

Bridges

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



Spring 2024

Meet the Trailblazers of Integrated Care in Wallowa County

P. 8

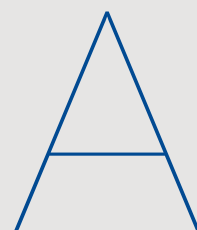




Nathan Selden, M.D., Ph.D.

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

A Force for Good



AMONG THE MANY THINGS THAT HAVE MADE ME PROUD UPON STEPPING INTO the role of interim dean on Feb. 21 is the innovation and service that school members contribute to Oregon and to society. In many ways and in so many places, our alumni lead the way.

I was uplifted to learn about Liz Powers, M.D. R '06, and the M.D., PA and D.M.D. alumni from OHSU who are leading the Winding Waters federally qualified health center in Enterprise, Ore., bringing interdisciplinary, comprehensive primary care to all who need it (p. 8). Powers has made good on lessons from her OHSU mentors about the cornerstone role that family physicians play in many medically underserved areas. Across Oregon, patients wrestle with the interrelated challenges of mental illness, substance use disorder and homelessness. By holistically attending to their needs, our alumni and partners are breaking barriers to recovery and healing.

I was equally encouraged by a recent report from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics showing the terrific results of our Ph.D. programs. In the Class of 2022, 81% of graduates are working in research and development as their primary activity, compared to only 38% at peer institutions (p. 5). This shows how well prepared our graduates are to succeed in a research career. Whatever path they tread, our doctoral scientists are terrifically suited to positively impact their community, our state and the wider world.

The school's undergraduate and graduate medical education programs are similarly impressive. On Match Day 2024 (March 15), M.D. candidates achieved a 99% placement rate into residency training programs. At the same time, OHSU filled 99% of our postgraduate training positions in the programs that participate in the match.

I am deeply proud to be associated with the OHSU School of Medicine. The work that each of you does carries forth our missions of healing, teaching and discovery. You are a force for good.

Nathan Selden, M.D., Ph.D.
Interim Dean
OHSU School of Medicine

ON THE COVER

From left, Natalie Craig, M.D. '22, OHSU internal medicine resident; Keith DeYoung, M.D. R '09; Liz Powers, M.D. R '06; Wes Baker, M.D. '14 R '18, and Nick West, M.D. '19 R '22, are among seven OHSU medicine, physician assistant and dentistry alumni at Winding Waters Clinic based in northeastern Oregon. The clinic uses a federally qualified health center model to support integrated, comprehensive primary care in Wallowa County.

Photo by Erin Hoover Barnett

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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. 0524(190)

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Sharl Azar, M.D. '10 R '13 F '16, (back row, seventh from left) at the 2022 Massachusetts Sickle Cell Association's Annual Walk for Sickle Cell Disease in Boston. Azar is joined by his clinical team, families of sickle cell patients and supporters. Get to know Azar's work treating this disease and all the remarkable contributions from this year's alumni award winners.

UP FRONT

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MEETING A
VITAL NEED

Clinical Psychology Program Ph.D. candidates, from left, Kat Selah, David Cameron, Eleanor Battison, Kate Shirley, Amanda Del Giacco and Olivia Doyle. Not pictured: Madeleine Allen.



Clinical Psychology Match Day a First for OHSU School of Medicine

Clinical Psychology doctoral students all over the country will head out to begin their internships this summer—one of the final requirements in obtaining their Ph.D.'s. This year, the school's very first cohort of students will join them, contributing to the mental health work force at a critical time.

On March 20, the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers held their final national Match Day for doctoral internship positions. OHSU School of Medicine's seven clinical psychology doctoral students posted a 100% match rate for very competitive, highly ranked sites around the country. Nationally, the 2024 phase I and phase II match rate was just above 94%.

"I'm confident this remarkable group of students will bring to their internships strong clinical and research skills that will serve them well in their training and future careers," says Sydney Ey, Ph.D., program director and professor of psychiatry. "There is a vital need for more clinical psychologists to be engaged in scholarly and clinical care activities to address the shortage of mental health professionals."

Out of the seven newly matched students, two are staying at OHSU and the others are going to Massachusetts, Washington, California, Minnesota and Rhode Island. Their specialties include behavioral medicine, child and adolescent anxiety and mood disorders, health psychology, child and adolescent mental health and neuropsychology, pediatric neuropsychology, autism spectrum disorder, and special health needs.

Olivia Doyle will begin her internship in pediatric neuropsychology at the University of Minnesota on July 1. "I hope to pursue a career in academic medicine as a pediatric neuropsychologist, focused on a holistic approach to child assessment, which incorporates assessing and supporting the whole family system," she says. "I'd like to continue to work with medically complex kids to help them and their families understand their neurocognitive differences, while finding ways to support their mental health and neurodevelopment."

The school has invested significant resources into establishing the rigorous program—one of only a handful of accredited Clinical Psychology Ph.D. programs in the country and the only one in Oregon housed within an academic health center. Established in 2019 and funded by the school, the program includes 21 students currently and is co-sponsored by the school's Departments of Psychiatry and of Pediatrics with support from the Psychology Division at the VA Portland Health Care System. —Karen Bishop

WHAT'S NEW IN THE SCHOOL

- Surprising vaccination study** New OHSU research reveals as much as a four-fold increase in immune response when people alternate from one arm to the other when given a multi-dose vaccine. The laboratory study, led by Marcel Curlin, M.D., associate professor of medicine (infectious disease), measured the antibody response in the blood of 947 people who received two-dose vaccinations against COVID-19 early in the pandemic.
- Ph.D. outcomes** Among OHSU students who graduated with Ph.D.'s in the Class of 2022, 81% are working in research and development as their primary activity compared to only 38% at peer institutions, according to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics' annual survey. "This data tells us that we are accomplishing what we set out to do: foster our students' curiosity, brilliance and passion for biomedical science such that they continue to contribute to better health," says Allison Fryer, Ph.D., associate dean for graduate studies.
- Moore Institute expansion** The Moore Institute will expand its Nutrition Oregon Campaign to all 36 Oregon counties by 2030 as part of the White House Administration's *Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities*.
- Successful match** The 132 M.D. students who participated in Match Day 2024 posted a 99% placement rate. Students placed in 24 specialties in 20 different states—with 34% of students placing to institutions in Oregon; 45% are entering primary care specialties, including internal medicine, family medicine or pediatrics. OHSU's 24 residency programs participating in the NRMP match also posted a 99% fill rate with 205 trainees filling 206 slots.



THAT MATCH MOMENT

Fourth-year M.D. student Johanna Wilson learns during Match Day 2024 that she's matched at Stanford to its obstetrics/gynecology residency program.



HANDS-ON LEARNING

High school student Sara Beg (top photo,) takes the blood pressure of fellow high school student Leticia O.C. Gutierrez Blancas while PA student Journey Artis advises. Below, Megan Jacobs, M.D., M.S.C.S. (left), assistant professor of pediatrics, and M.D. student Supriya Iyer demonstrate aspects of a knee exam.

