

Bridges



A magazine of people, connections and community for alumni of the OHSU School of Medicine

Fall 2019

DARING TO DREAM

Meet Christopher Ponce
Campuzano, OHSU's first
DACA medical student





KRISTYNA WENTZ-GRAFF

Sharon Anderson, M.D. R '82

I invite you to learn more at www.ohsu.edu/som and contact me at somdeansoffice@ohsu.edu.

Racism is in our lane

AS WITH MANY OF YOU, I HAVE BEEN WRESTLING WITH THE CHALLENGES of the rising tide of hate in our country, and our place as a School of Medicine in the dialogue about race and racism. Earlier this year, I sought out Derick Du Vivier, M.D., M.B.A., assistant dean for diversity and inclusion in the school, and Brian Gibbs, Ph.D., M.P.A., chief diversity officer for OHSU, for what became a very meaningful and helpful discussion.

Among their incisive guidance was this: racism impacts health. So in welcoming the M.D. Class of 2023, I encouraged them to see themselves as part of the solution to some of our toughest challenges: that health care equity and health disparities are in our lane; that gun violence and its devastating impacts on people are in our lane and the health impacts of climate change are in our lane. Wherever we can, we must stand up for health and science.

On these issues, our students are our hope for the future – and our guides. They see the challenges, and they challenge our traditional approaches. And, increasingly, they represent, and are primed to integrate, the diversity of their backgrounds, perspectives and experiences to help us all deliver care and design research grounded in greater cultural wisdom and humility.

This year, we welcomed our most diverse incoming M.D. students ever. (See page 17.) Creating a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone can contribute, advance and thrive is also crucial to retention. To the extent that our diverse students and trainees choose to build their careers at OHSU, they help address our even bigger challenge: the diversity of our faculty.

The power of diversity is about all of us in combination and what we can do together. And each one of us plays a role in creating an inclusive environment. The story of first-year M.D. student Christopher Ponce Campuzano on page 12 is a great example.

Words and deeds matter. As an alum, you have a platform. Use it to talk about these issues.

Thank you for supporting the school as we create a place where more students, staff and faculty like Christopher want to come and in always aspiring to do better.

Sharon Anderson, M.D. R '82
Dean

ON THE COVER

Christopher Ponce Campuzano, first-year M.D. student and immigrant with DACA status. Story page 12.

PHOTO

Fred Joe

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Change can't happen if we see things just one way. That's why diversity is important to who we are. We are proud to be an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. 1119(180)

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Future Doctor

One immigrant's road to medicine

The parents of Christopher Ponce Campuzano took a chance at a better life for their children in the U.S. Now he's preparing for a lifetime of service in medicine, while the future of his DACA status hangs in the balance.



COURTESY CHRISTOPHER PONCE-CAMPUZANO

UP FRONT

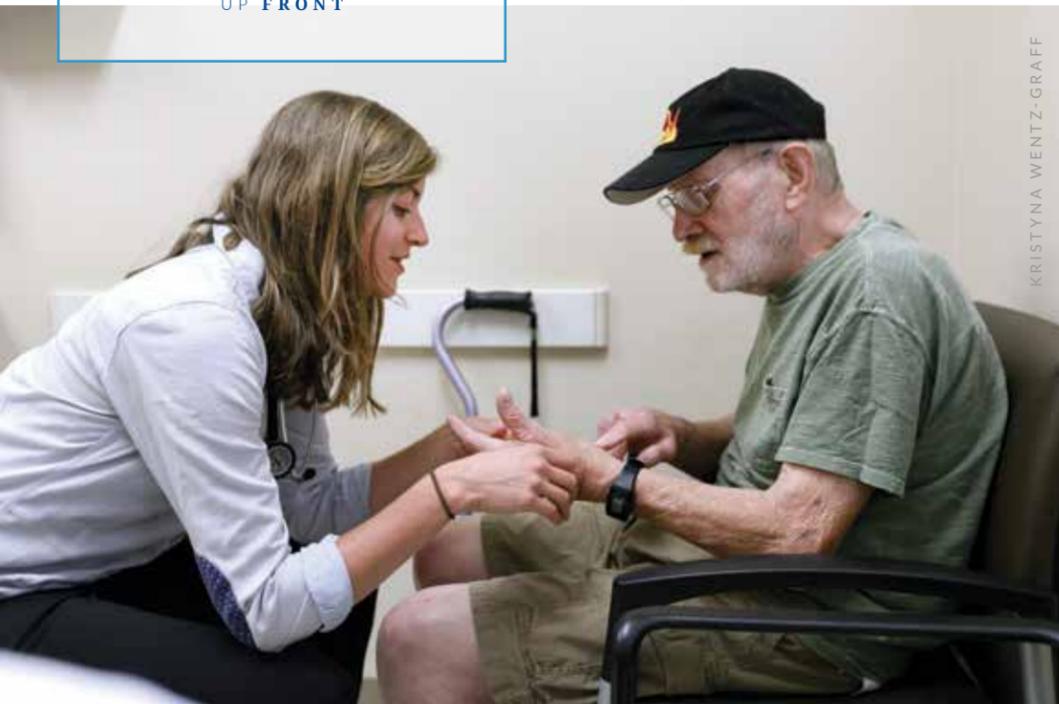
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KRISTYNA WENTZ-GRAFF

COMMITTED CARE

Dr. Katie Ruth examines Lindsey Hutchinson of Klamath Falls during an office visit at the OHSU-Cascades East Family Medicine Center in Klamath Falls. Dr. Ruth is a resident at Cascades East, a collaboration between OHSU and Sky Lakes Medical Center operating since 1994, with an aim to improve health access in rural Oregon. Dr. Ruth loved practicing in a rural area and continues to serve the community after completing her residency.



Partnership with UC Davis will address physician workforce shortages in underserved California, Oregon communities

The American Medical Association (AMA) awarded the OHSU School of Medicine and UC Davis a five-year, \$1.8 million grant to establish the California Oregon Medical Partnership to Address Disparities in Rural Education and Health (COMPADRE).

The initiative promises to expand access to quality health care between Sacramento and Portland. It will place hundreds of medical students and residents with 10 health care systems, 16 hospitals and a network of Federally Qualified Health Center partners to train in medically underserved rural, tribal and urban communities.

Students and residents will provide services in seven medical specialties. Ten OHSU residency programs will be directly involved, including the internal medicine and family medicine residencies at OHSU and Tuality, family medicine at Klamath Falls and the OHSU emergency medicine, general surgery, obstetrics-gynecology, pediatrics and psychiatry residency programs.

