

# University of Missouri School of Medicine **2024-2025 IN REVIEW**



School of Medicine  
University of Missouri

# Show Me **THE NUMBERS**

## Class of 2025 Match Day



**99%**

**MATCH RATE**



**31%**

**WILL STAY ON  
MU CAMPUS**



**46%**

**WILL REMAIN  
IN MISSOURI**

**32%**

**Selected residency  
programs in  
primary care fields**

**25**

**students assigned to  
Springfield Clinical  
Campus**

**111**

**medical students  
graduated at Spring  
2025 Commencement**

## Clinical Excellence



**321,557**

**Total number of  
patients served**



**2,600+**

**Deliveries**



**1,187,704**

**Clinic visits**



**108,393**

**ER and Trauma visits**

### RESEARCH EXPENDITURES



**\$110M**

### STUDENT ENROLLMENT



**501**

**MD**



**77**

**PHD**



**88**

**MS**



**720** **TOTAL  
FACULTY**

**78** **NEW  
FACULTY**

# Research **HIGHLIGHTS**



## **MU Center for Child Well-Being grand opening / grants awarded**

In April 2025, Mizzou launched its new Center for Child Well-Being, dedicated to supporting parents, caregivers, childcare professionals and community organizations in fostering the mental health and well-being of children. Laine Young Walker, MD, chair of the Department of Psychiatry, oversees the center's programs.

With a presence in every Missouri county, the center partners with parents, caregivers, educators and community leaders to provide a healthy and supportive environment for children to thrive.



## **Haval Shirwan, PhD, and Esma Yolcu, PhD, design molecule to help prevent lung cancer**

Researchers at Mizzou's Roy Blunt NextGen Precision Health building, Haval Shirwan, PhD, and Esma Yolcu, PhD, are conducting a study that shows promising results in preventing lung cancer caused by a carcinogen in cigarettes. The duo designed a molecule that has the potential to prevent

lung cancer by triggering and mobilizing the immune system to recognize and target cells in the body that could potentially become cancerous.



## **Zachary Berndsen, PhD, & Mizzou researchers helping lead design of new drugs that target low-density lipoproteins (LDL)**

Zachary Berndsen, PhD, assistant professor of Biochemistry, is among Mizzou researchers who have revealed the specific shape and structure of the protein ApoB100. The protein wraps around low-density lipoproteins (LDL), commonly known as bad

cholesterol, which is a major contributor to heart disease. The discovery may one day lead to the design of new drugs that target LDL.



### **Consuming too much dietary protein can have adverse effects**

Bettina Mittendorfer, PhD, senior associate dean for research at the University of Missouri School of Medicine and director of the NextGen Precision Health Clinical and Translational Science Unit led a research team at the Roy Blunt NextGen Precision Health building that found that consuming protein in excess can cause unintended adverse health effects.



### **Molecular therapeutic reduces arterial stiffness and improves blood vessel function**

Behind a \$3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health, Mizzou researchers Camila Manrique, MD, Luis Martinez-Lemus, DVM, PhD, and Jaume Padilla, PhD, have helped pioneer a molecular therapeutic that reduces arterial stiffness and improves blood vessel function, providing hopeful cures for those suffering from cardiovascular disease.



### **Impact of obstructive sleep apnea on cells that line blood vessels**

Rene Cortese, PhD, was awarded nearly \$3 million from the National Institutes of Health after discovering that treatment may reduce accelerated biological aging in obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) patients. OSA, which affects nearly a billion adults worldwide, is linked to a higher risk of cardiovascular problems, including high blood pressure, heart attack and stroke. Dr. Cortese will further investigate the impact of OSA on cells that line the blood vessels and potential treatments to reverse those impacts.



### **School of Medicine launches Missouri Health journal**

In Spring 2024, the University of Missouri School of Medicine launched Missouri Health, an online, open-access, peer-reviewed journal, featuring published scholarly works from students, residents, fellows and faculty. School of Medicine students will serve on the editing team, while a faculty representative from each department will serve on the editorial review board.

# Faculty ACCOLADES



**Haval Shirwan, PhD**, received The Recognition Award for Outstanding Achievement in Transplantation Science (Basic Science) by The Transplantation Society, the world's premier association for transplantation science. Bestowed only every two years, the honor recognizes his career working toward safe and effective immunomodulation. Dr. Shirwan's resume includes inventing 29 issued and nine pending patents, co-founder of three biotech startups and mentoring more than 70 trainees.



**Donald Burke-Aguero, PhD, and Richard J. Sherwood, PhD**, were two of four Mizzou professors named 2024 American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellows. They were recognized for their distinguished efforts in advancing various fields of science.



