

# Family & Community MEDICINE

Winter 2014

**FOR AS LONG AS HE CAN REMEMBER, JOE BECKMANN** wanted to be a doctor. He began pursuing his medical career as a high school junior in St. Louis, when he took first aid and CPR classes at an adult education center. Then, during the early '80s when he was a pre-med student at Central Methodist College in Fayette (a town of 2,800 located 30 miles northwest of Columbia), he completed training to become an emergency medical technician (EMT).

Joe worked for the Howard County Ambulance District, located in Fayette, through college and medical school. His job as an EMT was a valuable experience and impacted his life in important ways, he says.

"I got to work closely with the family docs from MU's Fayette Clinic – particularly Dr. Roger Hofmeister – whenever I brought patients to Keller Hospital (this Fayette facility closed in '94). They covered the ER back then," Joe says. "As I watched them work and care for patients, it was obvious that they clearly loved their jobs."

His early interactions with MU family physicians guided Joe's decisions to attend medical school at MU as well as to become a family physician and stay at MU for residency training. As a resident, Joe had his continuity clinic at Fayette, and after that, he knew he wanted to practice rural medicine. MU Family Medicine invited Joe to join the faculty and the medical staff at Fayette Clinic when he finished residency in 1991.

"Rural medicine allows you to help a small community in big ways," says Joe. "While practicing in Fayette, I lived there, too. Having opportunities to see folks outside clinic – in church, school, and stores – made being a family physician easier and more rewarding for me."

In 2008, he moved to MU's Smiley Lane Clinic. With his children grown and moved away, Joe wanted to explore practice in a different clinical setting.

Today, Joe and Leissa, his wife of 10 years who is a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, Jefferson City, live in Columbia and have four children. Joe's daughters, Brittany (23) and Sydney (19), live in Georgia. Leissa's son Josh (22) lives in Glasgow, MO, and daughter Kyana (20) lives in Columbia.

## THE BECKMANN BOND

### A DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP THAT'S UNBREAKABLE!

**"I was not about to change horses midstream!" ...**

was Archie Parrish's response when asked about his decision to maintain MU Family Physician Joseph Beckmann as his doctor – even though Dr. Beckmann had left Columbia to join a clinic 125 miles away.

"I've had lots of health issues over the years, and Dr. Beckmann has always done an excellent job at diagnosing my problems – better than any of the specialists I've seen," Archie adds.

Archie and Wilma, his wife of 44 years, have been Dr. Beckmann's patients since they moved to rural mid-Missouri in 1998. Initially they saw him at MU's family medicine clinic in Fayette, and 10 years later, when Dr. Beckmann moved to Columbia to practice at MU's Smiley Lane Clinic, they followed him there.

Archie and Wilma feel connected to Joe Beckmann – as a physician and a friend. That's why in 2011, when he moved to St. Peters, which is a two-hour drive from their home, they wouldn't even consider changing doctors.

"He is very personable. Plus, he's flexible, listens, and knows us so well,"

Archie says.

"Staying with Dr. Beckmann was an easy decision for Wilma and me."

Leaving MU Family Medicine, on the other hand, was a tough decision for Dr. Beckmann. After all, he'd been a faculty member there for 20 years. He'd earned his medical degree and did residency training at MU, too. He liked his colleagues; he liked teaching students and residents, and more than anything else, Dr. Beckmann cared about his patients.

When his father became ill, however, Dr. Beckmann was worried and wanted to be closer to him. He left Columbia in 2011 to take a job at SSM Medical Group in St. Peters, a city just 20 minutes from his dad's home in St. Louis.

