A TEAM WITH AN UNCOMMON BOND

STAVELEY-O’CARROLL’S CANCER-FIGHTING GROUP PULLS TOGETHER IN WORK AND FUN
The theme of this issue of MU Medicine is collaboration and innovation. We are highlighting research at the University of Missouri that is truly a team effort. For more than 25 years, my passion has been researching ways to reduce the arterial blockages that lead to heart attacks. In studies my team and I have conducted, we’ve found a peptide that appears to reduce blockages. With the help of a National Institutes of Health (NIH) R01 grant, and in collaboration with developer Guangfu Li, PhD, and his band of surgeons and scientists who work together and play together. These researchers are at the forefront of cancer research, particularly in the use of immunology to treat liver cancer. The recent NIH award of another R01 grant for Staveley-O’Carroll’s team is proof they are a great example of physician-scientists whose strengths complement each other. Read about the team beginning on Page 12.

During the previous federal fiscal year, the School of Medicine increased NIH-funded research by 18 percent, and we’re on track for continued increase this year. We have the ability to not only recruit top-level researchers but also develop our own promising young researchers. Hackers collaborate to take next step in battle against atherosclerosis.

The University of Missouri does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability or status as a qualified protected veteran. For more information, call Human Resources Services at 573-882-4256, the Director of MU Equity Title IX Coordinator at 573-882-9069 or the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights.

The Patient-Centered Care Learning Center gives MU School of Medicine a sparkling new facility with a deep connection to Missouri history.

A former Missouri football player is following his passion for medicine, thanks in part to the Mizzou MedPrep program.

The director of the Missouri Orthopaedic Institute receives a $2 million gift from philanthropist Hansjörg Wyss.

Members of the School of Medicine’s Class of 2021 get started with stethoscopes and white coats.

The Coulter Program Awards honor the research partnerships of University of Missouri clinicians and engineers to create biomedical breakthroughs.

MU welcomes back alumni and friends at the 60th annual Physicians Alumni Weekend.

Brothers separated in childhood in Cameroon reunite in Missouri as medical students.

Researchers’ quest to cure Duchenne muscular dystrophy with gene therapy reaches clinical trials.

We are proud of our efforts to make the School of Medicine more diverse. Nine percent of this year’s 128-person class of first-year medical students identify as underrepresented minorities, and 32 percent are self-identified ethnic minorities.

To learn more about what is happening at the School of Medicine, visit our website, medicine.missouri.edu, and monitor our Facebook page and Twitter feed.

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

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Exploring all avenues for heart health
Collaboration across campus could unclog arteries

“What kills people in heart attacks are the acute myocardial infarctions that have no symptoms beforehand, no warning,” Bowles said. “All of a sudden, you have a heart attack and you die. That’s because you have these relatively small lesions that don’t induce any symptoms, but they rupture, form a big blood clot, and that blood clot blocks the flow of blood to the heart and causes the fatal heart attack.”

This IGF that Patrick and I are looking at, we’re trying to stabilize those plaques so the small plaques don’t rupture. If nothing else, progress to bigger plaques that at least give you some symptoms that we can treat through medicine or through stents, but take away the sudden fatal heart attack.”

IGF-1 is approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat children with growth disorders. The supply is limited and expensive. The amount required to treat pigs whose weights approach 200 pounds would cost millions of dollars, Delafontaine said. Fortunately for the researchers, the pharmaceutical company Ipsen donated IGF-1 for the project.

“We’ve got to thank the NIH for their support, but we’ve also got to thank the company that provided us this medication,” Delafontaine said.

The study was supported by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health (R01HL070241).

Gene therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy advances toward clinical trials
Technology developed by MU School of Medicine researcher is now ready for last phase of testing

Researcher Dongsheng Duan, PhD, continues to race toward bringing an effective treatment to patients with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD), a disease characterized by muscle deterioration and weakness.

Duan, a Margaret Proctor Mulligan Professor in medical research at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, has spent his entire academic career working toward a cure. He and his team successfully administered an investigational treatment, a gene therapy, to dogs with Duchenne in preclinical studies. Now, Duan is passing the torch to clinicians who will use a version of the gene sequence he developed to test its effectiveness in humans with Duchenne.

Muscular dystrophy is caused by gene mutations. Children with Duchenne have a specific gene mutation that interrupts the production of dystrophin, a protein responsible for muscle integrity. Without dystrophin, muscle cells become weak and eventually die. Many children lose the ability to walk. Eventually, muscles responsible for breathing and muscles in the heart stop working.

Through gene therapy, Duan believed he could replace the faulty gene with an engineered, functional gene. Dystrophin is tricky to replace, though, because it is over 10 times the size of a typical human protein.

Because of the size, Duan and his team developed a smaller version of the gene called a microdystrophin. The researchers used a common virus not known to cause disease to deliver microdystrophin to muscles.

The sequence Duan used to create the microdystrophin, also known as SGT-001, was licensed by Solid Biosciences, the company that will lead clinical trial efforts.

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The adaptive, Phase 1/2 clinical study will investigate the safety and efficacy of SGT-001 in patients with DMD, according to the Solid Biosciences’ website. The study is expected to begin in late 2017 in the United States.

Although Duan isn’t directly involved in the clinical trials, he continues to examine and refine other potential treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

Gene therapy for Duchenne muscular dystrophy advances toward clinical trials
Technology developed by MU School of Medicine researcher is now ready for last phase of testing

“There’s where Bowles came in. He, too, has researched atherosclerosis for decades. And he had access to the perfect pig models. That made the proposal more attractive to the NIH, which awarded a R01 Grant in July that is worth $2.4 million over four years.

