary care physicians before getting vaccinated. If these individuals are vaccinated, they should be closely monitored to ensure they don’t experience corneal inflammation or additional scarring.”

PROTEIN IN BREAST MILK MAY REDUCE PREEMIES’ INFECTION RISK

In a study published by The Journal of Pediatrics in June 2014, researchers found that a manufactured form of lactoferrin, a naturally occurring protein in breast milk, can help protect premature infants from staph infections.

Researchers at the MU School of Medicine contributed to a study that is the first to examine the effectiveness of a manufactured form of lactoferrin. The research, published in the June 2014 issue of the Journal of Pediatrics, found that infants who received lactoferrin had significantly lower rates of staph infections.

Women’s and Children’s Hospital and the University of Southern California Children’s Hospital Los Angeles between July 2009 and January 2012. Infants in the trial weighed between 1 pound, 10 ounces and 3 pounds, 4 ounces at birth.

Sixty of the infants received lactoferrin via a feeding tube twice a day for 28 days to simulate receiving mother’s milk while nursing.

To understand the protein’s role in the development of protective intestinal bacteria, the researchers examined fecal matter of the infants. They found that germicides responsible for the colonization of staph infection were virtually eliminated within the newborns who received lactoferrin.

“These germes are the most common cause of in-hospital bloodstream infections in premature babies, causing up to 50 percent of infections,” Sherman said. “As physicians, we’ve had limited knowledge of how lactoferrin affects the development of protective intestinal bacteria. Our study shows that it can modify germes in the bowel of infants, and those germes can protect premature babies from staph infections.”

Although it is too early to recommend lactoferrin as a standard treatment protocol in NICUs across the country, the researchers say more research could shed light on its role in preventing infections.

The NIH and the Gerber Foundation funded this study, and the authors received an honorarium to serve as members of the Mead Johnson Pediatric Institute Bioactive Expert Panel to write the manuscript.

FRACKING AND FERTILITY

MU researchers contributed to a study that is one of its kind to link exposure to chemicals released during hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” to adverse reproductive and developmental outcomes in mice. Scientists believe exposure to these chemicals could also pose a threat to human development. More than 15 million Americans live within a one-mile radius of unconventional oil and gas operations, which combine directional drilling and fracking to release natural gas from underground rock.

“Researchers have previously found that endocrine-disrupting chemicals mimic or block hormones, the chemical messengers that regulate respiration, reproduction, metabolism, growth and other biological functions,” said Susan Nagel, PhD, an associate professor of obstetrics, gynecology and women’s health and an adjunct associate professor of biological sciences at MU.

“Evidence from this study indicates that developmental exposure to fracking and drilling chemicals may pose a threat to fertility in animals and potentially people. Negative outcomes were observed even in mice exposed to the lowest dose of chemicals, which was lower than the concentrations found in groundwater at some locations with past oil and gas wastewater spills.” Results of the study were published by Endocrinology in July 2016. The research was funded by the University of Missouri Research Council and Mizou Advantage, a crowd-funding campaign on Experiment.com, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s STAR Fellowship Assistance Agreement awarded to Christopher Kassiotis, Ph.D., lead author of the study and postdoctoral associate at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

DEAN’S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Patrick Delaforce, MD, Hugh E. and Sarah D. Stephenson Dean of the MU School of Medicine, discussed the state of the School of Medicine during a presentation to the Dean’s Leadership Council on Friday, Sept. 30. Delaforce outlined the school’s research standing, provided an overview of the incoming class of 2020 and updated attendees on the class-expansion project and global health initiatives. The council, chaired by John Yeast, MD, ’74, also received updates from:

• Jerry Parker, PhD, interim senior associate dean for research
• Kevin Staveley O’Carroll, MD, Hugh E. Stephenson Jr., MD, Chair of Surgery and director of Ellis Fischel Cancer Center
• William Fay, MD, director of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine and J.W. & Lois Winifred Stafford Distinguished Chair in Diabetes and Cardiovascular Research
• Ronald Kortluchis, PhD, George L. and Melna A. Bolm Distinguished Chair in Cardiovascular Health and chair of the Department of Medical Pharmacology and Physiology
• Warren Lockette, MD, senior associate dean for diversity and inclusion and Thomas W. Burns Distinguished Professor in Diabetes

The day concluded with a medical student perspective, which was given by Rebecca Ringling, post sophomore fellow in the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences, and candidate for the Class of 2018.

