



## The Aesculapian

A WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE PUBLICATION

**AUGUST 2012**  
VOLUME I • ISSUE VI

Our administration and faculty had the pleasure earlier this month of welcoming the 290 students of the Class of 2016 to the Wayne State University School of Medicine during the traditional White Coat Ceremony.

Surrounded by family and friends, the freshmen were coated and recited the Oath of Commitment on Aug. 3 at the Max M. Fisher Music Center in Detroit. No matter how many years we have participated in this event, as physicians and educators we are not immune to the infectious anticipation and excitement demonstrated by these new doctors-in-training. Their passion and enthusiasm in embarking upon a new adventure reinvigorates our own inner fire as faculty, refueling our dedication and commitment to our school's core mission of educating the finest physicians. This is one contagion that we certainly welcome.

Of course, each class that is entrusted to us is special and diverse, and in that respect our newest class is no different. The class is made up of 130 women and 160 men who hold undergraduate and graduate degrees from 83 colleges and universities. Four students come to us with doctoral degrees and 43 with master's degrees. They were born in 24 different countries and hail from 18 states and Canada. Those who are Michigan natives come to us from 23 different counties across the state.

While the short white coat they receive during the ceremony symbolizes a sort of baptism that sets all of our incoming students on an equal footing, it won't take long before they distinguish themselves individually. The Class of 2016 includes an Eagle Scout, a carpenter and at least one business owner. There is a certified nurse assistant, someone who worked with Habitat for Humanity, a Special Olympics volunteer and an emergency medical technician. Some are instructors and coaches for sailing, swimming, basketball and tennis, as well as a soccer referee. There is one who has served as a volunteer on medical missions to Sierra Leone, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and the Appalachian region. Each will find abundant opportunities at our school to bring their extracurricular talents to the fore while studying the science of medicine.

Time passes quickly; each incoming class rapidly becomes a graduating class, and each makes its mark. One might say that each class remakes our School of Medicine, refashioning some aspects to meet the needs of the times. In this way, they renew us as faculty members, while at the same time strengthening our school's more than 140-year proud tradition of producing the finest and most compassionate physicians.



New medical student Christopher Bill poses with his parents, Gary Bill, M.D., of the Class of 1978, and Kimberligh Bill, after the White Coat Ceremony.

While we expect great things from our newest students, we need to keep in mind that they expect great things from us. Medicine needs to be learned and practiced with the passion these new students bring, but that passion requires direction, cultivation and refinement to successfully benefit the science and patients. These future physicians are just starting out on a path that they will eventually make their own. Before they begin that odyssey, our faculty will lead them to well-charted trails for a solid foundation for the journey.

We have a formidable reputation for educating passionate and compassionate physicians. Our committed and talented faculty will certainly live up to – and in many cases exceed – those expectations as they lead this next class into the world of medicine.

Valerie M. Parisi, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.  
Dean  
Wayne State University School of Medicine





## AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS



**Linda Hazlett, Ph.D.**, distinguished professor and chair of Anatomy and Cell Biology, has been selected for a 2012 Alcon Research Award for her outstanding contributions in the field of vision research. The awards are presented by the Alcon Research Institute, a virtual institute that honors outstanding contributors to ophthalmic research throughout the world during a symposium that attracts elite eye researchers.

Awardees also receive unrestricted research grants. Alcon develops, manufactures and markets surgical equipment and devices, pharmaceuticals and vision care products. Dr. Hazlett said she will use the accompanying \$100,000 grant to support a postdoctoral fellow in her lab. She will attend the symposium, set for March 7-9, 2013, in Boston, Mass.

**Sandra Narayanan, M.D.**, assistant professor of Neurosurgery and Neurology, was selected to serve on the board of directors of the Oakland County Medical Society. She joined in May 2012 and will serve a one-year term. Dr. Narayanan has been with the Wayne State University Physician Group since 2009.



