#### FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICIN

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NG A LEGEND

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# VOICES

PLUS

Present and future health-care providers find it's time to speak out

## dean's message

e have certainly had a very difficult year of incredibly trying times with COVID, lockdowns, racial injustice, a polarized and divided society, and a very divisive election. Through it all our students, staff, and faculty have worked heroically to keep us on track and support each other. You will hear in this issue



many of them describing their experiences and perceptions of this challenging time. The M.D., Ph.D, and PA leadership, along with faculty, staff, pre-clerkship faculty, clerkship and education directors, and campus faculty worked tirelessly to ensure that the curriculum was delivered, requirements

were met, testing took place, and students were advanced to their next phase on time. It was an incredible achievement.

While we are best known for our sense of community and teamwork, the most difficult aspect of this trying period was moving all of our events to online and virtual. Match Day 2020, commencement ceremonies, new class orientations for both the M.D. Class of 2024 and PA Class of 2022, White Coat ceremonies for each, and finally our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in November, were all done online. While our public affairs, events, and amazing audio-visual and IT staff did a tremendous job of creating memorable and special events for our students and faculty, it was just not the same without great crowds of proud family members cheering loud and long for their students in formal events at special venues. The College of Medicine central campus, usually a vibrant and busy place – full of students at all hours – has too often been dark and lonely, missing the interactions and collaborations we are known for.

I am very proud of our many college faculty members who have taken lead roles during this COVID pandemic – from cutting-edge research, to supporting the local health department and testing, to providing health advice and guidance on the local TV channel, to taking over the entire testing program for the university and sports programs – allowing FSU students to return to campus in August.

I invite you to look at the video of our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration (held Nov. 6) at med.fsu.edu (featured video). With more than 300 alums, faculty, and staff attending, it was a great opportunity to highlight our history since the enabling legislation was signed on June 15, 2000. We also celebrated **Myra Hurt**'s contributions, and welcomed five College of Medicine and PIMS graduates as we inducted them into our Alumni Hall of Fame. I think you will also enjoy the final article written by **Ron Hartung** about our "Myra" in this issue before he retired from his amazing writing career this spring.

Enjoy the great stories of our successes and the record number of alumni updates (Class Notes). We are 20 years old, we are proud, and we are living our mission.

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Go

Go Noles! J.

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Colin Hackley

Time to speak out by Doug Carlson and Melissa Powell

Medical education continued in 2020, but it didn't look the same. And our students and faculty were quick to speak out about what the world was experiencing. We refocused this issue of FSU MED to share their Voices on the past, present and future as seen by current and future health-care providers.

# Celebrating a legend

Myra Hurt retired in 2020 after a career that included engineering a new medical school (this one), making a lasting impact in the research lab and generally being a force of nature during her time at Florida State. (Seen here with her old friends, the late-Sen. Durell Peaden, and lateuniversity president Sandy D'Alemberte).

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An alumnus on the frontlines of understanding COVID-19 shares thoughts on where we're going



on the cover Our students were not only ready to speak out in 2020, they were ready to help wherever needed in the battle against a pandemic. Second-year med student Barrie Bedasee was among the first to assist with COVID-19 testing when it began in Tallahassee.

# TWENTY, WITH PLENTY TO CELEBRATE

HEADLINE

n June 15, 2000, then-Gov. Jeb Bush signed his name to a law creating the Florida State University College of Medicine. Seems like only yesterday.

Twenty years later, the college is celebrating how a mission to be responsive to community needs has shaped its contributions. More than 500 alumni physicians are practicing in Florida now, everywhere from Pace in the Panhandle to Tavernier in the Keys. There are hundreds in and around large cities like Orlando, Tampa and Jacksonville, but many more in small towns like Blountstown, Old Town, Lehigh Acres and Loxahatchee.

And a nascent College of Medicine research program has rapidly become a force in Florida State's powerful research portfolio. Meantime, the college has developed clinical practices – including FSU SeniorHealth, PrimaryHealth and BehavioralHealth – that are addressing the community needs spelled out in the legislative mandate creating this school.

The year 2020 wrought a number of cruel twists that the medical school has responded to, from bringing vital patient care to underserved patients in Southwest Tallahassee to helping medical



The planned celebration of our impact penciled in for this issue of FSU MED has given way (i.e., pages) to something more important – an opportunity for our students and faculty to share their thoughts (see 'Voices,' page 4).

Instead, we invite you to take a look at the virtual 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Alumni Reunion we held Nov. 6. More than 300 people participated in that Zoom (what else?) event. You can watch it here: med.fsu.edu/FSUMED2020 Featured video.

And here's to hoping that 2025 will be a year in which nothing gets in the way of our (live and in-person?) Silver Anniversary celebration. Looking forward to adding many more great accomplishments over the next five years to that future evening's agenda.

Here's an abbreviated list of recent College of Medicine headlines. For more details, and news, visit med.fsu.edu/FSUMED2020.

### SCIENCE

#### New insight in preventing seizures

While temporal lobe seizures often cause periods of impaired awareness, unresponsiveness and an array of other symptoms, they can also cause long-lasting damage in patients, including neuronal death and loss of neuron function.

Sanjay Kumar, an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, leads a research team that has discovered a type of receptor in the brain responsible for triggering epileptic seizures. Their research – published in *Nature Communications* – indicates that an amino acid known as D-serine could work with the receptors to help prevent epileptic seizures, thereby also preventing the death of neural cells that accompanies them.

"We're trying to understand why neurons die in this brain region in the first place," Kumar said. "From there, is there anything that we can do to stop these neurons from dying? It's a very fundamental question."



Akash Gunjan

#### Skin deep - and effective

Sometimes, the most common problem can be the most challenging to solve. That's been true of keloids – a type of non-cancerous skin tumor that causes major discomfort and is notoriously difficult to treat. As many as one-in-six African-American individuals are affected by keloids, compared to about 1-in-1,000 white Americans.

Keloids normally are removed surgically, but regrow almost 100% of the time. Recurrence sometimes can be reduced by radiation or steroid therapy, but both approaches come with a catch: there's no evidence-based understanding of the most effective radiation doses, and only about a third of patients benefit from steroid therapy.

Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences **Akash Gunjan**, his team of Ph.D. candidates, a medical student and fellow biomedical sciences faculty member **Branko Stefanovic**, have taken a new approach. Using cultured tissues and cells from keloids that had been removed surgically from patients at local clinics, the team began determining the most effective radiation parameters for preventing the growth of keloid cells.

What they found seems to be a simple – but effective – solution.

"A single dose of low-energy radiation, delivered just skin deep within three months of surgery, is highly effective in preventing recurrence and has very minimal adverse effects," Gunjan said.

Not only cost effective, it eliminates the need for multiple rounds of radiation that, in fact, may be harmful because of the adverse effects of the radiation protocols typically adhered to for cancer therapy.

#### Avoiding backups on molecular highways

The flow of information inside a cell works a lot like cars on a highway. Cars - or, in this case, molecules, organelles and other cellular information - need to be organized and moving efficiently on a complex set of interconnected paths. Avoiding jams is critical to maintain the flow of traffic.

Inside a cell, instead of highways or interstates, the paths are known as microtubules. For cells to function properly, they need to be able to coordinate traffic within their walls and let information flow in and out.

Research from Associate Professor Timothy Megraw and former doctoral student Yiming Zheng provides new understanding of how microtubules are assembled and organized. Their research also identified a mechanism within cells that keeps information flowing smoothly along microtubules, a process vital in the healthy function of internal organs.

They found a new system at work in fat body cells - analogous to human liver cells - which oversees the organization of microtubules and serves other cell functions.

"In these cells, there's a big nucleus and the microtubules come out from there like a big sun radiating outward. Most cells don't have that," said Megraw. "Yiming determined what that center is composed of, how it works and what it does for the cell, which are all very novel things."

#### Call me on the cell

Cell-to-cell communication is vital for life to sustain itself and flourish. When virus-infected cells manipulate cell communication, cancer and other diseases are spread throughout the body.

A team of researchers led by Associate Professor David Meckes is taking a closer look at the vesicles secreted by cancer cells to figure out how they manipulate messages sent by healthy cells, transform healthy cells into tumor cells, evade the immune system and thereby, spread disease.

"Let's say a cell is cancerous. That cell will release these messages to its neighbors, some of which could be at distant sites in the body, so we're trying to decipher what the messages are and what they contain," said Dingani Nkosi, a former Ph.D. student in the Meckes lab.

Colin Hackley

The research team has identified some of the mechanisms behind how a protein called LMP1 drives cancer growth and tumor proliferation in Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)-associated cancers. The team is working to establish how the cargo of proteins in tiny vesicles, known as exosomes, is reorganized when the virus and cancer are present.

### **PEOPLE AND PLACES**

#### Selective and mission-focused

In recent years, the FSU College of Medicine has consistently ranked among the top-10 "most selective" medical schools in the U.S. More than 7,000 students annually apply for admission, with 120 accepted each year.

In March 2020, U.S. News & World Report gave the college its first No. 1 ranking in the category. The College of Medicine had an acceptance rate of 2.2 percent for the class arriving in May 2019.

"While it's always nice to be able to say, We're No. 1!,' what I'm most proud of is that we are actually one of the most inclusive medical schools in the country," College of Medicine Dean John P. Fogarty said.

In addition, the Association of American Medical Colleges' annual "Mission Management Tool" shows that - compared with all other M.D. programs in the U.S. - the College of Medicine is in the top 10th percentile for:

- Alumni practicing in underserved areas (94th percentile).
- Graduates who are Hispanic, Latino or of Spanish origin (91st percentile)
- Graduates who are Black or African American (95th percentile).
- Faculty who are women (96th percentile).
- Faculty who are from groups underrepresented in medicine, including black or Hispanic/Latino (93rd percentile).
- Providing experience in community health (98th percentile).

FSU is also in the top 15th percentile nationally for:

- Producing doctors for its home state.
- Alumni practicing primary care.

'I think everyone would agree that, by any measure, the FSU College of Medicine is exceeding its goals of producing the kinds of physicians that Florida needs the most"

- College of Medicine Dean John P. Fogarty





The M.D. Class of 2020 takes the Hippocratic Oath during a Zoom call.

This oath I make solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

# VOICES

#### By DOUG CARLSON and MELISSA POWELL

he Florida State University College of Medicine was founded 20 years ago on a commitment to produce physicians whose personal stories reflect the communities they will one day serve.

The college has been celebrated all along for being true to that mission.

All it takes is a relentless effort to recruit students with a voice.

Test scores and grade-point averages have been set aside by the time aspiring students arrive for personal interviews. The scrutiny shifts instead to the lives they have led, and an examination of the lives they will lead beyond medical school.

Where did they come from? Why do they feel called to medicine? How will they serve? When 2020 happened – first, with a pandemic; then with a nationwide and international reckoning, sometimes fiery in its nature, for the personal and societal damages caused by racial



injustice – it was a surprise to no one that our students found their voice. It is, after all, what led them here.

The pandemic, blamed for more than 250,000 U.S. deaths, and nearly 1.4 million worldwide, as of mid-November, is bringing disproportionate harm to minorities and others in medically underserved communities –the same communities spelled out in this medical school's mission statement.

What kind and how much societal change these interconnected events ultimately produce won't be fully understood for years, but the College of Medicine was quick to add new courses, make other curricular changes and to join in a clarion call for change.