A Day in the Life of an OHSU Student

OHSU students, staff members and faculty volunteers—led by M.D. students—hosted "A Day in the Life of an OHSU Student" on March 2 at Robertson Life Sciences Building in Portland, Ore. The goal was to share health care career information with local high school and community college students and get them excited about these professions.

More than 75 young people rotated through hands-on learning stations covering anatomy, vitals/blood pressure, emergency preparedness, splinting and surgical knot tying. They also asked questions during a Q&A panel featuring M.D., PA, D.M.D. and Pharm.D. students.

"My favorite moment was connecting with various professionals to gain insight into their journeys and experiences," says high school junior Sara Beg. "This event excited me more about my future goals for entering medicine and health care!" —RS



High Desert Reflections

Essay by Layla EntriKin, fourth-year M.D. student | Art by Shannon Young, third-year M.D./M.C.R. student

My first week as a medical student in Madras, Ore., I saw two babies enter this world, and two bodies that had already left. Cradle to grave medicine, they call it.

A suicide.

The first daughter.

A motorcycle accident.

The second son.

The babies, I was expecting. They were light; they were joy. I listened to their hummingbird hearts and wished them the happiest of birthdays. Nurses vigorously rubbed mewling, wet cries out of their lungs. *You tell us all about it, sweet pea.* I oohed and aahed over their wisps of goopy hair, the peeping of new eyes. Their skin was pink and ripe. Tiny knit hats over cone-shaped heads. I wiped blood off their mothers' legs. Congratulations, Mommy, congratulations. *How big is he? What is her name?*

I forgot for a moment I was supposed to be practicing medicine.

The bodies, I was unprepared for. They were cold; they were stiff. The funeral director leaned against the industrial metal sink; arms crossed. *Sorry to see you again so soon.* I pressed on their chests looking to see if their ribs were still intact. A broken neck? A smashed nose? I did not wipe the blood off his legs. Or the dirt from her face. Her cargo pants were wet with river water. She had pink nail polish on. Matted hair. A silver toe ring. He was still wearing a helmet. A ripped red polo shirt. *What was her name? What was his?*

I forgot for a moment I was supposed to be practicing medicine.

"Have I traumatized you enough for one day?" the doctor asked. He smiled, but it didn't reach his eyes. He had his cell phone clipped to his brown leather belt. The gray hairs at his temples wrapped towards the nape of his neck.

I laughed, but I didn't mean it.

At the end of my week, after a late hospital shift, I crawled into my unfamiliar bed. I could smell juniper and sage brush through the open window. I inhaled through my nose and out through my mouth. Dry desert air burned my throat. My scrubs lay crumpled at the foot of the bed. I stared at my popcorn ceiling.

I closed my eyes against the rising sun.

I tried to remember the last time I cried, but I couldn't. So I slept, and I slept.

Editor's note: This essay and artwork were originally published in the fifth issue of Aerial Magazine, the OHSU student arts and creative writing publication.

“It takes the **whole** to make you **whole** again”

Story and photos by Erin Hoover Barnett

REIMAGINING CARE

Liz Powers, M.D. R '06, in front of the Winding Waters Clinic in Enterprise, Ore. She says she found her people in the OHSU School of Medicine Family Medicine Residency program and then, once in practice, took the chance to reimagine primary care in rural Oregon's Wallowa County, which reminded her of her childhood home on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. “Integrated care really works,” Powers says. “That’s the message we want to tell people.”

Liz Powers and her team from northeastern Oregon are pioneering an inventive model of integrated primary care with stunning results.

Elizabeth “Liz” Powers, M.D. R '06, M.H.A., was raised on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan by her family physician father and nurse practitioner mother. When they got snowed in, which was often, her father would snap on cross-country skis and head south to care for his patients at the community hospital in Iron River.

In her family, obstacles were opportunities.

“I grew up understanding possibility,” says Powers. “That’s what my mom and my dad did for me—anything is possible. Look at it a different way.”

After completing a family medicine residency at OHSU in 2006, she and her husband, Nic Powers, moved to rural Enterprise in Eastern Oregon's Wallowa County. She became the third physician partner at Winding Waters Clinic, a private primary care practice founded in 1972.

But Powers grew tired of sending patients home with a prescription and a referral to a specialist, only to learn—when she ran into them at the local Safeway—that they’d taken a second job and then their car broke down, so they never made it to that other provider.

“When you’re a family physician, especially in a small community, you see how people actually live,” she says. “You are constantly confronted with the gaps—and a deepening sense of your own futility.”

Powers began studying the federally qualified health center (FQHC) model, designed to bring comprehensive care to underserved areas. In 2015, Winding Waters became an FQHC Community Health Center.

That year, the health status of Wallowa County residents ranked 21st out of 36 counties in Oregon. By 2023, Winding Waters’ patient roster represented two-thirds of the county’s population. And Wallowa County had shot up the health rankings to 8th.

By looking at health care in a different way, Powers and

her Winding Waters interdisciplinary team—including a half dozen other OHSU alumni—are joining kindred spirits across Oregon and the country in demonstrating the power and promise of this alternative approach.

Origin story

The path to better health in Wallowa County began 30 years ago when Enterprise physicians Lowell Euhus, M.D., and Scott Siebe, M.D., sounded the alarm about a worsening shortage of rural doctors.

From a summit they convened in 1989 came state funding for OHSU to launch Oregon’s Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and, eventually, the OHSU Campus for Rural Health. The goal: attract, train and retain health professionals committed to rural and underserved communities. In 1992, family medicine residents started rotating in Enterprise—and now students from across other OHSU schools do, too.

Powers learned that origin story from OHSU Family Medicine Physician and Department Chair John Saultz, M.D., who was at the 1989 summit with OHSU’s rural health education architect J.S. “Dutch” Reinschmidt, M.D. Tagging along with Saultz to an AHEC conference outside LaGrande in 2004 as a first-year resident, Powers was taken by his stories about rural Oregon and the meaningful role primary care doctors can play there.

“It was an Oregon history lesson,” she says, “from someone who really gets what it means to improve the health of a state.”

WAVE OF THE FUTURE

Nurses, counselors, pharmacy staff, dentists, doctors and administrative team members form the wave from the Winding Waters logo outside their newest clinic in Wallowa, Ore. Powers is fifth from right. Joe Pierri, D.M.D. '17, dental director at the clinic, is seventh from right.



“Look at it a different way”

Powers graduated from Vassar College and Stanford Medicine, but it was in the OHSU Family Medicine Residency Program where she found her people. After residency, it was in Wallowa County where she found her home.

With 7,500 residents spread across the northeast corner of the state, Wallowa is Oregon’s fifth least populous county. It’s a place of rugged beauty like the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and a place where she could practice the kind of medicine her father did.

Except a lot had changed.

The fee-for-service model, where doctors get paid for each service provided, wasn’t keeping pace with the costs of care, particularly for primary care physicians. And the model emphasized the number of services rendered, not necessarily the quality or value they provided to the patient.

Powers sought to flip that equation. Winding Waters signed on with the OHSU Oregon Rural Practice-based Research Network (ORPRN) to glean best practices. Powers and clinic leaders delved into the FQHC model.