**Bonnie Sloane, Ph.D.**, distinguished professor and chair of Pharmacology, received the Pan-American Association for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Plenary Lecturer Award at the 41st Annual Meeting of the Brazilian Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Society, in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, in June. She presented the lecture "Tumor-Stromal Proteolysis: Now Playing in 4D." Dr. Sloane also presented a seminar on Paracrine Cytokine/Chemokine Pathways in Breast Cancer to the Federal University of Sao Paulo's Department of Biochemistry.



**Ambika Mathur, Ph.D.**, professor of Pediatrics and director of the M.D./Ph.D. Program for the Wayne State University School of Medicine, has been appointed interim dean of the university's Graduate School. Dr. Mathur's appointment was announced July 16 by WSU Provost Ronald T. Brown. Dr. Mathur, an associate dean of the WSU Graduate School, will maintain her other titles and duties, including director of the Postdoctoral Affairs Office.

**Bhanu Jena, Ph.D.**, the George E. Palade University Professor and Distinguished Professor of Physiology, was elected a foreign member of the Georgian National Academy of Sciences' Section of Biology. The election honors his pioneering discovery of the porosome, known as the universal secretory machinery of cells. Secretion is a fundamental cellular process that occurs in all living organisms, from bread yeast to the human body. Few scholars are elected to the Georgian academy each year. There are just 97 foreign members. As part of his membership, Dr. Jena received a certificate, and will present distinguished lectures at the academy in Tbilisi, Georgia, and at various academic institutions in Georgia later this year.



**Larry Matherly, Ph.D.**, professor of Pharmacology, received the first Kales Award in Oncology from the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute for his significant cancer research published in the journal *Molecular Pharmacology*. Karmanos acknowledged Dr. Matherly for work published in the September 2011 issue of *Molecular Pharmacology*, the journal of the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. The article provides compelling proof of principle for the concept of molecular targeting of solid tumors with cytotoxins selective for tumor uptake by the proton-coupled folate

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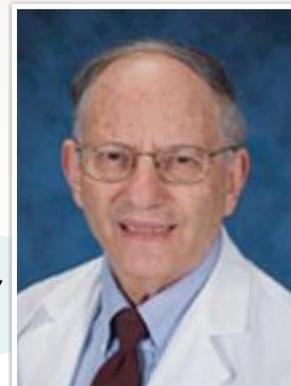
transporter or PCFT. Dr. Matherly will present his article and other research Sept. 13 during KCI grand rounds. He will receive a plaque and \$1,000 award during the presentation. The Kales Award in Oncology is given to WSU faculty members with membership at Karmanos Cancer Institute. It is supported by the Drs. Anthony and Joyce Danielski Kales Endowed Faculty Award for Innovative Cancer Research endowment.

**Adnan Hammad, Ph.D.**, volunteer professor of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences, received the St. George National Award from the American Cancer Society for his work in promoting minority health through partnerships with local health institutions. The St. George Award is given annually to volunteers who demonstrate ongoing leadership in community mission delivery and have significantly contributed to further the society's strategic goals and mission-driven programs.

Dr. Hammad will provide opening remarks for the sixth International Conference on Health Issues in Arab Communities, set for Oct. 15-17 at The Dearborn Inn in Dearborn, organized by Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services. The event's scientific programming is jointly sponsored by the ACCESS Community Health and Research Center and the School of Medicine.



**David Kessel, Ph.D.**, professor of Pharmacology, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for Photobiology. The award recognizes the career of a senior researcher whose work has significantly advanced any of the research areas encompassed by the organization. In the society's 40 years of existence, the award has been given only 10 times, and prior to this year, not since 2004. Dr. Kessel has been a member of the society since 1981. His research has involved various aspects of drug development, more recently in the use of photodynamic therapy for the eradication of malignant cell types. He also received the ASP PhotoCite Award, a new award given to authors of an original research article who received the most citations by others in Photochemistry & Photobiology, the official ASP journal.