INNOVATION
Meet the CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE CLASS OF 2020

Average Science GPA: 3.74
(3.81 MEDIAN)
Average Total GPA: 3.79
(3.84 MEDIAN)
Average MCAT Score: 77.8 percentile
(79 PERCENTILE MEDIAN)

104 Students

2,167 Total Applications
370 Interviews scheduled
164 Applicants accepted

CALIFORNIA: 5
ILLINOIS: 4
KANSAS: 2
ARIZONA: 1
DELAWARE: 1
TEXAS: 1
VIRGINIA: 1

AGE RANGE:
21 - 48
51% 49%

Black: 5
Rural: 19
Hispanic: 3

FUTURE PHYSICIANS START MEDICAL JOURNEY

First-year medical students were welcomed to the University of Missouri with two essential accessories: white coats and stethoscopes.

The 104 students in the class of 2020 were presented with their first white coats in front of hundreds of family members and friends at Jesse Hall on July 29.

The MU School of Medicine received a record number of applications for the 2020 class. Eight to 12 of the accepted students will complete their third and fourth years of medical education at the clinical campus in Springfield, Missouri. The medical school will expand its class size each year to 128 students with the completion of the Patient-Centered Care Learning Center in 2017.

Also during Orientation Week, students received stethoscopes at a breakfast hosted by the MU Medical Alumni Organization. A universal symbol of the medical profession, the stethoscope is a tangible representation of a student’s medical education and career. The stethoscope were made possible by support from the new Stethoscope Program, which encourages alumni to share words of wisdom and support to medical students as they start their journey.

TO SUPPORT the School of Medicine visit giving.missouri.edu/som.
When R. Philip Acuff, MD ‘57 completed medical school at the University of Missouri, he left with a wealth of newfound knowledge. The one thing he didn’t take with him? Student debt.

“We made it,” Acuff says of his graduation in 1957. “We didn’t have much, but we didn’t have debt.”

While he was in medical school, Acuff says he and his late wife, Diane, were fortunate to receive a little support each month from their parents. Diane also worked a few jobs, including one at the University Hospital laboratory. And though medical students were not supposed to work, Acuff had a side job he performed each Sunday.

“It was a little surreptitious, but I found work as a chemist at the local sewage disposal plant,” he says. “They needed a chemist to check the oxygen level at the plant.”

Although Acuff didn’t receive any scholarships as a medical student, he knew it was important they were to some of his classmates. Acuff says he also understands why they are increasingly important to each new generation of students. That’s why he recently committed a portion of his estate to fund four scholarships for students at the MU School of Medicine.

“I feel very indebted to the people of the State of Missouri and to the medical school because they gave me the opportunity to practice medicine and enjoy a wonderful way of life,” Acuff says. “It’s a sense of obligation I feel, and Mrs. Acuff felt the same way I do. She enjoyed the fruits of our labor.”

“A COLUMBIA BORN AND RAISED”

Acuff met with current medical students during his visit to the University of Missouri, Columbia, during the College of Medicine’s Alumni Weekend. He asked students about their studies, hometowns and ambitions.

“It was there that he first encountered someone he now calls one of his greatest mentors — the late Hugh E. Stephenson, Jr., MD. “I would join these games, and Dr. Stephenson would make sure that I didn’t get hurt,” Acuff says. “Even though he was 10 years my senior, we became friends.”

Acuff later became a Boy Scout and served as an usher at MU football games. As an undergraduate, he helped staff a first aid station at the games as part of the Red Cross Club.