Delafontaine said. “We wrote a proposal to the NIH with our collaborators to study the role of LARP6, a mRNA-binding protein that Delafontaine and his colleagues have shown helps induce collagen synthesis and plaque stabilization in animals with atherosclerosis.

College Avenue separates Patrick Delafontaine, MD, and Doug Bowles, PhD, but a mutual interest in un-clogging arteries brought the two together. The dean of the University of Missouri School of Medicine and the chair of the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Department of Biomedical Sciences are collaborating on research that could help prevent heart attacks.

For the last 15 years, Delafontaine and his team have conducted National Institutes of Health-funded research on atherosclerosis — plaque buildup in arteries. Specifically, Delafontaine has studied the effectiveness of the protein Insulin Growth Factor-1 (IGF-1) in reducing plaque in the arteries of mice. He has seen some breakthroughs recently that indicate this protein might be effective at reducing blockages and preventing heart attacks.

“We have had some breakthroughs recently that indicate this protein might be quite effective at reducing blockages and preventing heart attacks,” Delafontaine said. “We wrote a proposal to the National Institutes of Health to take this to the next level, which is to do a large animal study before taking it to humans.”

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The pigs in question are generally disposed to high cholesterol and will be fed a high-fat diet to accelerate disease development. They will be treated with IGF-1 to determine if it limits plaque buildup.

This project also studies the role of LARP6, a mRNA-binding protein that Delafontaine and his colleagues have shown helps induce collagen synthesis and plaque stabilization in animals with atherosclerosis.
FUTURISTIC DESIGN WITH A NOD TO THE PAST
New medical education building reflects state’s history and its people

At MU’s new medical education building, a massive black-and-gold banner hangs in Acuff Gallery.

“To improve the health of all people, especially Missourians, through exemplary education, research and patient-centered care,” the banner reads.

Those using the new building have more than the hanging reminder to keep them focused on the school’s mission. The Patient-Centered Care Learning Center reflects the University of Missouri School of Medicine’s mission in its design and function.

“Throughout the planning and construction of this building, we kept two important elements in mind,” said Weldon Webb, the newly retired associate dean for the Medical School. “A wall on each floor of the building. Walls on each floor of the building.

At MU’s new medical education building, a massive black-and-gold banner hangs in Acuff Gallery.

“The river walks” south of the elevators on each floor are made of reclaimed Missouri wood, etched with the carvings of the Missouri, Mississippi, Osage, Current and James Rivers — running through the building as they run through Missouri. The wood is salvaged from mid-Missouri burns, a wagon factory in Konoy City, a slate factory in Palmyra, and a general store in Hannibal.

“I know this spot, because it’s where I go fishing when I’m home,” said Nick Arnold, MD, MD, as he pointed to a place near Hannibal along the Mississippi River.

“Getting to see something like this, especially for the new students who may not be from Missouri, it’s a cool thing for them to see. And then people from there, it’s pretty awesome to see, as well.”

“There are so many implicit themes in the building’s design and purpose. The open floor plans support the qualities that make up patient-centered care: communication, collaboration, partnership and openness.”

— Lauren Gillespie, second-year medical student

STUDENT-DRIVEN DESIGN
Students’ needs also drove the building’s design. The MU’s million education building offers six floors and 97,088 square feet of space focused on MU’s patient-based learning curriculum.

A concept emerged after design architects from BNIM of Kansas City and planning architects from Christner Inc. of St. Louis gathered input from students, faculty and staff. The architects shadowed students to observe their daily activities.

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PATIENT-CENTEREDNESS
On the fifth and sixth floors, artistic overlays on glass doors to the patient-based learning labs feature real Missourians. Resembling etched glass, the 32 images and their individual stories are the works of professional photojournalists of the Missouri Photo Workshop, an MU School of Journalism endeavor spanning six decades.

The images represent the diversity of patients cared for by Missouri-trained physicians and serve as constant reminders to put patients first.

“You can feel yourself involved in the lives of people,” Mehroff said. “When you see a picture of someone who could be from your hometown, you can fill in the rest of the person’s story. There’s enough to pull you in — making it personal and creating empathy — which seems to be pretty important for healers and physicians.”

The consensus among students is they appreciate the new building and its thoughtful design, Gillespie said.

“We are so grateful to continue our medical education in this space,” she said. “A lot of people provided input along the way. We’re grateful we get to enjoy their hard work.”
The idea struck Teresa Lever, PhD, in the laboratory when she noticed that young mice afflicted with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis struggled to lick from a spout before other signs of their disease surfaced.

Maybe those mice could tell us something about diagnosing and treating human tongue dysfunction caused by ALS and other neurological diseases that result in devastating speech and swallowing disorders.

Since humans don’t normally drink from spouts like mice, Lever, an assistant professor of otolaryngology at the University of Missouri, figured out a novel way to detect tongue impairment in people based on sound.

Then she partnered with Mili Kuruvilla-Dugdale, PhD, an assistant professor of communication science and disorders in the School of Health Professions, and Filiz Bunyak and Yunxin Zhao, both PhDs in the Department of Computer Science, to translate her research into a mobile health app called Tongue Twister.

“This app will allow clinicians to easily detect and monitor tongue dysfunction in their patients over time, sort of like taking blood pressure or standing on a scale, where you get a number to reinforce whether your treatment plan is actually effective or not,” Lever said.

On Oct. 18, MU’s Coulter Translational Partnership Program awarded grants worth a total of $409,000 to five teams of physicians and engineers — including Lever’s group — as a reward for their successful cross-campus collaboration.

The money will help get those inventions to market.

The team of Jimi Cook, DVM, PhD, director of the Thompson Laboratory for Regenerative Orthopedics, and Trent Guess, PhD, associate professor of orthopaedic surgery, won two Coulter Awards. The first was for Biojoint Flex, a non-invasive device that can help patients regain range of motion in their knees after injuries. The second was for the Mizzou Knee Arthrometer Testing System, a screening tool for diagnosing and monitoring the treatment of knee ligament injuries.