FSU MED opened these pages to the voices of students, alumni and faculty to share what people have been thinking about during an epic year:



"The first step in enduring change is to recognize the problem and I think that's what happened in 2020: We paused for a minute and really saw some of the issues that are

affecting our country, our world, and from here on it's going to take a lot of time and continued push to make those changes."

*Jordan Carbono* (M.D. '20), internal medicine resident in Orlando

#### January

- The World Health Organization (WHO) tweets about an investigation into a "pneumonia of unknown cause" in Wuhan, Hubei Province, People's Republic of China.
- WHO reports Chinese authorities identified a novel coronavirus as the cause.



"What we learned in the sandbox, treating people the way we want to be treated, and loving one another: If we did that as a society we wouldn't have many of these problems.

But we live in an imperfect world, where we are going to have hate – and we have to combat it with love."

Cortez Brown, M.D. Class of '21

#### February

• Conversations begin regarding the potential need to move classes online.

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"Much like we practice physical exam maneuvers and procedures, we should also practice having conversations about race and roleplay these common, difficult scenarios. ...

The events of the past several months have demonstrated exactly why it is so important for me to complete medical school and become a physician. This sense of purpose is far greater than any personal goal or aspiration. A representative workforce within medicine is crucial in improving patient outcomes and saving the lives of black patients and other people of color. I will undoubtedly hold onto this purpose as I advance in my career while encouraging the next generation of minority medical doctors along the way." *Adrianna Tilton, M.D. Class of '22* 





"This year has hit us with one challenge after another. Yet, I think for many of us, this year has shown us how intertwined many societal issues are, and how truly relevant they are in our lives."

Gabrielle Yap Sam, M.D. Class of '23



"Mission is like the strong and deep keel that keeps a sailing ship on course despite wind or waves. If we hunker down during tough times and do the mission, we'll come out of the

storm on course, training the physicians and PAs and scientists that Florida really needs, who do primary care for the people who need it most and who act as leaders in their communities and in their profession to achieve health equity. "This experience gave us an understanding that we need to teach about COVID in the larger picture of social determinants of health ... that it's an appropriate part of our training as medical students and an appropriate thing for us to engage leadership on."

**George Rust**, professor of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine and chair of the Council on Diversity and Inclusion



#### March

- Some of our students are asked to quarantine following overseas medical service trips or other travel during spring break.
- Following guidelines from a consortium including the AAMC, AMA and ACGME, the College of Medicine withdraws students from the clinical setting. The move is a safety

consideration for student health, but also in response to a shortage of PPE and an effort to reserve available masks and other equipment for frontline health-care workers.

• First-year M.D. and PA students are moved to online courses in lieu of lectures, and faculty have begun creating other ways to address clinical skills, decision-making and smallgroup activities. Preceptorships for first-year med students are suspended.

- Match Day for the Class of 2020 is held virtually med.fsu.edu/FSUMatch2020
- College of Medicine faculty and staff begin working remotely.



"We know that the Black population accounts for 13 percent of the total population, yet this percentage is almost doubled for COVID-19 deaths. The bottom line is

this is another extension of systemic racism: the disproportionate amount of co-morbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, obesity, the considerably less access to health care and increased poverty, and not being able to social distance due to service jobs and limited housing are just a few examples of how a racist society makes a pandemic even worse for [Black, Indigenous and People of Color]." *Jason Rivera*, M.D. Class of '22



"We continue to live in a time of uncertainty and every decision we make is based on what we know right now. This means the only certainty today is uncertainty. And, for good reason. We see

long-overdue calls for social equality, recovery curves, second waves, exhaustion, isolation – just to name a few. Days blur into nights and nights turn into day; tomorrow feels like yesterday. The walls in our minds are making our worlds smaller. We see horrific images on the TV news and demand change without knowing how. Right now, we are looking at all the recommendations from the Town Hall this month and looking for the 'next steps' to have a more welcoming and inclusive College of Medicine for all."

**Dean John P. Fogarty** in a June 22 message to students, faculty and staff.



"As a result of curricular adjustments brought on by the circumstances, our students are helping us both design meaningful curriculum and

activities and champion the efforts among their peers. Our May event, which ended with a 'design thinking' small-group session for students only, made such a positive impact on our first-year students that as soon as they became second-years over the summer, they organized a repeat of the student panel for our new students – getting them started early. Having students take part of the ownership is, to my mind, one of the most positive indicators on where we are and where we can be."

**Nancy Hayes**, associate professor and director of clinical foundations



"It felt liberating to have a role in introducing these issues so early in the curriculum to our newest students, and hopefully it continues for future classes. A common theme I've seen with being involved

with these events over the past year is that we have a lot of allies and I think that is a major key in making change; when others help to fight your fight." *Barrie Bedasee*, *M.D. Class of '23* 





 A major shift in strategy: Summer Clinical Practicum postponed; M.D. admissions shift to online meetings only; FSU SeniorHealth closes at Westminster Oaks, moves some appointments to FSU PrimaryHealth; USMLE closes testing centers, begins canceling scheduled exams (most FSU med students were already scheduled for April); M.D. Class of 2020 and '21, PA Class of '21, switch to an online geriatrics course and electives; In late March, USMLE scheduling becomes unmanageable, forcing FSU to move deadline for completing the exam from April 2020 to February 2021.

#### April

 Planning for possibility M.D. Class of '24 will not have in-person classes; summer clinical anatomy course postponed; Summer Institute, a successful part of the pipeline program for increasing diversity, is canceled; By early April, COVID testing results have improved from 7-10 days to 2-3 days; and the NBME suspends USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills for at least 18 months; FSU COM removes that as a graduation requirement.

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"Although life and the things you've seen can make you jaded, there is always the possibility of progress and the need to be vocal about what you care about. More now

than ever am I aware of what kind of physician I want to be, characteristic wise, even if I am still unsure about what kind of physician I want to be, specialty wise. ... I have also been reminded of my why. I may only be able to help few in my lifetime, but I will be sure to do it well. I am hoping these events will make us more conscious and compassionate providers." *Diamond Paulk*, M.D. Class of '23



"I've read memes suggesting that we press the restart button on 2020 and ones asking that we skip 2020 and go directly to 2021. Neither of these would be an acceptable

response. While the effects of COVID-19 and social unrest in our country have been devastating and tragic for so many, these events have had an indelible impact on medical education and the practice of medicine and those changes will be recorded among the greatest consequences of this chaotic year. I don't have the crystal ball but I do believe one day we will be on the other side of this pandemic and we will see that many things we did for the first time or at least consistently for the first time will have followed us there. While not exclusively, we will see the continuation of routine meetings via virtual platforms. The use of telemedicine will become more intentional, as opposed to forced, while face-to-face visits with patients will continue to be the foundation of the patient-physician relationship. Public Health has always been a part of our curriculum, but specific sessions on 'patient care and clinical training in pandemics' and 'elimination of structural racism in medicine' will be a routine part of medical education and faculty development.

"I am extremely proud of our FSU COM team, who immediately shifted into making sure our pre-recorded foundational curriculum was ready to go, supplementing it with new material where needed. Faculty voluntarily created new courses for students in the clerkship years so that we didn't have any breaks in our students' education, just a shift in the venue. It was a period of increased stress for most, but the resilience and compassion of the FSU COM has allowed us to continue moving forward in a positive direction."

**Alma Littles**, senior associate dean for medical education and academic affairs

•••



This is about legacy in the making... this is about opened doors and bridges that have been built for us by ancestors who had only dreamt and imagined a world where we'd struggle less. This is for those who will succeed us- so that they may know that their greatest dreams are possible & that they are not alone. This is about writing a vision and staying the course. It's so much bigger than us individually- this is a story of global perseverance, sacrifice, and determination.

This is for my grandmother/caretaker who lost her battle to ALS when I was 6 years old and inspired a dream that at the time seemed impossible. ...The marathon continues & the best is yet to come. Rest if you must, but don't you quit.



"Now, more than ever, understanding where patients are coming from – their understanding of viral illness, mental health amidst social isolation, hesitancy to get their chest

pain checked out – is extremely important." *Alyssa Davis* (M.D., '20), internal medicine resident in Nashville, speaking to FSU MED in March.



"Both COVID-19 and racial injustices have a huge impact on the health-care field. Five to 10 years later, our class will have the opportunity to bring about change as future residents

and eventually as full-fledged physicians. Based on the interactions I have had with classmates, I am confident that the people at my school will inspire positive change and promote a better environment of understanding health disparities, public health measures, and patient-centered care." *Michael Hong, M.D. Class of '24* 



#### May

- USMLE testing sites reopen, but half the scheduled exams are canceled for social distancing purposes. More than 100 FSU students were registered for May, but administration of the exam becomes a fiasco and most end up rescheduling for between July and February.
- M.D. Class of '23, unable to do the Summer Clinical Practicum, gets a new course: "Racism and the COVID-19 Response."
- Only about one-third of those expected to have completed USMLE Step 1 by now have done so. National testing sites and the scheduling process remain in disarray.
- 'Away rotations' (a.ka. 'audition rotations') are eliminated for foreseeable future; 2020-21 residency interview cycle will not include in-person interviews; COM pre-clerkship boot camp goes virtual with simulation equipment at the regional campuses; Step 1 and 2 Clinical Knowledge scheduling debacle continues, and temporary testing sites are planned for individual medical schools.





5/16/2020.

Today is the day!

I've always dreamed of this day. The day you would get to see me walk across the stage at my Medical School graduation. Although we won't ever have that moment... I will always cherish this one. Forever. Forever. Forever. Mom and Dad. This is for you.

med.fsu.edu/fsudocs2020 | 10 a.m. EST #fsudocs2020



"Tm grateful that Florida State continues to support the Black Lives Matter movement, encourage students to speak up, create safe spaces and discussions about

racism/bias in health care. ... I hope we eventually reach a point in society where talking about race and inequalities doesn't require a spotlight or a special feature in a magazine, but instead it will be ingrained in our conversations. We have to normalize our discussion of race and make it a point to address inequalities at every turn if we ever want to move forward." **Shanquell Dixon**, M.D. Class of '22



- On its one-year anniversary, FSU
  PrimaryHealth has grown to more than 5,000 patients, but for now telehealth and phone calls are replacing most in-person exams.
  M.D. '20 commencement goes virtual: med.fsu.edu/FSUDocs2020
- George Floyd dies in Minneapolis on May
  25 after a police officer kneels on his neck for more than eight minutes during an arrest.
   Video of the incident goes viral.
- The M.D. Class of '24 'arrives' for orientation in a Zoom meeting. Most of the class will do the summer semester from outside Tallahassee.

...



"Starting work in a major city during a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic has been a sobering beginning to the profession of medicine and the call to service that it entails. Albeit

an unexpected twist, it definitely has brought with it a unique opportunity for growth. ... At Northwestern Memorial Hospital, I feel incredibly prepared to manage fear and uncertainty because of my training at FSU MED, where I was given great opportunity to develop my rapport with patients and to develop the art of addressing a patient's concerns."

*Michael Tandlich* (M.D. '20), emergency medicine resident in Chicago.





"One thing that's unique as I've gotten to know my classmates is that we have a wonderful ability to adapt and to be able to creatively think of ways to make situations better.

I think there's excitement and there is some nervousness there because you don't know what exactly this pandemic will do in regards to how we'll experience our intern year. ... It's almost exciting because this allows us to kind of get on the front line and put into practice what it is we've been studying for, what we've been preparing for these past four years."