## WORTH READING

A front-page article in the New York Times discussed physician shortages and how the Affordable Care Act could exacerbate the problem for already underserved and economically disadvantaged communities. The article includes analysis from medical professionals and academic medicine leaders on how the influx of the newly insured and aging population will stress the demand for doctors.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/29/health/policy/too-few-doctors-in-many-us-communities.html?\\_r=1&adxnnl=1&ref=robertpear&adxnnlx=1344248502-bAKELvM0KCw5v8wlyjWY/w](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/29/health/policy/too-few-doctors-in-many-us-communities.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&ref=robertpear&adxnnlx=1344248502-bAKELvM0KCw5v8wlyjWY/w)

A new report from the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Association of Schools of Public Health brings together research from medical and public health educators on the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for addressing the health needs of an increasingly diverse nation. The report, Cultural Competence Education for Students in Medicine and Public Health, presents recommendations for training students from both disciplines on ways to become more culturally competent practitioners. The online report contains links to supporting materials, resources and instructional examples for application in the classroom.

[https://members.aamc.org/eweb/upload/Cultural%20Competence%20Education\\_revisedI.pdf](https://members.aamc.org/eweb/upload/Cultural%20Competence%20Education_revisedI.pdf)



**Gerold Bepler, M.D., Ph.D.**, president and chief executive officer of the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and associate dean of Cancer Programs for the Wayne State University School of Medicine, was recently selected as a member-elect of the Fleischner Society for Thoracic Imaging and Diagnosis. Founded in 1969, the Fleischner Society is a collegial, multidisciplinary international thoracic imaging society dedicated to promoting education and research directed to

innovative patient care for diseases of the chest. Members are selected from across the globe for their excellence in research, clinical medicine and teaching in the field of chest radiology, pulmonology, pathology, physiology and thoracic surgery. Membership in the Fleischner Society is by invitation only. Prospective members must be nominated by an active member and then voted on by two-thirds of the active members to be accepted.



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This newsletter is published by the Office of the Dean, Wayne State University School of Medicine.



## FACULTY APPOINTMENTS



**Scott Freeman, M.D., F.A.C.E.P.**, appointed assistant professor (clinician educator) of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Freeman received his medical degree in 1978 from Tufts University Medical School and completed his Emergency Medicine residency at Henry Ford Hospital and the University of Michigan in 1981. He joined Wayne State University as an instructor in 1982 in the Department of Surgery, and has held a number of professorships, as well as serving as residency coordinator

from 1985 to 1986. In 1991, he received the Outstanding Teacher Award from Emergency Medicine residents. He is on the attending staff at Detroit Receiving Hospital and is a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians, the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians and the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine. He is an examiner for the American Board of Emergency Medicine.



**Cecilia Speyer, Ph.D.**, appointed assistant professor of Surgery. Dr. Speyer received her doctoral degree from the Wayne State University School of Medicine in 2000. She conducted post-doctoral research training in cecal ligation/puncture, LPS-induced lung injury in mouse and rat, primary cell culture, chemotaxis, cellular adhesion assays involving co-culture systems, RT-PCR, qPCR, SuperArray and Western analysis, ELISA, flow cytometry and immunofluorescent microscopy.

She joined the Department of Surgery as lab manager in 2008. From 2004 to 2007, Dr. Speyer served as a senior scientist for Esperion Therapeutics, a Pfizer Inc. company. She has taught at the University of Michigan, the WSU Biological Sciences Department and at Schoolcraft College, and is a member of the Karmanos Cancer Institute's Breast Cancer Biology Program and the American Association for Cancer Research.

**Edgar Hernandez-Andrade, M.D., Ph.D.**, appointed associate professor (clinician education) of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is the director of Fetal and Maternal Imaging at the Perinatology Research Branch. Dr. Hernandez-Andrade received his medical degree in 1987 from the Superior

School of Medicine, National Polytechnic Institute in Mexico City. He completed his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Leon General Hospital at the University of Guanajuato in Mexico in 1991. He completed a fellowship in Prenatal Medicine in 1992 at the National Institute of Perinatal Medicine in Mexico City, and a fellowship in Fetal Medicine at the Harris Birthright Research Center for Fetal Medicine at King's College Hospital in London. From 2008 to 2011, he served as coordinator of the Fetal Surgery Program, and from 2009 to 2011 as director of Clinical Research at the National Institute of Perinatal Medicine in Mexico City. Dr. Hernandez-Andrade is a member of the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Mexican Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Chilean Society of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, and the Venezuelan Association of Ultrasound in Fetal Medicine, the Education Committee and the Task Force for the Development of Clinical guidelines for Doppler Evaluation During Pregnancy, both of the International Society of Ultrasound in Obstetrics and Gynecology.