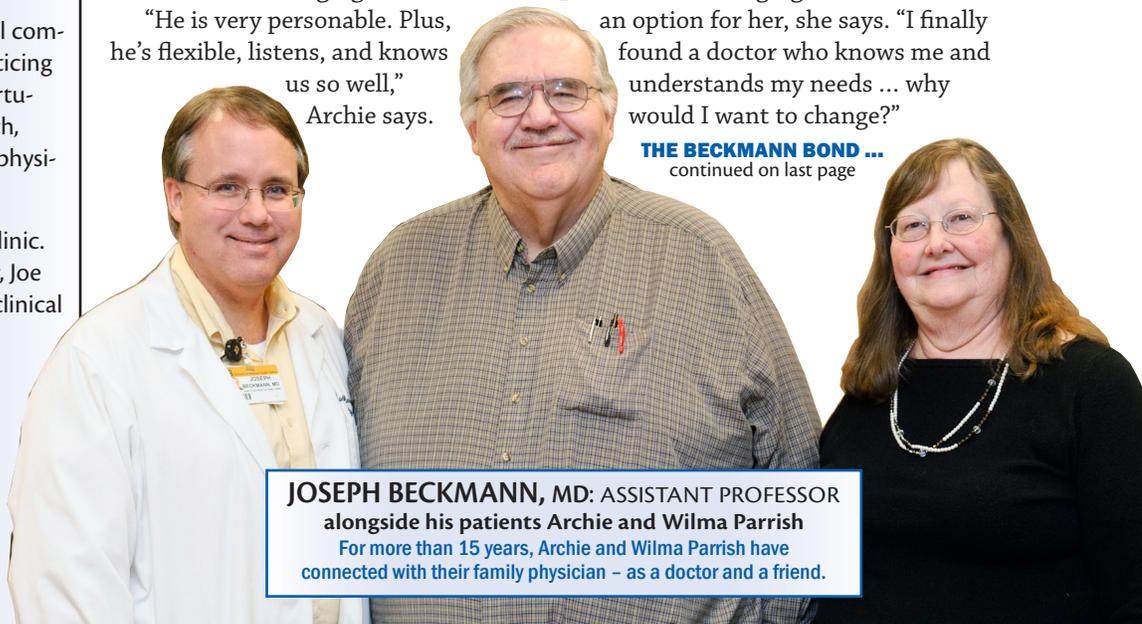
Monique Miller, who lives north of Columbia, also followed Dr. Beckmann to St. Peters. In fact, she was his first patient on his first day at his SSM clinic.

"I'll never forget the surprised look on his face when he walked in the exam room and saw me sitting there. He smiled and gave me a big hug," she says.

Monique began seeing Dr. Beckmann in 2008 at MU's Smiley Lane Clinic.

Since then, changing doctors was never an option for her, she says. "I finally found a doctor who knows me and understands my needs ... why would I want to change?"

**THE BECKMANN BOND ...**  
continued on last page



**JOSEPH BECKMANN, MD: ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**  
alongside his patients Archie and Wilma Parrish  
For more than 15 years, Archie and Wilma Parrish have  
connected with their family physician – as a doctor and a friend.

# CHAIR'S MESSAGE

They say the more things change, the more they stay the same. We are fortunate to welcome back Joe Beckmann and his patients – the Parrish family. While we are living through great transformations in our health system, the things that stay the same are the values we represent. FCM's values include: collaboration, integrity, compassion, humor, and respect for self and others. This touchstone keeps some people here and pulls others back. But we also extend these values through our medical students who have worked with our residents, faculty, and preceptors; through our departing residents who bring these values to their new communities; and through our faculty who develop innovations and scholarship that create changes in the care of patients.

In this newsletter, read about returning former residents Drs. Wisdom-Behounek, Hill, and Bohon; the stories of outstanding preceptors Drs. McDowell and Burdin; what fellowship grad Dr. Lee Chambliss has learned since leaving MU; where David Mehr will lead our new center on patient outcomes research; and how graduating chief resident Emily Doucette will continue to change the world.

We must all change to be more responsive to the needs of our patients and advance the health of the public; we must hold fast to the values that provide us with the perspective to make those changes. To quote E.B. White:

*“I get up every morning determined to both change the world and have one hell of a good time. Sometimes this makes planning my day very difficult.”*

**STEVEN C. ZWEIF, MD, MSPH**  
PAUL REVARE FAMILY ENDOWED  
PROFESSOR AND CHAIR

# FACULTY FOCUS

## CONGRATULATIONS — — —



**KEVIN CRAIG, MD, MSPH**, an assistant professor in our department, was recently presented the **David B. Oliver University of Missouri Family and Community Medicine Faculty Award\*** “for demonstrated excellence in geriatrics and palliative care.”

A graduate of University of Texas-Houston Medical School, Dr. Craig came to MU to enroll in our family medicine residency program. After finishing his training in 2002, he completed fellowships in research and geriatric medicine and then joined our faculty in 2005. Three years later, he moved to Myrtle Beach, SC, to practice outpatient geriatrics at Carolina Forest Senior Health Center. In 2010, he returned to MU Family Medicine.

Today, Dr. Craig has outpatient geriatrics and palliative care practices, does inpatient geriatrics and palliative care consult services, serves as associate director of Hospice Compassus, and teaches geriatric medicine to family medicine residents and fellows. Several months ago, Dr. Craig was appointed director of MU's Palliative Care Program, and in this role, he leads a team of physicians, nurses, and social workers in providing care for terminally ill patients at University Hospital.

\*The **DAVID B. OLIVER MU FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE FACULTY AWARD** is an endowed fund established last year through the generosity of **DAVID OLIVER, PhD** (former assistant director of the MU Interdisciplinary Center on Aging), his wife, **DEBRA PARKER-OLIVER, PhD, MSW** (Family and Community Medicine Professor), and their children.