“My experience with the Tigers goes back to the days of Don Faurot as a coach and Paul Chrystman, who was a quarterback in the ’40s,” Acuff says. “Things have changed, but I still bleed black and gold.”

Acuff has been a football season ticket holder for 49 years.

THE CLASS OF ’57

After graduating from Hickman High School, Acuff completed a bachelor’s degree in chemistry at MU before joining 20 fellow classmates as the first group of students to participate in MU’s new four-year medical school. The group had access to University Hospital, which opened in September 1956, as well as a small group of faculty, many of whom were department chairs.

“It was quite an opportunity for a third-year medical student to be associated with those learned men,” Acuff says. “There was no one between us and the heads of these departments, and that was so unusual. I remember our first day on the new floor of University Hospital. To step on those new woods and begin seeing patients…that was something that the legislators of the state of Missouri understood why they are associated with these learned men.”

Acuff recalls many of the qualities of his own medical school days.

“Study hard, and stick with it,” he says. “It’s a matter of being tough and hardworking, but don’t forget to enjoy it because these are great times.”

Bleeding Black and Gold with Gratitude

First graduate of MU’s four-year medical school program plans gift of scholarships for students

Acuff met with current medical students during his visit to campus for Physicians Alumni Weekend. He asked students about their studies, hometowns and ambitions and shared memories from his time as a medical student.

THE CLASS OF ’57

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WHAT IS A “TOPPING OFF” CEREMONY?

Visit MU Health Care on YouTube to learn about the ceremony which took place.

Young-Walker named associate dean

Laine Young-Walker, MD ’97, has been named associate dean for student programs. Young-Walker was most recently named professor emeritus of obstetrics and gynecology, who served as associate dean for the Springfield clinical campus.

In his new role, Kane leads the integration activities between the medical school’s Columbia and Springfield campuses to achieve the vision of one medical school in multiple locations. He works from Columbia in close partnership with Dr. Andrew Evans, associate dean for the Springfield clinical campus.

This appointment takes advantage of Kane’s record of education leadership, which earned him the 2016 Jane Hickman Teaching Award, the highest recognition of excellence in medical student education at the MU School of Medicine.

Since 1997, Kane has served in teaching roles for the Department of Family and Community Medicine and most recently served as a faculty director of curriculum and evaluation for the school. He will continue to serve as professor of family and community medicine and will continue seeing primary care patients.

Gay formally stepped down on June 30 but continues teaching part time and contributing to medical education as an associate professor emeritus.
Physicians Across Generations Travel to Columbia for 59th Annual Physicians Alumni Weekend

Alumni from more than 20 states traveled “home” to reunite with friends and classmates for the 59th Annual Physicians Alumni Weekend held Oct. 21 to 22 in Columbia. The weekend of events featured the Milton D. Overholser Lecture by Brad Perkins, MD ’85 and Scientific Program lectures from Linda Burns, MD ’81; Jorge Reyno, MD ’91; Alex Garza, MD ’96; James Sowers, MD ’71, Thomas W. and Joan F. Burns Chair in Diabetology; Talissa Altes, MD, radiology department chair and Gwilym S. and Maria Antonia Lodwick Distinguished Professor; and Linda Headrick, MD, senior associate dean for education and Helen Mae Spine Professor in Medicine at the MU School of Medicine.

DAVID BARBE, MD ‘80 CHOSEN AS AMA PRESIDENT-ELECT

Family physician will assume office in June 2017

A graduate of the MU School of Medicine will soon lead the nation’s premier physician organization. On June 14, 2016, physicians gathered in Chicago at the annual meeting of the American Medical Association voted for David Barbe, MD, ‘80, a family physician from Mountain Grove, Missouri, to be the organization’s next president. Barbe will assume office in June 2017.

“It is a tremendous honor and privilege to be elected by my peers to be president-elect of an organization that is dedicated to improving the practice environment for physicians, the education of our medical students and the health of the patients we serve,” Barbe said. “I am eager to continue the strong work of the AMA in shaping America’s health care system to better meet the needs of patients and physicians both now and in the future.”