Sonny Bul, MD, JD, MBA, professor of orthopaedic surgery, and Mohamad Rahman, PhD, professor emeritus in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Missouri S&T, were awarded for Nemer-O-Lock, an artificial hip socket that reduces the risk of dislocation.

Mark Hunter, MD, director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, and Gary Yao, PhD, professor of bioengineering, partnered on OPT-Enhanced Colposcopy, an imaging system that detects precancerous lesions on the cervix.

This marked the sixth year of MU’s Coulter Translational Partnership Program. Since its inception, the Coulter program has helped MU research projects generate more than $13.5 million in new government grants.

Tipton credits program for getting him ready to face his next big challenge in medical school

Chris Tipton took the scenic route to a football scholarship at the University of Missouri. He was overlooked as an offensive lineman at Bowling Green High School, tucked away in the northeast part of the state, and began his college career at tiny Culver-Stockton before transferring to MU in 2004.

A decade after his playing days, Tipton followed a winding path back to MU, this time as a student in the School of Medicine.

“Tipton’s kind of story is M.O.,” said Tipton, a 12-year-old first-year medical student. “You’re from rural America. In football, it was harder to get seen. I had to work my way up to Mizzou. I didn’t walk on. I was fortunate enough to earn a scholarship soon after I walked on. I had to work for that. I had to work my way up through being a paramedic, work my way toward medicine. I didn’t get to be the 22-year-old kid going to med school, like normal. But I think it’s going to make me a better physician in the long run.”

Tipton first applied to medical school in 2015 but wasn’t accepted. He credited the Mizzou MedPrep program as a difference-maker in his successful application last year. He improved his MCAT score by 12 points and learned what admissions coordinators valued in an applicant.

“That MedPrep program was monumental in helping me,” he said. “I was in the working world, so it was nice to have some guidance in the whole application process.”

The program is in its seventh year at MU. MedPrep is divided into workshops that target people at different stages on the path to medical school. The first workshop, Medical Explorations, is for high school students considering the idea of medical and health care careers. MedPrep I and II are for college juniors and seniors and nontraditional students, and the focus is on helping the students present themselves effectively in the application process. The most advanced workshop, MedPrep III, is for newly admitted MU School of Medicine students preparing to tackle biochemistry, cell biology, pharmacology and anatomy in their M3 year.

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STETHOSCOPIES AND WHITE COATS Usher in First-Year Students

Students from the School of Medicine class of 2021 took their first steps toward becoming physicians by receiving stethoscopes and white coats.

"Now, more than ever, is an exciting time to be part of the MU School of Medicine," said Patrick Delafontaine, MD, the Hugh E. and Sarah Stephenson Dean of the MU School of Medicine, in the White Coat Ceremony on July 28 at Jesse Hall. "With 32 percent of our students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds: 30% Students from rural areas: 15% Students from Missouri: 81% Students who self-identify as an ethnic minority: 32% Students who self-identify as underrepresented minorities: 9% Average Science GPA: 3.68 Average Total GPA: 3.73 Average MCAT Score: 78th percentile. We celebrate, because — like their future patients — our students come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences."

The class of 2021 includes 128 students, the largest in school history.

"The expansion allowed class sizes to increase from 96 to 128 students," students from Missouri's critical physician shortage. More students mean the school can train more doctors to help alleviate Missouri's critical physician shortage.

It was made possible by a partnership with MU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, CONHEALTH and MERCY in Springfield.

The PCCLC is home base for first- and second-year students. Third- and fourth-year students can complete their clinical training in Springfield or Columbia.

Meet the CLASS OF 2021

128 Students CURRENTLY ENROLLED in the Class of 2021

2,266* TOTAL APPLICATIONS 386 Interviews scheduled 203 Applicants accepted

Students who self-identify as an ethnic minority: 32%* This includes students who are Asian, black, Latino, American Indian or Pacific Islander.

9% Students who self-identify as underrepresented minorities: This includes students who are African American, American Indian, Hispanic, Asian, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander.

AGE RANGE: 20 38 47% 53%

LEARN MORE about applying to medical school at medicine.missouri.edu/prospective-students/
Kevin Staveley-O'Carroll, MD, PhD, had just accepted the job as surgery chair at the University of Missouri School of Medicine and director of Ellis Fischel Cancer Center, and he needed a house in Columbia. Fortunately, one had just come on the market in a neighborhood close to campus. Unfortunately, Staveley-O’Carroll was 1,000 miles away.

No problem. His long-time partner in cancer immunotherapy research, Eric Kimchi, MD, was in town on his own house hunt after being named Ellis Fischel’s medical director. Kimchi took a look at the new listing and recommended it.

Staveley-O’Carroll bought it, sight unseen. “No pressure there. That couldn’t have gone wrong at all,” Kimchi said with a laugh. “I don’t know if I’d do that with my own house.”

It would be tempting to say Staveley-O’Carroll’s five-man cancer-fighting group pulls together in work and fun because most humans who get liver cancer have normal liver cells that are damaged by cirrhosis to recover from the removal of a tumor.

The group will try to determine how a compound developed by bioengineer Mark Kester of the University of Virginia called nanoliposome-loaded C6-ceramide (LipC6) breaks tumor-induced immune tolerance and to develop LipC6-integrated immunotherapy for liver cancer.

“Jussuf was the first to join, followed soon by immunotherapy enthusiasts from far and wide: Avella from Columbia, Li from China and Kafiti from Germany. They started working with a specific focus on hepatocellular cancer — cancer that starts in the liver.”