COMPADRE's main goals are to: address health care workforce shortages in rural, tribal, urban and other communities that lack resources; increase access to health care

providers; and improve the care of patients from ethnic and racial minority groups who are disproportionately affected by certain conditions.

“Our responsibility as a medical school is not only to train outstanding physicians, but also to train physicians who meet the needs of all our communities,” said Sharon Anderson, M.D., dean, OHSU School of Medicine. “This grant provides the resources and framework needed to build on our existing efforts in an intentional and coordinated manner so that we have more and clearer pathways for students and trainees motivated to serve where they are most needed. We applaud the AMA for supporting our ability to better serve our country and are thrilled about our partnership with UC Davis.”

More than 300 institutions and organizations collaborated to submit 252 grant proposals and only eight were selected to receive the full amount of funding.

“With our expanded network in Northern California and all of Oregon, we are really excited about the impact we can have in partnership with underserved communities,” said George Mejicano, M.D., senior associate dean for education, OHSU School of Medicine. – FW



OHSU reactivates heart transplant program

The United Network for Organ Sharing approved OHSU's new primary physician for heart transplantation, Johannes Steiner, M.D., allowing the university to resume heart transplant care.

The unanimous decision, effective Aug. 26, comes less than one year after OHSU voluntarily suspended its program due to the departure of four advanced heart failure cardiologists.

OHSU has hired three advanced heart failure specialists from some of the nation's top cardiovascular programs:

- Nalini Colaco, M.D., Ph.D., University of California San Francisco, California
- Luke Masha, M.D., M.P.H., Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts
- Johannes Steiner, M.D., Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, and the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, Vermont

The newly recruited cardiologists join Howard Song, M.D., Ph.D., chief of cardiothoracic surgery, and Fred Tibayan, M.D., surgery director for heart failure and transplant, who have performed more heart transplants and implanted more ventricular assist devices than any other surgeon in the state. – THB

Study shows promise in repairing damaged myelin

Researchers have developed a compound that stimulates repair of myelin – the protective sheath that covers nerve cells – offering fresh hope to those living with multiple sclerosis.

The team found that the treatment in mice also improved motor control, and a derivative successfully penetrated the blood brain barrier, enabling a tenfold delivery increase to the central nervous system.

The study was led by Tom Scanlan, Ph.D. (below, right), professor of chemical physiology and biochemistry, postdoctoral fellow Meredith Hartley, Ph.D. (left), and Dennis Bourdette, M.D. (not pictured), professor and chair of neurology. For her role in the study, Dr. Hartley was awarded the Alumni Association's Postdoctoral Paper of the Year Award.

I am really optimistic. I hope that this will be literally a missing link that could just change the lives of people with MS.

– Laura Wieden

“I am really optimistic,” said Laura Wieden, who lives with multiple sclerosis. The daughter of Portland advertising executive Dan Wieden, she is the namesake and board member of the Laura Fund for Innovation in Multiple Sclerosis, which funded much of the research. “I hope that this will be literally a missing link that could just change the lives of people with MS.”

OHSU licensed the technology to a California biotechnology company, which will advance the research to clinical trials. – ER



KRISTYNA WENTZ-GRAFF

TOM DEERINCK AND MARK ELLISMAN, NATIONAL CENTER FOR MICROSCOPY AND IMAGING RESEARCH (NCMIR)



JORDAN SLEETH

WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW

This year's class of new residents and fellows is one of the most diverse trainee cohorts in recent history.

Diversity in residency programs continues to increase

In July, 263 new resident and fellow physicians joined OHSU, one of the most diverse trainee cohorts in recent history based on published data.

- 14%, underrepresented minority groups (compared to 12% in 2018)
- 20%, rural background (consistent with 2018)
- 35%, disadvantaged/faced adversity (compared to 43% in 2018)

“These physicians are the workforce of tomorrow, and diversity is a core value of OHSU and essential in meeting the future health care needs of our state and nation,” said Christopher Swide, M.D., associate dean for graduate medical education. “Our faculty, trainees and staff are enthusiastic champions for diversity and inclusion, and I’m proud of the progress we are making to foster a diverse group of trainees.”

The effort also supports OHSU goals to foster a more diverse faculty and promote a culture of inclusion and respect. The school defines diversity in multiple ways:

- People in groups underrepresented in medicine (American Indian/Alaskan Native, Black/African American, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino and/or two or more of these races)
- People from a rural background
- People who faced disadvantages or economic adversity

Based on data in the OHSU Fact Book, this class is more diverse in race and ethnicity than the overall distribution of house officers at OHSU. For example, 5% of this year’s class are African American, compared to 3.9% of house officers in 2018-19. Also, 6% of this year’s class are Hispanic/Latino of any race, compared to 5% of house officers in 2018-19.

Part of the GME program’s overall recruitment plan, the second look program is one way to increase diversity. The GME office and six programs this year invited competitive applicants in the main National Resident Matching Program back to campus and the city of Portland in early February. As a result, 43% of the applicants who attended the second look days this year came to OHSU. – JS

WHAT'S NEW IN THE SCHOOL

- Sunil Joshi, M.D./Ph.D. student, was among 30 students selected to participate in the prestigious Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship program, which honors immigrants and children of immigrants poised to make significant contributions in their field. Joshi was the first-ever fellow named from OHSU.

- The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accredited the new Ph.D.

Program for Biomedical Sciences. The NWCC accreditation marks the final step that clears the way for the program’s launch in fall of 2020, at the centennial anniversary of graduate education at OHSU.

- OHSU opened the first dedicated Center for ADHD Research in the Pacific Northwest, led by Joel Nigg, Ph.D., professor of psychiatry, OHSU School of Medicine. The center’s multi-disciplinary approach combines neuroimaging, early development research, genetics-epigenetics and clinical studies to differentiate various types of ADHD and investigate new treatments.