Barbe was first elected to the AMA Board of Trustees in 2009 and served on numerous AMA committees and task forces. He has extensive experience as a medical society leader, serving as head of the governing board for the Missouri State Medical Association in 2003 and AMSA president in 2001. He was also a longtime member of the AMSA’s legislative committee and a board member of the Missouri Medical Political Action Committee.

Barbe received both his bachelor’s degree with honors in microbiology and his medical degree from MU. He completed a residency in family medicine at the University of Kansas affiliated program (now Via Christi) in Wichita, Kansas, and also received his Master of Health Administration degree from MU.

Barbe has practiced family medicine in his hometown, Mountain Grove, in rural southern Missouri for more than 30 years. After 15 years in independent practice, he merged his medical group with Mercy Clinic of Springfield, Missouri, a 650-physician, multispecialty integrated group. In his current role as vice president of regional operations for Mercy, he is responsible for five hospitals, 90 clinics and more than 200 physicians and advanced practitioners.

Still living and practicing in Mountain Grove, Barbe and his wife, Debbie Barbe, RSN, RN, have two children and six grandchildren.

University of Missouri School of Medicine Alumnus David Barbe, MD, will lead the American Medical Association beginning in June 2017.

“We had to transfer our junior year in 1951. Bob Heyssel, who became president and CEO of Johns Hopkins Hospital was told by the interviewer: ‘you will never make a doctor.’ Bob also received the Citation of Merit Award from the School of Medicine.”

- Max Heeb, MD ‘51
JOHN HUDDSON, MD ’66, retired from internal medicine practice in 2013. He served as medical director of cardiovascular intensive care at Medical Center Naviqent Health in Macon, Georgia. He is professor emeritus of internal medicine at Mercer University School of Medicine in Macon, where he was involved in the planning and development of the school established in 1967. He and his wife, Patricia, live in Gray, Georgia, where she owns a Pilates studio. They have three children and five grandchildren.

- John Hudson, MD ’66

THOMAS HULL, MD ’66, lives in Pismo Beach, California, with his wife, Paula. They have three children and six grandchildren. He retired from practice in 1998.

LAWRENCE LAMPTON, MD ’66, is an internal medicine physician in Columbia, Missouri, and enjoys being active with the Boy Scouts of America as an active commissioner on the Boy Scout Council. He has two children.

MITCH MAGRUDER, MD ’66, is a retired family medicine physician in Nevada, Missouri, where he lives with his wife, Jan.

DANIEL MARTIN, MD ’66, is a professor emeritus of psychiatry at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He retired in 2008. He and his wife, Ruth, a school nurse, have four children and eight grandchildren.

LANA MINNIGERODE, MD ’66, is a retired physical medicine and rehabilitation physician. After retirement in 2005, she moved to Wimberley, Texas, where she enjoys spending time with her five grandchildren and five dogs as well as working in dog rescue. Her husband, Turner, died in March 2015.

L. KENNETH POTTENGER, MD ’66, enjoyed 40 years of radiology practice before retiring in 2014. He and his wife, Jo, live in Joplin, Missouri, and have two children and six grandchildren.

JOHNSON UNDERWOOD III, MD ’66, is a retired general surgeon. He and his wife, Ann, live in Kansas City and have two children and two grandchildren. He enjoys gardening and photography in his free time.

“Best friends Jack Underwood and Bill Clark and Jan Burgess. School was hard, but we did some crazy stuff too!”
- David Van Hook, MD ’66

L. KENNETH POTTENGER, MD ’66, has been consulting in fumus since 2011. In 1972, she built the first outpatient dialysis center in her city and has collaborated on 17 centers since then. After her nephrology career, she built and operated a laser center for 15 years. She has one son and two grandchildren.

