

# Bridges

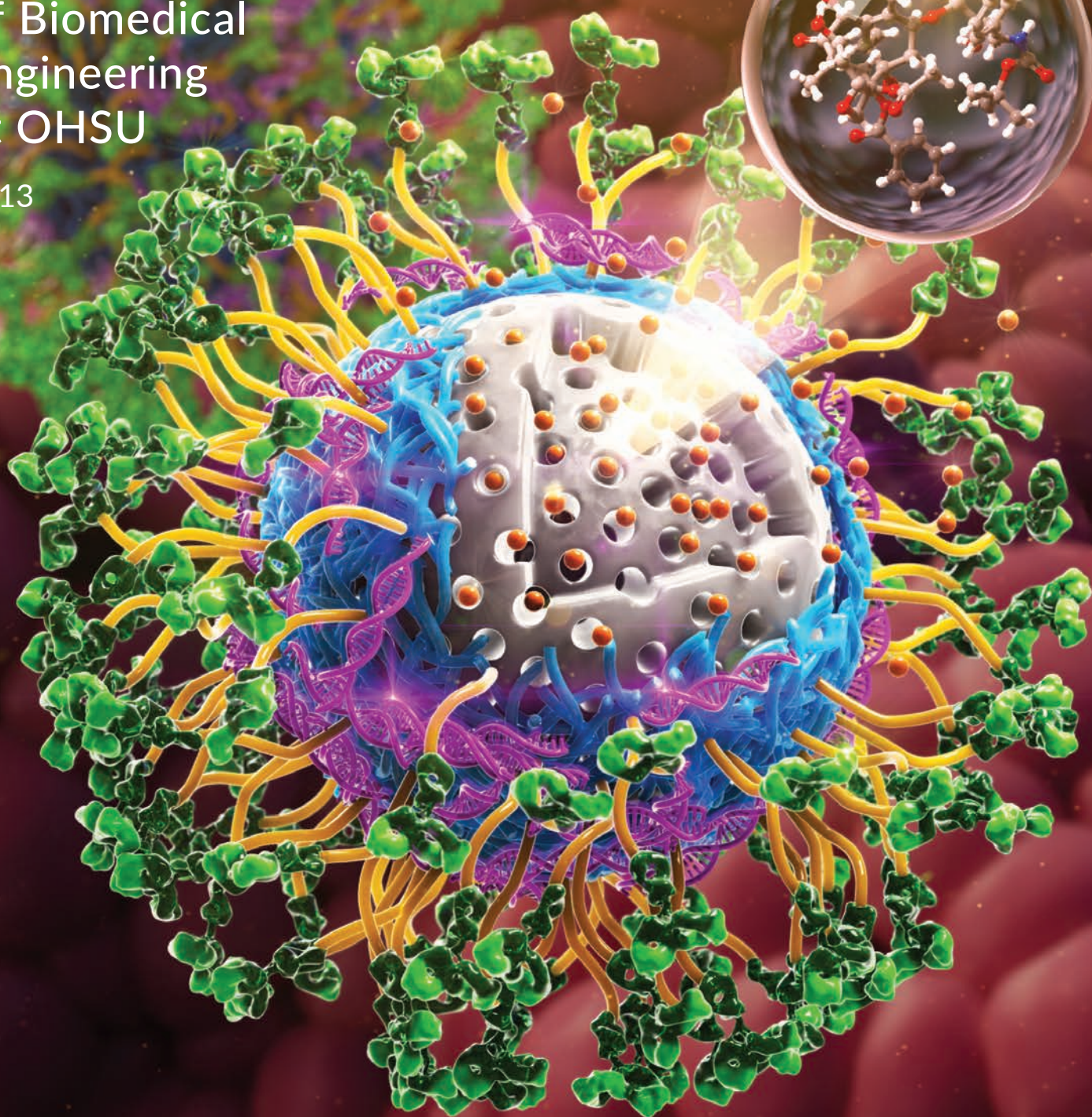
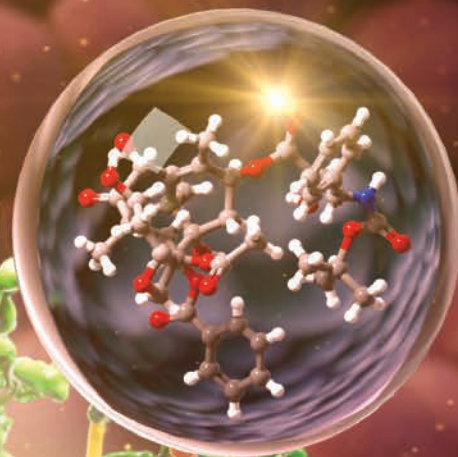
A magazine of people, connections and community for alumni of the OHSU School of Medicine



Spring 2023

## INSIDE the Growth of Biomedical Engineering at OHSU

p. 13







David Jacoby, M.D.

I invite you to learn more at [www.ohsu.edu/som](http://www.ohsu.edu/som) and contact me at [somdeansoffice@ohsu.edu](mailto:somdeansoffice@ohsu.edu).

# Delighting in the Success of Our Learners

**T**HIS SPRING FEELS LIKE NO OTHER IN RECENT MEMORY. THE BLOSSOMING OF trees and flowers mirrors that feeling of coming out of our own shells after a very long time. For me, it's been a chance to reflect on and reconnect with the vitality of all our missions.

Match Day on March 17 – yes, St. Patrick's Day – was one of those touchpoints. Witnessing the crescendo of shouts and cheers, the spontaneous tears of relief, and the clutching hugs as our M.D. Class of 2023 opened their envelopes in the Robertson Life Sciences Building Atrium and absorbed where they will do their residency training was simply elating.

Joy feels good.

All of our 165 graduating medical students who entered the match paired to a residency program, and all of our OHSU residency slots filled. A 100 percent match requires sustained effort and a real knowledge of our medical students and a dedication to curating the best possible entering class of residents. It also requires a strong alumni community that stewards OHSU's reputation in communities across the nation every day.

If you aren't aware, our School of Medicine Alumni Engagement team, and many of you through your donations, play an important role at Match Day. With frosted white coat cookies, a photo booth, the pin map for students to mark where they matched, and heartfelt remarks, the team helps our students see this day as not just when they land a residency, but when they begin their transition to becoming alumni.

No less momentous, though perhaps less raucous, is our graduating Ph.D. students defending their theses. With topics from "Developing Predictive Models to Improve Glycemic Control During Exercise in Type 1 Diabetes" to "Disentangling the web: the synthesis and application of functional lipid probes to study metabolic rewiring in RNA virus infection," their scholarship is impressive and gives me hope for the future of medicine.

I congratulate all of our learners. Join me in delighting in their success.

David Jacoby, M.D.  
Dean

## ON THE COVER

Wassana Yantasee, Ph.D., professor of biomedical engineering, and the team at startup PDX Pharmaceuticals develop polymer-decorated mesoporous silica nanoparticles for HER2-positive breast cancer treatment. The illustration depicts nanoparticles with three drug cargos: HER2 antibody (green), HER2 siRNA (purple), and chemotherapeutic docetaxel (small orange ball with zoom-in feature showing its molecular structure). The tumor bed is red in the background. The illustration, by Thom Leach/Amoeba Studios, and team's related study were originally published in the journal *Small* March 17, 2022.