**Stephanie Williams** (M.D., '20), internal medicine resident in Sarasota, speaking to FSU MED in March



"We are existing in uncharted territory that grows more complex in the most unpredictable ways. We're showing up, we're crying, we're laughing, we're thinking twice about

going home to our families at night. This will be one of the toughest chapters of our profession. It will test our honor, grace, and compassion. And despite the fear and anxiety I wrestle with every day, I can't be prouder to be a doctor and an FSU COM alumnus right now. Hug your loved ones and hold on tight, and wishing you all the best where this journey takes you."

**Jonny Salud** (M.D., '15), in an email to FSU medical students at the Orlando Regional Campus on March 31. Salud is a physician and instructor at the University of Washington in Seattle.



#### June

- M.D. Class of '21 resumes clinical rotations after being online-only since mid-March;
   M.D. '24 students are doing clinical skills by telemedicine; PA '22 students return in small groups to on-site clinical skills training.
- Students organize a June 6 "Systemic Racism Town Hall' meeting, with more than 100 participating.
- Students organize a 'fight for social justice' community event on June 16 at FSU PrimaryHealth.
- Students partner with the Strength in Unity Coalition for a Juneteenth march to the state Capitol. More than 100 students, faculty and staff are joined by many local physicians, nurses and medical residents.

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"The changes that have occurred in 2020 will positively impact how I will practice medicine in the future. Systemic inequalities for minority groups in health, policy, and

society have always been problems; this year ignited the fire once more. COVID-19 has shed light on this, and pushback about the BLM movement has, as well. ... This generation, much like the civil rights movement of the 1960s, is demanding change. As we are seeing now, these demands have turned into action that is dismantling the old systems of inequality. I expect this action to forward into all sectors of medicine – from academia to the bedside. I expect more research and curriculum shift for medical schools and hospitals to truly assess how diversity and inclusion is integral for the wellbeing of patients and diversity in medicine." *Amber Hannab, M.D. Class of '23* 







"Racism in medicine is still very much alive and present. It's right here in our medical books where we don't see pathologies on people of color; it's right here in our



Barrie Bedasee, M.D. Class of '23



"I believe that students are looking forward to having their faculty teachers serve as role models to learn to care for patients as our mission suggests. ... We do an excellent

job on our focus on elder care, but have opportunities for improvement in other areas. This may involve the incorporation of additional or different clinical sites of care, as well as targeting faculty that specifically have made a career in caring for this population of patients.

... Over the next 5-10 years our medical students will come of age. We hopefully will teach enough regarding the history of medicine – a medical sociology course, if you will, that will address some of the historical wrongs of medicine. ... Students want to graduate from medical school prepared for the real world. We owe it to them to give them a snapshot of the history and the basic foundational tools for growth."

**Juliette Lomax-Homier**, dean of the Fort Pierce Regional Campus







"FSU's missiondriven curriculum gives insight into what you may face while you begin your practice. My experiences while at FSU COM, whether good or challenging,

have helped me to realize our vision as agents of change. There is a need for a more diverse core of physicians representative of the communities we serve, and that vision has been made clearer now more than ever. Students of the future are the innovative face of medicine; be bold in your pursuit of excellence. Tackle racial inequities in medical care with surgical precision. Change comes one person at a time and one patient at a time. Seek to live your life and pursue your medical career with a sense of purpose and you will always be fulfilled."

*Makandall Saint Eloi* (M.D., '16), associate medical director, Jackson Hospital in Miami



through is truly historic, but some things that have made me feel really good during this time: All of medicine has spoken with a single voice – and

"What we're going

that has not always been the case – about putting regulations in place to protect public health. ... This time in our history also presents an interesting kind of hurdle that new people considering careers in medicine will have to grapple with. ... I think we're much more likely to get people who see themselves as servantleaders and healers coming into the field versus people who see an opportunity to earn a good living and be in a higher SES class. So, I think that's a huge positive for the field."

*Les Beitsch, chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine* 



"It makes me nervous, mostly because this is something that we've never faced before. There are a lot of unknowns: How long will this go on? How bad will it get? But I feel confident that

everybody's doing the best that they can. I'm really confident in our health-care system in general."

*Olivia Donnelly* (M.D., '20), OB-GYN resident in Gainesville, speaking to FSU MED in March.

#### July

- M.D. '22 students start clinical rotations at regional campuses with caveat of no COVID-19 infected patients, in part to avoid using PPE needed by nurses and doctors.
- The College of Medicine assumes leadership of COVID-19 testing on campus for more than 50,000 faculty, staff and students.

FSUMED



"We really took a look at four-week pandemics electives that allowed students to, in real time, learn about what was happening in their lives. ... We looked at past pandemics

and then we really looked at COVID-19 and what was happening in real time. We did several days on just looking at health inequities and social determinants of health as they were happening in real time, because it was during that same time there was all this racial unrest, and all of the sudden we were seeing the racial inequities in the way COVID was acting - and impacting people of color in a more significant way. ... "We were seeing so many deaths and the inequities playing out in real time, so we were able to talk about the multiplying effect of health inequities.

And about how COVID really multiplied those inequities so that we could see them more vividly than people had acknowledged them in the past."

Suzanne Harrison, director of clinical programs and professor of Family Medicine and Rural Health



"We're clearly in uncharted territory. Are we going to revert back to the old way? My experience has been that very rarely do you revert back to



the good old times are not always as good as maybe you thought they were. ... One of the strengths of the FSU College of Medicine is we don't have that mantra of, 'Well, we've done it this way for decades.' We haven't really been around that long, and we've got some really incredible educators who have been working and are working - on different ways to reach our students and to help our students. That's a great asset.

"I see a lot more of telemedicine. I see a lot more of routine use of masks and social distancing, even after this is gone. ... So I think it's going to change now. I also think that the face-to-face and the live interaction both in medical education and in the care of patients is vital. I really believe in the benefit of the healing touch."

Luckey Dunn, dean of the Daytona Beach Regional Campus

"Since the beginning of this pandemic, I've been constantly ruminating on what it means to be a part of medicine. As a medical student during this time, I have the rare

opportunity of witnessing how both medical professionals and the non-medical public evolve and respond. On the one hand, I understand the mistrust of science by the public and how fear can manipulate thought. However, on the other hand, I understand the frustration of medical professionals whom are constantly under scrutiny because of the spreading of misinformation.

"In reflection, my love of medicine has not changed. However, I understand that as a physician I will be judged not only on my work, but also how my profession is viewed by the public. Though this scares me at times, I am aware more than ever the importance of my role - especially as a black male medical student, I represent more than just a guy with a dream. I represent 400 years of suffering by my ancestors."

Je'Coy Hawley, M.D. Class of '22



#### August

- First in-person classes begin for M.D. '24 students; M.D. Class of '23 also returns to campus with an emphasis on small-group learning and a limit of eight or fewer students in one place.
- PA '22 students 'arrive' virtually, and will do online work only until mid-October; M.D. '24 students begin anatomy course on campus three months later than normal; Telemedicine supplements in-person clinical skills training.





"The reason I feel optimistic is because of the students. ... Now when you see a protest or see something going on you see a diverse group of people joining together. I

think we have a generation of students that did go to school with kids who were not of their same culture and are now growing up and saying, 'Wait a minute, why is this person being treated differently than me?' And they're also somewhat empowered to speak their mind in ways they could not speak before.''

**Elena Reyes**, professor of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine; director of the Immokalee Health Education Site



"Being an M.D. holds a lot of weight and people will listen to me. ... So, we have a great responsibility to our population and to the people of our community to fight

for them and be their voice." JP Megna, M.D. Class of '21

"I think that these experiences, like any others, will shape how medicine operates. For example, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many practices have had to offer more

telemedicine visits, which I believe could be beneficial for rural communities – for there are many limitations when it comes to health care in rural areas.

"... I hope to destroy biases that cause black women, specifically, to feel unseen, unheard, or misunderstood, which leads to increased healthcare risks. I hope that the fear of health care among the black community can be broken." *Christina Williams*, PA Class of '21

SUMED

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"It is extremely important for students ... and those in the medical community to actively support the BLM movement because education does not end on

campus. Education is also recognizing the flaws and weaknesses of our community and culture so we can be a better version of ourselves for our community, which in turn will lead to a change of this negative culture of bias that is imbedded in our communities today."

**Nella Delva**, third-year Ph.D. candidate in biomedical sciences



"Judging from the little time I have gotten to know some of my classmates, I think FSU COM does a great job selecting students who are aware of these disparities

and want to be part of the solution. Hearing many of the responses from classmates after the tragedy of George Floyd's death has been enlightening and has made me proud to be a part of FSU COM. ... I am confident that my classmates and I will become physicians that try to bridge the gaps between the social, economic, and health equity disparities that persist in our society."

Zakrey Cox, M.D. Class of '24



Colin Hackley







"I think what has happened with COVID-19 is seen as a health-equity multiplier. It's not that racism wasn't there, or inequities weren't already there, but COVID-19 really

brought it to light at the same time people were dealing with tragedies and very visible racist actions. "We have those barriers to good health and COVID-19 shed light on it.

"I believe God is going to help us through this thing and we are going to be in a better place as people, but I think it has to be intentional. We have to be proactive and actively anti-racism; we have to be intentional. And that's the thing that is so important: It can't be led by people that are just minority populations or people that have been at the wrong end of racism; it has to be everybody taking ownership, taking responsibility to educate themselves, to deal with their own personal bias, deal with the institutional systemic things and figure out how to act together. So I think I am optimistic. I think we work with people who care about people."

Joedrecka Brown Speights, chair of the Department of Family Medicine and Rural Health

These interviews were conducted a number of ways – in person, on the telephone, and by email. Read more of what these students, alumni and faculty had to say at med.fsu.edu/FSUMED2020.

FALL '2(



# **MYRA** BY RON HARTUNG

n the same year that the College of Medicine is marking its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it's also celebrating the achievements of the person most responsible for its existence. Myra M. Hurt, Ph.D., famed for her big-impact ideas and her "Failure is not an option" approach to obstacles, retired in June.

Myra: The first name alone is enough to thrill her fans and to frighten those who've challenged her in academic battles ... and lost.

Only a pandemic was powerful enough to undo the big to-do that had been planned for her retirement: a "high table" gala at the Alumni Center, with a who's who of academic heavyweights from across the campus and the country. Despite the delay, the college still got to celebrate the Hurt years in style.

A brand-new Founders Wall in the atrium tells the story of how Hurt, legislator Durell Peaden and super-lawyer Sandy D'Alemberte joined forces to establish the College of Medicine at a time when the national experts mistakenly thought no new med schools were needed.

Also part of the tribute was the James D. Westcott Distinguished Service Medal. It's such a high honor that it has been bestowed only nine times in the university's history – and not at all since 2009. But on Sept. 2, the medal went to Myra M. Hurt.

"It is a rare and extraordinary recognition that is presented only to the most extraordinary individuals," FSU President John Thrasher said. "Myra Hurt is one of those exceptional people. Her life and work exemplify the university's highest ideals, and her distinguished service will have a lasting and enduring impact on Florida State University and the College of Medicine." Watch the ceremony at med.fsu.edu/myra

And then there was the unveiling of Hurt's new book, "Breaking the Mold: The Academic Pioneers Who Bucked Conventional Wisdom to Create the Florida State University College of Medicine." Originally the book was going to have a triple byline: Hurt, D'Alemberte and Peaden. But as she wrote in the dedication: "To the two men who were supposed to write this book with me. That's what we had planned – but death took them from us too soon."

