



Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine

December 2018

Case Celebrates 175 Years of Medical Education Excellence

2018 marks the 175th anniversary of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. Then called the Department of Medicine of Western Reserve University, the school opened its doors on Nov. 1, 1843, to 67 students and six faculty members. Tuition was \$72.

This milestone anniversary was commemorated with a gala on Nov. 1 at the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion, Health Education Campus. There, Pamela B. Davis, MD, PhD, Dean of the School of Medicine, was presented with the Medal of Excellence in Health Science Innovation. (See “Dean Pamela Davis Receives Case Western Reserve School of Medicine’s Highest Honor,” page 2.)

Since its founding in 1843, the CWRU School of Medicine has trained thousands of physicians and has contributed to several medical breakthroughs and “firsts,” including simulated milk formula for infants and artificial human chromosome. In 1952, CWRU developed a novel curriculum integrating the basic and clinical sciences, a first for medical education.

In 2002, the Lerner College of Medicine was established as a partnership between Cleveland Clinic and CWRU, thanks to a \$100 million gift from Al and Norma Lerner, bringing the number of MD training programs to three: College Program (CCLCM), University Program (original program) and an MD/PhD program.

The CWRU School of Medicine’s three-part mission — excellence in medical education with a focus on humanistic care, a commitment to research that has the potential to improve lives, and the development of collaborations and partnerships that promote the health of our communities — continues today with vigor. In 2018, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked CWRU School of Medicine in the top 25 medical schools in the nation and the No. 1 medical school in Ohio.

Cleveland Clinic and CCLCM are proud to be a partner with Case Western Reserve University and look forward to a future rich with collaboration and innovation in service of training the world’s future physician investigators.



Dean Pamela Davis Receives Case Western Reserve School of Medicine's Highest Honor

Pamela B. Davis, MD, PhD, Dean of the School of Medicine and Senior Vice President for Medical Affairs at Case Western Reserve University, was awarded the eighth annual Medal of Excellence in Health Science Innovation, the school's highest honor. The medal is given to faculty members who have advanced research, education and care in exceptional ways.

Barbara Snyder, President of Case Western Reserve University, presented the award at the School of Medicine's celebration of its 175th anniversary on Nov. 1 at the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion, Health Education Campus. Guests enjoyed a reception, dinner and dancing in addition to seeing Dr. Davis honored with this prestigious award.

"Since Dean Davis took the helm of the School of Medicine more than a decade ago, she has worked to advance both the national and international reputation of the school as a destination for medical students with a passion for research. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient for this prestigious award," says J. Harry Isaacson, MD, Executive Dean of CCLCM and Associate Professor of Medicine.

Research initiatives that Dr. Davis has championed include the city-wide Cleveland Brain Health Initiative and nationally recognized programs in bioinformatics, computational biology and quantitative health, digestive and cardiac health, and pioneering cancer research through the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center. She has supported numerous programs to enhance the well-being of the Cleveland area, including the Prevention Research Center for Healthy

Neighborhoods and the Urban Health Initiative. Her tenure has seen a dramatic rise in fundraising for the SOM, regularly reaching new attainment records.

Additionally, medical school admissions have become more selective, class size has expanded, and enrollment has grown more diverse. Dr. Davis has also spearheaded a commercialization program that has spun out a record number of new companies. She holds seven U.S. patents and is a founding scientist of Copernicus Therapeutics Inc., a biotechnology company that creates pharmaceutical targeting and delivery systems.

A distinguished physician and medical researcher specializing in cystic fibrosis, Dr. Davis has been funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for more than 30 years. In 2007, she secured the first Clinical and Translational Science Award for Case Western Reserve, the largest NIH grant in Ohio. This award has enabled stronger and deeper collaborations throughout the university and with the School of Medicine's hospital affiliates: Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, Louis Stokes VA Medical Center and MetroHealth.

Most recently, Dr. Davis played a leading role in establishing a partnership with Cleveland Clinic to create a state-of-the-art health education campus, which will open next year. The shared

space, featuring the latest in biomedical education technology, will house medical, dental, nursing, physician assistant and social work students – promoting team-based, whole-patient care.

Note: This story, adapted for InSight, is courtesy of Case Western Reserve University.



Virtual Reality Among Top 10 Medical Innovations for 2019

At this year's Medical Innovations Summit, Neil Mehta, MBBS, MS, Professor of Medicine, served on the panel of healthcare leaders to discuss Cleveland Clinic's Top 10 list of breakthrough technologies for 2019. No. 6 on the list is Virtual and Mixed Reality for Medical Education, an innovation that could disrupt the way medical students have been taught for hundreds of years and that will prepare them for the medicine of the future.

Dr. Mehta, Assistant Dean for Education Informatics and Technology and incoming Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs, talked about the amazing potential of virtual and mixed reality, not only for medical education but also patient care.

[View the video.](#)

Moderated by Mike Roizen, MD, Chief Wellness Officer with Cleveland Clinic, the Top Ten Medical Innovations for 2019 session was held Oct. 22-24 in Cleveland.