## WELCOME BACK — — —

**JENNIFER WISDOM-BEHOUNEK, MD**, assistant professor of clinical family and community medicine, joined our faculty last summer. Dr. Wisdom, who earned her medical degree from the University of Illinois, completed family medicine residency at MU in 2009. She practiced at the Women's Wellness Center in Columbia four years before returning to our department. Dr. Wisdom is seeing patients at our Green Meadows Clinic.

Dr. Wisdom and her husband, Josh Behounek, have two children, Rosemary (6) and Sawyer (2). They enjoy traveling and outdoor activities.

**JANA HILL, DO**, assistant professor of clinical family and community medicine, also joined our faculty last summer. Dr. Hill, who earned her doctor of osteopathic medicine from Des Moines University, completed family medicine residency at MU in 2010. She has been practicing at the Women's Wellness Center, along with Dr. Wisdom, for the past three years. Dr. Hill is seeing patients at our Green Meadows Clinic.

Dr. Hill and her husband, Jonathan, who is an anesthesiologist at MU, have two children, Noah (4) and Isaac (2).

**TIFFANY BOHON, MD**, assistant professor of clinical family and community medicine, has a joint appointment with our department and Missouri Sports Medicine, a unit of MU Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Bohon, who earned her medical degree from MU, is a 2012 graduate of our residency program. She completed a one-year primary care sports medicine fellowship at the Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, before returning to MU last summer. As a family physician, Dr. Bohon is seeing patients at our Woodrail Clinic, and she is teaching residents in clinic and on our inpatient service.

An experienced athlete, Dr. Bohon enjoys swimming and cycling in her free time.



MIZZOU Alumni Association presented 2013 Faculty-Alumni Awards to two faculty members:



**STEVEN ZWEIF, MD, MSPH (LEFT)**

Paul Revare Family Endowed Professor and Chair  
Department of Family and Community Medicine  
Director, MU Interdisciplinary Center on Aging



**MICHAEL LEFEVRE, MD, MSPH (RIGHT)**

Future of Family Medicine Professor and  
Vice Chair and Director of Clinical Services  
Department of Family and Community Medicine

# Practicing & Precepting Family Medicine in Macon, MO

**JAMES McDOWELL, MD**, an MU School of Medicine graduate, completed residency at UMKC in 1994. He practiced at Audrain Medical Center four years, then, in 1998, BJC recruited him to practice at its Macon clinic.

**JULIE BURDIN, MD**, also an MU School of Medicine graduate, joined Dr. McDowell at BJC's Macon clinic in 2002 after completing her family medicine residency at Mizzou.

In 2003, when BJC decided to close its Macon clinic, Dr. McDowell and Dr. Burdin were determined not to leave the town or their patients. Together they rallied with Samaritan Hospital (Macon's 25-bed hospital) to build a rural health care clinic in the town. Today their clinic, Total Family Healthcare, serves Macon and nearby communities, and it staffs eight providers (six physicians, two nurse practitioners). In addition to patient care, Dr. McDowell and Dr. Burdin teach MU medical students. Both earn strong words of praise for their efforts as teachers and physicians from the students they mentor:

**“DR. McDOWELL was incredibly approachable and ensured that I observed the wide breadth of his practice: from clinic visits, to his work at nursing homes, to home hospice visits. I really appreciated getting to see and experience life as a small town family doctor. And every day, Dr. McDowell took time to discuss issues, such as insurance and Medicare requirements, that made some of the day's cases more challenging. He also helped me understand the complications of managing care for patients with multiple illnesses.”**

**“DR. BURDIN has been the most effective educator in my career. She allowed me to participate at an appropriate level with the care she provided patients of all ages, from babies to the elderly. Because of my experience with her, I feel more confident about my patient care skills. Dr. Burdin wants her patients to learn, too. I saw her teach relevant points while explaining diseases/treatments to them. She clearly puts her patients first, and that set a very good example and goal for me as a future physician.”**



## Why Macon?

**McDowell:** I'm a country boy. I grew up on a farm and always wanted to live and work in a rural area. Macon is a terrific place to raise a family. People here like each other and work together like a team; that's why we were able to build a clinic here 10 years ago.

**Burdin:** I moonlighted in Macon as a resident so I was familiar with and liked the town. I had always planned to practice in a rural community close to my family (in Wellsville, MO) ... that had a hospital, clinic, and nursing home. Macon was a perfect fit for me.

## How would you describe your practice?

**McDowell:** I practice full scope family medicine and see patients all ages. In addition, I earned my CAQ in hospice and palliative care a few years ago, after realizing that I was ill equipped to care for patients who needed help with end of life decisions.

**Burdin:** Like Dr. McDowell, I provide care to my patients through the full spectrum of life ... from prenatal to geriatric care. We see patients at clinic, in Samaritan Hospital, and at nursing homes.