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Published twice a year by the OHSU School of Medicine Office of the Dean and the OHSU School of Medicine Alumni Association, 2020 SW 4th Ave., Suite 900, Portland, OR 97201, 503-228-1730.

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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. 0523(190)

## In this issue



# 13 Inventors of Medicine's Future

The Department of Biomedical Engineering's Graduate Program is enjoying unprecedented growth in enrollment. Here, Biomedical Engineering Ph.D. student Ethan Oseas pulls a rack of cryopreserved cells out of a liquid nitrogen tank in the lab of Karina Nakayama, Ph.D., assistant professor of biomedical engineering and co-director of the graduate program.

## UP FRONT

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6 Graduate Studies reports highest-ever percentage of underrepresented students

8 Essay: Resident pens an ode to a faithful friend amidst change

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## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

## "A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT"

Maria Rodriguez, M.D., M.P.H., professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the OHSU School of Medicine, conducts an ultrasound on a patient. Rodriguez is now director of the new OHSU Center for Reproductive Health Equity.

CHRISTINE TORRES HICKS

## OHSU Launches New Center for Reproductive Health Equity

As Americans face a sharp curtailment of reproductive rights since the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* last year, OHSU continues to be on the leading edge of creating access for essential health care with a new Center for Reproductive Health Equity to advance reproductive health services, education and policy research.

"Reproductive health is a fundamental right, yet so many Americans—especially people of color, immigrants, low-income individuals and LGBTQ+ people—do not have equal access to care," says Maria Rodriguez, M.D. '04 R '08, M.P.H., professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the OHSU School of Medicine and director of the new center. "The establishment of this center is an important and necessary step to ensure a person's right to make decisions about their health is not in any way limited by factors like race, ethnicity, gender, sexual

identity or socioeconomic status."

The new center, announced in January and housed within the school's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, will work to identify and resolve the health-systems factors underlying these disparities. It will ultimately allow clinicians and researchers to more effectively design and deliver care, educate students and trainees, and advocate for evidence-based reproductive health policy.

Research priorities will include determining the role that health-systems factors play in mitigating or perpetuating reproductive health disparities, and evaluating different clinical interventions that promote reproductive health equity.

The center's education efforts will engage students, residents and faculty on the role of policy in shaping factors and conditions related to reproductive health equity.

And importantly, the center will enlist clinicians to improve reproductive health care access for marginalized populations, both in Oregon and across the country.

The establishment of the Center for Reproductive Healthy Equity represents another significant effort in OHSU's commitment to provide the full continuum of sexual and reproductive health care to all who seek it, and to educate the next generation of clinicians and advance groundbreaking research. – NR

## Sharing a Passion for Biomedical Science

On Jan. 30, Sofia Vignolo (below in black, at lab bench) gave a tour of her lab to members of the Oregon chapter of ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) Foundation where she described research underway at the Knight Cancer Precision Biofabrication hub.

Vignolo, a third-year M.D./Ph.D. student currently in the Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program and an ARCS scholar, works on craniofacial-focused applications of bone regeneration under the mentorship of Luiz Bertassoni, D.D.S., Ph.D., associate professor of restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry, member of CEDAR in the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, and faculty member in the Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program.

Vignolo explains, "My current project is focused on making mineralized collagen hydrogels with cells on a chip to better understand the mechanistic biology of bone regeneration for clinical applications such as regenerative medicine in oncology."

The ARCS Foundation is a national women's group that aids advancement in science and technology by fostering the development of new scientists and engineers in the United States. Each year, the Oregon chapter awards scholarships to graduate students in Oregon, including OHSU. – RS



JORDAN SLEETH

## David Jacoby Named Dean of the School of Medicine

In December, OHSU President Danny Jacobs appointed David Jacoby, M.D., dean of the OHSU School of Medicine. Dean Jacoby brings extensive leadership experience and significant contributions to the clinical, education and research missions over his 20-year tenure at OHSU.

"His deep knowledge of, and relationships across, OHSU and the School of Medicine will serve us at a time of great complexity and promise," said President Jacobs.

Dean Jacoby joined OHSU as chief of pulmonary and critical care in 2003, and led the expansion of that division in patient care, research and education. He became interim chair of the Department of Medicine in 2017 and permanent chair in 2018. He is professor of medicine and chemical physiology and biochemistry, in the OHSU School of Medicine, and has served as interim dean of the school since October 2021.

Dean Jacoby maintains an active research program and has trained 21 students and fellows in his lab, many of whom remain in research positions in academia and industry around the country. As a pulmonologist and intensivist, he attends in the Medical Intensive Care Unit at OHSU Hospital. – OHSU NEWS



COURTESY OHSU



# 1 in 5 Graduate Students Identifies with Underrepresented Groups

The Office of Graduate Studies reports its highest ever percentage of students this academic year who identify with groups underrepresented\* in the biomedical sciences, reaching 20% of the 700 graduate students for the first time. (See table at right for a breakdown of the data.)

“Our Ph.D., master’s degree and our certificate programs all feel different now; in some programs, students who identify as Asian or with groups underrepresented in science and medicine are the majority,” says Allison Fryer, Ph.D., associate dean for graduate studies.

Dr. Fryer and the Graduate Council, which is made up of faculty and students in Graduate Studies programs, leveled several barriers to support recruitment of a more diverse student body:

- In 2012, collaborated with the OHSU Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI), directed at that time by Leslie Garcia, M.P.A., Ed.D., to launch the Promising Scholars Program, which provides financial support each year for 10 outstanding graduate students who contribute to the intellectual richness and diversity of the OHSU student community.
- Waived application fees for students who had participated in any conference or activity that supported diversity and/or who faced financial hardship.
- Dropped the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) requirement when applying to doctoral programs. This move showed *no* change in the quality or quantity of applicants during a 3-year trial period and was expanded to all doctoral programs in 2021.

A major contributor to student body diversity across master’s degree programs is the Physician Assistant Program, which actively recruits prospective students as part of the OHSU diverse enrollment management strategy and has attracted a diverse faculty, active in community outreach that assists with admissions.