HEALTH AT HOME

In this photo series, poor circulation in patient Glenda Scott’s foot leads Powers to wonder about her medications. Subsequently, clinical pharmacist Michael Farley, RPh, and fourth-year OSU/OHSU Pharm.D. student Nathan Perren visit Scott at her home to understand what medications she’s taking. “Seeing a patient in their home gives so much insight,” says Farley. “It’s been a really powerful addition to our ability to meet patients where they are and provide them a better level of care.” Scott’s word for the home visits: “Wonderful.”

Created in 1964, this model offers a generous, base-level of federal funding to clinics that deliver on a steep promise: sustaining advanced primary care services in underserved areas. In that broad mandate, frontline providers increasingly see the opportunity to offer—and get paid to provide—more comprehensive care that addresses the interrelated issues impacting people’s health.

Oregon-based innovations have helped. The state-funded Alternative Payment Methodology and Advanced Care Model pays for patient-centered, nontraditional services such as home visits, dental care coordination, transportation assistance, health education, counseling and more for people on the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid).

But Winding Waters wanted to serve all comers. So they cobbled together a hybrid payor model.

Now, the approximately 5,300 patients that Winding Waters’ 105 team members see for medical care, dentistry, mental health counseling, substance use treatment and physical therapy each year are roughly evenly split between the Oregon Health Plan, private insurance and Medicare (for patients with disabilities and/or who are over 65). Nearly 10% have no insurance at all.

“It doesn’t matter who walks in the front door,” says Keli Dennis, chief operations officer for Winding Waters. “They could have a million dollars or zero dollars. They all get the same opportunity to have services.”

Interdisciplinary, team-based community care

The sun glints off the snowy mountains on a crisp March morning as patient Glenda Scott enters the Winding Waters Clinic in the small town of Wallowa—due west of Enterprise. The health center’s newest location features a community gathering space, pharmacy, full dental clinic and medical and counseling offices.

For Scott, 70, a retired house painter and cleaner, the clinic’s wraparound services are helping her through the aftereffects

of major heart surgery: managing multiple medications, recovering from significant weight loss and malnutrition, and navigating new functional limitations.

Powers sweeps into the exam room, brown hair pulled back in a messy bun, and greets the older woman with the warm smile of an old friend. She’s cared for Scott since she first started practicing.

At the end of the exam, she hands Scott off to a counselor who is helping Scott cope with anxiety. Powers’ interaction might have ended there. But, during the exam, she noticed evidence of poor circulation in Scott’s right foot and realized Scott was confused about her medications. So, Powers finds clinical pharmacist Michael Farley, R.Ph., in the team pod—the nerve center of the clinic—and Nathan Perren, a fourth-year student in the OSU-OHSU Pharm.D. Program rotating at the clinic.

“Mike, would you do me a favor?” Powers asks. “Would you go to her house and figure out what medications she’s taking?”

Scott says such attentive care—which has also included home visits from a Winding Waters community nurse—has allowed her to remain at home where she, her daughter and her granddaughter, who is 23 and has a developmental disability, care for one another.

Scott’s daughter, Amanda “Mandy” Raymond, 50, adds that she’s gotten help at Winding Waters for her high blood pressure, chronic pain, migraines, depression and anxiety, as well as for substance use issues.

“It takes the whole to make you whole again,” Raymond says. “There’s physical, emotional, spiritual and mental. You can’t just do one of them.”

Anchored by alumni

The clinical leadership team at Winding Waters consists of nine department directors. Five are OHSU alumni. Powers is chief medical officer and the health services



While we do still have to refer out, it’s less than what we might need to because of our synergy.

– Nick West

officer responsible for integration of care. Nick West, M.D. ’19 R ’22, is quality director. Annika Maly, M.D., M.P.H. ’13, is integrated services director. Kevin Vandenhoevel, M.P.A.S. ’17, PA-C, is patient experience director. Joe Pierri, D.M.D. ’17, is dental director.

Family medicine physicians Wes Baker, M.D. ’14 R ’18, and Keith DeYoung, M.D. R ’09, also see patients.

West is a product of Oregon’s and OHSU’s investment in rural health. He grew up on a ranch about an hour outside Enterprise. The state-funded Scholars for a Healthy Oregon Initiative helped pay his tuition in the OHSU M.D. Class of 2019 in exchange for rural service.

For West, embracing the integrated model at Winding Waters was natural.

“I recognized in med school that mental health is important, access to nutrition and dietary education are important, but I couldn’t allow the time during a 15-minute appointment,” he says. “We have all that right here and can leverage all our different specialties. While we do still have to refer out, it’s less than what we might need to because of our synergy.”



But for physicians like DeYoung and even Powers, who started out in the private-practice, referral-based model, the coordinated, interdisciplinary approach required a mental shift.

DeYoung says seeing how much patients like the integrated model helped. “And it’s just a lot more satisfying as a provider to actually give people the care they need,” he says.

Obstacles as opportunities

With the health of the whole community as their north star, Winding Waters has built social capital. They partnered with local nonprofits as well as the private community hospital, Wallowa Memorial.

Not everything has gone their way.

In 2015, Winding Waters set out to launch a school-based health clinic in Enterprise to treat common ailments and also



TEAM HEALTH

Top photo: Powers congratulates team members who transformed an old office suite into a welcoming drop-in clinic at the Wallowa County Education Service District’s new teen services center in downtown Enterprise. Bottom photo: Fellow alumni join Powers (second from left) at a cafe in Enterprise.

to ensure access to contraceptives. A small but vocal group of residents objected to any reproductive health care in a school. Winding Waters stepped back.

In 2018, the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners decided to transfer its local public health authority to the state and closed the public health department. Two years later, Winding Waters helped the county through COVID-19. The trust they built with their patients helped Wallowa County post impressive vaccination rates. And, despite COVID-19 and a 6 percent increase in population, admissions at Wallowa Memorial Hospital between 2018 and 2023 dropped by nearly 23 percent, from 424 patients to 327.

By 2022, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) could see the need to rebuild the county’s public health infrastructure. Seeking a local health officer, the OHA chose Powers.

A year later, when Landon Braden, superintendent of the Wallowa County Education Service District (ESD), needed partners to offer youth services in the ESD’s new Teen Drop-In Center in downtown Enterprise, he, too, turned to Powers. In the space of a month, Powers’ clinical team transformed an old office suite, a stone’s throw from the game room, into a welcoming, drop-in public health clinic.

At the grand opening on a sunny Friday in March, Powers gathers with Braden and her team in their gleaming clinic and gives each member a high five.

“I’m really hopeful for the community,” says Winding Waters quality manager Rachel Ellis.

“Yeah,” says Powers, flashing her wry smile. “We’re making progress.”

Fully accessible primary care

Oregon now has 32 FQHCs. Some, like Winding Waters, have multiple locations. And the safety net is growing, including the new OHSU Health Family Medicine, East Portland Community Health Center on the OHSU Health Adventist campus.

Policy makers and stakeholders are increasingly viewing the FQHC model, and ambitious interpretations like that at Winding Waters, as a salve for Oregon’s post-pandemic health care struggles.