Neil Mehta, MBBS, MS

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Michael Lioudis Named Associate Director of Basic Science Education



Michael Lioudis, MD

Michael Lioudis, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, has been appointed as Associate Director of Basic Science Education at CCLCM.

Dr. Lioudis practices nephrology and hypertension, with special interest in hemodialysis, chronic kidney disease, resistant hypertension and renal diseases.

In addition to now serving as the Associate Director of Basic Science Education, Dr. Lioudis continues in his role as Co-director of the Renal Biology Year 1 and Year 2 courses, which he has held since 2013.

Dr. Camille Sabella Named Associate Director of Clinical Education



Camille Sabella, MD

Camille Sabella, MD, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, has been appointed as Associate Director of Clinical Education at CCLCM.

A pediatrician, Dr. Sabella serves as Director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at Cleveland Clinic Children's and as Vice Chair for Education for the Pediatric Institute.

Within CCLCM, Dr. Sabella directed the Core 2 clerkship (which included the Pediatrics and Ob/Gyn clerkships) since the inception of CCLCM, and served as the clerkship or associate clerkship director for Pediatrics until 2017. In these roles, he was responsible for curricular development, structure, organization and day-to-day operations of the integrated and Pediatric clerkships. In addition, he has been a Physician Advisor for CCLCM students since 2009.

Dr. Sabella has received numerous awards related to his educational commitment to fellows, residents and medical students, including the Excellence in Teaching Award from Cleveland Clinic Children's.

Curriculum Leadership Transitions

At the core of CCLCM is the faculty who participate, lead, support and devote time and effort to planning, implementing and evaluating the CCLCM program. Over the past several months, several CCLCM curriculum leadership changes have occurred and are noted below.

We thank the following faculty who are moving on to new endeavors and who have provided wonderful leadership and support to the curriculum and educational environment through their roles within CCLCM. Both our students and faculty have benefited from their leadership:

- **Sangeeta Krishna, MD**, former Director, Peru Health Outreach Project (Dr. Krishna will remain involved in other parts of the curriculum including the Pediatrics Clerkship.)
- **Rekha Mody, MD**, former Thread Leader, Imaging



Sangeeta Krishna, MD



Rekha Mody, MD

We welcome the following new faculty members who are taking on roles in the curriculum with great enthusiasm and dedication. Several have been recruited to help launch the new Cleveland Clinic Longitudinal Clerkship, in which 75 CWRU (32 College Program and 43 University Program) students are completing all their required clerkships at Cleveland Clinic.

Please welcome:

- **Sofya Asfaw, MD**, Associate Clerkship Director, Surgery
- **Michael Faulx, MD**, Co-director, Cardiovascular and Respiratory Sciences Year 2 Course
- **Jessica Fesler, MD**, Co-director, Neuroscience Year 2 Course
- **Stacie Jhaveri, MD**, Associate Clerkship Director, Obstetrics and Gynecology
- **Katherine Jones, DO**, Director, Peru Health Outreach Project
- **Sarah Juza, MD**, Associate Clerkship Director, Obstetrics and Gynecology
- **Christina Lindenmeyer, MD**, Co-director, Gastroenterology System Year 1 and Year 2 Courses
- **Karl Theil, MD**, Co-thread Leader, Pathology
- **Stacey Zahler, DO**, Associate Clerkship Director, Pediatrics



Sofya Asfaw, MD



Michael Faulx, MD



Jessica Fesler, MD



Stacie Jhaveri, MD



Katherine Jones, DO



Sarah Juza, MD



Christina Lindenmeyer, MD



Karl Theil, MD



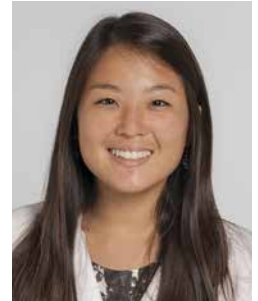
Stacy Zahler, DO

Anne Kim Among Students Who Presented at Regional ACP Meeting

Anne Kim ('20) was among the group of students who had an abstract accepted to the American College of Physician's 2018 Ohio/Air Force Scientific Meeting in Columbus in October.

[See "Research Poster Earns Top Spot at Regional ACP Meeting." InSight, November 2018.](#)

Anne presented her poster, entitled "The Zebra of Kidney Cancer," at the meeting.



Anne Kim

Students Organize Dean's Chat Featuring Dr. Tom Mihaljevic

Cleveland Clinic CEO and President Tom Mihaljevic, MD, addressed students from the classes of 2022 and 2023 at a special Dean's Chat on Nov. 14.

The Dean's Chats give CCLCM students the chance to meet and learn from various Cleveland Clinic leaders. This particular event was organized and moderated by Salam Bachour ('22) and Emily Durbak ('22), both members of the CCLCM College Board of Student Representatives.

"The opportunity to hold a Dean's Chat with Dr. Mihaljevic is one of the many aspects that separates CCLCM from other medical schools. We students value these extra opportunities to help us develop into medical professionals," says Salam.