Hurt's voice remains as a strong advocate for a medical school built differently than most any other before it, and committed to producing the physicians who will reflect the diversity of the communities they serve. The idea is getting more attention with the events of 2020. Hurt was dogged in pursuit of that idea going back to the early 1990s, when she commissioned the building of a pipeline program (SSTRIDE) that would bring more students from underrepresented backgrounds into medical school – and the physician workforce.

"While battling through the dark days seeking accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, she rallied the students with this feisty vow: 'We are going to kick the LCME's ass!' And because we did, her new paradigm for medical education is producing the kinds of physicians that Floridians need," said Helen Livington, retired associate dean for undergraduate and graduate programs, in the preface to Hurt's book.

#### 'IT TAKES EVERYTHING YOU HAVE' Myra Hurt on the challenges of creating a new medical school

(Excerpted from the preface of her new book, "Breaking the Mold: The Academic Pioneers Who Bucked Conventional Wisdom to Create the Florida State University College of Medicine")

... Those [shoestring-budget days of getting the new medical school up and running] were thrilling times. But every time someone tells me, "Gee, that sounds so exciting!" – I respond that excitement is often overrated. I've had enough excitement to last me several lifetimes. I couldn't be prouder of this college and of the people who worked tirelessly with me to create it. And writing this book has brought back a flood of golden memories. Yet, to be honest, it also has reminded me of how incredibly difficult it was not just to give birth to this school but, more so, to drag the LCME accreditors kicking and screaming into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Some years after the College of Medicine was born, I was invited to create a new medical school at another university. "No," I said, "it's too hard. You've got to put your whole heart and soul into it. It takes everything you have. It was worth everything I had, but just once. Not again."

The sad truth is that it shouldn't have been so hard. The LCME reviewers made it that way. They fought us every inch of the way. After we were denied initial provisional accreditation, I told our students not to worry. But to myself I was saying: "When I think how hard this is going to be, it takes my breath away." It was 18hour days, day after day after week after week after week. It was worth it but, my God, it was so hard....

### myra

Childhood taught me to be tough. We weren't fancy people. My dad was shot in a hunting accident and couldn't work for two years. We got help from neighbors and family, but the kids at school made fun of me because of the things I had to do without. That's where I got this smart mouth of mine.

At the same time, though, my mom was a faithful churchgoer. So was I until about 18. I was in church eight days a week. I was best in my class at memorizing Scripture. The Baptist church left me when it embraced far-right politics, but the Christian ethic remained alive inside me: to help the poor, the elderly, the overlooked, those who didn't believe they had a chance in this world.

That's why, when I encountered [FSU's Program in Medical Sciences], it seemed like such a perfect fit. Then PIMS became a medical school that also reached out to those who didn't believe they had a chance.

Look at what they've done with that chance we gave them.

To view a digital copy of the book, go to med.fsu.edu/BreakingTheMold



#### RESEARCHER, TEACHER, LEADER, **INNOVATOR**

The James D. Westcott Distinguished Service Medal is named after Florida State's first benefactor. The recipient must be a person whose distinguished service merits exceptional recognition and whose life and work exemplify Vires, Artes, Mores - the strength, skill and character that the university seeks to nurture in its students. These excerpts from Senior Associate Dean Alma Littles' nomination letter cite Hurt 's achievements in four areas.

#### RESEARCH

- "The research program directed by Dr. Hurt has produced several key discoveries and many outstanding scientists. She established her research program at FSU in the 1990s with funding from the NSF, the NIH and the American Cancer Society. She was a member of a collaborative team that in 2002 published the Molecular Biology of the Cell Paper of the Year - which has now been cited nearly 1,000 times. In addition, her basic research has led to patent applications and the licensing of one of her discoveries to Millipore Corp."
- "At the College of Medicine, Dr. Hurt also led the effort in 2010 to establish the Translational Science Laboratory, a state-of-the-art facility designed to take advantage of our distributed clinical education model and contribute to advances in genetic and epigenetic determinants of disease and response to disease therapy."

#### **TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP**

"Dr. Hurt often jokes that her early days of teaching middle school biology more than prepared her for the

challenges of teaching undergraduate, graduate and medical students. She initially taught biochemistry in Florida State's Program in Medical Sciences. Those students were in their first year of medical school before transferring to the University of Florida to complete their M.D. training. After the founding of our medical school, she taught microbiology to secondyear students. Dr. Hurt has received a number of teaching awards, including the Recognition for Excellence in Honors Program Teaching in 2000."

You can learn a lot about a teacher by looking at her students. In her lab, Dr. Hurt has mentored 27 undergraduate DIS students, many of whom have served as authors on papers, won research awards and gone on to graduate or professional school. In addition to graduate classroom education, she has served on 58 graduate student committees and mentored 13 of her own Ph.D. graduate students, many of whom now hold tenure-track faculty positions. In addition, most of the graduates from the PIMS program and the early classes in the College of Medicine credit Dr. Hurt with their success."

#### LEADERSHIP

"As director of the formerly struggling PIMS program, Dr. Hurt led it back to excellence. She put sound scholastic principles, a holistic admissions process and true concern for each student's success into action. As a result, the pass rate on the USMLE Step 1 licensing exam rose from 50% to 95%."

"Her success continued as PIMS evolved into the four-year College of Medicine. To quote from a 2002 letter composed by Drs. David Balkwill and Charles Ouimet when they were co-chairs of the Department of Biomedical Sciences: "Dr. Hurt developed powerful contacts at the University, in the legislature, and around the nation, and in an astonishing feat of leadership, helped to build a coalition that established the school in June of 2000. Dr. Hurt then became acting Dean of the College of Medicine and developed the team to lay the foundation on which the current college rests. During the first year of operation, while the fledgling College of Medicine searched for a permanent Dean, we were very vulnerable and in desperate need of strong and intelligent leadership. Again, Dr. Hurt stepped in to lead the way .... The outcome of this effort was the realization of FSU as the first new medical school to be accredited in the US in the 21st Century."

"She was years ahead of everyone else in her recognition of the need for more physicians, especially in primary care. But from my perspective, what must be recognized most is her underlying passion. She has relentlessly advocated for Florida's vulnerable communities, and has developed mechanisms that allow FSU to recruit and train physicians who will serve them .... So in 1994, she obtained funding to start SSTRIDE (Science Students Together Reaching Instructional Diversity & Excellence) at FSU. The program provided opportunities for rural or underserved middle school and high

school students to be exposed to health care fields and stimulate their interest in pursuing those careers.... Furthermore, from the early days of the College of Medicine, Dr. Hurt recognized that the students most likely to fulfill our mission might need additional preparation before beginning the rigors of medical school. So she developed the Bridge Program, which admits 10-14 students annually and provides a year of preparation and mentoring before they enter medical school. In recognition of her leadership, passion and support, we have dedicated the Julian and Myra Hurt Bridge to Clinical Medicine Suite on the third floor in the College of Medicine."

#### INNOVATION

- "She was credited by her biology colleagues with inventing senior tutorials at FSU. Courses like that represent the added value that an undergraduate education at a research university should provide."
- "She also has made major contributions to graduate education at FSU. Indeed, she is responsible for establishing the Ph.D. program in biomedical sciences."
- "Recognizing the importance of building strong connections between the undergraduate and medical programs, Dr. Hurt also established and served as the founding director of the Honors Medical Scholars Program."
- "As she was stepping down from her role as senior associate dean for research and graduate programs, another brainstorm hit. She realized



On the roof of the old Florida High building in 2002 as construction of the new medical school gets underway in the background.

many outstanding students at FSU wished to have medical careers other than as physicians and PA's but weren't getting enough exposure to what those other careers entailed. So she put her collaborative skills to work again and masterfully brought together the leadership of seven colleges at FSU, including the College of Medicine, to develop the Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences major."

"Bestowing this honor is a fitting way for FSU to acknowledge her numerous contributions to the university and to medical education and scientific discovery around the globe."

# 2020 Hall of Fame inductees



Jada Leahy (M.D., '09) with Kelly Mamelson (M.D. Class of '21).

#### Returning to teach

Sometime in the future, well beyond the 20th anniversary of the College of Medicine, it's possible that our alumni will be doing the majority of the teaching here. There's already a move in that direction.

In May, Jada Leahy (M.D., '09) took over as clerkship director for surgery at the Pensacola Regional Campus. She replaced the campus's founding clerkship director, Jeff Chicola. Leahy began teaching students at the Pensacola campus in 2018 following a distinguished career in the Navy.

About two hours east, another FSU alumnus took over an administrative teaching role. **J.D. Byrd (M.D., '14)** replaced **Steven Spence** as clerkship administrator for the Marianna Rural Medical Education Program in April. Byrd spent the previous three years practicing internal medicine in his hometown of Graceville – about a half-hour's drive up the road from Marianna.

Spence had been with the College of Medicine since the Marianna program began in 2006. In fact, Byrd was one of his students there.

"He saw the first patient on the first day – he was able to give me a thorough yet concise presentation with a developed assessment and plan. All I could think was, 'Wow, this is going to be a great rotation!"" Spence said. "By the end of the rotation, I told J.D. that he was the only medical student that I have worked with that was ahead of me for the same stage of training. Typical of J.D., he was humble and said that was not true."

#### Alumni Hall of Fame

As a young medical school, the College of Medicine honored two individuals each year with the Distinguished Alumni Award. These were traditionally presented to one PIMS alumnus and one College of Medicine alumnus. Well, we're growing up – and finding that there are many outstanding physicians with ties to the FSU College of Medicine who deserve to be recognized. So many that we have taken the next step in the growth of our alumni program by creating an FSU Medical Alumni Hall of Fame.

The Hall of Fame includes those already recognized with the Distinguished Alumni Award. This year, the FSU Medical Alumni board considered numerous nominations and voted to add five additional graduates to the Hall of Fame. They were recognized during our virtual 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on Nov. 6.

Let us know who you think we should include in the 2021 Hall of Fame class. Nominations must be received by Feb. 28. More at med.fsu.edu/AlumniHOF or med.fsu.edu/alumni.

#### 2020 Hall of Fame class



H. William Higgins (M.D., '09) Wendy Ann Myers, M.D. (PIMS '77)

Michael J. Sweeney, M.D.

(PIMS '75)



Michael Okun, M.D. (PIMS '93)



Mary Watson (M.D., '09)



Saint Elio and his wife, Rebecca, with their new car.

#### And he drove like a hero

While being named to the Hall of Fame is nice (it comes with a plaque and all the accompanying glory), it doesn't quite compare to the award **Makandall Saint Elio (M.D., '16)** received recently. He was recognized as one of the "Heroes of the Pandemic" – becoming one of four South Florida health-care workers presented with a new Hyundai Sonata.

When the Hyundai Air and Sea Show, held annually on Miami Beach over Memorial Day Weekend, had to be canceled because of the pandemic, event sponsors went searching for health-care workers, first responders and other people who were making a difference during the crisis.

They found Saint Eloi.

Saint Eloi, who served as chief resident of the family medicine residency program at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital, now is the hospital's associate medical director for urgent care. Miami was one of the early COVID hotspots.