“LipC6-integrated immunotherapy for liver cancer. ‘I don’t want to downplay this,’ Staveley-O’Carroll said. ‘It’s a pretty big and interesting discovery, and this is a strategy that will translate seamlessly to the clinic.’

Missouri Bound

All of the core team except Avella, who was in the midst of a three-year fellowship at the University of Chicago, decided to move together to the University of Missouri two years ago. Avella rejoined the team in September after finishing his fellowship, saying he never even considered applying anywhere else.

“We were drawn here by the level of engagement at Ellis Fischel, the strong faculty and training programs in the Department of Surgery and the college campus with co-location of the medical school, veterinary school and engineering school,” Staveley-O’Carroll said.

As chair of the Department of Surgery as well as the director of Ellis Fischel, Staveley-O’Carroll’s focus extends far beyond his right-hand research group.

“We have a passion for building and working within effective teams. We have built such a team in tumor-immunology research, and Missouri is the perfect place to expand this team-building effort in both the department of surgery and the cancer center.”

Mark Wakefield, MD, FACS, the chief of the Division of Urology, was in the process of recruiting a rising star in his field when Staveley-O’Carroll arrived at MU. Wakefield had spent eight years in pursuit of Katie Murray, MD, who was serving a fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

“He put together a recruitment package that was thoughtful and effective and set Dr. Murray up for success,” Wakefield said. “Those weren’t tools that I had at that time. Now, I have a good model. So I can see why the people who follow him do so. He creates an environment where there’s the potential for success, and I saw it right away with the help he gave me.”

For Staveley-O’Carroll’s research team, the loyalty to each other and their cause outweighs opportunities for individual advancement.

“Our research, our clinical interest, our social interests are so tied in together,” Kimchi said. “Each one of us has had a chance to do something on our own, but that would mean breaking up the team and breaking up all the accomplishments we’ve already had.”

The team has the equivalent of three prestigious R01 grants from the National Institutes of Health. The most recent — worth more than $2.7 million — is a multiple-principal-investigator team science award with Staveley-O’Carroll as the lead. It funds a study with a dual purpose.

The group will try to determine how a compound developed by bioengineer Mark Kester of the University of Virginia called nanoliposome-loaded C6-ceramide (LipC6) breaks tumor-induced immune tolerance and to develop LipC6-integrated immunotherapy for liver cancer.

“We support each other, we help each other, we benefit from each other,” Li said. “This is a high-performance, high-production team. I really like this environment.”
NEW APPOINTMENTS

VICTOR ARNOLD was appointed as the associate dean for preclinical and planning management and executive director of University Physicians at the MU School of Medicine. Arnold will oversee the day-to-day operations of University Physicians Administration, collaborate with the clinical departments on UP matters and coordinate with MU Health operations and strategic developments.

MICHAEL HOSOKAWA, EdD. was named the senior associate dean of education and faculty development. He previously held the position on an interim basis. He has a professor of family and community medicine and has served the School of Medicine since 1974. He helped establish the patient-based learning curriculum at the School of Medicine.

MATTHEW ROBINSON, MD, was named a fellow of the Department of Emergency Medicine after holding the position on an interim basis since 2015. In 2004-05, Robinson served as officer-in-charge of medical shock/trauamasurgical units in Iraq. Robinson received his doctorate from MU and completed his internship and residency at Naval Regional Medical Center.

ACCOLADES

PATRICK DELAFONTAINE, MD. Hugh E. and Sarah D. Stevenson Dean of the MU School of Medicine, attended the annual meeting of the American Clinical and Climatological Association in October in San Antonio, Texas. Twenty lectures were presented on topics including health care for the homeless to cancer genomics and strategies for allergic disorders.

The ACCA was organized in 1884 by a group of physicians and scientists who wanted to improve medical education, research and practice in the United States. Its initial concern was with tuberculosis in a suitable climate. It has expanded its interests to all scientific and clinical aspects of medicine, while retaining an interest in the influence of climate on health.

TALISSA ALTERS, MD, chair of the Department of Radiology, received a 2017 fellowship award from the International Society for Magnetic Resonance in Medicine. Altes got the award at the ISMRM meeting held in April. “I am very honored to have been selected as a Fellow of the ISMRM in recognition of my contributions toward improving hang imaging,” Altes said.

RICHIE KOOPMAN, MD, professor and director of research in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, has been named a member of the 2017-18 class of fellows in the Hewitt van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine program. ELAM is based at the Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

MELISSA LEWIS, PhD, assistant professor of family and community medicine, became the first person not from Australia or New Zealand to receive the LIMEight Award for Excellence in Indigenous Health Education Research for her work on the process of implementing indigenous health content into a medical school curriculum. The Leaders in Indigenous Medical Education Network, sponsors the award.

ELIZABETH PALM, PhD, professor of nutrition and exercise physiology, and STEVEN SEGAL, PhD, professor of medicinal pharmacology and physiology, were named biomedical research exemplars by the Professionalism and Integrity in Research Program through the Center for Clinical and Research Ethics at Washington University in St. Louis. They were chosen based on their high-quality, high-impact research and professionalism and integrity in research.

A CHAIR WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH

Stannard is recipient of $2 million Wyss gift

When James Stannard, MD, now serves as the Hansjörg Wyss Distinguished Chair in Orthopedic Surgery after receiving a $2 million gift from Wyss, an entrepreneur and philanthropist.

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What are your career goals? What are your career goals? What are your career goals?

My plan in medicine is quite simple: to eliminate chronic disease. There are so many things that excite me about a career in medicine — from caring for individual patients, to transforming systems. I believe that Robert Virchow was correct when he said “the physician is the natural attorney for the poor” and that sometimes the best way to improve health for an individual is to improve the systems around them.