**Jill Meade, Ph.D.**, appointed assistant professor (clinician educator) of the Department of Pediatrics. She received her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from Wayne State University in 1996. She completed a Clinical Psychology pre-doctoral internship in 1995 at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, and a post-doctoral fellowship at Children's Hospital of Michigan. She has served as an instructional assistant in Clinical Psychiatry/Psychology Programs at Children's Hospital of Michigan, as an assistant professor (clinician-educator) with the WSU Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, and as an adjunct professor at Central Michigan University. A staff psychologist at Children's Hospital of Michigan and co-director of Project Challenge at WSU, Dr. Meade is a member of the American Psychological Association, the Society of Pediatric Psychology, and the Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology. She has taught at Wayne State University 14 years.





## SAVE THE DATE

### Sept. 12

The **INNOVATION for Grant Writing and Research Design** workshop takes place from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Margherio Family Conference Center. For more information, contact Sarah James at 313-577-8997 or [sjames@wayne.edu](mailto:sjames@wayne.edu).

### Sept. 29

The **Golden Gala** to support student scholarships will take place this year at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. For additional information or to donate to the raffle, contact Cheryl Mudd at [cmudd@med.wayne.edu](mailto:cmudd@med.wayne.edu) or 313-577-3114.

A SALUTE TO DETROIT:  
WHEN OLD MEETS NEW



### Oct. 18

**Faculty Awards Program**, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., in the Margherio Family Conference Center.

### Nov. 12 New Faculty Orientation

from 7:45 a.m. to noon, followed by lunch reception, in the Margherio Family Conference Center.



## GRANTS

**Juliann Binienda, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Family Medicine, \$1,370,510 from the United States Department of Health and Human Services for "Bridges to Equity: Building Interprofessional Connections for the Public's Health."

**Michael Callaghan, M.D.**, assistant professor of Pediatrics Hematology/Oncology Division, \$75,000 from the Hyundai Hope on Wheels program, research to identify new treatments for acute myelogenous leukemia that are more effective and less toxic.

**Fazlul Sarkar, Ph.D.**, distinguished professor of Pathology and Oncology, \$1.2 million from the National Institutes of Health for "Mechanistic Role of miRNAs and Their Targets in Prostate Cancer Aggressiveness."

**James Paxton, M.D.**, assistant professor of Emergency Medicine, \$100,000 from the Emergency Medicine Foundation for "Comparison of Intraosseous to Intravenous Fluid Resuscitation of Adult Patients in the Emergency Department."

**Sylvie Naar-King, Ph.D.**, associate professor of Pediatrics, \$2,194,734 from the National Institutes of Health for "Targeting PM to Improve HIV Adherence in Adolescents At Risk for Substance Abuse."

**Bruce Berkowitz, Ph.D.**, professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, and Ophthalmology, \$75,000 from Georgia Health Sciences University for "Phenotyping Visual Cycle Dysfunction in Diabetic Retinopathy."

**Ryan Thummel, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, \$15,000 from the Midwest Eyebank & Transplantation Center for "Characterization of Pax6 Function in Neuronal Progenitor Amplification During Retinal Regeneration."

**Timothy Stemmler, Ph.D.**, associate professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, \$52,000 from the American Heart Association/National Center for "Mechanistic Studies Regarding Fe-S Cluster Assembly Related to Friedreichs Ataxia and Associated Cardiovascular Disorders."

**Elisabeth Heath, M.D.**, associate professor of Oncology, \$50,000 from the Fund for Cancer Research for "A Phase II Trial of ganetespib, a Heath Shock Protein 90 (Hsp90) Inhibitor in Patients with Metastatic Prostrate Cancer Patients Pre-Treated with Doceta."

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## GRANTS CONT.