“The excitement and anticipation of becoming a physician.”
- Christy Saller, MD ’66

DAVID ROSEN, MD ’70, has published Less Is More, a collection of 10-minute plays. He has authored 15 books and recently edited a volume with Carol Goodman titled Darkness Holding Light: A Collection of Poems. In 2017, he expects Patient-Centered Medicine: A Human Experience to be published by Oxford University Press. A psychiatrist and Jungian analyst, he was a professor of humanities in medicine and psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Texas A&M University from 1986 to 2011.

RICHARD CHAVIS, MD ’71, is a semi-retired ophthalmologist. He and his wife, Jan, live in Boca Raton, Florida, and have three children and 11 grandchildren. He enjoys serving as a volunteer ophthalmologist at Caridad Clinic, an area provider of free medical and dental care to the uninsured and underinsured. He is also an affiliate assistant professor at Florida Atlantic University School of Medicine in Boca Raton.

RUTH MCCLEAIN-JOHNSTONE, MD ’71, is a physician specializing in palliative care and has served as medical director of Old Colony Hospice since 1979. She and her husband, Ian, a retired university professor, live in Canton, Massachusetts. She has enjoyed yearly trips to serve a foundation in Saint Rock, Haiti.

CHRISTY SALLER, MD ’66, has been consulting in fumus since 2011. In 1972, she built the first outpatient dialysis center in her city and has collaborated on 17 centers since then. After her nephrology career, she built and operated a laser center for 15 years. She has one son and two grandchildren.

FRANK KNIGHT, MD ’71, is a radiologist. He and his wife, Sue, a nursery school teacher, live in Signal Mountain, Tennessee, and have two children.

CHARLES SARASOHN, MD ’71, is a neonatologist in Louisville, Kentucky, where he lives with his wife, Stephanie.

RONALD SILVERSTEIN, MD ’71, is a psychiatrist in Long Beach, California. He and his wife, a retail operator, have four children. Their son Evan has earned his doctorate in medical physics.

DAVID SMITH, MD ’71, is a founder of Heart Clinic Arkansas, where he spent 35 years in practice with a group of more than 10 cardiologists. He serves as an ethics consultant and is the founder and director of palliative medicine at Baptist Health in Little Rock. He is also an adjunct professor at Harding University. He founded and is the director of the Haiti Christian Development Project, where he travels several times a year to promote development and frontline health care projects. He and his wife, Linda, have three children and nine grandchildren.

JAMES SOWERS, MD ’71, is Thomas W. and Joan F. Burns Missouri Chair in Dialectology and director of the Center for Diabetes and Cardiovascular Research at the MU School of Medicine. He and his wife, Dilek Sowers, MD, live in Columbia, Missouri, and have three children and one grandchild. They have lived in six states.
DONALD WEHMeyer, MD ’71, is a plastic surgeon specializing in hand surgery in Abilene, Texas. He and his wife, Pat, an office manager, have three children and two grandchildren. He is an avid scuba diver and has traveled the globe for recreational diving. A flying enthusiast, he owns a Cessna 182 aircraft and has logged more than 2,000 hours of flight time.

“[I] will never forget the snowy Saturday, an icy Saturday in Missouri. We had a laboratory where we were going to learn how to put down nasogastric tubes down each other. Due to the snowy, slick conditions living at Woodstock Court and going down the hill to get to the medical school, I was late for class. I walked in and saw my fellow classmates gagging as someone tried to introduce a nasogastric tube into their stomach. I took a look at that and thought, to hell with this and turned around and went home. I’m sure there are other memories but that one does stick out in my mind.”
- Donald Wehmeyer, MD ’71

PETER DALUM, MD ’76, retired from family practice in June 2015. He and his wife, Pat, a retired physical therapist, have two children and five grandchildren. They have enjoyed travels abroad to countries too numerous to list. He has also spent many years involved in a free clinic in Marshfield.

NEAL DAWSON, MD ’76, is a professor of medicine, epidemiology and biostatistics at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and has enjoyed more than 25 years of nationally-funded research. He and his wife, Barbara, have two children and live in Parma Heights, Ohio. He is proud to have been inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame with the 1969 MU Tigers football team.