In addition to treating patients in the ER and urgent care center, Saint Eloi went a step further, organizing free medical checkups for medically underserved communities in South Florida.

"Throughout all of medical school, I always found value in bonding and forming relationships with patients," Saint Eloi said upon being recognized as a 'Hero.' "I knew I needed to do something where I could talk, advise and show empathy. Family medicine was it for me. It allows me to be a therapist, a friend, a doctor. I can be someone for every individual patient. That is especially important right now with coronavirus."

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#### Muslim girls rise

Saira Mir (M.D., '10) stays busy as an OB-GYN with Kaiser Permanente Washington Hospital Center in the District of Columbia. Not so busy that she couldn't write a children's book praising the Muslim women who blazed a trail for a young aspiring doctor to follow.

"Muslim Girls Rise: Inspirational Champions of Our Time" was published in late 2019. The book celebrates 19 "powerhouse Muslim women who rose up and made their voices heard." Young readers are introduced to Muslim role models they may never have become aware of, "but whose stories they will never forget," the book's promotional site states.

An excerpt from the book: "Long ago, Muslim women rode into battle to defend their dreams. They opened doors to the world's oldest library. They ruled, started movements, and spread knowledge.

Today, Muslim women continue to make history. Once upon a time, they were children with dreams, just like you."

Mir's own dreams took her to the Emory University OB-GYN residency program following graduation – and then to the nation's capital. Her book is available for purchase on Amazon. *Amazon.com/Muslim-Girls-Rise-Inspirational-Champions/dp/1534418881* 

#### Mission possible

Zita Magloire (M.D., '11) has come full circle in living the College of Medicine's mission. She (along with classmate **Rachel Bixler**) was selected to receive the Mission Award at graduation in 2011. In October, Magloire received the "FSU Mission Model Award" presented by the Tallahassee Regional Campus to the faculty member who best embodies the ideals the medical school seeks in its students and teachers.

It's not difficult to see why Magloire was selected. She recently was featured by the American Academy of Family Physicians as an example of how a family doc can provide a full-service practice, especially in rural areas. The AAFP profile pointed out that the rural hospital in Cairo, Georgia., where Magloire practices delivered 270 babies last year – with Magloire delivering 87 of them. She also is CEO of a family practice that includes inpatient and outpatient care for all ages, obstetrics (including C-sections), women's health, sports medicine and endoscopy.

Magloire spoke about maternal health disparities in Washington, D.C., in February during the Rural Health Disparities Summit. She addressed the nation's high maternal mortality rate, particularly among minority women, and suggested steps to address it.

She cited a California collaborative, begun in 2006, to reduce preventable morbidity, mortality and racial disparities. By 2013, the state had reduced maternal mortality by 55%. Magloire's hospital is now one of 43 in Georgia implementing targeted protocols to achieve similar results.

Magloire expressed gratitude for her mostrecent Mission award.

"My time as an FSU COM student was one of the most pivotal experiences of my life, and I am thankful for the opportunity to help teach future generations of caring, compassionate physicians," she said.



Tallahassee Regional Campus Dean Sandeep Rahangdale with Magloire (M.D., 11).



#### Farewell to a friend

By all accounts, **Kyle Powers (M.D., '13)** took to heart a memorable lesson he learned as a student at the Fort Pierce Regional Campus. He wrote about it when he provided a firstperson retelling of his battle with brain cancer in the fall 2016 issue of FSU MED.

"When I got to spend a day with a neurosurgeonturned-hospice director in Fort Pierce/Port St. Lucie, it was the first time I really understood what hospice/palliative care was all about. My impression had been that its main purpose was helping patients die. What I saw that day at hospice, though, was about living well 'til the very end."

Powers completed an internal medicine residency program in California, where he volunteered his spare time with Santa Barbara Street Medicine - Doctors Without Walls, an organization that reaches out to the homeless, providing them with medical treatment and common necessities. His own setback led Powers to reevaluate his career plans, embarking on a fellowship in hospice and palliative care at the NIH outside Washington, D.C.

"I missed about eight months of residency time," Powers wrote in that FSU MED article. "During that rehabilitation, I had time to reflect on what I really wanted to do with my life. I got to weigh the different options, something most of us don't get a chance to do once we've started down a residency path."

Powers and his girlfriend, Kacy, got married in March of 2017, not long before he completed his IM residency and began his fellowship.

He was providing palliative care in Jacksonville when, tragically, his brain cancer returned. Powers died, Oct. 16, 2019.



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### class notes

Updates received as of Oct. 7.

#### 2005

Christie Alexander, M.D., is president of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians.

Nari Heshmati, M.D., is enrolled in an executive MBA program at Seattle University while continuing his clinical practice and various leadership roles.

#### 2007

Robin Albritton, M.D., has been inducted as a faculty member into the Chapman Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society at the FSU College of Medicine for 2021. Albritton teaches FSU medical students in Marianna, where he is a family physician. In 2015, Albritton received the College of Medicine's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Adam Langley, M.D., and Gary Visser, M.D., are recognized on the 2020 Seminole 100 List of the fastest-growing businesses owned or managed by Florida State alumni for their practice – PremierMED in Ocoee.

**Courtney Nall, M.D.,** and husband Christopher Connelly welcomed their second child, Frances "Frannie" Kathryn Connelly, on April 14.

Stephen Patrick, M.D., is director of the Vanderbilt Center for Child Health Policy, an associate professor of pediatrics and health policy at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and an attending neonatologist at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt. He also currently serves as an adjunct physician for policy research at RAND Corporation and is a guest researcher at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Patrick was one of two pediatricians to be awarded Weill Cornell Medicine's fifth annual Gale and Ira Drukier Prize in Children's Health Research. The award honors earlycareer pediatricians whose research has made important contributions toward improving the health of children and adolescents.

#### 2008

Marc Bernstein, M.D., is practicing at Gastroenterology Associates of Sarasota.

Andrew Galligan, M.D., was nominated to be an Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) member and completed a Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) certificate program.

#### 2009

Irmanie Hemphill, M.D., and husband Richard Hemphill Jr. welcomed their first son, Richard Hemphill III, in March 2019. In February they moved back to South Florida, where she practices telemedicine in Pembroke Pines.

H. William Higgins, M.D., and wife Kachiu Lee Higgins welcomed their third child, Parker Lawson Higgins, on Dec. 12, 2019. He is an Assistant Professor of Dermatology Mohs Micrographic Surgeon at the University of Pennsylvania and was awarded the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery's Presidents Award.

**Steele Lancaster, M.D.,** owns North Florida Rehab Solutions in Tallahassee, where he is a hospitalist.

Melissa (Catenacci) Liebowitz, M.D.,

is director of quality for the Division of Neonatology, and serves as medical director for the Intensive Care Nursery Follow-up Clinic, at the University of San Francisco Benioff Children's Hospital. Liebowitz completed the pediatrics residency program at UCSF in 2012 and a fellowship in neonatal-perinatal medicine in 2017. She is assistant clinical professor of pediatrics in the Division of Neonatology, and recently received the division's Fellow Teaching Award.

**Rees Porta, M.D.,** has transitioned off activeduty status and is working as a civilian general surgeon at the Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington.

**Stefanie Prada, M.D.,** and husband Ryan Panek welcomed their second child, Derek Ryan Panek, in August.

**Dolly P. White, M.D.,** is a physician at Good Samaritan Health Center of Cobb County in Marietta, Georgia.

#### 2010

Matthew Buck, M.D., was named chief of staff at Memorial Hospital and Manor in Bainbridge, Georgia, in February.

Kate Ross, M.D., got married to Joel Gerber in March.

Justin Ruoss, M.D., completed his diagnostic radiology residency at UF College of Medicine and is now working at Doctors Imaging Group in Gainesville. He is board-certified in pediatrics and board-eligible for radiology.

**Stephenie Scully, M.D.**, is medical director of acute mental-health services at Naval Medical Center San Diego.

**Eilene Weibley, M.D.,** recently moved to Atlanta and is a family physician at Emory University Hospital.

#### 2011

**Brett Armstrong, M.D.,** and wife Sarah Hester Armstrong welcomed a baby boy, Wells Cameron Armstrong, on Feb. 24.

**Alvaro Miguel Bada, M.D.,** married Courtney Whelan in November 2019 in Sarasota.

**Rachel Cartechine, M.D.,** has returned to her hometown to continue her career in obstetrics and gynecology after working in private practice in Orlando. She is now practicing at Health First Medical Group in Melbourne, Florida.

Mary Crocker, M.D., welcomed her first child, Evelyn Daisy Bernice Crocker, in February with her husband, Jonny.

Komal D'Souza, M.D., married Martin Zacharia on May 31 in Evanston, Illinois.

**Glivery Mary (Ivey) Gayahan Elvambuena, M.D.,** welcomed her second child, Augustine Elvambuena, on Nov. 12, 2019.

Jeremy C. Jones, M.D., is a medical oncologist/hematologist who specializes in treating gastrointestinal malignancies at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. He and his wife, Shannon Jones, welcomed a daughter, Lillian Catheryn, on May 26.

Ashley Lucke, M.D., was selected for a threeweek public health policy fellowship at George Washington University specially designed for doctors. She also completed her fetal neurology fellowship at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and is an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin.

Zita Magloire, M.D., is serving as chair of the AAFP Obstetrics Member Interest Group, a subcommittee member of the Georgia Perinatal Quality Collaborative Maternal and Neonatal Task Force and is chief of staff-elect at Grady General Hospital in Cairo, Georgia.

**Gregory Peters, M.D.,** and **Abby Peters, M.D.,** welcomed their third child, Hannah Elizabeth Peters, on Feb. 17.

Lisa Rubinsak, M.D., is a gynecologyoncology fellow at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit.



John Abraham, M.D., was recently appointed as Maryland's medical director of Medicaid.

Michelle Allen, M.D., is a pediatrician at Grady Health System's Comprehensive Care Center at Camp Creek and is an assistant professor of pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine. Laurel Berry, M.D., is completing a fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Wake Forest Baptist Health in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

Michelle M. Brenner, M.D., and husband Scott Brenner welcomed a baby girl, Elise Claire Brenner, on Apr. 8.

**Casey Cable, M.D.,** completed her fellowship at Emory University and has started as an assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System in the Division of Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care.

**Brian Cogburn, M.D.,** received the Paragon Award in April for his COVID leadership, which includes setting up large-scale testing sites in the San Francisco Bay area.

Casey Cosgrove, M.D. and Tara Cosgrove, M.D., welcomed their first son, Jack, on May 21.

**Belinda J. Gavino, M.D.,** and husband, Rico Barranon, welcomed their first son, Andres Jacob Barranon, on March 18.

Martin Giangreco, M.D., and wife, Andrea, welcomed a little boy, Santiago, in May.

Lindsay Martin Kissane, M.D., completed the female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery fellowship at Alabama-Birmingham and presented her thesis at the International Continence Society in Gothenburg, Sweden. She is a female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery specialist at AdventHealth Orlando. Lindsay and husband, Ryan, welcomed their first son, Samuel Jones Kissane, in October 2018.

**Amber McClain, M.D.,** welcomed a baby girl, Eloise Madeline Merrell, on January 14 and is now practicing at UF-Pensacola as a pediatric gastroenterologist.

Jennifer Packing-Ebuen, M.D., is practicing as a family physician at James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital Primary Care Annex in Tampa.