The program also takes pride in its supportive academic policies, including a Pass/No Pass grading structure and a well-developed academic advising and mentorship structure. The relative affordability of the 26-month program, versus medical school, as well as the range of areas in which PAs can practice medicine, is also a draw for students. – *EHB*

*\*Underrepresented Group: U.S. citizens or permanent residents who identify as African American/Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino, or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, or who are multiracial when one or more are from the preceding race and ethnic categories.*

## ABOUT 700 GRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### 300 PHD STUDENTS

- Biomedical Sciences
- Neuroscience
- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Clinical Psychology
- Health and Clinical Informatics
- Bioinformatics and Computational Biomedicine
- Biomedical Engineering

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 59% | Women  |
| 21% | Underrepresented*<br>(23% of newest class is underrepresented) |
| 84% | U.S. citizens  |
| 16% | Oregon residents   |

### 300 MASTERS STUDENTS

- MBA
- Human Nutrition
- Food Systems and Society
- Health and Clinical Informatics
- Bioinformatics and Computational Biomedicine
- Clinical Research
- Physician Assistant
- Medical Physics

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 58% | Women  |
| 19% | Underrepresented* – Starting this year, a majority of students in the PA program identify as Asian or as members of underrepresented groups (or both). |
| 97% | U.S. citizens  |
| 60% | Oregon residents   |

### 100 CERTIFICATE STUDENTS

- Healthcare Administration
- Dietetic Internship
- Health and Clinical Informatics
- Human Investigations

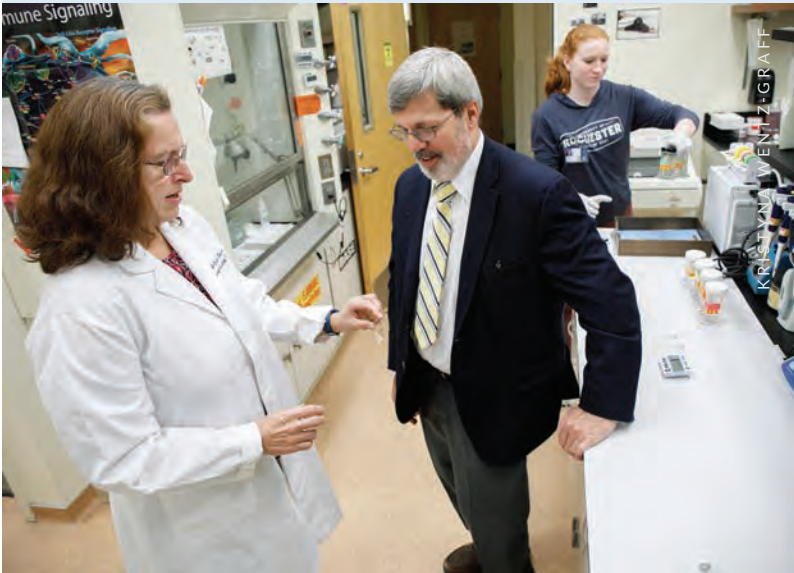
|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 63% | Women  |
| 20% | Underrepresented* – Starting this year, a majority of students in certificate programs identify as Asian or as members of underrepresented groups (or both). |
| 95% | U.S. citizens  |
| 52% | Oregon residents   |

## WHAT’S NEW IN THE SCHOOL

- David Huang, M.D., Ph.D., professor of ophthalmology and biomedical engineering, and associate director of the Casey Eye Institute, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering—one of the highest professional distinctions for engineers. The honor recognizes Huang’s co-creation of a widely-used imaging technology called optical coherence tomography, which is used in about 30 million imaging procedures annually.
- In February, the new Clinical Microbiology Lab greatly expanded OHSU’s capacity to identify, treat, and contain viruses and diseases. Now, specimens of patient blood draws, urine and tissue samples will be cultured in the full-spectrum lab for identification of infectious agents and antibiotic susceptibility testing rather than being sent offsite. The new lab decreases wait times and removes barriers to infectious disease containment, research and clinical trials.



- Fourth-year M.D. students participating in Match Day posted a 100% match rate, with all 165 eligible students matching to a residency program. Students matched in 28 specialties in 32 different states, with 36% of students matching to institutions in Oregon. OHSU’s 24 residency programs that participate in the National Residency Match Program also posted a 100% match rate, with 205 trainees filling 205 slots. The dual 100% match rates are indicators of the school’s strong reputation nationally.
- ▲ **OH, THE PLACES YOU’LL GO!** Fourth-year M.D. students, from left, Lisa Lin, Inga Van Buren and Mai Le celebrate their residency placements on Match Day.



### A TREATMENT DECADES IN THE MAKING

Leslie Muldoon, Ph.D. (left), talks with Edward Neuwelt, M.D., in the lab in 2018.

## FDA Approves New Drug to Prevent Hearing Loss in Children with Cancer

Last September, the FDA approved sodium thiosulfate, known clinically as PEDMARK®, to reduce the risk of treatment-induced hearing loss among children who receive the common chemotherapy drug cisplatin.

Research into the use of sodium thiosulfate, or STS, began in 1994 —led by Edward Neuwelt, M.D., professor of neurology, OHSU School of Medicine. After hearing anecdotes of STS’s effectiveness through a colleague at the National Institutes of Health, Neuwelt began to investigate STS’s protection against the toxicities found in chemotherapy drugs. His group initially performed laboratory and animal studies, and then moved onto clinical trials of hearing protection in real patients.

Members of Neuwelt’s research team say this FDA milestone was made possible through the immense determination and collaboration among scientists, clinicians, cancer survivors and their families.

“This approval was decades in the making, and all of us who were involved over the years are very proud,” says Leslie Muldoon, Ph.D., associate professor of neurology, OHSU School of Medicine. “And now, we hope it will go to every pediatric cancer patient who needs it.” – *NR*



# What Makes Us Human

New city. New career.  
Marriage. Medical school.  
A global pandemic. How the  
life of one small dog created  
family and belonging amidst  
enormous change.

Essay by Hannah Zane, M.D. '21, Ph.D.

**N**ever in my worst nightmares could I imagine how horrible these past few days have been. It wasn't like I hadn't ever thought of the possibility of something happening to my baby boy. I would hear the horrible stories—beloved pets' lives cut short by tragedy—and I'd worry: What if something happened to my Seymour? I don't know what I'd do. I don't know if I could take it. Now here I am. And I don't know if I can take it.

Seymour and I had a connection from the first day we laid eyes on each other. He was a surprise birthday gift from my then-boyfriend now husband, Tom. We have since joked that it's a shame Tom outdid himself so early in our relationship as now every gift he gives pales in comparison. We had just moved to Portland, Ore., and were trying to establish ourselves with a new community, a new group of friends. Lucky for me, the day I got Seymour I got myself a best friend.

When we first got Seymour, we were living on the 22nd floor of a huge apartment building in downtown Portland. We had chosen the apartment after recently finishing graduate school

where we'd lived paycheck to paycheck in a grungy apartment surrounded by loud college students. We were ready for an upgraded lifestyle and needed to choose the perfect apartment to match. A washer and dryer in the apartment? Reliable appliances? Clean carpets? Yes please! The apartment we settled on was the nicest one we had toured—with huge windows overlooking the green park blocks, hardwood floors and brand-new, stainless-steel appliances. Even the address sounded fancy: 1300 SW Park Ave. We had arrived.

Seymour joined our family the day after my 27th birthday. As it turns out, it is hard to reliably time a puppy's arrival with a birthday. My actual birthday had been rather lackluster mostly because we had only been living in Portland for a month, and our lack of community made it hard to have a real

## MY SEYMOUR

M.D. student Hannah Zane's French Bulldog, Seymour, with her in September 2018. Opposite page, Seymour and fellow French Bulldog Meatball with Tom and Hannah Zane.



COURTESY HANNAH ZANE



celebration. I was working as a postdoctoral researcher in a new lab and deliberately didn't tell anyone that it was my birthday with the hopes of avoiding the forced awkward celebration with strangers. The day after my birthday, Tom called me at work with a feigned apology for not having much of a birthday celebration and said that he was picking me up and taking me to a belated birthday dinner. When I got to the car, there he was: baby Seymour, looking a bit confused, sitting on top of blankets and towels in a laundry basket in the back seat.