**Kathleen Quinn, PhD**, Associate Professor Emeritus, received the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services 2024 Rural Health Champion Award, honoring her decades of commitment in helping establish rural medical education programming statewide.



**Laura Kelley, MD**  
Executive Leadership  
in Academic Medicine  
(ELAM) Fellow



**Laura Hesemann, MD**  
Executive Leadership in  
Health Care (ELH) Fellow



**Rajiv R. Mohan, PhD**  
2025 Mizzou Provost's  
Award for Leadership in  
International Education

## NEW DEPARTMENT CHAIRS



**Randi Foraker, PhD, MA, FAHA,  
FAMIA, FACMI**  
Bioinformatics, Biostatistics and  
Medical Epidemiology



**Haval Shirwan, PhD**  
Molecular Microbiology and  
Immunology

# Award Recipients at 2024 EDUCATION DAY

*At the annual Mizzou School of Medicine Education Day, faculty were recognized for their sustained and outstanding contributions to medical student education.*



**Sarah Swofford, MD**  
Jane Hickman  
Teaching Award



**Amanda Swenson, MD**  
Outstanding Clinical Faculty  
Educator, Pre-Clinical Faculty  
Educator of Columbia



**Ashish Sarangi, MD**  
Clinical Faculty  
Educator of Columbia



**Todd Fristo, MD**  
Outstanding Community  
Faculty Preceptor, Community  
Faculty Educator



**Richard Sherwood, PhD**  
Outstanding Pre-Clerkship  
Faculty Educator

## Alumni **SPOTLIGHTS** Top award winners at 2024 Physicians Alumni Weekend

*Four Mizzou School of Medicine alumni and current medical educators were honored in November 2024 at the annual Physicians Alumni Weekend. Each year, the MU Medical Alumni Organization recognizes alumni for their outstanding achievements, contributions to the field of medicine and support of the School of Medicine.*



**Mary Dohrmann, MD**  
Distinguished  
Service Award



**Anand A. Patel, MD**  
Outstanding Young  
Physician Award



**Barry J. Gainor, MD**  
Honorary Medical  
Alumni Award



**Kristin Sohl, MD**  
Citation of  
Merit Award

# Student **INVOLVEMENT**



## **Two Rural Scholars created project to impact Hannibal, Missouri, community**

The Mizzou School of Medicine's Rural Scholars Program is celebrating their 30th anniversary in 2025. Through the Rural Clerkship and Community Integration Programs, medical students Jessalyn Hultz and John Williams developed a

project to increase CPR/AED education and training for residents in Hannibal, Missouri, following a medical emergency at a local American Legion Post.



## **Medical students gain rural medical experience via Rural Immersion Program**

In June 2024, students across the UM system trekked to Union, Missouri, for the latest Rural Immersion program. Mizzou's Rural Immersion initiative is a collaborative effort between MU

Extension, the School of Medicine and the host city's leadership. The program allows students the opportunity to envision whether living and working in a rural community might be right for them.

## **Medical students earn hands-on experience through Summer Research Fellowship Program**

In Summer 2024, more than 70 medical students participated in the Mizzou School of Medicine Summer Research Fellowship Program, where original student research is supported under direct guidance from School of Medicine faculty members. Students work for 8-10 weeks on-site at the medical school with weekly mentor meetings, workshops and IRB/EHS training.



## Students **LEADING THE WAY**

**Taylor Bosworth and Michaela Thomson** were both tapped into the Rollins Society, joining inductees of Mizzou's six secret honorary societies at 2025 Tap Day.

**Rebecka Ernst** was honored at the 2025 Mizzou 18 Award ceremony, where she was recognized for her world-class research, collaboration with faculty and staff, and her leadership with undergraduate students.

## FROM EVC FOR HEALTH AFFAIRS AND DEAN

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It is my pleasure to share with you highlights from the 2024–2025 academic year at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. Our faculty, students and alumni continued to lead in education, research and clinical service.

Students engaged in impactful programs, from rural immersion experiences to the Summer Research Fellowship. We marked the 30th anniversary of our Rural Scholars Program and launched the Missouri Health journal to showcase scholarly work from our students and faculty.

Our researchers advanced discoveries in cardiovascular health, lung cancer prevention and sleep apnea. We launched the new Center for Child Well-Being, which will serve families across the entire state of Missouri.

Notably, our graduates achieved a 99% match rate, and we are proud nearly half will remain in Missouri.

Together, we are improving the health of Missourians and training the next generation of physicians and scientists.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission to save and improve lives through education, research and exemplary clinical care.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Barohn, MD  
Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs  
Hugh E. and Sarah D. Stephenson Dean