## When/why did you begin precepting?

**McDowell:** Growing up, I wanted to be a vet like my dad. When I was a junior at MU, I earned early admittance into vet school, but before accepting that spot, I spent a summer shadowing a family physician. My experience with this physician was important and influenced my decision to become a doctor. I precept so I can give medical students an experience similar to the one I had in college.

**Burdin:** I never considered not precepting students. I had terrific offsite learning experiences while at MU and wanted to provide these same opportunities to others.

## What makes you want to teach?

**McDowell:** Students make us better. As busy physicians, we tend to get in a groove, focused on paperwork and other mundane stuff. It's easy to lose sight of the interesting questions; students are here to ask them and get us motivated to find the answers.

**Burdin:** Teaching is a critical part of my job as I provide patient education every day; student education is a privilege I enjoy four

months of the year. As a rural preceptor, I'm able to form meaningful relationships with students, which allows me to challenge and encourage them. My patients are exceptionally supportive of student education as well and enjoy their role as teacher.

## What's the most rewarding part of your job?

**McDowell:** I consider it a privilege to take care of people and families through all stages of life. And now that I have hospice training, I am able to make sure people have a good death ... everyone deserves a good death.

**Burdin:** It's difficult to decide what's most rewarding. I celebrate life-changing victories with my patients – like smoking or alcohol cessation, dramatic weight loss, or successful pregnancy when it seemed unlikely. It's a privilege to stand and grieve with families as a patient leaves this world and moves on to the next. It's gratifying to make a difficult diagnosis and initiate appropriate therapy.

## What's the most challenging part?

**McDowell:** It feels like meeting documentation standards and figuring out new software is leaving us less time for the human part of our job as physicians. The EMR may be improving communications with patients, but learning to use it can be time-consuming.

**Burdin:** It can be extremely challenging to deliver compassionate, thorough care within the short appointment time we're given and to care for the acutely ill in the midst of a very busy schedule.

## Family/hobbies?

**McDowell:** My first wife passed away two years ago, after a nine-year battle with breast cancer. We have two children, Sam, who attends Western Illinois University, and Emma, a student at Missouri State University. Last year, I married Marie Hockman-McDowell, a family nurse practitioner at our clinic who is also a widow. Marie has three children, Kerry (23) and twin boys, Josh and Jacob (19). Marie and I live on a small farm where we raise cross-bred goats.

**Burdin:** Scott and I have been married for 18 years and have three children – Lauren (9), Lindsay (7), and Evan (3) – who keep us joyously busy. We are active in our church and community.

# A DEDICATED DR. DOUCETTE

IS DRIVEN BY

**“A BIG HEART AND EXTRAORDINARY MIND”**

**DR. EMILY DOUCETTE** was a vocal music major when she started Truman State University, Kirksville, MO, in 2003. “I was quite into singing, acting, and musical theater as a child and a teenager,” says Emily, now a third year Family Medicine Resident at MU.

But even though she enrolled at Truman to study music, Emily also wanted a solid liberal arts education. After her freshman year, she met a group of physicians from Kansas City who for years had been doing medical work in Haiti. They were in the process of opening Maison de Naissance, a sustainable maternal and pediatric care clinic in Haiti, and asked her to help.

“I spent a few summers in Haiti working at the clinic and doing research. My time there was life changing,” Emily says. “In Haiti, I saw firsthand the challenges and rewards of providing health care to an underserved community. Because of this experience, I decided that the way I could be of greatest service to others was to become a primary care physician. I returned to Truman focused on science courses so I could get into medical school.”

Emily applied to a number of medical schools but chose Mizzou because she liked its PBL curriculum. While interviewing, she realized that MU, unlike other schools in the state, did not have a student-run free clinic for uninsured patients. Emily, who since returning from Haiti had become deeply connected and committed to underserved populations, began medical school in 2007 with a mission: to establish a student-run free clinic at MU.

In spite of the barriers she faced, Emily was able to gather support from a group of hard-working classmates, and together they conducted a needs assessment survey, wrote a grant, and obtained liability coverage. In just one year, her mission was accomplished. MedZou, a clinic staffed by MU medical students and physician volunteers, opened its doors in 2008.

“The amount of effort needed to establish this free clinic cannot be overstated,” says MU Family Medicine Associate Professor Erik Lindbloom, MD, MSPH, who is one of three faculty advisors for the clinic. “Without Emily’s leadership, the clinic would have never opened. She dedicated hundreds of hours to this cause and still managed to excel in her coursework and earn membership in Alpha

Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society.”

Emily values the time she dedicated to establishing MedZou and credits the family physicians who worked there as being key to the clinic’s early growth and success.