I grew up with dogs. But Seymour was different. He was mine. He was my baby. I have never met a puppy as cute as baby Seymour. Or as funny. Always with a smile on his face, ready for our next adventure. We bought Seymour a teeny, tiny green harness with a matching leash and he would confidently march outside ready to take on the day. Despite sharing elevators with the same people for a month, no one knew our name—that is until Seymour arrived. Well, I guess, technically they still didn't know—but we were Seymour's parents! "Oh! You are the couple with the French Bulldog puppy! Seymour is it? We've heard about you," co-inhabitants of our building would say. "That's right," we would respond proudly. We felt like celebrities.

Potty-training a puppy in a building that required long waits for an elevator grew tiresome and after our lease ran out, we moved to a different apartment building on the South Waterfront. This time, we were on the third floor which afforded stairs as a more reliable and time-saving option. Poor Seymour hated these stairs. They were open; being able to see below made him very nervous. But we took one stair at a time and eventually he mastered his art. Always moving his front two legs and back two legs in unison, like a little bunny hopping his way up.



#### READY FOR ADVENTURE

Seymour looking dapper in his wedding bowtie and exploring Portland with Hannah Zane.



Seymour made lots of friends in this building, too, facilitated by the fact that there was a little dog park as part of the building. All the dogs loved to play with him, spending hours chasing and wrestling. Seymour was never a very good listener, often too stubborn to bother, but for some reason at the dog park, even despite having all the distractions around, if I crouched down and called for him, he would stop what he was doing and sprint straight for me. Mouth open wide in a grin, jumping up at the very end and often pushing me backward in the process. I loved it.

Tom and I got married that September, and of course, our wedding would feature our baby boy. Tom and I selected blue and white gingham shirts for the groomsmen and so we got Seymour a matching bow tie. He looked SO handsome all dressed up; the bow tie was the perfect addition to his already permanent tuxedo coat. Our friend, Zac, walked him down the aisle, and the gasps and "awwwws" from the crowd made my journey down the aisle feel like an afterthought. I didn't care. Seymour always stole the show.

The bonds between Seymour, Tom and I continued to strengthen over the next year. Becoming frustrated with

the shrinking funding opportunities and endless grant applications plaguing academia, I decided to try to go to medical school, a major life transition. I started filling my days studying for the MCAT, scribing in the emergency department and taking some classes at Portland State University while continuing to work part-time in my postdoc lab. Seymour supported me every step of the way. He would often sit next to me as I studied, staring at the page in the book I was reading, almost like he could read the words. I think he was just trying to figure out why it had my attention so captivated. I frequently had to scribe overnight in the emergency department, and I struggled with being able to sleep during the day. To help, Tom and I bought blackout curtains, a fan and made the room a perfect 63 degrees. But I found the only way I could get to sleep was by putting Seymour in the bed right next to me, holding his paw and listening to his even, deep breathing.

We celebrated Thanksgiving holidays, Christmas breaks and birthdays. We explored Oregon's coasts, mountains, lakes and breweries. Seymour loved a hike and would often impress me with his stamina and determination. He didn't like to get wet but would enjoy cooling his paws in some ocean or lake water.

He met our families and won them over quickly. Choosing restaurants or house rentals always came with our preliminary inquiry, "Is it dog-friendly?" Which would inevitably be met with "Of course!" Our families knew that Seymour, a bona fide member of the family, could never be excluded.

After living on the South Waterfront for two years, our lease once again was coming to a close. While we loved our apartment, we couldn't renew as we were waiting to hear back from various medical schools in different states about whether or not I had been accepted. We decided, as a temporary solution, to move into a spare room in Zac's house until we knew where we were going. Seymour was excited because moving in with Zac meant moving in with his dog friend, Rigby, which translated into hours of playing and running laps in the backyard.

After getting an acceptance into OHSU medical school, we decided that it made the most sense for us to stay in Portland for the next four years. We were ready to buy our first home. Our realtor asked us our wish list in our first meeting. "Hmmm...wish-list?" Tom and I looked at each other. "We just really want a backyard for Seymour." The rest were details.

We toured lots of homes, all with adequate backyards, and put in lots of offers, all rejected. Finally, we toured a 2-bedroom, 1-bathroom house that we fell in love with. From the moment we turned the key, we knew it was our home. And the backyard...it was perfect. By some miracle, our offer was accepted, and we were officially the fortunate homeowners. We got to bring Seymour on our final walk-through, and when we took him to the backyard, he immediately started running around, chasing a white butterfly. "Look at him!" our realtor exclaimed. "He belongs here!" And he did.

Thinking back on the past four years, it is hard to separate memories of medical school from memories of Seymour. They are all tied up together. For every decision I made, Seymour was always on my mind, and every day, I looked forward to coming home to my boy. Often, Tom and I would just watch Seymour sleep. "Look at our beautiful baby boy. How did we get so lucky?"

In the summer of 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to get a second dog. Tom was officially working remotely for the foreseeable future, and I really wanted to get a puppy that could learn from Seymour. If I could have gotten a Seymour clone, I would have, but I knew they broke the mold with him, and so we settled on a little brindle French Bulldog puppy whom we named Meatball.

Meatball took to Seymour very quickly, following him around everywhere waiting for cues as to what they were doing next. Despite being so much larger, Seymour seemed to know just how to play with Meatball, never too rough but always having fun. Meatball loved his brother so much. His primary goal was to get as close to Seymour as possible—often wanting to nap right on top of him. While at first Seymour resisted, he eventually surrendered, making various shapes



with his brother on the couches and dog beds.

I loved Meatball so much. But I also worried that Seymour would feel like we were replacing him. I never wanted Seymour to think for one second that getting Meatball meant we loved him any less. To assuage these fears, I always let Seymour get first pick of the toys, first choice of my lap, first kiss when I got home. I always wanted Seymour to know that he was the king of this household. And I think he always did.

I'm not going to talk about the last few days of Seymour's life. Mostly because it is too painful and traumatic but also because, despite talking to the intensivist veterinarian and reading about the suspected etiology, I still don't exactly understand what happened. And to be honest, it doesn't really matter. Even though Seymour only got 6 years 7 months and 8 days, I'd like to think that 2,408 of his days were good and only two were bad, so why would we choose to talk about those two?

It is beautiful how much Seymour was incorporated into our lives. But it has made his absence all the more substantial. Our bed no longer feels like our bed. Our yard no longer feels like our yard. Our home no longer feels like our home. Even my body doesn't feel like mine, and I have found myself wondering if it ever will again.

Grief is so ugly. It sneaks up on you, and the pain takes your breath away. It courses through your veins and comes out your pores. It follows you around, casting shadows on everything that once shone bright. But grief can also be unifying. After all, it is a universal experience that feels so incredibly human. Grief reminds you what love is, and the depth of our grief illuminates the depth of our love. And only Seymour—my best friend, my baby boy, a dog—could possibly make me feel this human. **B**

*Editor's note: Dr. Zane is a second-year resident in internal medicine at OHSU. The original version of this essay was published as "My Seymour" in the fourth issue of Aerial Magazine, the OHSU student arts publication.*



#### BREADTH AND DEPTH

Some of the faculty members, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research engineers, staff scientists and other lab members in the Department of Biomedical Engineering take a moment for a group portrait in the Center for Health and Healing 1 on Portland's South Waterfront.