“We are trying to address overlapping mental health, homelessness and fentanyl-abuse crises with a system that siloes physical health, mental health and substance use treatment,” says John McConnell, Ph.D., M.S., M.A., professor of emergency medicine and director of the OHSU School of Medicine’s Center for Health Systems Effectiveness.

“Nearly every level of care is swamped, and the emergency department (ED) has become the front door and holding pen,” he says. “If you start with comprehensive, interdisciplinary, fully accessible primary care for everyone, you can remove the stress on the ED and specialty care and give them space to do what they’re best at. We have much to learn from the FQHC model and pioneers like Winding Waters.” **B**

Stories of the 2024 Alumni Awardees

Building Bridges in Her Mission to Fight HIV

Navid Madani marries a love of science with a devotion to outreach in the Middle East/North Africa region.

Navid Madani, Ph.D. '99, believes in serendipity, seeing evidence of it throughout her life. She even believes there was serendipity in her battle against stage IV ovarian cancer.

Madani is a senior scientist in the Department of Cancer Immunology and Virology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI) and the founding director of the DFCI Science Health Education (SHE) Center. The SHE Center promotes best practices in medicine, scientific research and the standardization of health care among scientists, clinicians and students from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, along with their counterparts in the U.S. A primary goal of the center is to support female clinicians, scientists

Continued on next page



NAVID MADANI, PH.D. '99

COURTESY DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE

Continued from previous page
and students in MENA countries.

While pursuing her Ph.D. in biochemistry and molecular biology at OHSU, Madani had a more limited worldview, she says, maintaining a narrow focus on her work.

“To be successful in the sciences, you really have to have tunnel vision,” she explains. At OHSU, Madani seldom explored the region outside of her lab. “I loved the work I was doing. It was the best five years of my life.”

Madani trained under David Kabat, Ph.D., professor emeritus of biochemistry and molecular biology. Working in Kabat’s lab, Madani detected that HIV-1’s VIF protein disables a factor inside cells that could eliminate the virus. Her work in Kabat’s lab led to the discovery of APOBEC3G, a natural virus-fighting protein in human lymphocytes. Numerous studies have since examined the VIF-APOBEC3G interaction, and efforts have been made to develop drugs targeting VIF.

Madani was pursuing postdoctoral work at DFCI in Boston when her narrow focus was shattered: the 9/11 attacks leveled New York’s Twin Towers. As an Iranian emigrant, Madani was dramatically affected.

“I’m a product of two nations—two regions, and I love both,” she says. “Sept. 11, 2001, really hurt me to the core.”

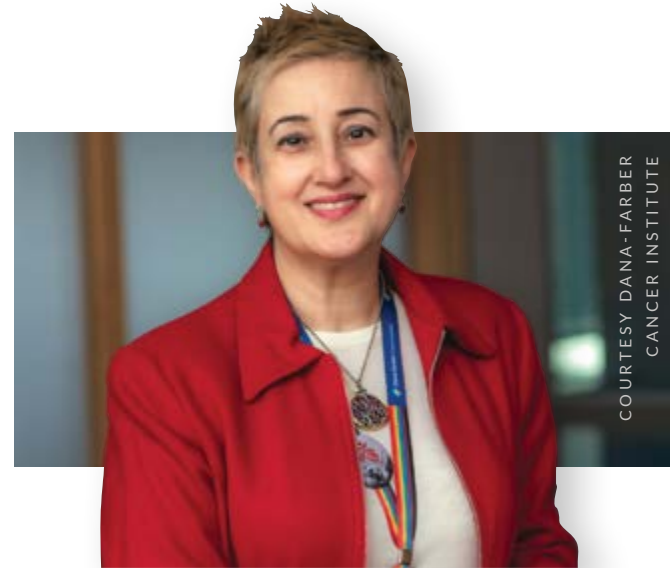
Madani questioned whether to continue her pursuit of a faculty appointment at DFCI, believing she should expand the scope of her work. She began to explore ways to promote mutual understanding among people from her home region and adopted country.

One such opportunity was presented when she and her husband accompanied a physician friend to Iran in 2003. While there, Madani was invited to deliver lectures about HIV treatments and her research. After she gave a talk to medical students in a religiously conservative city in Iran, a group of female students who had attended the lecture approached her in her hotel lobby. They asked her follow-up questions they believed they could not ask in front of their male peers and professors in the lecture hall.

Madani realized that religious restrictions were severely limiting sexual education for women in the Middle East. “There is a thirst, a longing for knowledge,” she says.

From 2003 to 2008, Madani continued her research on HIV-1 transmission at DFCI while making regular trips to Iran in support of clinicians and students. She included basic sexual health education in her talks about HIV, drawing the attention of some Iranian government officials.

Madani brought worldwide focus to the region at the 2010 International AIDS Society Conference in Vienna, Austria. She ran a session on the lack of HIV and reproductive information available in the Middle East and its negative effect on women. She also persuaded Anthony Fauci, M.D., former director of



NAVID MADANI, PH.D. '99
CHARLES A. PREUSS
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD

“My foundation was set at OHSU. It was the best five years of my life.”

the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to deliver the keynote address. Later, she organized the first International Conference on HIV/AIDS in Iran in collaboration with UNAIDS and Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

In 2016, leadership at DCFI recognized Madani’s personal devotion to outreach in the MENA region by inviting her to create a center in support of her work. In 2019, the DCFI SHE Center was launched. At the same time, Madani was diagnosed with stage IV ovarian cancer.

“I was scared, but I felt like it’s going to be okay,” she says. “Now I know what cancer patients go through. I can talk to them about it. I can talk to scientists about improving cancer drugs. I can talk to physicians.”

In fact, mentorship of clinicians and students is one of her center’s goals. Madani says she channels her mentoring skills from the time she spent working in David Kabat’s lab. “My foundation was set at OHSU.”

Praising her work in MENA countries, Kabat says, “Dr. Madani has a perfect combination of knowledge, skill, background and institutional support to facilitate this critically important humanitarian effort.” – Anna Lageson

Earning Patient Trust While Working Toward a Cure

Sharl Azar built a comprehensive center for patients with sickle cell disease.



zar, founder and director of the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Comprehensive Sickle Cell Disease Treatment Center, recognizes the societal challenges his patients face.

“The thing I kept hearing was, ‘Mass General is the old white man’s hospital. Nobody there looks like me,’” Azar says. “I began to delve into understanding the lives of our patients and realized there was a social justice and advocacy component to this work, which is something that was born and bred into me in my training at OHSU.”

Azar believes the research and treatment of sickle cell disease (SCD) has historically been limited because the disease primarily affects people of color: the U.S. Black population makes up 90% of the nearly 100,000 patients with SCD in this country. In patients with SCD, the sickled red blood cells the disease is named for block blood flow, which can prevent organs from receiving oxygen and cause vaso-occlusive crisis (VOC), or pain crisis. Many of Azar’s patients will have a heart attack in their twenties or undergo joint replacement in their thirties, and 25% will suffer a stroke before age 45, the age when many will die.

Most patients with SCD suffer devastating pain and visit hospital emergency departments to request drugs in search of relief. “They are called drug seekers—malingerers,” Azar says. “They’re told to go get their fix somewhere else.”