RACHEL SHAFER

- The Department of Physiology and Pharmacology joined with the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology to form the Department of Chemical Physiology and Biochemistry. The goal is to build a robust structural biology program and enhance collaboration by co-locating the disciplines of biochemistry, chemical biology, structural biology and physiology.
- The Howard Hughes Medical Institute selected Tavita Garrett (pictured), Ph.D. student in the Vollum Institute/Neuroscience Graduate Program, to receive a highly competitive Gilliam Fellowship for Advanced Study. – RS

Driven to practice and to advance medicine



CHRISTINE BARR

READY FOR AN EIGHT-YEAR COURSE OF STUDY

The class of six incoming students in the M.D./Ph.D. program, which was expanded by one slot this year to begin to address increased demand and to help grow the ranks of physician scientists, a priority of Dean Sharon Anderson in response to a shortage of professionals with this dual degree. Since the program launched in 1982, 77 students have graduated with their M.D./Ph.D. – EHB

Among the best in the country

OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital is among the best children’s hospitals in the country, according to *U.S. News & World Report’s* 2019-20 Best Children’s Hospitals rankings, and recognized in the following pediatric specialties:

19th	Neonatology
29th	Nephrology
29th	Neurology and neurosurgery
47th	Cancer
50th	Orthopedics

OHSU Hospital ranks among the best in the country and No. 1 in Oregon, according to *U.S. News & World Report’s* Best Hospitals 2019-20, and is recognized in the following adult specialties:

18th	Pulmonology and lung surgery
25th	Geriatrics
30th	Ear, nose and throat (otolaryngology)
40th	Cardiology and heart surgery
44th	Neurology and neurosurgery
46th	Cancer

Overcoming obstacles

OHSU offers the only post-baccalaureate, pre-medical program for Native Americans.

By Franny White

Even though Kyna Lewis is a Tlingit Alaskan Native and grew up in Anchorage, she didn't meet a Native doctor until a year ago, at OHSU.

She came to Portland last fall to participate in the OHSU Wy'east Post-Baccalaureate Pathway, a 10-month program for talented Native American students that offers an alternative to the traditional medical school admissions process and provides conditional acceptance into the M.D. program for students who complete the pathway.

Wy'east includes a mix of science and public health coursework, MCAT preparation, research, study and self-care skills, and community health service with Oregon tribes. Named after the Multnomah word for Oregon's iconic Mt. Hood, it's the only post-baccalaureate, pre-medical pathway exclusively for Native Americans in the country, run by OHSU Northwest Native American Center of Excellence and directed by Erik Brodt, M.D., who is Ojibwe and an assistant professor of family medicine in the OHSU School of Medicine.

Lewis is among a total of six Natives who started medical school at OHSU this fall, part of the most diverse M.D. class in school history (see page 17). Together, they stand to increase the total Native American student enrollment at U.S. medical schools by about 15%.

Lewis's journey was far from easy. In 2013, her sister was murdered shortly before Lewis took final exams in college. She rushed home to help her family for a week, but then returned to take tests. Her grades suffered. Her teenage cousin was also diagnosed with cancer in 2016. She became his guardian and simultaneously juggled helping him return to health and



FUTURE PHYSICIAN
Mike Lewis kisses his daughter Kyna Lewis, 25, during a blanket ceremony at the June completion ceremony of the first cohort of scholars who participated in the Wy'east Post-Baccalaureate Pathway. Kyna started medical school at OHSU this fall.

completing her college studies.

It took five and a half years for her to earn a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Lewis applied to medical school but was rejected because she lacked experience shadowing medical providers and had a low MCAT score.

But she persisted. Lewis felt she needed to set the example that she didn't see as a child – and help health care providers better understand Native culture so they better care for their patients. "I found a place where I actually belong," she said.

Dr. Brodt spoke to the Wy'east scholars during their blanket ceremony upon completion of the pathway. Wool blankets were placed on the scholars' backs to symbolize the resources and shelter for protecting themselves and their loved ones.

"When I look at you," he said, "I see all the riddles that you will solve in the years to come. I see the thousands and thousands of patients you will treat. And, one day, years later in a clinic, I see a child who will have the courage to answer the question 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' with 'I want to be a Native American doctor, just like you.'" □

BY THE NUMBERS

1/4

of Native Americans die before they turn 45

0.4

percent of all working U.S. physicians are Native American

39

of the 21,600-plus U.S. medical students last year identified as Native American

55

the number of times Native medical students are more likely to serve Native people than their peers



PATH TO MEDICINE

1 Dr. Meryl Sundy (left) works with Wy'east scholar Ashley Wirth as they volunteer with the Casey Eye Institute Outreach Program during a service trip working with the Klamath Tribes community in Chiloquin, Oregon. **2** Dr. Erik Brodt congratulates scholar Jacob Smith. **3** Scholars celebrate after this year's White Coat Ceremony, as members of the M.D. Class of 2023.

Do I belong here? Ye-sh.

to address the prompt for five to eight minutes. He or she completes the MMI when the applicant has finished addressing about 12 prompts.

When I read that comment, every cell in my body froze. I started questioning my advisor if this was even a fair evaluation. You see, despite being born here in America, I have an accent. On top of that, I have a lisp. I saw speech therapists for a couple of years because my school thought by having a lisp, I was cognitively slower than the other kids. My mom pulled me out of therapy after she realized that I was only slowing down because I had to miss class in order to attend therapy. (Thanks, Mom!) Anyway, therapy did not help me speak “normally.” Having braces did not stop air from flowing out the sides of my teeth. I was so conscious of how I talked because I was afraid people might point out that something was “wrong” with me, and there were people who did make fun of me for having it. However, that inhibition diminished over the years, and I worked hard to become more extroverted and achieve my dream of getting into medical school.

Therefore, when I read that comment, it felt like I was pulled back to my childhood years. Despite my accomplishments, I started doubting my capabilities. Will my future patients want someone *they* can understand more clearly? Will a future colleague of mine dismiss my suggestion on a patient’s treatment just because of the way I talked? Most likely. The evaluator’s comment played in my head like a broken cassette tape on a repeated loop for months, and I had serious doubts about whether I was pursuing the right career.

Two years passed, and I am now a proud member of OHSU School of Medicine Class of 2023. After our White Coat Ceremony, we were sitting on the grassy field in Willamette Park, discussing about imposter’s syndrome. We went around explaining if there was ever a time we felt like an imposter, and most of us, at one point or even then, felt like that. During orientation week, we were reassured again and again that out of the 6,000-plus applicants, the admission officers did not make a mistake in choosing us. The first time they told me that I brushed it off. The second time they told us I heard them. The third time I believed them.