## Here Come the Biomedical Engineers

The Biomedical Engineering Ph.D. Program has seen a 300% increase in enrollment over the last decade. What's driving growth?

Written by Romel Hernandez;  
photos by Jordan Sleeth

ts mission is bold, forward-looking and perfectly clear:

*The Biomedical Engineering Ph.D. program serves as a center of innovation for the OHSU School of Medicine. Our mission is to train students to become innovators, entrepreneurs and scientific leaders. Our faculty and trainees work with clinicians and physician-scientists to make scientific discoveries, reduce disease and improve patients' lives.*

Overseen by the school's Department of Biomedical Engineering (BME), the BME Graduate Program is enjoying unprecedented growth as it approaches its 20th anniversary. BME graduate student numbers have quadrupled to over 80 students in the past decade—a 300% increase in enrollment—far outpacing overall enrollment trends in the school's other doctoral programs.

"We're growing as a result of tailoring our graduate program to serve the whole university," says Owen McCarty, Ph.D., professor and chair of biomedical engineering. "We see students as our best output."





We're at a really interesting intersection for our students. They're able to apply engineering concepts to saving lives.

— Sandra Rugonyi

### Nexus of science and medicine

What draws so many students to the program? An opportunity to work alongside research mentors on tools and technology that directly impact people's health, from developing therapies for cardiovascular disease to devising methods for early cancer detection.

"We're at a really interesting intersection for our students," says Sandra Rugonyi, Ph.D., professor of biomedical engineering and co-director of the graduate program. "They're able to apply engineering concepts to saving lives."

Being part of a medical school rather than an engineering school (a much more common arrangement) is a distinctive strength of the program. Faculty and students are able to collaborate closely with front-line hospital clinicians in a free-flowing exchange of ideas and experiences, sparking breakthroughs in research labs.

Will Yashar, a student in the highly selective M.D./Ph.D. program who is completing the Ph.D. portion of his degree in BME, was an undergraduate studying particle physics at MIT when a family friend asked him how researching dark matter would benefit society.

"I didn't have a good answer, and that really bothered me," Yashar says. He realized he wanted to enter a profession that would combine his interest in research with his desire to help people.

"I wanted to pursue a career in medicine that was at that particular nexus—primarily doing research in the lab, but always centered on patient interactions and the advancement



### FUTURE INNOVATORS

Jenny Si Han Wang, Ph.D., (left) postdoctoral fellow, investigates medical device-associated thrombosis in the McCarty Lab. Will Yashar, M.D./Ph.D. student who is completing the Ph.D. portion of his degree in biomedical engineering, discusses his research with Sandra Rugonyi, Ph.D., professor of biomedical engineering and co-director of the Biomedical Engineering Graduate Program.

of their care," he says. "The flexibility and independence of the program here was really important to me."

### Instilling the research mentality

According to the school's Office of Graduate Studies survey, 4 in 5 alumni of the program are employed in industry five years after graduation, ranging from start-ups to major corporations. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects an above-average 10% increase in jobs in the field over the next decade.

After earning his BME doctorate in 2010, David Levitz, Ph.D. '10, returned to his native Israel and co-founded Mobile ODT, a company deploying mobile phone cameras to detect cancer. The technology was based on algorithms developed while he was still at OHSU. He credits the rigors of graduate school with preparing him for the challenges of running a start-up.

At the other end of the industry spectrum, Jeremy Glynn, Ph.D. '16, parlayed his graduate school experience in cardiovascular research into a position as a clinical research manager with Abbott Labs. He is part of a team developing a prosthetic mitral valve that can be implanted with a minimally invasive procedure using a catheter, rather than requiring open heart surgery. "In the Hinds' lab at OHSU, we had some projects that were device-focused and were optimally positioned for collaboration," Glynn says. "The set-up was very open and allowed for sharing of ideas across related disciplines."

He adds, "OHSU was also where the research mentality was instilled in me—knowing the importance of setting the bar

high and always being well-prepared, and how to interpret data in a way that tells a story."

### Ethos of collaboration

The BME program's roots are in the Oregon Graduate Institute, a science and engineering-focused institution that merged with OHSU in 2001. The initiative was intended to expand and improve the quality of high-tech medical education and research in the state; it directly led, two years after the merger, to the creation of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the BME Graduate Program in 2003.

Today's student body is about equally divided between students with engineering and science backgrounds. The BME curriculum provides both breadth and depth in human pathophysiology and the use and development of measurement science approaches to address unmet clinical needs.

The multidisciplinary graduate program specializes in six key areas:

- Biomedical Imaging
- Cardiovascular and Metabolic Engineering
- Cancer Research
- Drug Development and Delivery
- Quantitative and Systems Biology
- Regenerative Medicine

Much of the program's growth is driven by its ethos of collaboration. From the beginning, students are paired with clinical and research mentors, ranging across campus from the Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research Center to the Casey

Eye Institute. The curriculum offers students the flexibility to specialize without too many set requirements.

"Students have a lot of flexibility to tailor their education to their own interests," Rugonyi says. "You can be doing cancer research and developing an optics system at the same time."

### Highly regarded faculty

It also helps that the BME program, while small, ranks in the top 10 nationally for per faculty research funding, according to rankings from *U.S. News & World Report*. Support comes from philanthropists such as Phil and Penny Knight, as well as research grants from government, foundations and industry.

The department currently stands at 37 core faculty, plus joint and affiliated faculty. Accolades have poured in, too, with faculty tapped for honors by the Biomedical Engineering Society and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering, among others.

Working with highly regarded faculty is just one of the draws for students like Yashar. Once he completes his doctorate researching the efficacy of certain drug combinations in treating leukemia, Yashar will resume his medical education. Eventually he says he hopes to find a position at an academic institution where he can establish both a cancer research lab as well as a clinical practice in oncology.

*Innovator. Entrepreneur. Scientific leader.*

As a trained biomedical engineer, Yashar will join Levitz, Glynn and 77 other graduates of the BME program as they engineer our world for better human health. **B**



# Stories of the 2023 Alumni Awardees

**BRIAN PARK, M.D.  
R '18, M.P.H.**  
WALTER C. REYNOLDS  
M.D. COMMUNITY  
SERVICE AWARD



AARON BIELECK

New this year, the Walter C. Reynolds M.D. Community Service Award honors the life and legacy of Walter C. Reynolds, M.D. '49, a physician, community leader and the first Black graduate of the University of Oregon Medical School, now the OHSU School of Medicine. This award recognizes alumni who have demonstrated service that substantially benefits a local community.

At his practice in the Albina district of North Portland, Walter C. Reynolds' philosophy was to offer treatment to everyone who came into his clinic, regardless of background, race, gender or ability to pay. As the son of South Korean immigrants, Brian Park grew up witnessing how language and cultural differences created barriers in his family's pursuit of health and access to health care, influencing him to emulate Reynolds by making justice, equity and belonging the focus of his own health care career.