When the MGH Center opened, Azar says, “We knew that trust was something we needed to earn.” He and his team left the primarily white Beacon Hill neighborhood around the center to visit Boston’s communities of color. They raised awareness about SCD and participated in neighborhood health fairs. Azar became a political advocate, drafting a bill and—with a local representative—introducing it before the Massachusetts state legislature. If passed, it will expand resources for SCD statewide.

When the MGH Center opened in 2020, it served 24 patients;



SHARL AZAR, M.D. '10 R '13 F '16
WALTER C. REYNOLDS M.D.
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

“I built this model here based on the way I saw care provided at OHSU. I deeply appreciate the incredible mentors I had.”

today, the center cares for 223. Patients are seen by hematology and primary care specialists with access to a subspecialty network that includes nephrology, ophthalmology, pulmonology and ob/gyn. Additional support is provided by a dedicated SCD social worker, two nurse navigators and a patient coordinator. By establishing partnerships with palliative care, integrative medicine and spiritual care, Azar has formed a comprehensive pain and suffering management team for his patients. The center was the first in Massachusetts to offer the new transformative FDA-approved sickle cell gene therapy. Encouraged by the current trend toward increased research and awareness of SCD, Azar believes he will see a cure in his lifetime.

“My hope is that our center will serve as a model across the whole country,” Azar says. “I built this model here based on the way I saw care provided at OHSU. I deeply appreciate the incredible mentors I had. Every aspect of my training at OHSU was a key component of who I am today.” – Anna Lageson

An Innovator in Occupational Medicine Looks Back

Wayne Burton widened the scope of employee wellness.

Although through his medical training, Burton had planned to become a small-town internist until, during his residency in Chicago, he took a chance to go in a different direction.

“I barely even knew what occupational medicine was,” he says. “The little I knew was that most doctors in the field were probably in the twilight of their careers.”

Burton can reflect with pride on over 40 years as a nationally-recognized innovator and longstanding leader in today’s well-established field of occupational medicine.

Beginning his career at International Harvester’s headquarters in Chicago, Burton took on various executive roles, including corporate medical director, with the First National Bank of Chicago, which later became Bank One and JPMorgan Chase. When a brief retirement didn’t pan out—“I traveled a week, played golf a week, then my wife told me to go get a job,” he jokes—he worked as chief medical officer at American Express before retiring in 2017.

Burton helped to develop occupational medicine into the burgeoning field it is today. When he started out in his career, occupational medicine was focused on workplace-related injuries and illnesses. In his many years at the bank, he oversaw an expansion of employee health services from a single clinic to 30 locations, serving hundreds of thousands of employees worldwide.

Most significantly, he recognized that the bank’s white-collar workers rarely suffered injuries worse than a paper cut and widened the scope of “employee wellness.” He was an innovator, launching initiatives related to preventive care and screenings, women’s health and mental health. He was in the vanguard of addressing issues such as HIV and AIDS in the workplace. Thanks to these efforts, employees were able to access a range of services onsite, from taking prenatal health classes to getting routine mammograms and seeing mental health counselors.

Burton also helped to modernize the occupational medicine field by employing technology to track employee health and well-being, contributing to a more holistic approach to health



WAYNE BURTON, M.D. '74
ESTHER POHL LOVEJOY LEADERSHIP AWARD

“I’ve been very fortunate to have a career that combined clinical medicine, population health management and research.”

care. That work resonated with his data-focused corporate employers, who were able to see that supporting employee health resulted in improved productivity and controlled health care costs.

And if all that wasn’t enough to keep him busy, Burton also published widely in journals and taught at institutions including Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine and the University of Illinois School of Public Health. And he was seeing patients the whole time.

“I’ve been very fortunate to have a career that combined clinical medicine, population health management and research,” he says. Since retiring, Burton has stayed busy consulting, writing, teaching, speaking at conferences and serving on various boards.

Even if he didn’t realize it at the time, his student days at OHSU prepared him for his eventual career in occupational medicine. “In this work, you have to be a people person,” he says. “As a medical student doing regular rotations, you have to learn to work with a variety of people in a variety of settings—an experience that turned out to be exceedingly valuable in my career.”—*Romel Hernandez*

Making the Jump from Academia to Industry

Holly Corbitt isn’t afraid to take risks and push ahead in her career.

As a high schooler, Corbitt moved from Mississippi to Oregon to pursue an interest in snowboarding. Becoming a professional snowboarder didn’t wind up working out, but her time in Oregon’s great outdoors made her fall deeply in love with nature and science.

“There have been so many stepping stones between then and now,” she says. “I’ve always believed in taking risks and being a bit more daring in my life choices, to follow my dreams.”

Now a senior manager with Twist Bioscience, she oversees a bioinformatics applications team developing sustainable synthetic DNA tools used in a range of industries, from medicine to agriculture.

Corbitt attended Mt. Hood Community College and then studied molecular biology and microbiology at Portland State University before entering OHSU School of Medicine as a doctoral student in molecular and medical genetics. She worked in the lab of Cheryl Maslen, Ph.D., now professor emerita, studying genetic risk factors related to pediatric heart defects and diseases, a role that offered an opportunity to fulfill her interest in both medicine and science. “The best of both worlds,” she says.

“I liked doing the hardcore science as well working with pediatricians,” she adds. “You always knew the work you were doing was going to directly impact patients. It was very motivating.”

Corbitt’s research interests eventually led her in a new direction: “I knew almost nothing about bioinformatics and had no background in computer science, but it was what I wanted to learn.”

Maslen trusted her to take on the challenge and was amazed by the rapid results. In her award nomination letter, Maslen wrote, “To my great delight, Holly was way ahead of me, balancing her bench work with developing computational models and pipelines to analyze that data. Her skills and hard work brought us the highest quality results possible for these projects.”

“I got so much unwavering support and validation,” Corbitt says. “I was given the time to learn this new thing, and not everyone would’ve given me that chance. That’s how Cheryl worked with students—it wasn’t just doing the science; it was



HOLLY CORBITT, PH.D. '18
RICHARD T. JONES DISTINGUISHED
ALUMNA SCIENTIST AWARD

“I want to keep evolving with the science—computers and science are really the linchpin to everything that’s moving forward in the future.”

also about developing their careers.”

After earning her Ph.D., Corbitt immediately made the jump from academia to industry, joining biotech giant Illumina. After a year, she made the move to the much smaller Twist Bioscience where she brings to her work the same collaborative, can-do zest that also drove her in sports and in her studies.

“I like having a broad focus,” she says. “Our technology applies to so many things—I’ll be talking one day to a dolphin scientist about their research, and the next day I’ll talk to an oncologist.”

Corbitt may have a bright future, but she is canny enough not to put much stock in long-term goal-setting. “The things I’m working on right now aren’t where science is going to be in another decade,” she says. “I want to keep evolving with the science—computers and science are really the linchpin to everything that’s moving forward in the future. All I know is I always want to stay learning.”—*Romel Hernandez*

A Voice for Patient Empowerment Goes Nationwide

Abby Dotson loves being at the intersection of science, technology and public policy.