There will be times throughout our lives, especially the next four years, when we will have imposter’s syndrome again, and that is okay. What is not okay is if we let the syndrome rupture our identity, interrupt our actions, or disrupt us from chasing our dreams. I am still conscious about my speech, but I no longer let people’s comments affect what I want to say. I did not choose the wrong profession. I chose a profession that I love. ▢

Essay by Trisha Chau, first-year M.D. student

“Difficult to understand. You should think about a different profession.” I read it again and again. Each time with a slower pace. I was sitting in my pre-med advisor’s office reading the evaluation forms from my mock multiple medical interview (MMI) station. Overall, I did okay. Not great, but okay. However, this comment stunned me. This evaluator was an admission officer from an out-of-state medical school. He has screened 10,000 applicants and interviewed thousands. Surely, he knew the field better than I did. Would I really stand a chance when I apply? Did I really choose the wrong field?

Instead of a traditional one-on-one interview, a medical applicant goes through a circuit of interview stations with a different interviewer in each room. The applicant receives two minutes to read the prompt before entering the room

OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE

“This is the Horsehead and Flame nebula in the Orion constellation,” wrote Kyle Romine, third-year Ph.D. candidate in the Cancer Biology Graduate Program. “It was captured using my 610mm Newtonian telescope and a Canon 70D on a tracking mount. To get fainter details of this nebula, I combined over 12 hours of imaging data into one single image. The image was captured in Pullman, Washington, over five nights.” Romine’s photo first appeared in *Aerial*, a magazine published by OHSU students.

Chasing his dream

DACA student Christopher Ponce Campuzano starts medical school with hard work and determination. He hopes to become a pediatric oncologist or pediatric cardiologist caring for underserved children in the U.S.

Written by Carin Moonin, photos by Fred Joe

Christopher Ponce Campuzano was born in a small fishing town on the Pacific Coast of Mexico. His parents made tortillas; his dad also worked in the fields. It was a simple life, he said, without many opportunities.

He was four years old when his parents decided to move the family to the U.S. in search of a better life for their children.

They started out living with an aunt in Austin, Texas, six people in her one-bedroom apartment. His dad worked construction; his mom cleaned houses. At night, his parents worked janitorial jobs.

In school, Ponce Campuzano fell in with other kids seeking belonging and status through gangs and fights.

“I wasn’t a good student,” said the first-year M.D. student. “I failed classes. I didn’t care if I finished high school.”

But his parents persevered. They moved to a new neighborhood with a school specializing in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

At school, a staff member took notice of Ponce Campuzano and steered him into the robotics club; soon, he was making pals and developing bonds with teachers. Thanks to them, he realized it wasn’t lame to like math and science.

Today, Ponce Campuzano is the School of Medicine’s first Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) medical student. What began with robotics became a pursuit of medicine and public service. Ponce Campuzano is finding a way to not only fulfill his passion for science but also make a difference for families like his own and those from all backgrounds who struggle to access the health services they need.

“My parents took a chance,” he said. “And now I’m here.”



“I’d always heard, ‘No, no, no, you can’t.’ But finally, I could.”

— Christopher Ponce Campuzano



AMONG THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST

Christopher Ponce Campuzano is OHSU’s first M.D. student with DACA status.

Yes, yes, yes, you can

Early one morning his senior year in high school, Ponce Campuzano was watching *CNN* when President Obama announced the DACA program. Through DACA, qualifying undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children prior to 2007 are granted legal work authorization and temporary protection from deportation for a renewable period of two years.

He woke up his parents to share the news.

They said it sounded too good to be true. They feared answering the questions on the DACA form about how they had gotten into the country. They had always equated their safety with hiding.

Ponce Campuzano remained focused on the DACA path to legitimacy. During his first semester at Texas Tech University, Ponce Campuzano decided to submit a DACA application. But the process seemed overwhelming. So he approached a professor at Texas Tech's law school for help.

"He said he'd do it pro bono if I'd let his students work on the application," Ponce Campuzano said. "Since then, we've become amazing friends."

When he was granted DACA status, Ponce Campuzano felt enormous relief and, for the first time, a sense of security. He didn't have to hide anymore.

He was majoring in math and minoring in chemistry. Math – specifically fractal geometry – provided insight into biology. Fractal shapes are infinitely complex, just like the human body. He joined Texas Tech's Undergraduate Research Scholars Program. One of his projects involved researching new treatments by applying a Vitamin D3 metabolite to breast cancer cells.

But he discovered he didn't want to only perform bench research; he wanted to work with patients.

Thanks to DACA, opportunities opened up. He could finally take his first plane ride – to attend the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) conference in Los Angeles.

That's where he learned about OHSU's Equity Research Program, sponsored by the Center for Diversity and Inclusion. He applied for a summer internship and was accepted in 2017.

"I'd always heard, 'No, no, no, you can't,'" he said. "But finally, I could."

Finding his niche

During his OHSU internship, Ponce Campuzano researched the effects of social vulnerabilities on readmission rates at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, where he surveyed readmitted patients about their social lives at home and in their communities.

"I shadowed physicians during clinic and rounds," he said. "Loved every second."

After graduating from college in 2018, he took a gap year to apply to medical schools and work at OHSU's Novel Interventions in Children's Healthcare (NICH) program as a pediatric medical interventionist.

Children are referred to NICH when their health is declining and if their social situation is complex. NICH provides families with a pediatric interventionist who offers 24/7 intensive support, skills training and case management.

One of his projects involved behavioral management with children with Type 1 diabetes. Successful diabetes care is challenging, especially for kids: They go from eating whatever they want to needing to prick their fingers four times daily and inject themselves with insulin. He'd set up weekly goals for them, providing contingencies to maintain routines.

Ponce Campuzano often put himself in the shoes of those he worked with,



COLLEGE MENTOR

Ponce Campuzano with Julie Isom, his research mentor at Texas Tech. "I would not have been able to accomplish the things that I did during college without her," he said. "She saw beyond my status and helped me grow within my limitations in this country. She funded my medical school applications when my family could not afford them."