Dually trained in family medicine and preventive medicine, Park works at the OHSU Richmond Clinic, a Federally Qualified Health Center that provides health care for urban underserved populations. He is an assistant professor of family medicine and oversees diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) activities within the department.

Park is also director of OHSU's RELATE Lab. Team members of the lab include health care professionals, trainees, patients and community members who are invited to collaborate on initiatives to address the disparities in American society that lead to inequities in health care.

A program housed in the lab, the Relational Leadership Institute (RLI), was co-founded by Dr. Park. The RLI offers a course in leadership developed and facilitated by Park that

encourages participants to shift from hierarchical forms of leadership to a human-centered model that fosters collective input and builds consensus. RLI has expanded nationally to the University of North Carolina, the University of Utah, as well as national health networks, such as the Oregon Community Health Information Network and Cambia Health.

The Health Equity And Leadership at Richmond Clinic (HEAL-R) program is a community organizing initiative of the RELATE Lab. Co-founded by Park, the HEAL-R program brings together patients, community members experiencing systematic harm such as racism or classism, and community-based organizations, creating spaces for them to share their experiences and expertise to guide priorities for collective action. Working in partnership, the HEAL-R team promotes policy changes at the local and state levels that can aid in bringing all community members fair access to better health.

Through their efforts, the HEAL-R team has influenced several changes in government policy including increasing Tax Increment Financing funding for affordable housing in Portland; passing an Oregon law mandating that prescription drug labels be translated into each individual's preferred language (including 14 non-English languages); developing a social connection program for isolated individuals during the physical distancing mandate of the COVID-19 pandemic; and launching a campaign to mandate Medicaid enrollment for people transitioning out of prison. The HEAL-R model has expanded to Washington and Montana.

Patrice Eiff, M.D., professor emerita of family medicine, calls Park one of the most amazing leaders she has worked with in her over 35 years of practice. "Dr. Park builds connections and opportunities and lifts up the voices of those who are marginalized by the system," Eiff says.

– Anna Lageson **B**

**JULIA MAXSON,  
PH.D. '11**  
RICHARD T. JONES  
DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNA SCIENTIST  
AWARD



AARON BIELECK

After earning her Ph.D. at OHSU, Julia Maxson, associate professor, Division of Oncological Sciences, worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratories of Jeffrey Tyner, Ph.D., and Brian Druker, M.D., of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute.

Within two years, Maxson's work led to a major advancement in the understanding of a rare form of cancer, chronic neutrophilic leukemia (CNL), for which she was published as first-author in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Prior to her work, the molecular foundation of CNL was unknown, making it difficult to diagnose and treat. Maxson identified mutations in the growth factor receptor, CSF3R, in the majority of patients with CNL, describing the distinctive features of how these mutations acted, and discovered that they were sensitive to kinase inhibitors.

Maxson's work led to an update in the World Health Organization's diagnostic criteria for CNL. In a successful clinical trial, it was demonstrated that 84% of CSF3R-mutant leukemias were sensitive to JAK inhibitors.

Following this discovery, Maxson was awarded a prestigious NIH Pathway to Independence Award (K99/R00) and began working at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. There, she discovered a high rate of co-occurrence between CSF3R and transcription factor mutations in cases of pediatric acute myeloid leukemia.

In 2016, she returned to the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute to establish her own laboratory where she has since identified therapeutically targetable nodes of oncogene synergy and observed that the order in which mutations arise fundamentally changes leukemic phenotypes.

"Dr. Maxson's productivity stems from her scientific creativity and her ability to execute her ideas through technical mastery and exceptional organization," says Brian Druker, M.D., director of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute.

– Anna Lageson **B**



**THEODORE BRAUN,  
M.D. PH.D. '12**  
EARLY CAREER  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD



As an OHSU graduate student, Ted Braun, now an assistant professor of medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, fundamentally changed the understanding of muscle wasting in response to human growth.

Working in the laboratory of Daniel Marks, M.D., Ph.D., senior associate dean of research, professor of pediatrics, Braun used a series of in vitro models to evaluate the role of the brain in muscle metabolism. He demonstrated that cytokines act in the hypothalamus to release cortisol, which signals the muscle to produce wasting. His work revealed this as the primary mechanism of muscle wasting in cancer, challenging a 20-year-old model.

In 2020, Braun completed a research fellowship in medical oncology studying the molecular origins of leukemia under Brian Druker, M.D., associate dean for oncology and Knight Cancer Institute director. In Druker's lab, Braun developed a retroviral system that allowed in vitro prospective temporal control of mutation order. Braun demonstrated that acute myeloid leukemia (AML) only develops when CEBPA mutations precede mutations that are more generally associated with proliferation.

This was the first instance of experimental manipulation of mutation order in an in vivo AML model. Through his work, Braun challenged the premise that mutation accumulation is the most important factor in proliferation rather than the order of accumulation.

Braun's current research focuses on the earliest genetic events in leukemia that occur in epigenetic regulatory genes.

"A major purpose of my work is to understand why leukemia happens," Braun says. "It is my view that ultimately, only through understanding the *why*, will we be able to develop lasting cures." – Anna Lageson **B**

**JENNA EMERSON,  
M.D. '13**  
EARLY CAREER  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARD



As an assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Jenna Emerson is a lead mentor and innovator, surgeon and oncologist. She designed and implemented a Robotic Gynecologic Surgery Curriculum and used paintbrushes and watercolors instead of surgical instruments to teach nervous interns to manipulate delicate tools.

Working with women's health care teams in Guatemala prior to medical school inspired Emerson to pursue a career in gynecologic oncology. Through ongoing service trips to Guatemala, she has provided acute specialized gynecologic care, focused on providing educational opportunities and cervical cancer screening and treatment.

A former OHSU classmate, rheumatologist Caroline McCulley, M.D. '13, described Emerson as a patient and family advocate. She says, "Jenna pushes for equality and justice when others have given up."

As team lead for the Rwanda Center of Excellence in Cervical Cancer Detection and Treatment, Emerson has participated live and virtually in training programs for health care providers and trainees in Kigali, Rwanda. The virtual training sessions also benefit physicians and trainees in the United States. Resident physicians in Rwanda and the United States also lead international tumor boards through the program, providing an important forum for shared insights.

"Her expertise contributes to OHSU's standing as a national leader in ob/gyn training," says Elizabeth Munro, M.D., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

"I am truly humbled and honored by this recognition," Emerson says. "I am indebted to the huge network of teachers, family and friends who support me." – Anna Lageson **B**

**BRIAN DUTY, M.D.  
'04, R '06 R '09,  
M.B.A. '19**  
ESTHER POHL  
LOVEJOY  
LEADERSHIP AWARD



When Brian Duty, associate professor of urology, was named to a leadership position within his department, he joined the OHSU/PSU Healthcare M.B.A. program to increase his leadership skills. Through the program, he gained an increased awareness of how social determinants cause disparities in the U.S. health care system and became passionate about health policy and advocacy.

To raise student awareness of health system disparities, Duty worked with Paul Gorman, M.D., professor of medical informatics and clinical epidemiology, to design a curriculum that educates first-year medical students about the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. health care system.