“I will never forget the snowy Saturday, an icy Saturday in Missouri. We had a laboratory where we were going to learn how to put down nasogastric tubes down each other. Due to the snowy, slick conditions living at Woodstock Court and going down the hill to get to the medical school, I was late for class. I walked in and saw my fellow classmates gagging as someone tried to introduce a nasogastric tube into their stomach. I took a look at that and thought, to hell with this and turned around and went home. I’m sure there are other memories but that one does stick out in my mind.”
- Donald Wehmeyer, MD ’71

DIANA MANCUSO, MD ’76, is a family medicine physician in Dothan, Alabama. She and her husband, Dave Casey, a retired college professor and musician, have two children currently in college. She is a member of a steel drum band and enjoys kayaking and gardening in her free time.

GEORGE PRICA, MD ’76, is a family medicine physician in Columbia, Missouri, and medical director of Columbia Family Medical Group, where he has been for 40 years. He and his wife, Fran, have three daughters and three grandchildren. He enjoys world travel and gardening in his spare time.

“The clinical years were outstanding and prepared me for residency. I still dream about medicine rounds and presenting with Dr. Mengel.”
- George Prica, MD ’76

THOMAS PRENGER, MD ’76, is a family practice physician in Spokane, Washington. He and his wife, Sallye, a librarian, have been married for 43 years and have four children and three grandchildren.

’80s

JOHN HOELSCHER, MD ’81, is an internist specializing in geriatric medicine and medical director of BJC Hospice in Alton, Illinois. His practice is located on the Alton Memorial Hospital campus. He and his wife, Barbara, have three children and one grandchild on the way.

JOYCE LAMMLEIN, MD ’81, is chief of ophthalmology at MedStar Good Samaritan Hospital in Baltimore. She and her spouse, Marla Hollanderworth, live in Phoenix, Maryland, and have one child.

CHRIS BOWE, MD ’81, is an internist and president of the physician group at St. Anthony’s Medical Center in St. Louis. He and his wife, Joan, have four children.

LUCINDA BUESCHER, MD ’86, is a dermatologist in Springfield, Illinois. Since 1994, she has been with Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, where she started a dermatology residency training program. She and her husband, Keith, a clinical psychologist, have three children.

KATHRYN HODGES, MD, ’86, is an ophthalmologist. She and her husband, Michael Head, an accounting professor, live in College Station, Texas.

MARK MENDELSOHN, MD ’86, is a pediatrician. He and his wife, Julie, a nurse, live in Charlottesville, Virginia, and have two children.

“[A] Review and C Review were a blast. The inner tube water polo team we put together for intramurals was great fun, too.”
- Keith Ratcliff, MD ’86
Paul McGowan, MD '06, is a pathologist at a regional reference laboratory who has enjoyed having staff privileges at nearby 20 hospitals. After completing residency at MU, he completed a fellowship in hematology-pathology at The Methodist Hospital/Constell University in Houston. He and his wife, Naomi, live in Columbia, Missouri, and have four children.

Elizabeth Havyer Miller, MD '06, is a dermatologist, and Joel Miller, MD '06, is an emergency medicine physician. They live in Georgetown, Texas, and have two children.

Jacob Spain, MD '06, is an emergency medicine physician who completed residency in emergency medicine at Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where he was also chief resident. He and his wife, Pain, an associate professor, live in Nixa, Missouri, and have one child.

Zach Tebb, MD '06, is an emergency medicine physician. He and his wife, Emily, an interior designer, live in St. Louis and have two children.

Michael Watson, MD, PhD, '06, is a physician specializing in pediatric infectious diseases. After completing a residency in pediatrics at St. Louis Children's Hospital, he remained there to complete a pediatric infectious disease fellowship at Washington University. He and his wife, Anna, a cardiac transplant nurse coordinator, live in Drexel, Michigan, and have twin boys. Aside from research of the pathogenesis of group A streptococcal infection, he has also enjoyed serving as a Cub Scout leader, trail running and hiking.