Dotson has rapidly emerged as a national leader in developing innovative ways to connect emergency health care providers with patients' treatment choices when facing serious illness.

She says, "I'm passionate about using data to drive health care policy and education."

A research assistant professor of emergency medicine in the OHSU School of Medicine, she also serves as director of the Oregon Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) Registry. Last year, she became executive director of the National POLST Collaborative, advising and training states in best practices.

Dotson grew up dreaming of becoming a scientist. After earning a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Kansas, she moved to Portland in 2013 to be a postdoctoral fellow working in neuroimmunology at OHSU. She enjoyed lab research, but chose to pursue a career with a more direct "human connection" as she says. "I wanted to have an impact on my community."

She spent two years with OHSU's Technology Transfer Office, which supports commercialization of research ideas and innovations. That, she says, sparked her interest in digital technology and health care: "I love being at the intersection of science, technology and public policy."

In 2018, Dotson moved on to become director of Oregon's POLST technology initiative, which enables medically fragile and seriously ill patients to register their medical orders for end-of-life care in a statewide database. The information is considered "portable" because it is accessible wherever patients go for treatment, whether it's a doctor's office or a hospital emergency room.

POLST originated in Oregon in the 1990s, and the registry—considered a national model—was created in 2009 so emergency medical services could access patient information



ABBY DOTSON, PH.D. '16
EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

"Everything we're doing is patient-centered, giving patients and their families more autonomy."

when a paper form could not be found.

"Essentially, we're connecting palliative care and emergency medical treatment," she says. "For the medical community, POLST helps guide quick decisions in an emergency. For patients, making decisions about serious-illness care can be very intimidating and isn't always straightforward. Everything we're doing is patient-centered, giving patients and their families more autonomy."

In addition to working in Oregon, Dotson conducts research related to POLST usage and its outcomes and has advised states from California to Massachusetts on implementing or improving their own registries.

She has also taken on a leadership role in developing Oregon's Health Emergency Ready Oregon (HERO) Kids Registry, the nation's first statewide medical registry for children with special health care needs.

"I've come to realize this is a space that needs champions and advocates," she says. "In Oregon, we've gained so much experience and expertise. Getting to use the lessons we've learned here to help different communities is incredibly rewarding—the best part of the job." — Romel Hernandez

"You Just Need to QI it"

Moira Ray creates quality improvement systems for better patient care.

Throughout her career, Ray has pursued two passions: direct patient care and public health.

"I've always liked thinking about the needs of the public versus the needs of the individual,"

Ray says. "I'm a physician working with patients, and I also work at population levels to think about quality improvement initiatives."

When Ray was first introduced to a quality improvement (QI) curriculum as a resident, she thought she had no time for what felt like extra work. She credits Sherril Gelmon, Dr.P.H., a mentor and Portland State University public health professor with helping her to embrace improvement science.

Recently named the associate director of quality for the school's Department of Family Medicine, Ray sees the QI mindset as an optimistic one. She quotes her fellow alumna, Katie Putman, M.D. '17, M.P.H. '17, "If you hate something, you should improve it. You just need to QI it."

Ray began working at OHSU after completing residencies in family practice and preventive medicine. Within the family medicine department, she sees a variety of patients including children, adults, and those seeking maternity care and women's health and reproductive services. She has also worked as a clinical epidemiologist at the OHSU Center for Evidence-based Policy, completing evidence reviews for a collaborative of 25 state Medicaid agencies and programs.

At the Center for Evidence-based Policy, Ray worked on the Medicaid Evidence-based Decisions (MED) Project, funded by Oregon and several other participating state Medicaid programs. The MED project gathered and evaluated evidence for making Medicaid coverage decisions, impacting millions of patients each year. She has authored numerous policy reviews, evaluating evidence that informs how health care delivery and payment decisions are made throughout the U.S.

When Ray saw an opportunity to improve patient care in



MOIRA RAY, M.D. '11 R '15, M.P.H. '11
EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

"A huge part of my QI job was helping people do the right thing and making the right thing be the easy thing to do."

her clinic, she completed training and certification in loop electrosurgical excision procedure (LEEP) in order to treat precancerous cervical disease in her patients. She then established a program to provide LEEP in her clinic and began to train residents in the procedure.

As the QI lead for her clinic, Ray helped develop a system leading to better patient health outcomes for individuals with diabetes by creating a review committee where team members could present patient needs and get valuable feedback from an interprofessional group.

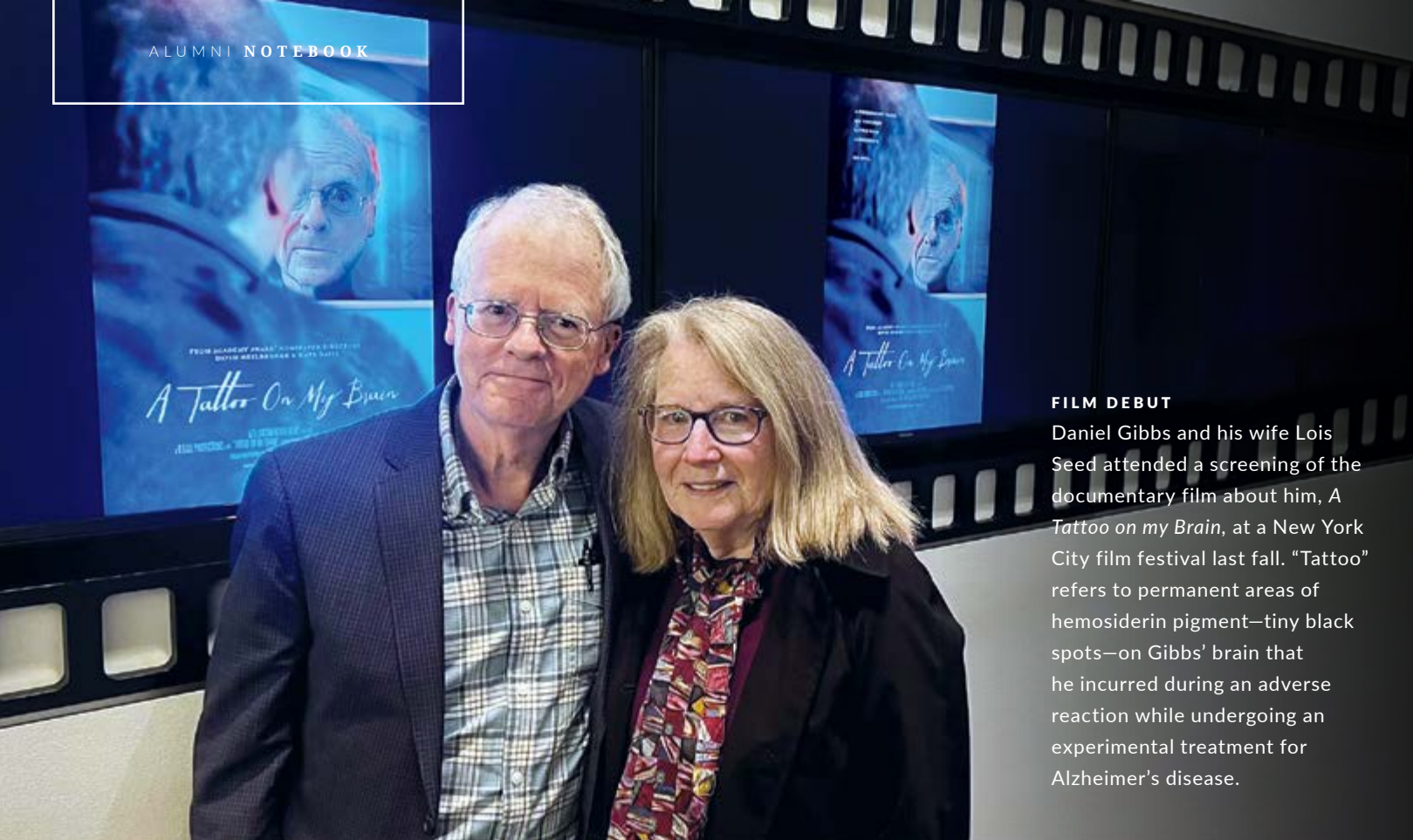
"People learned from being looped in with other teammates," Rays says. "A huge part of my QI job was helping people do the right thing and making the right thing be the easy thing to do."