Duty is a leader of the public policy efforts of the American Urological Association (AUA) and recently joined colleagues to advocate for passage of a national bill to ensure prostate cancer screenings at no patient cost. He was also active in the AUA's efforts to block national bills that would criminalize the practice of medicine and limit procedures for providers treating individuals with disorders of sexual differentiation.

Locally, Duty is president of the Oregon Urological Society and is Speaker of the Oregon Medical Association executive committee.

In 2022, Duty was named the AUA Gallagher Health Policy Scholar, a prestigious award presented annually to a single urologist for outstanding contributions to health policy. He was also one of three urologists in the Western U.S. to be selected to the AUA's 2020-2022 Leadership Class.

A third-generation Oregonian, Duty remembers feeling a sense of awe the first day he attended medical school. "I am so thankful to OHSU," Duty says. "I am incredibly humbled to receive this award and will do my best to live up to the honor." – Anna Lageson **B**

**WAYNE CLARK, M.S.  
M.D. '85**  
CHARLES A. PREUSS  
DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI AWARD



As a vascular neurologist, Wayne Clark, professor of neurology, has always emphasized that stroke is an emergency. After he joined OHSU's Oregon Stroke Center in 1991, Clark developed a mobile stroke team to respond to stroke emergencies. The team—a neurologist and a stroke nurse—served a five-hospital network in Portland for over 20 years, offering Alteplase or another appropriate therapy 24/7 for acute stroke patients.

Clark sought to expand advanced treatment to stroke patients throughout the state, and in 2009 he was named the director of the OHSU Telestroke Program. Telestroke created a video connection between OHSU physicians and emergency rooms statewide, offering providers throughout Oregon assistance in making stroke management decisions.

Under Clark's leadership, OHSU received certification for its Comprehensive Stroke Program in 2013 by The Joint Commission. OHSU was the first hospital to receive this certification in the Pacific Northwest and the first hospital in the Northwest to directly dissolve blood clots in the brain during an angiogram.

"Over the past 35 years, our stroke team at OHSU has helped transform national stroke treatment from 'nothing to offer' to an exciting field with effective medications and devices," Clark says. "There is nothing better than seeing a stroke patient regain the ability to talk, walk and be with family again."

Clark also developed a national leading stroke translational clinical trial program at OHSU that has completed over 175 clinical trials. Many of the medications and devices tested in these trials are now standards of care across the nation. – Anna Lageson **B**



**FAMILIA**

Since graduating from OHSU, Lauren Truxillo, PA-C, M.P.A.S. '14, has practiced family medicine at the multilingual Lancaster Family Health Center in Salem, Ore. In March, she precepted PA student Carolina Regalado Murillo, (below, right) a native Spanish speaker from White City, Ore.

## A Practitioner of Multicultural Medicine Finds Her Place in Salem

**H**ola, me llamo Lauren, soy una medica asociada de la clinica. ¿Cómo le puedo ayudar? Hello, my name is Lauren, I am a PA in the clinic. How can I help you?

Each day, Lauren Truxillo, PA-C, M.P.A.S. '14, welcomes Spanish-speaking patients into her exam room at the Lancaster Family Health Center in Salem, Ore. Her clinic is part of the Yakima Valley Farmworkers Clinic—a system of safety-net health centers in Oregon and Washington that provide primary care services on a sliding scale to agricultural workers, immigrants and other medically underserved populations.

Since graduating from the OHSU PA program in 2014, Truxillo has practiced family medicine there, providing “womb to tomb” care. “Some days I speak Spanish all day long,” says the in-demand provider. “But other days, I use interpreters for Dari [a language of Afghanistan], Vietnamese,

and Chuukese [a language of Micronesia] in addition to seeing folks in English and Spanish. When you speak with patients in their language, it makes such a big difference.”

The Latino farmworker population in Salem is pretty stationary, Truxillo explains. “Most people aren’t migrating. They’re doing seasonal work on farms and in canneries, nurseries or food processing plants, for example.”

She adds, “Salem is actually pretty diverse. We’re seeing more refugees from Tanzania and Afghanistan. We have a large Pacific Islander community here. We see patients experiencing homelessness. We see patients with a wide range of education levels. The social determinants of health impact every single patient who comes into our clinic.”

Truxillo says she truly appreciates her “work family,” where everyone is dedicated to a higher calling. That ethic was instilled in Truxillo from a young age, growing up in a small town in southeastern Louisiana where her father—a dentist—taught her service to others through health care.

Her siblings became doctors and nurses, but Truxillo wanted to be different, she says. She received good care from a PA in college and set her sights on PA school.

While working on her application, Truxillo served in the Peace Corps in Guatemala for three years as a community

health worker and volunteer leader. There, she trained health promoters in local Mayan villages, installed cement floors for 52 families and developed proficiency in Spanish. She extended her service an additional year to train new volunteers and country counterparts.

“It’s infinitely valuable to have the experience of being in the minority, to not be surrounded by people exactly like you,” she says, reflecting. “And I learned that humans are humans wherever you are. Today, I’m a big promoter of bilingual education.”

Truxillo credits the OHSU PA Program’s commitment to placing students in clinical rotations all across Oregon with helping her fall in love with the state and remain here to practice. “I had a great cohort in PA school, and today I feel proud to be an alumna of OHSU,” says Truxillo.

As part of her clinical work, Truxillo leads the Reach Out and Read Program for Lancaster Family Health Center. When not working, she enjoys time with her wife and cats, flower gardening, long-distance running and Ultimate Frisbee.

At the Oregon Society of Physician Assistants where she serves as treasurer, Truxillo and fellow board members work to advance the PA profession through government advocacy and continued education. “Our goal is to support PAs in providing better patient care that is affordable, accessible and equitable,” she says. — Rachel Shafer **B**

**CONNECTION THROUGH CARDS**

This spring, School of Medicine Alumni Council members and other friends of the school wrote notes of congratulations to M.D. students on Match Day. Norah Verbout, Ph.D. '08, penned this note to fourth-year M.D. student Timothy Herd, who celebrated his match in pediatrics to University of Oklahoma-Oklahoma City with family members on Match Day. The council invites all alumni to consider writing a congratulatory note to a student in any School of Medicine program. Want to participate? Email [alumni@ohsu.edu](mailto:alumni@ohsu.edu)

**Who are Alumni?**

**T**he membership of the OHSU School of Medicine Alumni Association consists of all currently enrolled students and trainees in the school and graduates who have received a degree or certificate from the School of Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University. This includes candidates for, and graduates of, the M.D., Ph.D., master’s, dual degree and Allied Health programs. It also includes people who are currently enrolled in the school, or who have completed residency, fellowship and postdoctoral training programs administered by the school. Membership in the association is free and automatic.

You belong!

**Volunteers Wanted for Alumni Work Groups**

**T**he School of Medicine Alumni Council is seeking alumni volunteers to join its work groups in Awards, Admissions (M.D. Multiple Mini Interviews), Graduate Studies Career Panels, Student Support and Timely Topics seminar programming. Most work group activity is open to all alumni via remote meetings or asynchronous collaboration. Are you interested in joining a group? Email [alumni@ohsu.edu](mailto:alumni@ohsu.edu) to learn more.