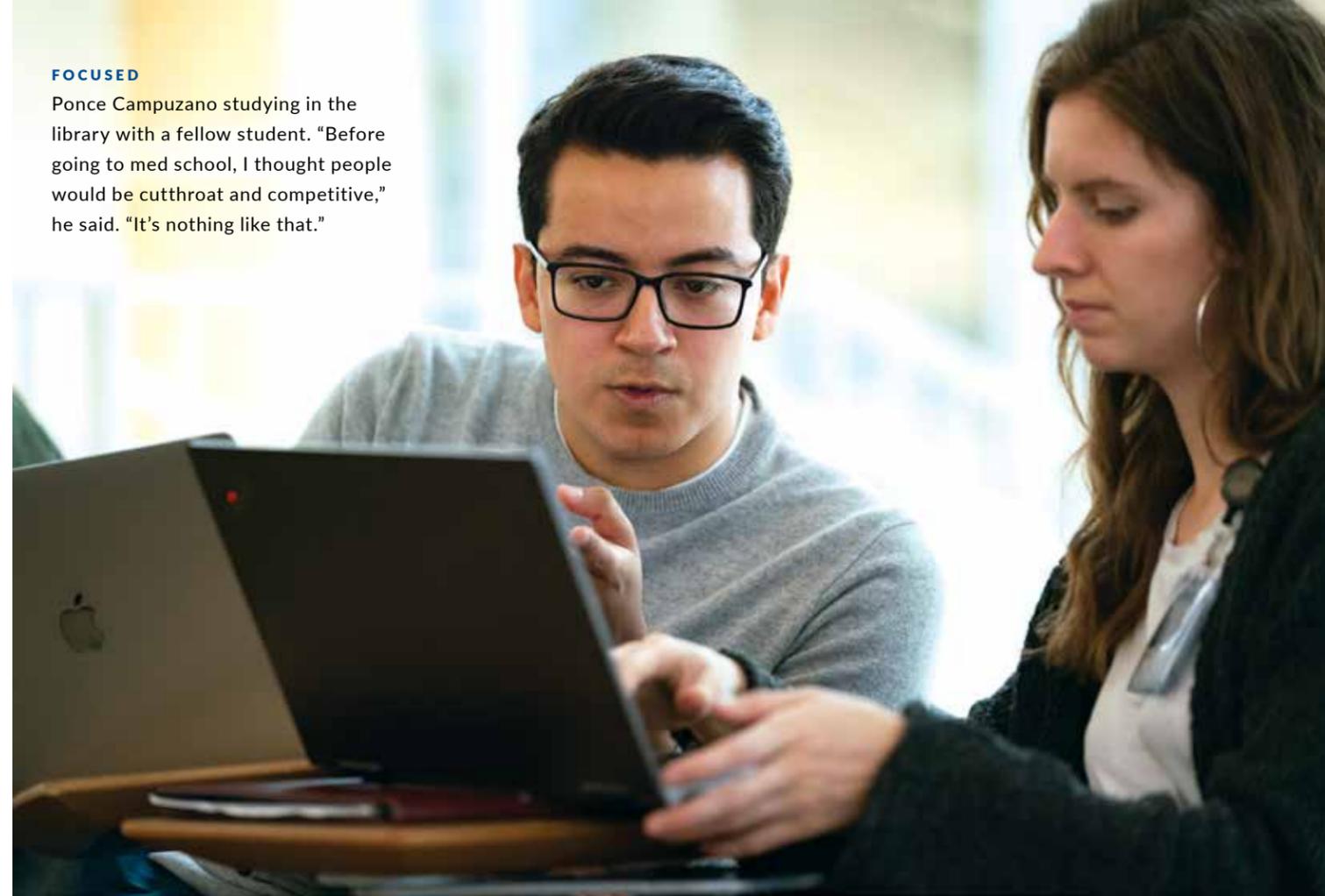


M.D. MENTOR

With OHSU mentor Dr. Carolyn Zook. "She's my biggest advocate at OHSU," said Ponce Campuzano. "She has made me realize my own worth and has closely mentored me since the day we met in 2017."

FOCUSED

Ponce Campuzano studying in the library with a fellow student. "Before going to med school, I thought people would be cutthroat and competitive," he said. "It's nothing like that."



say colleagues.

"We had a child in dire need of medication, but didn't have time to set up medical transport," said Matthew Heywood, M.P.H., NICH clinical supervisor. "Christopher drove the family to the clinic. They had a taco truck, and while they were at the hospital, he worked at the truck for the day so the family wouldn't lose any income."

Make it happen

Carolyn Zook, Ph.D., M.S., program manager of M.D. advising, colleges and outreach, is Ponce Campuzano's OHSU mentor. They met during his internship and stayed in touch. In December last year, Dr. Zook asked him to meet her at the Robertson Life Sciences Building. When he arrived, she told him he'd gotten into OHSU.

"I cried, right there in the lobby," he said. "I was so happy. I called my parents, and my mother started crying. It was my grandmother's birthday and also the Virgin Mary's birthday, which is a big deal for her. I called my family in Mexico. Many of them haven't been to high school or middle school or school in general. They were so excited when I told them I was going to be a doctor."

Ponce Campuzano was awarded the OHSU Presidential Scholarship, which covers his tuition, and the Niles Family Scholarship, which covers his expenses. Because of these two generous awards, he can prioritize his schooling.

"When I found out about the scholarships, I called my father and told him to take a day off work," he said. "We didn't have to worry about how we were going

Working toward a diverse physician workforce

A recent *JAMA* study confirmed that black, Hispanic, American Indian and Alaska Native students remain underrepresented among medical school matriculants; this hasn't changed significantly since the Liaison Committee on Medical Education established diversity accreditation guidelines in 2009.

Yet schools are making progress. OHSU's M.D. Class of 2023 is the most diverse in school history. Ponce Campuzano said he's found that diversity in friends and colleagues, and he appreciates people's willingness to reach out to one another, no matter what one's background.

"I think that's one of the coolest things with my generation. There's less judgment. You can talk to who you want to and not worry. I believe our whole country is moving toward that, too – a lot more caring about and helping one another." – CM

to pay for school. I'm so grateful."

Dr. Zook said, "I admire his tenacity and that he didn't give up, especially given that he had no script for this. He's figured out what he wants to do and how to make that happen."

"All are welcome"

Even with DACA, obstacles remain. As an undocumented student, Ponce Campuzano's activities are restricted. He can't apply for credit cards. He can't leave the country. He can't get a loan unless a U.S. citizen co-signs on it.

The fate of DACA itself remains up in the air; the Supreme Court is reviewing it, though a decision will likely linger into the 2020 election season.

Ponce Campuzano understands he's in a precarious position. "I know it's a risk for OHSU to do this. The DACA program could stop anytime. That would mean med school would be where it ended for me."

He's grateful for the "all are welcome" message in 2017 from OHSU's then-President Joe Robertson and follow-up message clarifying OHSU's commitment to DACA. (OHSU's policy is to decline to share confidential student information such as immigration status or act on behalf of the federal government in enforcing immigration laws.)

"OHSU understands where I'm coming from," he said. "And they gave me a chance."

Ponce Campuzano is active in organizations dedicated to diversity in STEM and immigration reform. During a trip to Washington, D.C., last year, he was able to share his DACA story and discuss immigration issues.