Many of Ray's fellow clinicians are also OHSU alumni, including some of her classmates. "There's something about that shared experience. I lean on my friends from med school."

She enjoys working with residents and is glad to be a member of the next generation of instructors at OHSU.

"I love giving back to help learners—giving back to support what people gave me when I was a student here."

— Anna Lageson

**FILM DEBUT**

Daniel Gibbs and his wife Lois Seed attended a screening of the documentary film about him, *A Tattoo on my Brain*, at a New York City film festival last fall. “Tattoo” refers to permanent areas of hemosiderin pigment—tiny black spots—on Gibbs’ brain that he incurred during an adverse reaction while undergoing an experimental treatment for Alzheimer’s disease.

research. Lisa Silbert, M.D., M.C.R., FAAN, professor of neurology, holds this prestigious professorship.

To manage his disease, Gibbs is also a patient at OHSU. Every six months, he visits former faculty colleague, Joseph Quinn, M.D. R ’94, professor of neurology, who specializes in neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s.

Now 72, Gibbs says he’s becoming more symptomatic. He no longer balances the checkbook, he forgets his social security number and he has trouble remembering names. But he still walks 10,000 steps a day in the Portland hills with his dog Jack, and continues to speak publicly. A recent checkup showed the slow progression of Gibbs’ disease was clinically remarkable.

Don’t miss the chance to meet Gibbs and Quinn and ask questions during Gibbs’ author talk at this year’s Alumni Reunion Weekend in June (see ad below).

—Rachel Shafer

Cards and Coffee for Ph.D. Candidates

A huge milestone in the life of a graduate student is passing the qualifying exam to become a Ph.D. candidate.

To mark the occasion and show alumni support, members of the Alumni Career Discernment Work Group delivered handwritten cards of congratulations and bags of coffee beans to 36 new Ph.D. candidates so far this academic year.

The first-ever deliveries were met with surprise and much happiness by the students, reports Christina Lorentz, Ph.D. ’10, work group co-chair.

“Our goal is to reach all students when they pass their quals each year,” she says. “We want to remind them that there’s a whole community of alums—both M.D.’s and Ph.D.’s—who are proud of them. It was great to connect with the students and let them know we are in their corner cheering them on!”



The Career Discernment Work Group, co-chaired by Susan (Sue) Skinner, M.D. ’89, and graduate students Elizabeth (Libby) Rose and Madison (Madie) Hupp, mobilizes fellow alumni to plan career panels for Ph.D. candidates, provide input on career programming for M.D. students and recognize student milestones. Interested in volunteering with this group? Email alumni@ohsu.edu to learn more. —RS

Dispatches from the Land of Alzheimer’s

In the 1980s, Daniel Gibbs, M.D. R ’89, Ph.D., was well on his way to becoming a biomedical scientist, researching neuroendocrinology and the neurochemistry of stress while on the faculty of University of California, San Diego. But he needed to finish his clinical training in neurology, and a residency spot opened up at OHSU. There, he discovered something.

Patients.

“I enjoyed the human to human aspect more than I expected to,” says Gibbs, “I had a lab, but I decided I’d rather see patients.”

He fell in love with general neurology and, following residency, he took care of people with neurological conditions at a private practice in Portland for the next 21 years. In 2010, he joined the neurology faculty at the OHSU School of Medicine, teaching residents and medical students and treating patients, many of whom moved with him to OHSU in order to continue in his care.

In 2015, he found himself examining PET scans of his own brain. “I could see the amyloid plaques, and I was wearing my investigator’s hat thinking, ‘Isn’t that cool?’”

At 64, he was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment due to early-stage Alzheimer’s disease (AD), and became a neurology patient himself.

The knowledge brought certainty and focus, allowing him to plan his future. Studies have found that lifestyle interventions such as healthy diet, sleep and exercise habits, along with social and intellectual engagement, mitigate progression of the disease and are most effective during the earliest stages, even before cognitive impairment has begun.

By then retired, Gibbs volunteered for clinical drug trials at the University of California San Francisco. In 2019 he penned “Early Awareness of Alzheimer Disease: A Neurologist’s Personal Perspective” in *JAMA Neurology* to promote early diagnosis of AD and urge greater education for patients.

The two activities united his scientific and humanist selves: the analytic quest for knowledge and concern for others. Gibbs took it further when he shared his scientific observations and personal experiences in a 2021 memoir, *A Tattoo on my Brain: A Neurologist’s Personal Battle against Alzheimer’s Disease*, which became the basis for a 2023 documentary about him.

This year, he published a follow-up book of essays, *Dispatches from the Land of Alzheimer’s*. By sharing his story so publicly, Gibbs says he hopes to reduce the stigma of AD and send a message of hope and fellowship to those living with it.

Gibbs and his wife Lois Seed are committed to research. They’ve established the Gibbs Family Endowed Professorship to support OHSU faculty acclaimed in the field of Alzheimer’s

Timely Topics — Live from Marquam Hill: A Neurologist’s Personal Battle Against Alzheimer’s Disease

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND
JUNE 22, 2024 AT 1:30 P.M.
OLD LIBRARY AUDITORIUM

Join us for an exclusive screening of a short film about Dr. Gibbs, followed by live discussion with:

Daniel Gibbs, M.D. R ’89, Ph.D.

OHSU alum, retired neurologist and author of *Tattoo on my Brain: A Neurologist’s Personal Battle Against Alzheimer’s Disease*

Joseph Quinn, M.D. R ’94

OHSU alum, Wayne and Sandra Ericksen Endowed Professor for Neurodegenerative Research, OHSU School of Medicine



Scan the QR code to register for this free event.

“I’m fascinated by this disease that, for my entire career, I could only observe from the outside. Now I’m on the patient side of the experience.”