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

**Michael Strauss, M.D. ’65**, writes, “For the 1999 Turkey and 2009 Haiti earthquakes, I provided orthopaedic care—serendipitously serving in both venues. In 2018, I returned to Vietnam for an American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society humanitarian mission 49 years after being there with the Navy. Ingenuity, resourcefulness, and adaptability were essential requisites in handling these varied and personally rewarding activities.”

1970s

► **Harry Chen, M.D. ’79 R ’83**, writes, “I’m teaching at Mulago Hospital, Uganda’s premier teaching hospital. I participate in Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), a bi-weekly virtual educational session that is attended by hundreds of health workers throughout Uganda. Life is not all struggle and work



here. On the way back from the outdoor market, I happened upon a raucous celebration of Holi, a Hindu celebration of colors, love and spring, and I joined in. When in Rome...!”

2000s

**Tom Yackel, M.D., M.S. ’02, M.B.A. ’18**, was elected to the Board of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. He writes, “I also recently started a new role as chief clinical excellence officer for CenterWell Senior Care, the nation’s largest provider of senior-focused, value-based care.” Yackel and his wife, Nicole Deiorio, M.D., former assistant dean of student affairs in the school’s M.D. Program, live in Richmond, Va.

► **Amanda Miller, PA-C, M.P.A.S. ’05**, joined Neighborhood Health Center in the Portland, Ore., area as the medical director of clinical informatics in September 2022. She writes, “I partner with medical, operational, data and quality team leaders to prioritize and optimize work within the electronic health record. I continue to see primary care patients as well. ”



► **Jayashree Kalpathy-Cramer, Ph.D., M.S. ’09**, was appointed chief of the new Division of Artificial Medical Intelligence in Ophthalmology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.



2010s

**Brian Mills, PA-C, M.P.A.S. ’14**, is president of the Oregon Society of Physician Assistants (OSPA). He writes, “I’m particularly proud of

our legislative accomplishments over the past several years, especially the transition away from supervision to collaboration with physicians. When not serving as OSPA president, I work at Childhood Health Associates in Salem, Ore., in my role as a pediatric PA. Already having second-generation patients has both made me proud and feel old at the same time! I’ve also been staying very busy spending time with my family and coaching youth sports.”

**Ian Tagge, Ph.D. ’16**, writes, “I’m a senior scientist in the R&D biomarkers group at biotechnology company Biogen. It’s a really cool position that gives me the opportunity to help design MRI outcomes in clinical trials of new therapies for multiple sclerosis. We’re new to the New England area, so outside of work, I like to get out with my wife and two kids to explore local beaches and mountains.”

**Kayly Lembke, Ph.D. ’17**, joined George Fox University in Newberg, Ore., as an assistant professor of biology in 2021. Previously, she worked as a postdoctoral research scholar in the Carver College of Medicine at the University of Iowa where she focused on neurotransmission using fruit flies as a model system. Lembke writes, “Fruit flies will save the world!”

► **Natoya Carruthers, PA-C, M.P.A.S. ’19**, writes, “I was appointed to the role of clinic improvement lead in our family medicine practice here in Klamath Falls, Ore. I’ve also pioneered a Diabetes Management Clinic within our practice, which offers a multidisciplinary approach to diabetes care. We are now accepting rotating PA, NP, M.D., and PharmD students and family medicine residents as part of their lifestyle medicine curriculum.”



2020s

**Nicole Santucci, M.D. ’22**, writes, “I started my general surgery intern year at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. It’s been a balanced mix of operative time, inpatient floor management and overnight call shifts at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. My OHSU medical training provided an excellent foundation from which to begin my residency.”

In Memoriam

**Anahita Ariana, M.P.H ’07**, of Sudbury, Ontario, died Dec. 26, 2022, at age 48.

**William Baer, M.D. R ’72**, of Portland, Ore., died Dec. 21, 2022, at age 84.

**Bill Ferguson, M.D. ’61**, of Arch Cape, Ore., died Feb. 3, 2023, at age 94.

**Gerald Hecker, M.D. ’58 R ’63**, of Boise, Idaho, died Dec. 29, 2022, at age 92.

**Toshio Inahara, M.D. ’50**, of Portland, Ore., died Dec. 9, 2022, at age 101.

**Carl Kisker, M.D. R ’63**, of Highland Springs, Colo., died Feb. 17, 2023, at age 86.

**David McClure, Ph.D. ’63**, of Lake Oswego, Ore., died Jan. 14, 2023, at age 86.

**Peter Nakamura, M.D. ’61 R ’69**, of Juneau, Alaska, died Jan. 28, 2023, at age 88.

**Ayland Ottinger, M.D. R ’59**, of Wilsonville, Ore., died Dec. 19, 2022, at age 89.

**Mark Pancio, M.D. ’03**, of Sacramento, Calif., died Jan. 5, 2023, at age 57.

**Delores Reed, B.S. ’63**, of Scappoose, Ore., died Dec. 19, 2022, at age 92.

**Timothy Vrtiska, M.D. ’76 R ’80**, of Longview, Wash., died Jan. 2, 2023, at age 72.

**Keith Weeks, M.D. ’71**, of Lakeside, Mont., died Jan. 6, 2023, at age 78.

**Ralph Whiting, M.D. ’60**, of Eugene, Ore., died Jan. 6, 2023, at age 89.

Calendar

Events and Activities

| OHSU Convocation and School of Medicine Hooding Ceremonies |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| JUNE 9   | OREGON CONVENTION CENTER, PORTLAND, OREGON |   |
| M.D. Class of 2027 White Coat Ceremony                     |  |   |
| AUG. 11  | 10 a.m.-noon                               | PSU CONFERENCE CENTER, PORTLAND, OREGON |

- Reunions**
- The M.D. Classes of 1973, 1978 and 1998 will celebrate their reunion milestones in June. Please contact Hayden Rahn, OHSU Alumni Engagement, at rahnh@ohsu.edu for further information.
- Timely Topics**
- Join fellow alumni, experts and leaders for discussions of the important issues impacting School of Medicine alumni and our community. View upcoming webinars: [www.ohsufoundation.org/alumni/school-of-medicine/timely-topics/](http://www.ohsufoundation.org/alumni/school-of-medicine/timely-topics/).
- OHSU Alumni Book Club**
- Join our virtual community as we read and discuss various book genres such as lifelong learning, personal growth, novels and other topics. Participation is free! Learn more and sign up at [www.pbc.guru/OHSU](http://www.pbc.guru/OHSU).

Continuing Professional Development

| 3rd Annual Pediatric GI for Primary Care Update             |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| JUNE 9  | VIRTUAL                              |
| 2nd Annual When Things Go Wrong in the Outdoors             |                                      |
| AUG. 11-12  | GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY, NEWBERG, ORE. |
| 18th Annual Northwest Regional Hospital Medicine Conference |                                      |
| OCT. 12-13  | SENTINEL HOTEL, PORTLAND, ORE.       |

Schedules are subject to change. Please contact 503-494-8700 or [cme@ohsu.edu](mailto: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](http://www.ohsu.edu/som/cme).





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