There isn't a day Ponce Campuzano doesn't think of his family, he said. "They have been here a long time, but every day's a risk. They can't leave the house without the risk of getting stopped and questioned. It's a part of life we've gotten used to, but doesn't stop the threat of them being deported."

It also means his family can't fly to Portland to see him. "It was heartbreaking not having my parents at White Coat, after everything they've done for me," he said.

But during a recent visit home, he announced he had a surprise. He reached into his backpack... and pulled out his white coat.

"They'd never thought they'd get the chance to see this," he said. "This keeps me going. It motivates me."



COURTESY CHRISTOPHER PONCE CAMPUZANO

FUTURE DOCTOR

Above: Ponce Campuzano after the White Coat ceremony. Below: Practicing physical exam skills with fellow students. Opposite page: Relaxing with friends.

Settling into school

Since starting medical school, Ponce Campuzano has been pleased at the support from both faculty and students. Although being far away from home is difficult, the help and mentorship he finds here goes a long way, and he's joined the Latino Caucus and the Latino Medical Association.

But what he'd really like to do is set up medical care options through OHSU to reach out to Portland's Latino community, he said.

"There's a huge barrier with medicine and the undocumented population," he explained. "They're trying to stay under the radar. Even questions like 'Where are you from?' can be overwhelming. They worry about raising suspicion, especially at massive hospitals that log everything. Many would rather just not go, or they'll take whatever remedy they know from Mexico."

In his precious free time, Ponce Campuzano explores Portland with new friends. He's enjoyed trying new foods around town and hiking near his Marquam Hill neighborhood and in the Columbia River Gorge.

Eventually he'd like to pursue pediatric cardiology or pediatric oncology. "Kids have always had the biggest impact on me," he said. "Honestly, they are the most innocent and vulnerable. It's so unfair to see them in the hospital. They deserve nothing but the best."

A future, forged

One of Ponce Campuzano's friends, Luis Diaz, is an M.D./Ph.D. student. They met during medical school interviews and discovered they both had parents from Mexico, although Diaz is a U.S. citizen.

"Not a lot of people have [his concerns] in their daily lives," said Diaz. "Having those issues makes him a strong person."

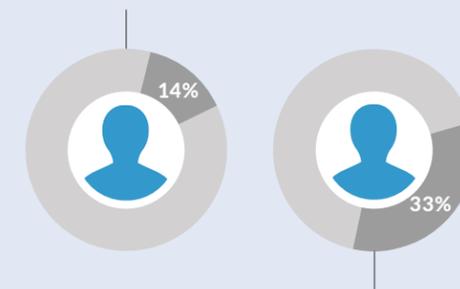
From robots to rounds, it's taken a lot to get to this point in Ponce Campuzano's journey. Despite the uncertainty, he remains dedicated to helping break barriers not only for him, but also for future generations.

"[Underserved] families deal with many demands on their lives," said NICH Director Michael Harris, Ph.D., professor of pediatrics, OHSU School of Medicine. "But Christopher is steady. He is unflappable. That's a critical piece in his success. I see him delivering medicine to those most challenged by their health. He'll be an incredible physician." □

By the numbers

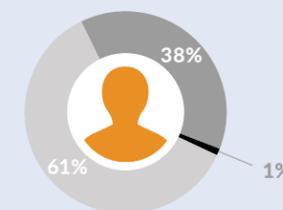
RACE

Of the 160 incoming M.D. students and 263 new residents and fellows, 14% of both cohorts identify with a minority group underrepresented in medicine, which includes Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native American or Alaskan Native.



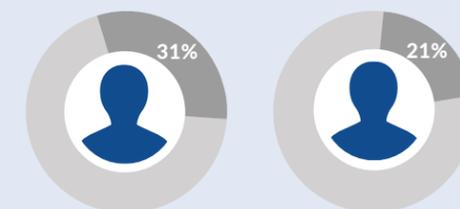
When adding those who identify as Asian or Asian Indian, the total proportion more than doubles: 33% come from racial or ethnic backgrounds other than white.

GENDER



This year, 61% of the M.D. Class of 2023 self-identified as female, 38% as male, and 1% declined to respond.

BACKGROUND



This year, 31% of the M.D. Class of 2023 describe their background as disadvantaged and 21% hail from a rural area.



Giving the gift of compassionate communication

Ronald Naito, M.D. '78, will leave a legacy in mindfully conveying difficult news.

By Carin Moonin

The U.S. health care system prioritizes efficiency in provider-patient interactions. But when it comes to sharing a serious or life-threatening diagnosis with a patient, true competence comes from being present and fully engaged, said Ronald Naito, M.D. '78.

In almost 40 years as an internist and geriatrician in the Portland area, Dr. Naito gained a reputation for thoughtfulness and care in talking to patients about their health concerns, from simple to complex, according to patients and colleagues.

Serious illness – and careless communications about it – can strike anyone, any time. Dr. Naito is no exception. When diagnosed last year with Stage IV pancreatic cancer, he found out in a manner he describes as “sub-optimal.” While awaiting

LIFE LESSONS

Drs. Ronald Naito and Susan Tolle (center, front) with students from OHSU's “Living With Life-Threatening Illness” course.

biopsy results, he overheard his doctor – as he walked past his room – remark, “It’s five centimeters. Very bad.” That experience inspired him to establish the Ronald



W. Naito Directorship in Serious Illness Education within the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care, endowed by a \$1 million gift from the Ronald W. Naito M.D. Foundation.

Palliative medicine physician Katie Stowers, D.O., assistant professor of medicine, OHSU School of Medicine, will hold the inaugural directorship, expanding on the school's compassionate conversation training.

“Dr. Naito exemplifies the compassion we hope to instill through our training program,” Dr. Stowers said. “His gift will allow us to improve the care of seriously ill individuals for generations.”

In addition, Dr. Naito served as a patient-teacher in OHSU's popular first-year elective, “Living With Life-Threatening Illness.” He participated in a teaching video to discuss his experience being on both sides of grave illness, emphasizing the importance of being fully present with a patient.

“Look at them fully,” he urged. “Interact with patients genuinely, with an open heart, with love, as another human being.”

Being present means when you're with a patient, in that moment, that's the only patient who exists. No one before. No one after. Just this patient, right now.

“Being present energizes you as a physician,” he added.

As a patient facing death, you need time to manage a range of emotions, he explained. But Dr. Naito also sees the positive: an unexpected opportunity for spiritual evolution. “You can grow much more spiritually in a matter of months than you could in 20 years,” he said.