**Venuprasad Poojary, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Immunology and Microbiology, \$40,000 from the American Lung Association for "Ubiquitin-mediated regulation of Tak1 and tumor-associated inflammation."

**Avraham Raz, Ph.D.**, professor of Oncology, Pathology and Radiation Oncology, \$50,000 from the Fund for Cancer Research for "Novel Signaling Pathway Mediated by PSA, PTEN, c-Abl and Galectin-3 during Prostate Cancer Progression: A New Prognostic and Therapeutic Target."

**Zeng-Quan Yang, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Oncology, \$114,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense for "Targeting histone demethylase GASC1/JMJD2C/KDM4C as a novel therapeutic strategy in castration-resistant prostate cancer."

**Allen Rosenspire, Ph.D.**, research scientist in Immunology and Microbiology, \$456,000 from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for "Understanding the Influence of n3 PUFA on Pro-Inflammatory Aspects of Mercury."

**Joyce Benjamins, Ph.D.**, professor of Neurology, \$44,000 from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for "Ubiquitin D/FAT10: A New Signal for Neuronal Responses to Neuroinflammation."

**Valerie M. Parisi, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., dean**, \$30,000 from the Michigan Department of Community Health for "MI-AHEC MDC Retention Grant."

**Jill Meade, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Pediatrics, \$15,000 from Children's Hospital of Michigan Foundation for "Project Challenge Summer Camp."

**Angulique Outlaw, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of Pediatrics of Pediatrics, \$7,500 from the Michigan Department of Community Health for "Photo Voice for Transgender Women of Color."

**E. Mark Haacke, Ph.D.**, professor of Radiology, \$2,000 from the Bayer Institute for Healthcare Communication Inc. for "Comparing Lesion Contrast with both Magnevist and Gadovist and Understanding the Cerebral Perfusion Patterns of Patients with Multiple Sclerosis."

## State adopts cervical screening, progesterone therapy developed at PRB

The Michigan Department of Community Health this month introduced the state's Infant Mortality Reduction Plan, a strategy that includes the implementation of measures to prevent prematurity derived from medical research conducted by the Perinatology Research Branch of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and the Detroit Medical Center.

Announced Aug. 1, the plan promotes the adoption of universal cervical length screening by ultrasound and the use of progesterone in women identified as high risk for premature birth. The use of progesterone in women with a short cervix can reduce the rate of preterm birth — the leading factor in infant mortality — by as much as 45 percent, according to research findings published by the PRB. The study, released last year, was conducted at more than 40 centers worldwide. Roberto Romero, M.D., branch chief of the PRB, was the principal investigator on behalf of NICHD/NIH. Wayne State was the lead center in the trial, led by Sonia Hassan, M.D., associate dean for maternal, perinatal and child health at WSU.

The ultrasound examination is simple to perform, painless and can be performed between the 19th and 24th weeks of pregnancy. Pregnant women with a cervix less than 20 millimeters are at very high risk for preterm delivery. If a woman is found to have a short cervix, she can be treated with vaginal progesterone. Treatment with vaginal progesterone reduced the rate of preterm birth, neonatal morbidity and respiratory distress syndrome. Women can self-administer a once-daily dose.

The recommendation that the state adopt the progesterone protocol was first introduced by Valerie M. Parisi, M.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., dean of the WSU School of Medicine, during the state's Call to Action to Reduce and Prevent Infant Mortality Summit in October 2011. The summit, convened by Gov. Rick Snyder to address the state's high rate of infant mortality, brought together hundreds of health care providers and stakeholders to develop recommendations to combat the problem.

The new practices call for the state to partner with Wayne State University and the Detroit Medical Center to implement universal cervical screening and progesterone therapy to reduce the rate of preterm birth and develop the protocol and implementation statewide. The state also will coordinate with the Medical Services Administration to assure benefit coverage for universal ultrasound screening of pregnant women and progesterone administration for Medicaid covered pregnancies.

The state's other strategies include promoting the adoption of policies to eliminate medically unnecessary deliveries before the 39th week, promoting safe infant sleep practices to prevent suffocation, expanding home-visiting programs to support vulnerable women and infants, and programs to reduce unintended pregnancies.