“Initially when we opened MedZou, our advisors and physician volunteers were exclusively family physicians,” says Emily, who was co-founder and first student medical director of the clinic.

“I was inspired by these physicians and the compassion they demonstrated as doctors and teachers. Working alongside them made it clear to me that family medicine, more than any other specialty, was aligned with my core values.”

“Once I knew that being a family physician was my calling, it was obvious to me that I should stay at Mizzou for residency,” Emily continues. “MU has a rigorous curriculum and strong faculty. Plus, MU’s residency offered me an opportunity to practice at the Family Health Center (FHC), and having my first continuity clinic at a federally qualified health center was important to me.”

Today, after three years of practice at FHC, a clinic that serves uninsured families in mid-Missouri, Emily has proven to be a favorite provider among patients, faculty, and staff.

“Emily sees some of our most challenging patients at Family Health Center, and the care she provides is evidence based and delivered with positivity and enthusiasm. Her medical knowledge is outstanding,” says Dr. Erika Ringdahl, director of MU’s Family Medicine Residency. “The attendings at FHC breathe a sigh of relief when she is scheduled in clinic because, quite frankly, they know they won’t have to work as hard that day. Emily is always thorough and practices cost-effective and appropriate medicine.”

In addition to her practice at Family Health Center, Emily continues to volunteer at MedZou and recently helped develop opportunities for family medicine residents to serve MU’s student-run clinic as part of the program’s community medicine rotation.

Throughout residency, Emily has committed herself wholeheartedly to family medicine. She is respected and held in high regard by her peers and faculty members from all departments in the medical school. In fact, she was one of ten residents selected nationwide to receive the 2013 American Academy of Family Physicians Bristol-Myers Squibb Award for Excellence in Education. Emily’s leadership, patient care skills, social awareness, and passion to serve – especially medically underserved populations – made her the clear choice for MU’s nominating committee.

“I have known many people with big hearts and many people with extraordinary minds. However, I’ve known far fewer people with

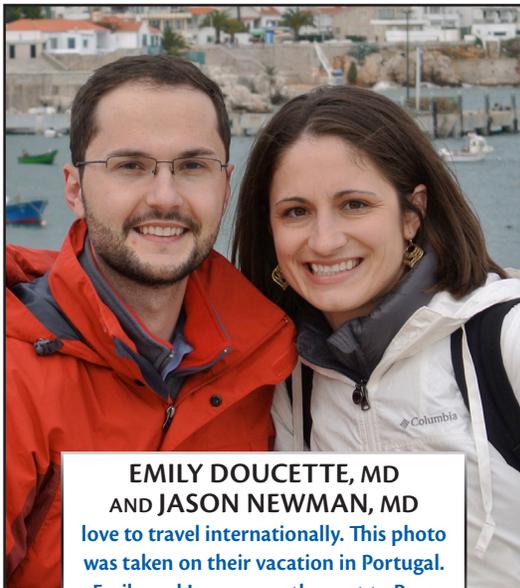
both and very few people who can stay focused on their goal and effectively communicate their vision to others,” says Dr. Lindbloom. “Emily is that type of born leader ... and she’s just getting started.”

With graduation only months away, Emily looks with excitement to the future and her career as a family physician.

“My fiancée Jason is an ophthalmology resident at St. Louis University. After graduation, I intend to move to St. Louis and dedicate my practice to working with the urban underserved, almost certainly in a federally qualified health center,” she says. “As my career develops, I will remain open to new experiences and learning, but I can’t imagine that anything will fundamentally alter my commitment to improving health outcomes for the medically underserved – they deserve nothing less.”

**“My experiences with underserved patients both locally and abroad have strengthened my resolve to make it my life’s work to be an advocate of health care for all. It is my generation that needs to solve the problems of extreme poverty and the global health crisis that confronts over a billion people. I look forward to the challenge with optimism and determination.”**

— EMILY DOUCETTE, MD  
THIRD YEAR FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENT



**EMILY DOUCETTE, MD  
AND JASON NEWMAN, MD**  
love to travel internationally. This photo was taken on their vacation in Portugal. Emily and Jason recently went to Peru where they got engaged at Machu Picchu.



## M. LEE CHAMBLISS, MD, MSPH

completed a two-year academic fellowship at MU Family and Community Medicine in 1995. After that he joined Cone Health Family Medicine Residency in Greensboro, NC, and the faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill Family Medicine.



**DR. CHAMBLISS** was a family medicine resident at St. Margaret’s Memorial Hospital in Pittsburgh when he met his wife, Carey Westermann, a resident in the class behind him.

“While waiting for her to graduate, I did ER work,” Dr. Chambliss says. “After that, we wanted to explore different areas of the world and types of practice. First, Carey and I traveled abroad to provide care for the people in Papua New Guinea. Then we did locum tenens across the US before settling in Columbia, MO, to begin my fellowship and start our family.”