Dr. Naito embodies the qualities we want to impart to the next generation of health care professionals, said Susan Tolle, M.D., professor of medicine, OHSU School of Medicine, and director of the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care. “He brings deep spirituality and caring to his relationships. His legacy will live on in the lessons he's taught and programs he's funded.”

One of Dr. Naito's students is second-year M.D. student Alyssa Hjelvik. “He showed what it means to be present, mindful, and as fully aware of the circumstances surrounding death and dying as a person – external to that – can be. Being in his presence will leave a legacy in who I become as a clinician.” **B**

At the time of this writing, Dr. Naito is currently undergoing treatment to manage the progression of his cancer.



PRESENCE OF MIND

Dr. Ronald Naito cuddles his cat, Dolly, at his Portland, Oregon, home earlier this year. The poor verbal delivery of Dr. Naito's diagnosis with Stage IV pancreatic cancer left him determined to share his experience with future physicians.



What dogs can teach us

Researchers in the lab of Elaine Ostrander, Ph.D. '87, are conducting one of the largest collaborative experiments between NIH scientists and the general public.

The focus? Dog genetics.

Her team manages more than 34,000 samples of canine DNA – all donated by dog owners from around the world – in an effort to understand the genetics and genomics of 450 dog breeds.



Elaine Ostrander,
Ph.D. '87

By studying canine morphology, behaviors and susceptibility to disease, Ostrander hopes to shed light on human diseases such as prostate and breast cancer.

Why dogs? “There’s so much variation within *Canis familiaris*, and dogs can all get the same diseases as humans do,” she said. “Plus, it’s fun and interesting. That’s the story of my lab.”

Dr. Ostrander, a NIH Distinguished Investigator and proud mom to two teenage daughters, is a pioneer in the field of comparative genomics. She initiated the National Human Genome Research Institute’s Dog Genome Project in 1993 and, over the years, her lab mapped more than 150 dog breeds – who combined with who to make what and how DNA was transferred around – and linked numerous dog genes with their traits, including the gene that makes Great Danes and

St. Bernards enormous, a gene also associated with human obesity.

Earlier this year, she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors a scientist can receive and a nod to *One Health*, an ascending premise in science that the health of people is connected to the health of animals and the environment.

“It’s time to embrace the whole natural world around us and learn from different organisms,” said Dr. Ostrander. “They all have something to teach us. Elephants, for example, rarely get cancer. Why is that? It’s an exciting time to be in genetics.”

Dr. Ostrander got her scientific start when a high school genetics class fired up her curiosity. At OHSU, she joined the lab of Lesley Hallick, Ph.D., former professor of microbiology and immunology, OHSU School of Medicine. There, Dr. Ostrander learned cloning techniques, DNA sequencing and the value of a collegial lab environment. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the lab of Harvard biochemist James Wang, Ph.D., and launched her canine genetics lab at UC Berkeley.

Today, she continues to oversee research. “I cannot retire until I understand how border collies herd,” said Dr. Ostrander, whose own beloved collie died several years ago. “They have this crouch and this intimidating Rasputin eye. I need to understand the genetics because I’m pretty sure when we figure out border collies, we’ll learn something about our own obsessive compulsive behavior.” – RS

The award goes to...

The Alumni Awards program recognizes exceptional members of our 19,000-member community. The accomplishments of alumni deserve to be recognized – which is why your participation in this program is crucial. Throughout the year, we accept nominations in several categories. Nominate a classmate or a colleague by Dec. 13 for the 2020 awards. Instructions and more details can be found at www.ohsu.edu/somalumniawards.

Financial wellness seminars

Thinking about your financial future? The school’s Division of Continuing Professional Development is offering Financial Wellness Seminars at the Oregon Medical Association OMEF Event Center in Tigard, Oregon. The 1.5-hour dinner sessions in December and January cover personal financial wellness topics with a focus on the medical community. Learn more at www.ohsu.edu/school-of-medicine/cpd/financial-wellness-seminar-series.

Keepin’ it real



FAR OUT, MAN!

The Radiation Therapy Class of 1972 poses in front of the Marquam Hill campus fountain (1972). From the Hilda Drum Collection.



Your 2019-2020 Alumni Council

The Alumni Council leads alumni association activities and represents the alumni perspective to the school’s administration. This year’s council welcomes new members: Grover Bagby, M.D. R ’71, F ’72, ’76, Charles ‘Bud’ Garrison, M.B.A. ’12, Molly Hoeflich, M.D. ’81, Steven Mansoor, M.D., Ph.D. ’09. Learn more about alumni association activities at www.ohsu.edu/som/alumni.

Class notes

WE WELCOME YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS

Email alumni@ohsu.edu or write a note to *Bridges* Class Notes c/o Rachel Shafer, OHSU School of Medicine, 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Rd., MC L102, Portland, OR 97239. Please write a maximum of 250 words and include your name, degree/training information and graduation/completion year. We may not be able to publish all items and may edit for length and clarity.

1960s

Mark Hattenhauer, M.D. '66 R '72, F '74, wrote a blog post about “the infiltration of non-science based therapies into academic medical centers, including OHSU.” Read his viewpoint about complementary and alternative medicine at <https://thoughtsfrommarkhattenhauermd.wordpress.com/>.

Ira Jacobson, M.D. '69, created and launched a new product designed to secure phone charging equipment when being used in a wall socket. Dr. Jacobson reports that the product, named iCube Lock, was inspired by his grandchildren. More details at iCubeLock.com.

1980s

The National Academy of Sciences elected **Elaine Ostrander, Ph.D. '87**, as a new member. Dr. Ostrander, a National Institutes of Health Distinguished Investigator, is chief of the Cancer Genetics and Comparative Genomics Branch at the National Human Genome Research Institute and has worked within the institute since 2004. (See story page 20.)

1990s



▶ **Michelle Aurelius, M.D. '99**, wrote, “In May, I was named chief medical examiner for North Carolina. The North Carolina Medical Examiner System serves a population of more than 10 million North Carolinians.”

2000s

The Aspen Institute named **SreyRam Kuy, M.D. '05, M.H.S., FACS**, one of its 2019 Health Innovator Fellows for her work in health policy, quality and safety. Dr. Kuy is a surgeon at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center, serves on the faculty at Baylor College of Medicine and is the Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Quality and Safety for VA VISN 16.