Kathy Weiss, MD '06, is a neonatologist. After completing a residency in pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine, where she also served as chief resident, she completed a fellowship in perinatal medicine there. She lives in Scottsdale, Arizona.

“Problem based learning, students interested in global health for tomorrow (SIGHT), my family medicine rotation in rural Missouri, the amazing teachers we had in medical school and the amazing doctors I got to know and work with in family medicine (especially Dr. Elizabeth Garrett) and pediatrics.”

- Kathy Weiss, MD '06

’00s

Kelly Barbour, MD ‘01, is a family medicine physician in Seattle. She and her husband, Bill Martin, a firefighter, have two children.

Jerry Bruggeman, MD ‘01, is a family medicine physician specializing in palliative medicine who co-founded Advanced Senior Care, a long-term care practice. He and his wife, Brenda, live in Columbia, Missouri, and have three children.

Mary (Weick) Chitwood, MD ‘01, is a family medicine physician. She and her husband, Bryan, a veterinarian, live in Eureka, Missouri, and have six children.

Laura Hadden, MD ‘01, is a family medicine physician in Burlington, Iowa. She and her husband, Matt, a photographer, have two children.

Eric Deutch, MD ‘06, is an anesthesiologist specializing in cardiac care. He and his wife, Kirsten Maakestad, MD, live in Boise, Idaho.

Jon Haffner, MD ‘06, is a family medicine physician. He and his wife, Serena, a teacher, live in Carthage, Missouri.

Monica Madray, MD ‘06, is a dermatologist specializing in Mohs surgery. She and her husband, Steve, an engineer, live in Georgetown, Texas, and have two children.

Charlisa Allen, MD ‘91, is a psychiatrist in Scottsdale, Arizona, and was named to the 2016 list of Leading Physicians of the World. She is also a medical director at Blue Cross/Blue Shield. She has two children.

William Beaman, MD ‘91, is an internist specializing in hospice and palliative care. He lives in Hazelwood, Missouri, where he is also medical director for Mercy Hospice. He has two children.

Paul Benne, MD ‘94, is a physician specializing in public health. He and his wife, Christine, a dental hygienist, live in Manhattan, Kansas, and have four children. He retired from the U.S. Army in 2015 and enjoyed traveling throughout the United States while on active duty. He is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit and a two-time recipient of the U.S. Army Forces Merritorious Service Medal, among other military honors.

Belinda Fender, MD ‘96, is a pathologist in Columbia, Missouri. She and her husband, Frank Engley, PhD, a retired physical therapist, enjoy hiking on the East and West Coasts. They have five dogs and two cats.

John Hall, MD ‘96, is a psychiatrist. He recently spent six years working in New Zealand, where he became certified in the Maori language. He and his wife, Sandra, a teacher and massage therapist, live in Columbia, Missouri, and have two children and three grandchildren.

Kristen Stuppy, MD ‘96, is a pediatrician in Overland Park, Kansas, where she enjoys being a self-proclaimed “sweetartician” and active on social media. She and her husband, Matthew, an engineer and business owner, have two children.

Stephanie Van Ulft, MD ‘86, is a family medicine physician. She and her husband, Stephen Myerson, live in Burlington, Iowa. She and her husband, Matt, a veterinarian, live in Eureka, Missouri, and have six children.

Sharon Silverman, MD ‘86, is a family medicine physician. She and her husband, Stephen Myerson, live in Reno, Nevada, and have two children. She enjoys skiing, hiking and cycling, which recently brought her to a trail in the Tuscan region of Italy.

Enjoying chocolate chip cookies in the anatomy lab. Learning hands-on diagnosis and treatment of patients from Dr. Brent Parker and Dr. Thomas Burns, two mentors that I treasured.”

- Stephanie Van Ulft, MD ‘86
60th Annual
MEDICAL ALUMNI AWARDS
FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017
Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, Missouri

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