Dr. Carey Westermann practiced at a family medicine group in Columbia while Dr. Chambliss did his fellowship. Today she works for Eagle Physicians, a multispecialty group near their home in Greensboro, NC.

### Dr. Chambliss shares his thoughts about his 18 years in academic medicine:

#### ACADEMIC MEDICINE ... WHY?

“Both my parents are teachers, and I have always enjoyed telling others what to do. I see teaching as a method of impacting the health of patients both personally and through the doctors I help train. The variety and stimulation of working with excited young physicians is wonderful.”

#### MY JOB

“Currently I’m director of our Family Medicine Center, the clinical practice site for the Cone Health Residency Program. We have gone through two EMR implementations and a Patient Centered Medical Home certification and recertification in the last four years. These changes were major and have fostered a great deal of practice redesign.

I’m also involved in several projects within our UNC statewide department. Locally I serve on the board of directors/visitors of a community care network and the UNC-Greensboro School of Health and Human Services.

I continue to be active precepting, attending on our inpatient service, and advising residents.”

#### MY INTERESTS

“Technology and health care delivery; team care; disaster relief.”

#### THE JOYS

“Things I treasure about my job are interacting with excited, committed, eager, young physicians; my seasoned wise comrades; and my long term patients. Additionally I feel fortunate to work in a place that allows us to dream about improvements and changes and then affords us opportunities to implement our dreams.”

#### THE CHALLENGES

“Not becoming too cynical and discouraged about our systems of care is a challenge for me. I have to fight my instinct to see the glass as half empty.”

#### WHAT MAKES ME PROUD

“I’ve had the privilege to develop and implement important innovations in patient care ... starting with the ER.”

#### MY HOPES

“I’m excited about the idea of developing new roles for primary care physicians ... particularly as supra-physicians who follow and advise but do not necessarily directly deliver care for patients throughout their health care experiences.”

#### MY FUTURE

“In April I will be starting a self-funded, intermittent, open-ended sabbatical.

I will cycle working for two months at our residency and then spend two months in other pursuits. I will use my first two off-months trying to decide what these pursuits should be. More than likely they will include travel for pleasure, maybe some disaster work, and international medicine. I’ll be doing things that have been on my to-do list for a long time – like research and writing.”

#### FAMILY/HOBBIES

“Our two sons are launched, not necessarily in smooth straight trajectories, but at least they’re now out of the house. Carey and I travel for fun and to provide medical services to places in need. We also enjoy canoeing and backpacking. Alone I like to tinker, chainsaw, and tree climb.”

#### MU FAMILY MEDICINE CHAIR DR. STEVEN ZWEIG ASKED:

**“Dr. Chambliss, How did your fellowship prepare you to be an academic physician? What are the skills needed now for new faculty?”**

“My fellowship gave me time and opportunities to develop teaching and research skills. This dedicated protected time made it much easier for me to be successful compared to others who have to learn these skills *on the fly* while serving as full-time faculty. MU offered me resources and mentors in an environment that was

comfortable and nurturing.

I believe new faculty need to be technologically savvy and innovative. Health care reform and the ability to care for patients remotely should create many opportunities to expand and refine primary care,” **answered MU FELLOWSHIP ALUM DR. LEE CHAMBLISS.**

## THE PASSING OF THREE EARLY MU FAMILY MEDICINE FACULTY MEMBERS

**SANDY CAVENAGH, MBE, MB Bch, FRCGP**, 83, of Brecon, South Wales, UK, passed away in January 2014. Dr. Cavenagh joined the faculty at MU Family Medicine in 1979. A year later, he returned to Brecon and practiced family medicine – and served as a preceptor for MU medical students – until he retired in the early '90s.



PHOTO: This is an oil painting of the countryside near Dr. Cavenagh's home in Brecon, South Wales. Dr. Cavenagh painted this wall-size artwork for our department 15 years ago. Since then, it has been proudly displayed in the medical student education office of MU Family Medicine.

**DONALD J. ALLCORN, MD**, 79, passed away in January 2014. Dr. Allcorn, born in Sedalia, MO, earned his medical degree from MU in 1966. After that he served in the USPHS on a Navajo Reservation in Crown Point, NM; then he did private practice in Flint, MI. Dr. Allcorn, who was also an ordained Baptist minister, returned to Missouri in 1972 and joined the faculty at MU's medical school. He served on the committee formed to study the mission and role of our department, called Community Health and Medical Practice (CHAMP) back in the early '70s. Years later, he moved to Sedalia to practice family medicine. One of his sons, Donald K. Allcorn, is a family physician and practices in Lincoln, MO.