Aloknath Pandya, M.D., completed his pulmonary critical care fellowship at Temple University Hospital and is practicing at Drexel Hill Pulmonary Associates in Pennsylvania. Monica Pena, M.D., and husband Dennis Kapatos welcomed a little boy, William Manuel Kapatos, on Oct. 5, 2019.

**Jordan Rogers, M.D.,** was married in May 2019 and is currently practicing as an emergency-department physician outside of Washington, D.C.

#### 2013

Ahkeel Allen, M.D., is medical director for Breast Care Center Miami, where he is boardcertified in general surgery and fellowshiptrained in surgical oncology.

**Christina Brown, M.D.,** and husband Matt Yeow welcomed their second child, Ronin Evander, on Dec. 7, 2019.

**Garrett Brown, M.D.**, has completed his interventional cardiology fellowship at Tampa General Hospital and begun practicing as an interventional cardiologist at Heart Specialists of Sarasota.

Andrew Calzadilla, M.D., completed his fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine and is practicing as an intensivist at Baptist Health South Florida and serving as faculty at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

**Brandon Cook, M.D.,** completed his fellowship at the University of Louisville School of Medicine and is an orthopedic spine surgeon at Orthopaedic Associates in Destin, Florida. He and Casey Willingham Cook welcomed their child, Colay Cook, on November 16, 2019.

Zach Folzenlogen, M.D., completed his neurosurgery residency and enfolded endovascular neurosurgery fellowship at the University of Colorado School of Medicine-Denver and is now the director of endovascular neurosurgery at Highland Ranch Hospital and an assistant professor of neurosurgery at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

**Cindy Healy, M.D.,** and husband Ian Healy welcomed their second child, Evelyn Cynthia Healy, in early August.

Jacob Lassiter, M.D., welcomed his second baby girl, Chloe Lassiter, with wife Brittany on May 23.

**Diana Marchese, M.D.,** completed her pediatric rehabilitation fellowship at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, and is now practicing at a pediatric rehabilitation practice through Kaleida Health at Oishei Children's Hospital and the Robert Warner Rehabilitation Center in Buffalo, New York.

Babak Missaghi, M.D., married Kathryn Galloway on March 7, 2020, in Los Angeles.

Shellah Palmer, M.D., gained board certification in obesity medicine.

Stephenie Poris, M.D., welcomed her second son, Brody, on July 11.

Kathleen Relihan, M.D., completed her surgical critical care fellowship at Orlando Health and is now a general and acute care surgeon with Orlando Health Medical Group. She and Christopher Schuemann were married in October in Sarasota.

Nicole M. Slone, M.D., completed her pediatric critical-care fellowship at Indiana University and is now working at Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children PICU as staff and an associate professor. De Jesus-Brugman also got married in May 2019.

**Joshua Smith, M.D.**, completed his pulmonary critical care medicine fellowship and is now an assistant professor of pulmonary sciences and critical care at the University of Colorado School of Medicine in Aurora, Colorado.

Heather Staples, M.D., was chief fellow of the Pediatric Pulmonology Fellowship Program at Baylor College of Medicine, where she graduated in 2019. She now is an assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at Palmetto Health Richland-University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia, South Carolina.

**Rashad Sullivan, M.D.,** was chief resident of his orthopedic surgery residency at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is now a fellow in adult orthopedic reconstruction at the Florida Orthopaedic Institute in Tampa.

Dale Taylor, M.D., married Khristina Taylor on Sept. 10, 2019, in Yosemite National Park.

**Anand Vakharia, M.D.,** welcomed a baby girl, Kira Vakharia, on May 21 with wife Ruchi Vakharia.

**Brittany Warren, M.D.,** completed her fellowship at the University of Alabama-Birmingham and is practicing at Orlando Health as a surgeon (trauma, acute care, critical care and elective general) with a focus on women taking care of women.

**Claudia Zapata, M.D.**, completed her pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship program in 2019 and is practicing pediatric hematology/oncology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

#### 2014

Jose Barquin, M.D., recently took on the role of emergency department medical director, vice-chief of department of medicine and executive-at-large of his local community hospital in Palm Harbor. He and his wife are expecting their second child.

**Quynh-An Chau, M.D.,** completed the internal medicine residency program at Orlando Health and has begun a geriatric medicine fellowship at AdventHealth Winter Park.

Vishal Dahya, M.D., completed a cardiology fellowship at Summa Health in Ohio and has begun an interventional cardiology fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pennsylvania.

Keerti Dantuluri, M.D., completed an MPH degree program at Vanderbilt University in May and moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, to be an assistant professor of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology at Levine Children's Hospital at Atrium Health.

**Camilo Fernandez-Salvador, M.D.,** is an otolaryngologist, head and neck surgeon in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

**Darren Klawinski, M.D.,** completed the pediatric hematology/oncology fellowship at UF Health/Nemours Children's Specialty Care and is a pediatric neuro-oncology fellow in Ohio.

Kimberly Manek, M.D., was chief resident at the University of Florida College of Medicine at Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola and is practicing as an OB-GYN at Baptist Medical Center Beaches in Jacksonville Beach.

Alexander Nguyen, M.D., won MacDill AFB Company Grade Officer of the Year in 2019 for the Healthcare Operations Squadron.

**Avani Patel, M.D.,** and husband Naresh Vissa welcomed a baby boy, Rohin Vissa, on Jan. 18.

**Colin Swigler, M.D.,** completed the hand/ upper extremity fellowship program at UF Health in Gainesville and is practicing as a hand and upper extremity surgeon at The Orthopaedic Group in Mobile, Alabama.

John Thomas, M.D., completed the orthopedic surgery residency program at Orlando Health and is an adult reconstructive surgery fellow at the Orthopedic Center of Colorado. Mitchell Whitehead, M.D., is medical director for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation in Pensacola and was certified as an HIV Specialist by the American Academy of HIV Medicine.

#### 2015

**Blakele Bakker, M.D.,** completed her residency at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine-Chattanooga and is now an obstetrician-gynecologist at Sacred Heart Hospital on the Emerald Coast in Miramar Beach, Florida.

**Stephanie Battistini, M.D.,** welcomed a baby girl, Ivelisse, with her husband Antonio in August.

**Ryan Berger, M.D.,** completed the orthopedic surgery residency program at Cleveland Clinic and is in a spine-surgery fellowship at OrthoCarolina Spine Center in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**Ryan Brosch, M.D.,** completed the OB-GYN residency program at the University of South Florida College of Medicine and is practicing at Women's Care Florida in Clearwater.

Alexa Buchanan, M.D., and husband Kyle Pascioni welcomed a baby girl, Adeline Grace, on Nov. 12, 2019.

Adam Engel, M.D., completed his residency in diagnostic radiology and is in a breastimaging fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

**Shalini Golla, M.D.,** completed the OB-GYN residency program at Ascension Medical Group Sacred Heart and is now practicing at North Florida Women's Care in Tallahassee.

**Ryan Howard, M.D.,** was an adult hospitalist at the Kaweah Delta Health Care District, where he was honored by nursing staff as Physician of the Year for Compassionate Care. He then completed a fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine through the University of California San Francisco Fresno Campus, and is now medical director of hospice and palliative medicine at the Kaweah Delta Health Care District.

**Kyle Iketani, M.D.,** married Erica Sheedy on Jan. 11 in Orlando.

**Christina Kim, M.D.**, graduated from the diagnostic radiology residency program at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai West as chief resident and has begun a neuroradiology fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital – Harvard.

**Rachel Nickels, M.D.**, welcomed a baby girl, Charlotte Yvonne Nickels, with husband Steven Nickels in April.

**Keniel Pierre, M.D.,** is a cardiology fellow at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. Keniel and his wife, Daphnee, welcomed their first daughter, Kaydence Noelle Pierre, on Aug. 4, 2019.

Anish Raj, M.D., completed the pediatrics and child-psychiatry residency program at Rhode Island Hospital-Brown University and has entered a child abuse pediatric fellowship at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Andrew Van Sickler, M.D., completed the general surgery residency program at Palmetto Health Richland-University of South Carolina School of Medicine and has begun a vascular surgery fellowship at Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio.

#### 2016

**Kyle Andrews, M.D.,** matched at UF for a fellowship in orthopaedic trauma in 2021-2022.

**Joseph Babcock, M.D.,** matched into an adult cardiothoracic anesthesiology fellowship at the University of Alabama Birmingham beginning in July 2021.

**Tara Becker, M.D.,** completed a neurology residency at Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education and started a fellowship in epilepsy at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Logan Blankenship, M.D.,** completed the obstetrics & gynecology residency program at the UF College of Medicine in Jacksonville and has begun a gynecology oncology fellowship at the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio.

Amanda Danley, M.D., is practicing at Physicians' Primary Care of SWFL Family Practice in Cape Coral.

**Jared Davis, M.D.,** completed the internal medicine residency program at the University of Alabama Medical Center at Birmingham and has begun a cardiology fellowship at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Health. John Dudley, M.D., completed his residency in internal medicine and has begun a cardiology fellowship at Rhode Island Hospital-Brown University.

Lisa Engel, M.D., completed her residency in OB-GYN at Orlando Health, where she was the chief academic resident. She is in practice with UT-Houston.

Adam Field, M.D., recently finished working a year of locum tenens at Moanalua Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. He has returned to Arizona, where he completed residency, to continue working locum tenens at a variety of ER's in southern Arizona.

**Cesar Garcia-Canet, M.D.,** and wife Melanie welcomed their first child, Gabriel Michael Garcia-Canet, on Dec. 19, 2019. Garcia-Canet started a pediatric critical care medicine fellowship at the University of Miami School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Hospital in July.

Louis Gerena, M.D., completed his fellowship at Andrews Sports Medicine & Orthopaedic Center in Birmingham, Alabama, and is now practicing primary-care sports medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina.

**Christina Gutierrez, M.D.,** completed her pathology residency at Emory University School of Medicine and has begun a surgical pathology fellowship at Emory University Hospital Midtown.

Nicholas Jeffrey, M.D., completed the OB-GYN residency at Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California and is now practicing at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Florida.

Sasha Kaiser, M.D., was named chief resident of her emergency medicine residency program in Denver and is in a toxicology fellowship at Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety in Colorado.

Heather Lopez, M.D., completed the OB-GYN residency program at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and is practicing at BJC Medical Group Women's Health Care in Saint Louis, Missouri. She also won the SASGOG Award, Kody Kunda Award for Excellence in Teaching, Washington University OB-GYN Chief Resident of the Year and was named to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

Lindsey McAlarnen, M.D., completed residency at Loyola University Medical Center and is a gynecologic-oncology fellow at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. **Kathleen Murray M.D.,** completed her neurology residency program and has begun a clinical neurophysiology fellowship at the University of South Florida College of Medicine.

Jesse O'Shea, M.D., was named a Notable Nole by the FSU Alumni Association. He is in the second year of the Emory University Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program.

**Casey N. Rust, M.D.,** completed the University of North Carolina geriatrics fellowship program in June and joined FSU Senior Health in Tallahassee in August.

**Makandall Saint Eloi, M.D.,** is practicing as an urgent-care physician and is associate director of UHealth Jackson Urgent Care in Miami. He's also serving as a voluntary assistant professor for the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

**Robert Solomon, M.D.,** is practicing family medicine at AdventHealth in DeLand after completing his residency at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare.

Luke Stowers, M.D., completed a sports medicine fellowship at the University of Notre Dame and is practicing at the Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic.