Tina Purnat, M.S. '05, is a unit leader in health informatics and information systems at the World Health Organization in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Ashley McClure, M.D. '08, FACP, wrote, “I am now an internist practicing with Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, California. I am extremely concerned about climate change for the public’s health and well-being, and that led me to the amazing opportunity to give an interview with the secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency. Listen to the podcast here www.podshipearth.com/doctor.”

Bimal Desai, M.D., M.B.I. '08, is chief medical information officer at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia.

2010s

Lee Shapley, M.D. '12, was named vice president of medical affairs at Asante Ashland Community Hospital in Ashland, Oregon.

▶ **Michael Berman, M.D., M.B.I. '14, FACOG**, was appointed

chief quality officer at the Mount Sinai Downtown Campus of the Mount Sinai Health System in New York. Dr. Berman is the associate dean for quality and safety for graduate medical education and professor of obstetrics, gynecology and reproductive science at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.



Kate Placzek, Ph.D. F '15, was named principal investigator on an NIH-funded study to research Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in young people. Dr. Placzek will collaborate with Jeanette Johnstone, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychiatry, OHSU School of Medicine.

QiLiang Chen, M.D. '18, Ph.D. '18, is a resident in anesthesiology, perioperative and pain medicine at Stanford. He joined the Stanford Fellowship in Anesthesia Research program and will continue to pursue a career in pain research during residency. He is also working with the preoperative anesthesia group at Stanford on quality improvement projects to improve patient care.

In memoriam

William R. Applegate, M.D. R '64, of Key West, Florida, died March 21, 2019, at age 81.

Marie A. C. Breckenridge, M.D. R '79, of Portland, Oregon, died July 18, 2019, at age 82.

James A. Fraser, M.D. '60, of Anchorage, Alaska, died May 26, 2019, at age 85.

Keith F. Harcourt, M.D. '61, of Newburg, Oregon, died June 20, 2019, at age 84.

David L. Haugen, M.D. '61, of Rancho Murieta, California, died April 28, 2019, at age 83.

Russell J. Keizer, M.D. '65, of Warrenton, Oregon, died June 11, 2019, at age 81.

Samuel Klonoski, M.D. '16, of Chicago, Illinois, died Sept. 24, 2019, at age 32.

Robert C. Loomis, M.D. '60, of Eugene, Oregon, died April 22, 2019, at age 88.

Peter H. R. Roberts, M.D. '61, of Portland, Oregon, died July 15, 2019, at age 82.

Russell N. Sacco, M.D. R '67, of Lake Oswego, Oregon, died June 4, 2019, at age 83.

Terry A. Sorom, M.D. R '73, of Wenatchee, Washington, died July 6, 2019, at age 79.

Betty B. Thompson, M.D. '59, Lake Oswego, Oregon, died April 2, 2019, at age 85.

John R. Tongue, M.D. R '74, of Lake Oswego, Oregon, died Aug. 25, 2019, at age 73. Dr. Tongue was past president of the School of Medicine Alumni Council.

Donald D. Trunkey, M.D. R '64, of Post Falls, Idaho, died May 1, 2019, at age 81. Dr. Trunkey was a professor emeritus of surgery and former Mackenzie Chair, OHSU School of Medicine.

David K. Winchester, M.D. '83, of Portland, Oregon, died Aug. 22, 2019, at age 66.

Additional in memoriam entries are at www.ohsu.edu/alumni.

2020 Calendar

OHSU Marquam Hill Lectures

For more details, visit www.ohsu.edu/mhlectures. Each lecture is recorded and posted to the website.

Reframing addiction: Healing amid an opioid epidemic
Honora Englander, M.D.

FEB. 20 7 p.m. OHSU AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

What happens when kidneys fail?
Susan Gurley, M.D., Ph.D.

MARCH 19 7 p.m. OHSU ROBERTSON LIFE SCIENCES BUILDING, PORTLAND

Bionics: The evolution of human and machine
Albert Chi, M.D.

APRIL 16 7 p.m. OHSU AUDITORIUM, PORTLAND

Continuing Professional Development

51st Annual Primary Care Review

FEB. 10-14 SENTINEL HOTEL, PORTLAND

27th Annual Internal Medicine Review

MARCH 5-6 SENTINEL HOTEL, PORTLAND

3rd Annual Pediatric Mental Health: Equipping the Primary Care Provider

MARCH 6 OREGON MEDICAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION EVENT CENTER, TIGARD

4th Annual Adult Mental Health Update: Strategies for Primary Care

MARCH 13 OREGON MEDICAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION EVENT CENTER, TIGARD

Pediatric GI for Primary Care: Managing Common Complaints

APRIL 17 LANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, EUGENE

Schedules are subject to change. Please contact 503-494-8700 or cme@ohsu.edu for brochures and program updates. For the latest information on these and other continuing professional development events, visit www.ohsu.edu/som/cme.



50TH REUNION

The M.D. Class of 1969 pauses for a group portrait during their celebration at the Chart House Restaurant in Portland, Oregon.

ALUMNI RELATIONS PROGRAM



Alumni Relations Program
1121 SW Salmon Street, Suite 100
Portland, OR 97205

A LEGACY LIVES ON

E. Fred Brauti, M.D. '53, believed deeply in supporting the community where he was raised. Born in Wheeler, Oregon, Dr. Brauti attended Oregon State University and the University of Oregon Medical School (now OHSU). He completed his residency and early career practice in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He and Mary returned to Oregon in 1966 and Dr. Brauti began what was to become a 21-year partnership with former U.S. Navy colleagues in radiology practice in Corvallis.

Current Brauti Scholar Maria A. Cassera's journey to medical school links the worlds of genetics, engineering and medical device design. Cassera participated in OHSU's Partnership for Scientific Enquiry class as a junior at Portland's Lincoln High School before attending undergraduate



Dr. Fred and Mary Brauti



Maria A. Cassera

classes at Oregon State University and Portland State University.

A medical research career beckoned. "However," said Cassera, "I became increasingly attracted to the clinical side of research, and knew I needed to further my education by attending medical school."

As the first in her family to attend medical school, Cassera is shouldering the financial burden herself. "This scholarship support means so much to me," she said. "It is one piece in the puzzle that creates a strong foundation for supporting my success, lessening the impact of debt on my path to becoming a M.D. I am so thankful to have been chosen to receive this scholarship."

To find out more about scholarships at OHSU, contact Mark Kemball at 503-552-0667, kemballm@ohsu.edu, or visit www.ohsufoundation.org.



OHSU & Doernbecher
FOUNDATIONS