**JAMES IRVIN, PhD**, 75, passed away in November 2013. Dr. Irvin, who earned his doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Missouri in 1970, held several positions at MU, including director of counseling services. During the early '70s, Dr. Irvin served as associate chair under A. Sherwood Baker, MD – considered by many to be the father of family medicine at MU – back when our department was called Community Health and Medical Practice (CHAMP).

## 2013 FAMILY OF DONORS

We have 475 individuals in our *Family of Donors*, which includes faculty, staff, residency and fellowship alumni, preceptors, and friends. Listed below are donors who sent gifts in 2013. Thanks to all!

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## OUR FIRST GERALD T. PERKOFF LECTURER

**ROBERT L. PHILLIPS JR, MD, MSPH** has accepted our invitation to speak at the first annual **Gerald T. Perkoff, MD, Lectureship**, to be held April 2 at the MU School of Medicine. Dr. Phillips, a 1998 MU Family Medicine Residency graduate, completed an academic fellowship here in 2000. A national leader in primary care policy research, Dr. Phillips currently serves as Vice President for Research and Policy, American Board of Family Medicine. Before this role, he directed The Robert Graham Center: Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care from 2004-12. In 2010, Dr. Phillips earned the distinguished honor of membership in the Institute of Medicine, National Academies of Science, and early this year he won the 2014 Citation of Merit award, the highest honor given by the University of Missouri School of Medicine and its Medical Alumni Organization.

The Gerald T. Perkoff, MD, Lectureship, funded through an endowment created last year, was named to recognize the legacy of one of our early faculty members, Jerry Perkoff (1926-2011). Dr. Perkoff, recruited to develop our academic fellowship in 1979, was an exceptional teacher and dedicated mentor whose passion for research and critical thinking nurtured the careers of our early fellowship graduates. In addition to his role as fellowship director, Dr. Perkoff served as associate chair under Jack Colwill, MD, professor emeritus and former chair of MU Family and Community Medicine.



# PUTTING PATIENTS AT THE HEART

OF ALL WE DO AS

## PHYSICIANS & RESEARCHERS

### MU has opened the doors to its new CENTER FOR PATIENT-CENTERED OUTCOMES RESEARCH ...

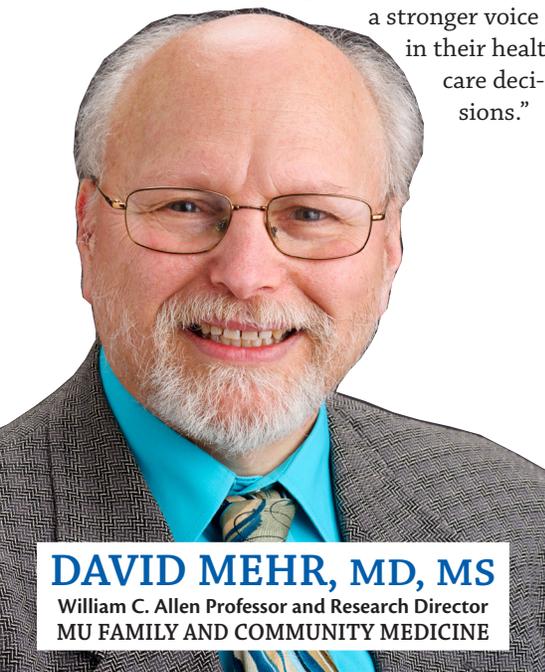
made possible through a \$4.5 million grant from the US Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Spearheaded by David Mehr, MD, MS, professor and director of research at MU Family and Community Medicine, the grant will bring together experts from the School of Medicine, Sinclair School of Nursing, School of Health Professions, and School of Journalism to investigate how to help patients and physicians make better health care decisions.

"As we all know, health care today is very complex," says Dr. Mehr. "We have multiple providers and health systems. Patients and health care providers are bombarded with information about the latest advances in medical research and treatments. At the same time, because people are living longer, the number of patients with complex chronic diseases continues to increase."

How do we know which prevention, diagnosis, and treatment options are best for patients in this complex environment? asks Dr. Mehr.

"Our efforts will focus on answering this question," he says. "Ultimately we want to educate patients and give them a stronger voice in their health care decisions."