William Stross, M.D., and Staci Biegner

(M.D., '17) married in an intimate backyard ceremony during the coronavirus pandemic and were surprised by a parade of cars fully decorated for the celebration with their family and friends who were unable to attend the ceremony due to the social distancing restrictions. Stross is chief resident of the radiology oncology residency program at Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education in Jacksonville.

Tamra Travers, M.D., completed a fellowship in faculty development at Ventura County (Calif.) Medical Center and teaches full-spectrum family medicine in the medical center's family medicine residency program. Travers received the STFM 2019 Resident Teacher Award from Mount Sinai Downtown Family Medicine Residency, along with the program's obstetrics award and chief resident award.

Megan Walley, M.D., completed her neurology residency program at University Hospital in Jackson and has begun a neurocritical care fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. **Ashworth Woody, M.D.,** married Russell Skibicki in March in a small family ceremony.

Mariya Zhukova, M.D., married Matt Cissell, and they're expecting a baby boy.



**Jesse Bauer, M.D.,** completed the emergency medicine residency at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte and is practicing at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare.

Eric Brown, M.D., got engaged to Shirley Serrano on May 20.

Quinton Campbell, M.D., completed the emergency medicine residency program at Thomas Jefferson University Department of Medicine and is practicing at Holy Redeemer Health System in Pennsylvania.

Rhea Daniel, M.D., completed the pediatrics residency program at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children in Pennsylvania and is in a pediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston.

Lindsay Gardner, M.D., completed internal medicine residency and is a hospice and palliative medicine fellow at Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education in Jacksonville.

**Danielle Guinan, M.D.,** completed the psychiatry residency program at West Virginia School of Medicine and is in a child & adolescent psychiatry fellowship at Duke University Medical Center.

Jennica Hagberg, M.D., welcomed a baby boy, Erling Riis V, with her husband in late August.

**Donya Imanirad, M.D.,** completed internal medicine residency and is completing an allergy and immunology fellowship at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

**Rebecca Imran, M.D.,** is expecting a baby boy on New Year's Eve with husband, Josh Freeland.

**William Johnson, M.D.,** completed the FSU internal medicine residency program at Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare and is a hospitalist in his hometown of Melbourne.

**Jason Lesnick, M.D.,** was chief resident of the McGovern Medical School at UTHealth Emergency Medicine Residency. He is a physician with Memorial Hermann Medical Group in Houston. He and girlfriend Rachel Ahearn became engaged in June.

Juan Lopez, M.D., completed psychiatry residency at San Mateo County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services and is on a child and adolescent psychiatry community-track fellowship at Stanford University. Lopez also is completing the American Psychiatric Association SAMHSA Minority Fellowship.

**Miranda Mack-Delavallade, M.D.,** married Brian Delavallade in April and hopes to have a proper ceremony after the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Dejon Maloney, M.D.,** delivered the keynote speech during Honors and Awards Day 2018 at Florida Memorial University. After completing residency at Bayfront Medical Center in St. Petersburg, he returned to Tallahassee as a hospitalist at Capital Regional Medical Center.

**Brittany Marlin, M.D.,** completed residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and now practices there as a pediatrician.

Alisa Newman, M.D., completed the emergency medicine residency program at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine as chief resident, winning the 2019-2020 Clinical Excellence Award and Best Resident Mentor Award. She now practices at AdventHealth Tampa.

William Nimmons, M.D., completed emergency medicine residency at Christiana Care Health System in Delaware and is practicing at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare. He and his wife Nicole also welcomed a baby girl, Natalya Marie, in late August.

Nwamaka Onyeozili, M.D., completed family medicine residency at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System and is a hospitalist with Sound Physicians in Palm Coast, Florida.

**Caitlin Parks Premuroso, M.D.,** completed emergency medicine residency at Orlando Health, where she remained for an advanced clinical ultrasound fellowship.

**Rachel Rackard, M.D.,** completed family medicine residency at the University of Alabama and is a family physician at the Hale County Hospital Association in Greensboro, Alabama. **Carlos Rubiano, M.D.,** is chief resident for 2020-2021 in the internal medicine residency program at the University of North Carolina Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

**Brett Schubert, M.D.**, completed emergency medicine residency at the UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville and is practicing at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare.

**Alessandra Taylor, M.D.,** welcomed a baby boy, James Edward Taylor, in July with husband Mike Taylor.

**Shanique Wilson, M.D.**, is in a gastroenterology fellowship at Mount Sinai Beth Israel in New York City.

#### 2018

**Guerdine Alcius, M.D.,** married Guyclaude Gracien on Aug. 3, 2019, in Boca Raton, Florida.

**Clayton Fuqua, M.D.,** completed his internship in family medicine at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton and is currently in flightsurgery training in Pensacola.

**Kevin Hudson, M.D.,** welcomed a baby boy, Magnus Mark Hudson, with wife Laura Hudson in April.

Nicholas Karr, M.D., and wife Jessica Karr welcomed baby Emilia Margaret on Nov. 11, 2019.

Eric Krivensky, M.D., was designated as a naval flight surgeon in May. He also welcomed a baby girl, Genna, in February 2019 with wife Lauren Krivensky.

Heather (Brunges) London, M.D., married Daniel London in August 2019.

Nina Morgan, M.D., married David Whisenant in July 2020 in Norton Shores, Michigan.

**Ioana Rider, M.D.,** announced that she and husband, Chase Rider, are expecting another baby girl, expected to arrive in January.

Kelley Rojas, M.D., and Jordan Shackelford married in July.

Andrew Sellinger, M.D., and wife Louisa Sellinger welcomed a baby girl, Madeline Claire Sellinger, on Dec. 11, 2019. **David West, M.D.,** and wife Bridgette Berisford West welcomed a baby girl, Lennon Jack West, in December 2019.

**Colin Zuchowski, M.D.,** is now a second-year resident in diagnostic radiology at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

#### 2019

**Marckenley Isaac, M.D.,** is now an anesthesiology resident at Mount Sinai Morningside in New York City.

**Meghan N. Lewis, M.D.,** and husband, McKinley Lewis, are expecting another baby girl in August 2020.

**Steven Acton Pifer, M.D.,** is currently the lead for residency recruitment and LGBTQI+ community medicine team at Swedish Family Medicine-First Hill in Seattle.

Sarah Schaet, M.D., married Payton Parker on March 14 in Jacksonville.

Kelley Stem, PA, and husband Michael Stem recently welcomed their first child, a girl named Avery Lynn Stem.

**Ellie Swengros, PA**, married Alex Dry in Lakeland, Florida, on Aug. 22 after initially postposing their wedding due to the pandemic.

Tamer Tadros, PA, and his wife Viola welcomed a baby girl, Darla Tadros, on May 20.

#### PIMS

#### 1979

Richard Sheridan, M.D., retired on March 31 from neonatology practice in Tampa, where he was affiliated with Mednax. He continues to volunteer with Healthy Start and as a USA/ NCAA Swim official.

#### 1983

W. Kevin Broyles, M.D., recently moved to Atlanta after serving eight years in La Paz, Bolivia, South America. He is an urgent-care physicians with Wellstar, and also serves as medical director for annual wellness visits. Broyles is the volunteer global medical director for the non-profit relief and development organization, HOPE worldwide.

# match results

# CLASS OF 2020 RESIDENCY MATCH

#### **INTERNAL MEDICINE (22)**

Hansley Bobo, M.D., Morehouse School of Medicine (Georgia)

**Jordan Carbono, M.D.**, Orlando Health (Florida)

Noella Cortinas, M.D., University of Cincinnati College of Medicine (Ohio)

Alyssa Davis, M.D., Vanderbilt University Medical Center (Tennessee)

Erika (Turko) Dickinson, M.D., USF Morsani College of Medicine (Florida)

Wesley J. Earl, M.D., New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center (New York) Quinn Frier, M.D., Prisma Health-Midlands/University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia (South Carolina)

April Graham, M.D., University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital (Florida)

Jacob Hentges, M.D., FSU College of Medicine at TMH (Florida)

**Murali Iyyani, M.D.**, Orlando Health (Florida)

**Shelby Jones, M.D.**, West Virginia University School of Medicine (West Virginia)

Aryanna (Ismaili) Jordan, M.D., USF Morsani College of Medicine (Florida) **Amandeep Kataria, M.D.**, Barnes-Jewish Hospital (Missouri)

**Justin Kuhlman, M.D.**, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education (Florida)

**Cilia Nazef, M.D.**, USF Morsani College of Medicine (Florida)

Wesley Parker, M.D., Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (North Carolina)

Erin Petrie, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham/Tinsley Harrison School of Medicine (Alabama)

Veronica Pitocchi, M.D., University of Alabama at Birmingham/Tinsley Harrison School of Medicine (Alabama)



Derek Schwabe-Warf, M.D., Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (New Jersey)

Ellen Ann Sockman, M.D., West Virginia University School of Medicine (West Virginia)

Reema Tawfiq, M.D., Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education in Rochester (Minnesota)

**Stephanie Williams, M.D.**, FSU College of Medicine at Sarasota Memorial HealthCare (Florida)

#### **PEDIATRICS (20)**

Sarah Allen, M.D., Nationwide Children's Hospital (Ohio)

**Liana Apolis, M.D.**, Loma Linda University Children's Health (California)

Barbara Christakis, M.D., Massachusetts General Hospital (Massachusetts)

Andi Sioux Crutchfield, M.D., Penn State Health Children's Hospital (Pennsylvania)

Rachelle Daris, M.D., LSU Health Science Center New Orleans (Louisiana)

Meher Farooq, M.D., University of Tennessee Health Science Center and Le Bonheur Children's Hospital (Tennessee) **Christopher Hahn, M.D.,** University of Florida at Orlando Health/Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children (Florida)

Jim Jin, M.D., University of Florida at Orlando Health/Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children (Florida)

Jasmine Jordan, M.D., USF Morsani College of Medicine (Florida)

Monika Kossey, M.D., UF Health-Shands (Florida)

Marisa Laughrey, M.D., Prisma Health-Midlands/University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia (South Carolina)

Casey Mason, M.D., New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center (New York)

Matthew Metzger, M.D., Sinai Hospital of Baltimore (Maryland) Scott Nelson, M.D., Prisma Health-Midlands/University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia (South Carolina)

Jacqueline O'Donoghue, M.D., University of Florida at Orlando Health/Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children (Florida)

Bhavi Patel, M.D., Carolinas Medical Center (North Carolina)

Michael Penfold, M.D., Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education in Rochester (Minnesota)

Kimberlee Rodriguez Bonilla, M.D., Memorial Healthcare-Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital (Florida)

**Alexandria Timmer, M.D.**, UF Health-Jacksonville (Florida)

Jessica Valceus, M.D., Carolinas Medical Center (North Carolina)





#### **EMERGENCY MEDICINE (14)**

Alicia Bishop, M.D., Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (North Carolina)

Ryan Earwood, M.D., Stony Brook Medicine (New York)

Kevin Gil, M.D., FSU College of Medicine at Sarasota Memorial HealthCare (Florida)

**Trevia Jackson, M.D.**, LSU Spirit of Charity (Louisiana)

Daniel Lopez, M.D., Kendall Regional Medical Center (Florida) Shannon Lyons, M.D., Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (North Carolina)

Samantha Mahon, M.D., Medical College of Georgia (Georgia)