Dr. Gibbs



Dr. Quinn

Produced in partnership with the OHSU Layton Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease Center, the OHSU Brain Institute and the Alzheimer’s Association

REUNION

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, 3266 S.W. Research Dr., 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.

1970s

Mark Rampton, M.D. '77, writes, "I continue to see patients at Corvallis Family Medicine in Corvallis, Ore. I work two-and-a-half days per week after 46 years as a physician and frequently make house calls. I've traveled to Uzhhorod, Ukraine, (a sister city to Corvallis) over 30 times, including three times since the [Russian] invasion in 2022, where I teach and volunteer at a nonprofit clinic for internally displaced Ukrainians who fled their homes in Eastern Ukraine. This clinic is also used to train family practice residents at Uzhhorod National University. I reflect fondly on my medical school years at OHSU."

2010s

Nathan Lazar, Ph.D. '17, is currently a senior director at Recursion, a Salt Lake City-based biotechnology company that is using artificial intelligence/machine learning for early-stage drug discovery.

► **Alex Polston, M.D. '18**, writes, "After my Alaska Family Medicine Residency, I completed an Advanced Obstetrics Fellowship at Swedish First Hill in



Seattle for high-risk pregnancy and cesarean delivery competency. I then did critical access travel work in Valdez, Alaska, working mostly

in the ER where I saw pulmonary contusions from moose kicks and traumas from whales hitting boats. I'm now located in picturesque Sitka, Alaska, working at an Indian Health Service-affiliated critical access hospital in the ER, inpatient service and on the OB floor. I love what I do and the people I work with. My wife and I have a retired sled dog, two Siamese cats, and we welcomed a baby girl earlier this year."

Christopher Cox, M.S. '18, established 13 Arrows Consulting to support care organizations that are committed to health equity. "Too often our teams don't reflect those we serve," says Cox. "All layers of the organization need to be aligned if you are to deliver truly culturally appropriate care."

2020s



► **Katie Ferguson, M.D. R '20**, writes, "I work in Tuba City/Tó Naneesdizí, Ariz., as a hospitalist at Tuba City Regional Health

Care, the local hospital and regional referral medical center that serves a 6,000-square mile region of the Navajo and Hopi Nations (approximately the size of the state of New Jersey). I care for patients on the Acute Care and Intensive Care Units and provide consultation to surgical, OB/GYN and emergency services. I also work with the hospital's Culture and Language Resource Department on initiatives to improve communication, understanding and advanced care planning between medical providers and primarily Navajo-speaking patients."



► **Jimmy Chen, M.D. '21**, writes, "I'm now a third-year ophthalmology resident at U.C. San Diego where I develop artificial

intelligence (AI) tools to diagnose eye diseases and identify biomarkers for disease severity. I also use ChatGPT, an AI tool, to help educate patients about their upcoming surgeries, develop best practices for ChatGPT and implement AI models into electronic health records and telemedicine. I remain committed to becoming a physician-scientist while translating AI tools from the lab in order to improve and augment my ability as a physician/surgeon in the clinic and OR."

► **Bella Vasoya, Psy.D., M.H.A., M.S. '22 (Healthcare Management)**, started a new position as a medical bariatric psychologist at



Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau in Manukau, Auckland, New Zealand. Her areas of interest include weight management and disordered eating, and health behavior management for complex medical conditions such as diabetes, cardiology, etc.



► **Kathryn Ritter, M.D. F '23**, writes, "I'm an assistant program director for the Emergency Medicine Residency Program at Johns Hopkins.

In this position, I oversee the first-year residents, and I also coordinate the conference curriculum for the residency program. It's great to have the opportunity to apply what I learned during my emergency medicine medical education fellowship at OHSU!"

In Memoriam

Joseph M. Absalon, M.D. '98, died March 9, 2024, at age 59.

David W. Donielson, M.D. '84, died Dec. 4, 2023, at age 69.

Hardy J. Fitchen, M.D. '71, died Feb. 13, 2024, at age 78.

John T. Flaxel, M.D. '62 R '69, died Oct. 26, 2023, at age 87.

Andrew R. George, M.D. '70, died Feb. 21, 2024, at age 78.

John W. Gilsdorf, M.D. R '67, died Nov. 27, 2023, at age 86.

Charles K. Griffin, B.S. '88, died Jan. 20, 2024, at age 85.

S. Roger Hevel, M.D. '49 R '53, died Jan. 26, 2024, at age 98.

Peter E. Jensen, M.D. '70 R '76, died Jan. 20, 2024, at age 79.

Paul A. Kibbey, M.D. '66, died Feb. 22, 2024, at age 83.

Howard G. Leaverton, M.D. '55 R '62, died Feb. 11, 2024, at age 93.

Michael G. O'Mara, M.D. '66, died Dec. 19, 2023, at age 82.

Max R. Peterson, M.D. '68, died Nov. 25, 2023, at age 81.

Leslie R. Ross, B.S. '59, died Jan. 22, 2024, at age 86.

Per-Helge Tonning, M.D. '64, died Nov. 3, 2023, at age 91.

Theodore J. Vigeland, M.D. '68 R '77, died Jan. 31, 2024, at age 80.

Theodore W. Walker, M.D. '81, died Jan. 25, 2024, at age 66.

Alton E. Wiebe, M.D. '57, died Dec. 26, 2023, at age 93.

Christopher P. S. Williams, M.D. '58 R '62, died Dec. 29, 2023, at age 92.

Calendar

Events and Activities

JUNE 2	1 p.m	OREGON CONVENTION CENTER, PORTLAND, ORE.
OHSU Commencement and School of Medicine Hooding Ceremonies		
JUNE 21-22		VARIOUS LOCATIONS, PORTLAND, ORE.
OHSU School of Medicine Alumni Weekend		
Join in the festivities, including the OHSU School of Medicine Alumni Awards celebration, reunion gatherings, campus tours, alumni basketball game, PA Alumni Chapter kickoff and a special Timely Topics presentation featuring Daniel Gibbs, M.D. R '89, Ph.D. (See p. 20-21.)		
Learn more: ohsufoundation.org/events/som2024/		
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: https://ohsufoundation.org/alumni-events/ .		
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 .		
Continuing Professional Development		
JUNE 7		SALEM CONVENTION CENTER, SALEM, ORE.
Infectious Disease Update for the Non-Specialist		
AUG. 15-16		TIMBERLINE LODGE, GOVERNMENT CAMP, ORE.
When Things Go Wrong in the Outdoors 2024		
SEPT. 19-20		BEST WESTERN INN HOOD RIVER, HOOD RIVER, ORE.
19th Annual Northwest Regional Hospital Medicine Conference		

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.



Alumni Engagement Program
2020 SW 4th Ave., Suite 900
Portland, OR 97201

JOIN US FOR THE 2024 ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND!

JUNE 21-22, 2024

Do you remember the first moment you put on your white coat?
The feeling of purpose and shared connection at the beginning of
a remarkable journey together?

Recapture that feeling at your Alumni Reunion Weekend.
Return to campus, celebrate your fellow alumni or reconnect with
classmates — this weekend offers exciting activities for everyone!



ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION



*Scan the QR code to view
the schedule and register
for your favorite events.*



REUNION