**DAVID MEHR, MD, MS**

William C. Allen Professor and Research Director  
MU FAMILY AND COMMUNITY MEDICINE

This five-year federal grant will support three major research projects:

- **One project will compare two options used to treat patients who have poor circulation in their limbs – open surgery and less invasive procedures done through arteries. The results of this study will help physicians and patients decide which approach best matches the patient's needs.**

- **Another project will test ways to improve the discharge process for patients returning home from skilled nursing facilities. The goal is to improve communication between nursing home staff and providers of outpatient health care in order to prevent problems that could precipitate a new hospitalization.**

- **The third project will study multiple primary care practices to improve decision making about prescribing narcotics for chronic pain.**

"As we carry out these projects, we will be laying the groundwork for other research that will benefit patients in reaching decisions and managing their illnesses. If we are ever to create effective health care in this country, we need to focus more attention on the outcomes that matter to patients," says Dr. Mehr. "I am honored and excited to be leading this project and look forward to working with talented investigators from multiple health professions across campus. MU is remarkable in providing a welcoming climate for such complex interdisciplinary projects."

Principal investigators for these three major projects include MU faculty members: **Todd Vogel, MD, MPH, Division of Vascular Surgery; Lori Popejoy, PhD, APRN, GNS-BC, Sinclair School of Nursing; and Daniel Vinson, MD, MSPH, Family and Community Medicine.** **Robin Kruse, PhD, MSPH, Family and Community Medicine,** is core director for the grant.

Other faculty members participating in this grant are: **Glen Cameron, PhD, School of Journalism; Vicki Conn, PhD, RN, FAAN, Sinclair School of Nursing; Colleen Galambos, PhD, MSW, School of Social Work; Greg Petroski, PhD, Health Management and Informatics; Marilyn Rantz, PhD, RN, FAAN, Sinclair School of Nursing; Amy Vogelsmeier, PhD, RN, Sinclair School of Nursing; Bonnie Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN, Sinclair School of Nursing; and Douglas Wakefield, PhD, Health Management and Informatics.**

### DAVID MEHR, MD, MS,

is a graduate of the University of California-San Francisco School of Medicine. He completed family medicine residency training at MU in 1979 and then practiced in Columbia, MO, for nine years. After finishing a geriatrics medicine fellowship and earning a master's degree in clinical research design and statistical analysis from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, he returned to Missouri to join our faculty in 1992.

Throughout his career, Dr. Mehr's clinical work and research have been driven by his commitment to improving care for older adults. Today, he continues to do inpatient and outpatient geriatric consults; however, Dr. Mehr spends the bulk of his time on research and research administration. He also teaches medical students, residents, and geriatric medicine fellows.

Initially, Dr. Mehr's research was focused on improving care for nursing home residents who developed pneumonia. Starting with a large AHRQ-funded project, he and his collaborators developed a tool for estimating risk of dying from an episode of pneumonia. This work ultimately led to National Institute of Aging-funded studies of end of life care. Most recently, Dr. Mehr has been helping develop and evaluate new tools in our electronic medical record, which we've created in collaboration with Cerner Corporation, to improve care for patients with diabetes.

**"This grant from AHRQ is significant because it will expand the capacity of our University to focus on research to improve outcomes ... outcomes for patients everywhere. It is a perfect example of how we at MU are fulfilling our mission to produce and disseminate knowledge that will improve the quality of life for the state, the nation, and indeed the world."**

STEPHEN OWENS, JD  
MU INTERIM CHANCELLOR  
DECEMBER 19, 2013



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#### THE BECKMANN BOND ... continued from first page

When Dr. Beckmann realized that Monique, Wilma, and Archie – along with a handful of his other MU patients – valued the relationship they’d developed with him so much that they were unwilling to let a two-hour drive end it, he was humbled and deeply honored.

As one of three family physicians at the SSM Medical Group-St. Peters, Dr. Beckmann was introduced to the private practice model of care. He liked it, he says, but he missed academic medicine and the people and responsibilities he knew so well at MU Family Medicine. So last year, when he had an opportunity to rejoin the department – just 18 months after leaving MU – Dr. Beckmann accepted the offer. By that time, his father’s health had improved and his brother, who lives near his dad, had retired, which made Dr. Beckmann feel better about leaving the St. Louis area.

His MU patients, especially the ones who had followed him to St. Peters, were elated when they learned he had returned to Columbia. The staff at MU’s Smiley Lane Clinic, including his nurse, Sherry Thompson, was happy, too.

“Dr. Beckmann is terrific. He’s soft spoken, easy going, and never complains – even when things get stressful here,” says Sherry, who started working for Dr. Beckmann when he joined Smiley Lane Clinic five years ago. “Dr. Beckmann cares and it shows. It’s obvious that his patients have great affection for him. They feel comfortable with him and his knowledge as a physician.”

Since returning to MU, Dr. Beckmann has picked up right where he left off. Currently, he is doing inpatient care, attending for residents in clinic, and teaching med students. But mostly Dr. Beckmann is focused on his patients.

“The karma is always good when I’m with a patient,” he says. “I enjoy what I do, and on most days I feel like I’ve contributed to the overall good of mankind. Knowing that I’ve touched and hopefully made a positive difference in someone’s life is tremendously rewarding.”