What was the most influential factor in your decision to attend medical school? I shadowed a pediatrician as an undergraduate student and thought pediatricians only gave vaccines. But my pediatrics rotation has been my favorite rotation so far. I can’t imagine choosing a specialty that doesn’t involve kids to some degree.

Have your career goals changed since beginning medical school? Input from loved ones I had read every much and reading the book “Mountains Beyond Mountains.”

What has receiving this scholarship meant for you? Most of the specialties I'm considering are some of the lowest-paying specialties. Unfortunately, the amount of debt after medical school is a factor for many people when deciding specialties. This scholarship gives me additional freedom to choose a specialty that I desire — one that I believe will have greater benefit to the underserved.

What has been a memorable experience from medical school? My favorite interaction has been with a young patient of mine when I was on the general pediatrics ward. He suffers from a chronic disease, and most physicians and nurses know him from his frequent appointments. As a medical student, my afternoons were more than a typical resident, so every afternoon I would go in and spend time with him. A few weeks later, I heard from a mutual friend that knows him that he had been asking about me, and she even FaceTimed me when she was with him so he could “hi.” It made my day to know that he appreciated the time I spent.

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Have your career goals changed since beginning medical school? Input from loved ones I had read every much and reading the book “Mountains Beyond Mountains.”

What has receiving this scholarship meant for you? Most of the specialties I'm considering are some of the lowest-paying specialties. Unfortunately, the amount of debt after medical school is a factor for many people when deciding specialties. This scholarship gives me additional freedom to choose a specialty that I desire — one that I believe will have greater benefit to the underserved.

What has been a memorable experience from medical school? My favorite interaction has been with a young patient of mine when I was on the general pediatrics ward. He suffers from a chronic disease, and most physicians and nurses know him from his frequent appointments. As a medical student, my afternoons were more than a typical resident, so every afternoon I would go in and spend time with him. A few weeks later, I heard from a mutual friend that knows him that he had been asking about me, and she even FaceTimed me when she was with him so he could “hi.” It made my day to know that he appreciated the time I spent.

A CHAIR WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH

Stannard is recipient of $2 million Wyss gift

When James Stannard, MD, now serves as the Hansjörg Wyss Distinguished Chair in Orthopedic Surgery after receiving a $2 million gift from Wyss, an entrepreneur and philanthropist.

What are your career goals? What are your career goals? What are your career goals?

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More than 250 Physicians and Friends Return for the 60th Annual Physicians Alumni Weekend

The 60th edition of Physicians Alumni Weekend drew attendees from more than 25 states to Columbia on Nov. 3-4. They toured the new patient-based learning labs, simulation space and other areas of the new Patient-Centered Care Learning Center. The weekend featured the Milton D. Overholser Lecture presented by David Barbe, MD ’80; and scientific program lectures from Randy Sherman, MD ’77; Lisa Jacobs, MD ’92; A Brent Carter, MD ’92; Karen Gehrs, MD ’87; and Karen Edison, MD ’89, chair of the Department of Dermatology and Philip C. Anderson Professor and Medical Director, Missouri Telehealth Network at the University of Missouri School of Medicine.


ALUMNI HONOR TED GROSHONG WITH LECTURESHIP

Physicians Alumni Weekend included the announcement of the Ted Groshong M.D. Alumni Lectureship. George Hubbell, MD ’87, MU Medical Alumni Organization president, and Dean Patrick Delafontaine surprised Groshong with the news on Nov. 3 during the annual alumni banquet at the Country Club of Missouri. They shared with him that the lecture will be presented annually at the event in which he has played such an integral role.

“When I think of service to this medical school, Ted Groshong’s name comes to mind immediately,” said Hubbell, who led the effort to begin the lecture campaign. “I feel we would be remiss if we did not recognize a man that has had an immeasurable impact on the School of Medicine.”

After more than four decades of service to the MU School of Medicine, Groshong, MD ’67, recently stepped down from his position as senior associate dean for alumni affairs. Groshong has served in many roles, including associate dean for student affairs and medical education and chair of the Department of Child Health. He is now associate professor emeritus of child health and senior associate dean emeritus of alumni affairs at the MU School of Medicine.

If you would like to donate to this cause for Dr. Groshong, you can visit: tinyurl.com/groshonglectureship
REUNITED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD
Cameron natives Delvise and Leslie Fogwe make medical school a family affair

As children in the African country of Cameroon, Delvise and Leslie Fogwe were separated from their mom and each other for about five years. Their father had died, and their mother, Grace, didn’t have the means to support five sons. The kids were dispersed to aunts and uncles, who helped raise them.

As a teenager, Delvise often stopped by the health center where his mother worked as a janitor.

“Titin’ how I got exposed to the doctor that was in charge of the health center,” Delvise said. “I would go there on days when he had down time, and he would show me around. That’s how I got interested in medicine.”

That interest in medicine ultimately led to a family reunion in Missouri. Delvise, a second-year student in the MU School of Medicine, and Leslie, a first-year medical student, now live together in Columbia with their mom and a younger brother, Desmond.

The journey to the United States began in Delaware. Before their father’s death, the older sister of Delvise and Leslie, Mbemwai, who was having a good experience at MU, helped recruit him.

“She cooks, she cleans and she doesn’t understand that we are students,” said Delvise. “When I get up at 6, he’s gone. When I come back, he’s sleeping.”

Both fogwe sons plan to practice medicine. Delvise is interested in interventional radiology and has visitations for those of us who stayed four years to graduate in 1957 — just a few residents, no intern and one-on-one time with our professors as clinical instructors. — John Oakley, MD ’57

Socialization with the other poverty-stricken married students. It was a great experience for those of us who stayed four years to graduate in 1957 — just a few residents, no intern and one-on-one time with our professors as clinical instructors. — John Oakley, MD ’57

Robert Berkowitz, MD ’67, lives in Tiona River, N.J., with his wife, Irene. They have two children and two grandchildren.