**Linh Nguyen, M.D.**, Orlando Health (Florida)

Megan Rivera, M.D., UF Health-Shands (Florida)

Michael Tandlich, M.D., McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University (Illinois)

Morissa Taylor, M.D., LSU School of Medicine (Louisiana)

Colin Hackley

# match results

Ariana Trautmann, M.D., Carolinas Medical Center (North Carolina)

Grant Wallenfelsz, M.D., UT Southwestern Medical Center (Texas)

Christopher Williams, M.D., Florida Atlantic University Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine (Florida)

#### **OB-GYN** (11)

Mariam Aboulela, M.D., Bayfront Health St. Petersburg (Florida)

Justine Bedolla, M.D., Las Palmas Del Sol HealthCare (Texas)

Kharian Burnett-Foster, M.D., UF Health-Jacksonville (Florida)

Efe Cudjoe, M.D., Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania)

Kelcey Day, M.D., UF Health-Jacksonville (Florida)

Olivia Donnelly, M.D., UF Health/Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola University of Florida College of Medicine (Florida)

Ellison (Atkinson) Ellison, M.D., UF Health/Ascension Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola University of Florida College of

Evan Fitzgerald, M.D., Abington Memorial Hospital (Pennsylvania)

Laura Gorham, M.D., Prisma Health-Upstate/University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville (South Carolina)

Schrader, Evan, M.D., Carolinas Medical Center (North Carolina)

#### FAMILY MEDICINE (9)

Luke Babcock, M.D., Halifax Health Medical Center (Florida)

Olenka Caffo, M.D., Swedish Medical Center-Sea Mar Community Health Centers (Washington)

Joseph Chen, M.D., Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare (Florida)

Jenna De Francesco, M.D., FSU College of Medicine at Lee Health (Florida)

Shane Geffe, M.D., FSU College of Medicine at Lee Health (Florida)

Charlotte George, M.D., Bayfront Health St. Petersburg (Florida)

Kayanna Johnson, M.D., University of Tennessee Health Science Center (Tennessee)

Haley Parsley, M.D., Swedish Medical Center-First Hill (Washington)

Eric Walker, M.D., University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital (Florida)

#### **PSYCHIATRY (6)**

Hoai Bui, M.D., Case Western/

University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center (Ohio)

Conor Cronin, M.D., University of South Alabama (Alabama)

William Kortbein, M.D., UT Health San Antonio/San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium (Texas)



Cordy McGill-Scarlett, M.D., Medical University of South Carolina (South Carolina)

Tarvis Peacock, M.D., Orange Park Medical Center (Florida)

Alexa Rivera, M.D., Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Beth Israel (New York)

#### **SURGERY-GENERAL (6)**

Paige Blinn, M.D., University of Illinois at Chicago (Illinois)

Justin Gallagher, M.D., Naval Medical Center San Diego (California)

Matthew Hager, M.D., New Hanover Regional Medical Center (North Carolina)

Taylor Maramara, M.D., Orlando Health (Florida)

Michelle McCullers, M.D., AdventHealth Orlando (Florida)

Marvin Rhodes, M.D., Prisma Health-Upstate/University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville (South Carolina)

#### RADIOLOGY-DIAGNOSTIC (5)

Ashraf Abdulhalim, M.D., UF Health-Jacksonville (Transitional: Orange Park Medical Center) (Florida)

Aazim Arif, M.D., Jackson Memorial Hospital/Jackson Health (Medicine-Preliminary, FSU College of Medicine at TMH) (Florida)

Nidhi Desai, M.D., UF Health Shands (Transitional: UCF College of Medicine/HCA GME Consortium at North Florida Regional Healthcare) (Florida)

Sarah Hartley, M.D., SCL Health Saint Joseph (Colorado)

Medicine (Florida)

**Chelsea Life, M.D.**, UCF College of Medicine/HCA GME Consortium (Florida)

Junaid Raja, M.D., Brown Alpert Medical School (Rhode Island) (Medicine-Preliminary: University of Miami/JFK Medical Center Palm Beach Regional GME Consortium, Florida)

#### **SURGERY-ORTHOPEDIC (4)**

**Benjamin Farley, M.D.**, George Washington University Hospital (District of Columbia)

**Rogerio Ferreira, M.D.**, Orlando Health (Florida)

Katelyn Harrison, M.D., WellStar Atlanta Medical Center (Georgia)

**Tyler Teurlings, M.D.**, UF Health-Shands (Florida)

#### **ANESTHESIOLOGY (3)**

Lauren Luscuskie, M.D., New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Medical Center (New York)

Daniele Shore, M.D., Yale School of Medicine (Connecticut) (Medicine-Preliminary: Einstein Healthcare Network, Pennsylvania)

**Peter Rafferty, M.D.**, Geisinger Health System (Pennsylvania)

#### **DERMATOLOGY (2)**

Divya Aickara, M.D., Jackson Memorial Hospital/Jackson Health (Medicine-Preliminary: University of Miami Miller School of Medicine at Holy Cross Hospital) (Florida) **Clara Barranco, M.D.**, Orange Park Medical Center (Medicine-Preliminary: Orlando Health) (Florida)

#### **MEDICINE-PRIMARY (2)**

**Brandon Herrera-Doerre, M.D.,** University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School (Texas)

Klariz Tucker, M.D., Prisma Health-Midlands/University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia (South Carolina)

#### **OPHTHALMOLOGY (2)**

Brian Bowden, M.D., University of Mississippi Medical Center (Mississippi)

Tyler Wickas, M.D., Nassau University Medical Center (New York)



#### SURGERY-VASCULAR (1)

**D'Andre Williams, M.D.**, Cleveland Clinic's Sydell and Arnold Miller Family Heart & Vascular Institute (Ohio)

#### **MEDICINE-PEDIATRICS (1)**

Max Richardson, M.D., University of Kentucky College of Medicine (Kentucky)

#### **MEDICINE-PRELIMINARY (1)**

**Robyn Tobillo, M.D.**, USF Morsani College of Medicine/ HCA Healthcare at Citrus Memorial Hospital (Florida)

#### **MEDICINE-PSYCHIATRY (1)**

Alexander Baradei, M.D., Medical University of South Carolina (South Carolina)

#### PATHOLOGY (1)

Julia An, M.D., Emory University School of Medicine) (Georgia)

#### **TRANSITIONAL** (1)

Nicholas Adams, M.D., David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis AFB (California)

#### UROLOGY (1)

**Daniel Pierce, M.D.**, USF Morsani College of Medicine (Florida)



# ROBERT D. ALLISON (M.D., '06)

November 2020

CDC Medical Officer, Global Immunization Division Faculty Associate, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

n early 2020 I accepted a new assignment with the CDC to support the hepatitis B virus elimination program in the WHO Western Pacific Region., based in Manila. COVID-19 cases spiked in the U.S. two weeks before my move and all CDC travel was put on indefinite hold. I was reassigned to COVID-19 response where my role under the Chief Medical Officer was to produce near real-time, evidence-based reviews and recommendations for the COVID-19 incident command and CDC leadership.

My assignments included tackling some of the most charged questions at that time. For instance, would SARS-CoV-2 transmission decline in the warmer summer months allowing a safe phased reopening? Should we expect a spike in the colder fall and winter months? Are new onset loss of smell and/or taste a marker(s) for SARS-CoV-2 infection? Is hydroxychloroquine an effective treatment? And does use of cloth facial coverings by laypeople slow viral spread?

As the impact of COVID-19 on delivery of primary and preventive care became more evident, my role shifted to helping WHO address notable declines in childhood immunization coverage, and in particular, to hepatitis B vaccine delivery. Childhood hepatitis B vaccinations in the U.S. and globally have declined by 20% or more during the pandemic. Using a CDC model to estimate COVID-19's impact on hepatitis B outcomes with immunizations being disrupted, I found that a 20% decline would lead to more than 700,000 excess hepatitis B infections and 120,000 additional related deaths in the Western Pacific Region's 2020 birth cohort.

So what do the pandemic's next six months hold for us?

Before the summer, we predicted a spike in fall and winter cases, consistent with low population immunity and the seasonal pattern of other beta-coronaviruses. What's less clear is whether being infected with both influenza and SARS-CoV-2 will increase the severity of outcomes. The safest bet is for everyone to get their flu shots as soon as possible.

The best way to prevent transmission will continue to be use of face coverings, social distancing and good hand hygiene - likely until at least mid-2021. But consider: face coverings are about 50% effective at blocking largeparticle aerosols carrying a virus. They protect other people from infected symptomatic and asymptomatic wearers, and they offer some protection for a person wearing the mask. This underscores the importance of social distancing: maintaining a minimum six-foot buffer, but as far away as possible. We know a lot more now about small-particle airborne transmission - that these particles travel much farther than six feet. While the degree of contribution of airborne transmission to infection is still unclear, the best bet is to maintain the greatest separation possible, particularly in enclosed spaces where ventilation is not optimal.

Finally, when are we going to get a safe and effective vaccine? How long will it take to vaccinate enough people to attain herd immunity (generally thought to require 60-80% of the population)? And how long will immunity last? I believe we can be cautiously optimistic. Development efforts have been achieved in record time. There are over 300 COVID-19 vaccine candidates, over 30 in clinical trials and at least nine in phase 3. Many of these studies have shown neutralizing antibody and cell-mediated immune responses. The current but ever-changing general consensus is that a vaccine will be available by the end of the year. It's unknown how long it will take to vaccinate a sufficient percentage of the population and what the duration of immunity will be. It's encouraging that federal, state and local public health have been urgently ramping up deployment strategies and capacity.

We haven't faced a public health emergency of this magnitude for over 100 years. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the frontline doctors, nurses, first responders and their families for their herculean efforts and sacrifices. They will be strained to their limits again as we face spikes in the fall and winter. To win this we need to support each other, strongly advocate for sufficient resources and ensure decisions are evidence-based and that public health responses are appropriate and effective.

Editor's note: The informed opinions expressed here are solely those of Dr. Allison, who relied on the best available evidence at the time of FSU MED's publication. His opinion is consistent with public statements and testimony from senior scientists and public-health officials.

Dr. Allison was a member of the College of Medicine's inaugural class but graduated with the Class of 2006 after taking a year off from medical school to train at the NIH. His mentor there, Harvey Alter, was recently awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in October for his role in discovering the hepatitis C virus. Allison served as a post-doc under Alter (2006-08) and took over as the chief scientist in his NIH lab in 2016.

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#### **Rural Medicine**

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Calhoun-Liberty Hospital Department of Health in Collier County (Immokalee) Doctors Memorial Hospital (Bonifay) Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida (Immokalee) Heartland Health Care Center (Fort Myers) Jackson Hospital (Marianna) Northwest Florida Community Hospital (Chipley)

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students matched at top programs throughout Florida and across the country (see Match Results, page 28). MMEY FSU Coll 3,779 14 CL FSU College of Medic Abby Schirmer @abigallschirmer MAS (and my future chief residents ) Congratulations! > You are an inspiration. You are going to contribute so much to so You are brilliant. thank you for setting such a great many lives. comple & for being so strong in the entTwitter #Match2020 midat of chaos 14 (2) ESU College of Medicine O

Colin Hackley

Match Day annually brings a flood of joyous emotions in a packed Ruby Diamond Concert Hall. Those emotions were confined to social media for the M.D. Class of 2020, but the message remained the same: FSU