Donald Blitz, MD ’67, lives in Bloomfield, Mich., with his wife, Bobbie. They have two children and three grandchildren.

David Brill, MD ’67, lives in Chambersburg, Pa., with his wife, Elizabeth. He recently enjoyed a trip to Antarctica and has become a private pilot.

Ron Bopp, MD ’67, and his wife, Mary Jo, live in Bradenton, Fla. They have six children and three grandchildren.

David Brill, MD ’67, lives in Chambersburg, Pa., with his wife, Elizabeth. He recently enjoyed a trip to Antarctica and has become a private pilot.

Lawrence Alan Callaway, MD ’67, lives in Hanover, N.H., with his wife, Barbara. They have two children and one grandson. He is a retired psychologist.

Richard Fiester, MD ’67, lives in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with his wife, Janice. He is retired.

Marshall Fitz, MD ’67, lives in New Orleans with his wife, Pat. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

He is semi-retired and enjoys volunteering as a psychiatrist two days per week. He has traveled to China, Turkey, Israel, Italy, Spain and Algeria.

Edward Glenn III, MD ’67, lives in Louisiana, Mo., with his wife, Patricia. They have five children and six grandchildren.

He is retired and enjoys serving as a Boy Scout leader for 20 years.

Charles Hardy, MD ’67, lives in Rocheport, Mo., and is retired.

Charles Luetje, MD ’67, lives in Olathe, Kan., with his wife of 13 years, Sandra. He retired from neurology in 2014 with more than 50 authored publications to his name. They have three children and 12 grandchildren.

I married just before starting my second year of medical school. I would not trade anything in my life for a different situation. — Charles Luetje, MD ’67

Larry Marti, MD ’67, lives in Rolla, Mo., with his wife of 38 years, Patsy. They have five children, 23 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. He retired in 2017 after serving 40 years as an orthopedic surgeon in Rolla. He looks forward to the annual harvest of his family’s blueberry patch with multiple generations of children and grandchildren. In his retirement, he plans to travel more and fly his plane around the Ozarks.
NANCY PURCELL, MD ’67, lives in Renton, Wash., with her husband, Dr. Clyde Medlock, a retired pediatrician. They have two children and four grandchildren. She retired from internal medicine practice in 2011. She enjoys swimming, hiking, biking, piano and travel. She helps lead a public gardening project that serves to donate its crop to the local food bank.

SUE SHERROD, MD ’67, lives in Dallas with her wife, Judith Hammett.

JUDITH THARP, MD ’67, lives in Farley, Mo. She has enjoyed the practice of emergency medicine, prison medicine, occupational medicine and family medicine during her career. She remains in practice and has five children, 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

MARJORIE SLANKARD, MD ’71, has enjoyed a career in internal medicine and occupational medicine and family medicine during her career. She has three children, one of whom is also an orthopaedic surgeon, and five grandchildren. She retired from orthopaedic surgery in 2014 and has enjoyed many hobbies since then, including volunteering, traveling and spending more time with family.

GARY MUELLER, MD ’72, and his wife, Dr. Carolyn Mueller, have enjoyed three houses in Brentwood, Tenn., and Austin, Texas. Carolyn has retired from her position as professor of nursing at the University of Texas at Austin, and they now have more time for golfing and volunteer activities such as providing medical staffing for the Boy Scouts of America and attending alumni events in Columbia. They especially enjoy meeting MU medical students who receive scholarship support from the Gary L. Mueller, MD, and Carolyn R. Mueller, PhD, RN, Honor College-Medical School Scholarship Endowment that the couple established in 2009.

JACK O’HANDELY, MD ’72, lives in Hilliard, Ohio, with his wife, Hannah, who is a pediatric nurse and assistant professor at the Mount Carmel College of Nursing. They have four children and eight grandchildren. He serves as medical director of Mount Carmel Community Outreach and has received numerous honors for his contributions to medical education. This year, he received the Ohio Family Medicine Educator of the Year Award from the Ohio Academy of Family Practice. He enjoys running, and in 2012 he placed first in his age group (70-74) in the Columbus Half Marathon with a time of 2:01:54.

KENNETH ELLINGWOOD, MD ’72, is a radiation oncologist and lives in Mobile, Ala., with his wife, Mary Lee. They have two children and one grandchild. He was the director of the University of South Alabama Cancer Center from 1985 to 2005 and contributed to the design, construction and staffing of multiple cancer treatment centers from 1978 to today. He enjoys practicing medicine and serving as a regional expert on head and neck cancers.

ROBERT LOGEL, MD ’72, lives in Chapel Hill, N.C., with his wife, Gene. They have three children, one of whom is also an orthopaedic surgeon, and five grandchildren. He retired from orthopaedic surgery in 2014 and has enjoyed many hobbies, including volunteering, traveling and spending more time with family.

J. REGAN THOMAS, MD ’72, lives in Chicago with his wife, Rhonda. They have three children and one grandchild. He is the Mario D. Massaio Professor & Head of the Department of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Illinois. He has led three organizations in his field—the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, and the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery and has authored more than 200 scientific papers and publications, including six textbooks. He enjoys collecting art, power boating on Lake Michigan and the Lake of the Ozarks and snow skiing. Best memory of MU: The friendships that developed with classmates, which have persisted for 45 years.

JACK O’HANDELY, MD ’72

I remember life in the dorm during the first year with John Webb, Bruce Rau, Jim Seymour and Ed Allor.

- Jack O’Handley, MD ’72

PHIL FREEDMAN, MD ’72, lives in Edwards, Colos., with his wife, Beverly. He is retired from family and emergency medicine.

Raising money for a goat for a lactose-intolerant patient in Human Ecology

- Frank Titterington, MD ’72

J. REGAN THOMAS, MD ’72

FRANK TITTERINGTON, MD ’72, lives in Fairway, Kan., with his wife, Barb. They have four children and seven grandchildren. He enjoys the practice of internal medicine.

JOHN BEST, MD ’77, is a cardiologist and lives in Columbus, Mo., with his wife, Tracy. They have three children and two grandchildren. He served as the mayor of Bolivar, Mo., from 2011-17 and enjoyed returning to Mizzou to play trombone in the Alumni Band during Homecoming 2016.

STEPHEN COHLE, MD ’77, is a forensic pathologist and chief medical examiner for Kent County, Mich., and has served on the board of directors for the Society for Cardiovascular Pathology. He lives in Byron Center, Mich., with his wife, Mary. They have three children and five grandchildren. He enjoys traveling and has been to Cuba. He plays chess and likes bicycling.

R. J. REGAN THOMAS, MD ’72

I. REGAN THOMAS, MD ’72

R. STEPHEN GRIFFITH, MD ’77, is a family medicine physician at Truman Medical Center Lakewood for more than 30 years and during that time has served as associate chief medical officer, program director of the Family Medicine Residency Program and chair of the Department of Community & Family Medicine at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

LADONNA IMPKEN, MD ’77, is a physician specializing in medical genetics. She lives in Austin, Texas, with her husband, Charles Cole. They have one child.

DAVID LIONBERGER, MD ’77, is an orthopaedic surgeon and lives in Houston with his wife, Janet. They have two children and four grandchildren.

JOHN MARSHALL, MD ’77, is a gastroenterologist and professor of medicine at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. He lives in Columbia, Mo., with his wife, Carolyn.

ROONEY MCFARLAND, MD ’77, lives in Grove, Okla., with his wife, Kathy. They have four children and six grandchildren. He accomplished 26 years of family medicine practice in one location with one medical group and retired in 2013. He established an addiction/recovery center in Neosho, Mo., and has served as a board member of Freeman Health System in Joplin for more than 20 years. He enjoys practicing medicine in a volunteer setting, water skiing and traveling.

FRANK PURVIS, MD ’77, lives in Warsaw, Mo.

GARY THOMAS TASH, MD ’77, lives in St. Louis with his wife, Sharon. Best memory of MU: The stories Leo Kramer told and stories about him, his unexplained absences, floating down the Missouri River to run a carnival for a sick friend. Living in the river bluffs cares and learning to make arrowheads.

RODNEY MCFARLAND, MD ’77

PAUL VANDIVORT, MD ’77, is a psychiatrist and lives in Des Peres, Mo., with his wife, Linda. They have two children and two grandchildren.

DOUGLAS WOOD, MD ’77, lives in Rochester, Minn., with his wife, Julie. He is medical director of the Center for Innovation at Mayo Clinic and a practicing cardiologist at Mayo Clinic. He previously served as vice chair of the Department of Internal Medicine and chair of the Division of Health Care Policy and Research at Mayo. He has also served on the Governor’s Health Care Reform Task Force and has led multiple health-reform efforts in Minnesota.

ARTUR FREELAND, MD ’82, is a family medicine physician and lives in Endicott, Mo., with his wife, Kelly. They have three children. He served as president of the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians from 2009-10 and is the recipient of the Boy Scouts of America Silver Beaver Award.

R. STEPHEN COHLE, MD ’77, is a family medicine physician and lives in St. Charles, Mo., with his wife, Tina. They have four children, all Mizzou graduates, and five grandchildren with two more on the way.

Raymond hu, MD ’82, is an internal medicine physician and lives in St. Charles, Mo., with his wife, Pam. They have two children and one grandchild. He retired from orthopedics in 2018 and enjoys camping, traveling and gardening.

NANCY SEIBOLT, MD ’82, lives in Kansas City and is studying at Creighton University to earn a master’s in Christian spirituality. She retired in April 2016 from the practice of family medicine and hospice and palliative care and is now an Ignatian spiritual director. She has two West Highland White Terriers named Idgie and Rhetta, nine nephews and nieces and 19 great-nieces and nephews. She enjoys cooking, mixed media art and staying out of rush-hour traffic.
MARK STACY, MD ’86, was named dean of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and assumed his duties Sept. 1. He also serves as senior associate vice chancellor for medical affairs for the Division of Health Sciences and will hold a tenured professorship in Brody’s Department of Internal Medicine. He previously served as vice dean for clinical research at Duke University School of Medicine.

ALAN FLEISCHER, MD ’87, lives with his wife of 28 years, Anne, a professor of occupational therapy, in Lexington, Ky. They have three children. He spent 15 years as a dermatologist working in academic medicine at Wake Forest University and the University of Kentucky. He is now the medical director at AAIVe Inc.

RALPH SCHMITZ, MD ’97, is a family medicine physician and lives in Monett, Mo., with his wife, Geri.

‘90s

MARK BRIESACHER, MD ’92, is chief physician executive of Intermountain Healthcare and president of Intermountain Medical Group. He lives in Salt Lake City with his wife, Lori. They have three children.

ANN MURPHY, MD ’97, is a family medicine physician and lives in Independence, Mo., with her husband, Robert. They have three children.

2000s

AARON ELLISON, MD ’02, is a family medicine and sports medicine physician and lives in Concord, N.C., with his wife, Rayonna Ellison, a family medicine physician. They have two children.

KURRE LUBER, MD ’02, practices orthopedic surgery and sports medicine and serves as a team physician for the University of Mississippi. He lives in Oxford, Miss., with his wife, Tara. They have four children.

JAMIE MCGINNESS, MD ’02, lives in Shiloh, Ill., with his wife, Jackie. Together, they opened a private practice dermatology and Mohs surgery clinic in September 2017. They have four children.

KARI MARTIN, MD ’07, is a pediatric dermatologist and lives in Columbia, Mo., with her husband, Jeff. They have five children. She has served as the program director for MU’s Dermatology Residency Program and was selected for the American Academy of Dermatology’s Academic Dermatology Leadership Program.

KRISTEN SANFILIPPO, MD ’07, lives in St. Louis with her husband, Paul Reynolds. They have three children. She completed a residency in internal medicine at University of Pimburg Medical Center in 2010 and a hematology oncology fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis in 2013, where she also earned a Master of Population Health Science degree. She holds a K01 Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award from the NIH and has a research interest in multiple myeloma and venous thromboembolism.

JONATHAN SEIGEL, MD ’07, lives in Raleigh, N.C., and is a neonatologist. He completed a residency in pediatrics at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill in 2010 and a neonatal-perinatal fellowship at Duke University in 2013. He received a master of management and clinical informatics degree in 2012 from Duke.

RACHEL SHAKOFSKY, MD ’07, completed a residency in pediatrics at St. Louis Children’s Hospital in 2010. She lives in St. Louis with her husband, Ryan, and they have three children.

10s

JENA SWINGLE, MD ’13, completed her OB-GYN intern year at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego. Then she was assigned a three-year tour of duty as a flight surgeon for a helicopter squadron at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. She traveled with her squadron to Okinawa and the Philippines. In July, she returned to her OB/GYN residency at the Naval Medical Center in San Diego.

IN MEMORIAM


DAVID BYRNE, MD ’03, died June 26, 2017, in Overland Park, Kan.

GRETCHEN COLLINS, MD BS MED ’83, family medicine physician, longtime Red Cross and Girl Scouts supporter and past president of the Samartian Hospital Staff and chairman of MU’s Jefferson Club, died July 19, 2017, in Macon, Mo.

THEODORE CARL DEFOE, JR., MD ’64, a pathologist, world traveler and underwater photography enthusiast, died June 26, 2017, in Raleigh, N.C.

JEROLD FADEM, MD ’58, who served Orlando Regional Medical Center for 55 years in the practice of neurology and internal medicine, died May 4, 2017, in Orlando, Fla.

CLARENCE “SKIP” FENNEWALD, MD ’76, died May 2, 2016, in Hisson, Tenn, where he had a dermatology practice for more than 10 years.

KENNETH KAYS, MD ’62, a radiologist, died July 3, 2017, in Columbia, Mo.

JANE KIFF, MD ’92, a pediatrician, died May 25, 2017, in Sandwich, Mass.

OTIS MOSELEY, MD ’55, a physician who played an integral role in bringing Lake Regional Hospital to the Lake of the Ozarks, died May 25, 2017, in Osage Beach, Mo.

FRED NELSON, MD BS MED ’49, a radiologist who was instrumental in establishing Tipton General Hospital in Tipton, Mo., and a Purple Heart recipient for his service in the U.S. Army in the Battle of the Bulge, died June 22, 2017, in Nashville, Ga.

SEMON SANDVEN, MD BS MED ’49, a longtime internist in Santa Monica, Calif., died July 9, 2017.

ELEANOR SHAHEEN BRADDOCK, MD, professor emeritus of child health and former associate chair of child health at the MU School of Medicine, died in October 2017 in Columbia. After retiring from pediatrics in 1991, Dr. Shaheen Braddock embarked on a second career as a chaplain for MU Health Care.

EARL “JACK” WIPFLER, MD BS MED ’53, died Aug. 9, 2017, in Gulf Shores, Ala. Dr. Wipfler and his wife established the Jack and Shirley Wipfler Auditorium in the School of Nursing. Earl Wipfler practiced as a vascular and general surgeon in St. Charles, Mo., for 25 years and for another 10 years as an emergency department physician. Upon retirement, he helped found the St. Charles Volunteers in Medicine free clinic, which provides care for the uninsured.

MICHAEL WULFERS, MD ’79, a longtime family medicine physician in his community, died June 1, 2017, in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

MICHAE L SHERMAN, MD, PhD, professor emeritus of child health, died Sept. 22 following complications from a stroke. As a well-respected scientist and neonatologist, Dr. Sherman had expertise in microbiology, immunology, genetics and critical care of sick newborns. He had numerous peer-reviewed publications, book chapters and invited presentations nationally and internationally. He also devoted his career to the development of young students, residents, fellows and family members.

Sherman graduated from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. He completed his pediatric internship and residency at the University of Michigan Medical System and University of California San Diego and as well as a neonatal-perinatal fellowship at University of California-Davis School of Medicine.

Sherman was strongly committed to improving the health of Eastern European infants and children and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Children’s Medical Care Foundation (CMCF) in conjunction with CMCF, he helped train Polish pediatrics and neonatologists to help reduce the infant mortality rate in Poland. In 2015, he was awarded an honorary honorary causa doctorate degree by Damien University of Medical Sciences. He was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha National Medical Honor Society and received numerous faculty teaching awards.

Sherman was born June 8, 1942, and is survived by his wife, Jan Sherman, FAPA RN, teaching professor in the School of Nursing; three sons, two brothers; one sister, grandchildren; numerous neonatal colleagues and close friends, and five cats he called his daughters.

SUBMIT A CLASS NOTE! Share your achievements with classmates by visiting medicine.missouri.edu/alumni and clicking the “Share Your News” link, or contact Laura Gerding, director of alumni affairs, at 573-882-6949 or gerdlinga@missouri.edu.
61st Annual

MEDICAL ALUMNI AWARDS

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018
Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, Missouri

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE:
5 P.M. FRIDAY, DEC. 29, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
medicine.missouri.edu/alumni/awards