Prior to welcoming questions from the students, Dr. Mihaljevic, Professor of Surgery, briefly touched on Cleveland Clinic's philosophy, including how teamwork serves as the foundational concept for the best possible healthcare, an idea put forth nearly 100 years ago by the Cleveland Clinic founders; how Cleveland Clinic continues to grow and evolve; and how Cleveland Clinic measures success.

"What stood out the most to me is that after all Dr. Mihaljevic's years in the medical field, whether in the OR or in hospital administration, the driving forces behind his most innovative plans for Cleveland Clinic's future still revolve around empathy, compassion and a responsibility to treat each patient like a family member," says Salam. "Here at CCLCM, we spend a good portion of the first two years in our longitudinal clinics practicing these skills. It was inspiring to see that the foundation we are carefully constructing right now is, if built right, what will stick with us later in our careers."

[The Dean's Chat is available for internal Cleveland Clinic viewing only.](#)



CEO Tom Mihaljevic, MD



Emily Durbak



Salam Bachour



Students Host Thanksgiving Luncheon for Faculty



As they do every year, the first-year CCLCM students hosted a bountiful Faculty and Staff Appreciation Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon. Held on Nov. 19, this much-anticipated event was organized by first-year College Board of Student Representatives Sarah DeCou, Aiman Faruqi, Carrie Johnson and Joe Mauch, with help from Darlene Gray, Student Affairs Coordinator.



Attend the CCLCM Faculty Promotion Workshop

Find out how to get promoted to an associate professor or professor at the Faculty Promotion Workshop. To accommodate as many interested faculty as possible, the event will be held on two different days, once in the morning and once in the evening.

- **Tuesday, Dec. 4, 7-8 a.m., Lerner Bldg. NA5-04**
Breakfast food/drinks will be available
- **Monday, Dec. 10, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Lerner Bldg. NA5-08**
Healthy appetizers/drinks will be available

Get the promotion details you need to succeed, including information about:

- Timelines
- Selecting referees
- Teaching portfolio
- Personal statement
- CV

PRESENTERS:

Nicole Deming, JD, MA

Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs and Human Resources
Assistant Professor of Bioethics, CWRU School of Medicine

Cynthia Kubu, PhD

Professor of Medicine, CCLCM

Dineen A. Lancaster

Faculty Affairs Manager, CCLCM

QUESTIONS? Contact **216.442.5627** or FacultyAffairsCCLCM@ccf.org.



COMMUNICATIONS TIP: Help patients get comfortable with technology

Brian Schroer, MD, Associate Director, Communication Skills | Assistant Professor, Pediatrics



Brian Schroer, MD

During a patient encounter, introduce the computer, a tool we all use, as a partner in the patient's care. Explain to your patient what you are doing on the computer and why using it is helpful for them and their healthcare. Although we understand why we need to use the computer, doing so can create a barrier to building a relationship if patients don't know why it is necessary.

That said, always stop using the computer when a patient expresses emotion so that the patient knows that you are truly listening to them.



Get Your Tickets to Doc Opera: Back to the Suture

The 34th annual Doc Opera performance, Back to the Suture, will take place Saturday, Dec. 8, from 7 to 10 p.m. at the John Hay High School Auditorium (2075 Stokes Blvd.).

Doc Opera is a student-run variety show that comprises skits, musical performances and parodied songs and dances about medical school, medicine and the medical community. Guests can enjoy a silent auction featuring items from local businesses.

All proceeds will benefit Circle Health Services (formerly The Free Medical Clinic of Greater Cleveland) and the CWRU Student Run Health Clinic. This benefit show has raised tens of thousands of dollars to help meet the healthcare needs of those who couldn't otherwise afford or access care.

[Get details about the event, view the show trailer and purchase your tickets.](#)



Student Spotlight: Jose Vega

As a native Clevelander with a desire to stay in the area, Jose Vega ('19) says it was a “no brainer” to apply to the Lerner College of Medicine when he was considering medical schools. “I had a lot of options and offers, but I preferred to stay in Cleveland because family is really important to me. I was well aware of the degree of excellence that is expected at Cleveland Clinic, and no other place offered me the ability to train at such an excellent organization and certainly no place so close to home.”

Like most of his peers, Jose also appreciated the generous financial aid, in the form of a full tuition scholarship, offered by CCLCM. When he was considering other medical schools, he didn't at first process that other schools' tuition cost includes room and board. “After I accepted the offer from CCLCM, I started thinking about how I was going to pay for rent, groceries and things like that. The answer for most students is family who are able and willing to take out loans,” says Jose. Then he learned about the KeyBank Minority Medical Student Scholarship.

Each year, the KeyBank Foundation offers four scholarships to incoming students who are historically underrepresented in medicine. The scholarships are designed to help defray living expenses and any additional academic costs for African-American and Hispanic students, who comprise about one-fifth of each CCLCM class. (The scholarship program, established in 2007, originally also helped pay tuition for minority students. In 2008, Cleveland Clinic announced it would offer a full tuition scholarship for all CCLCM students and since then uses part of the KeyBank Foundation endowment to do so.)

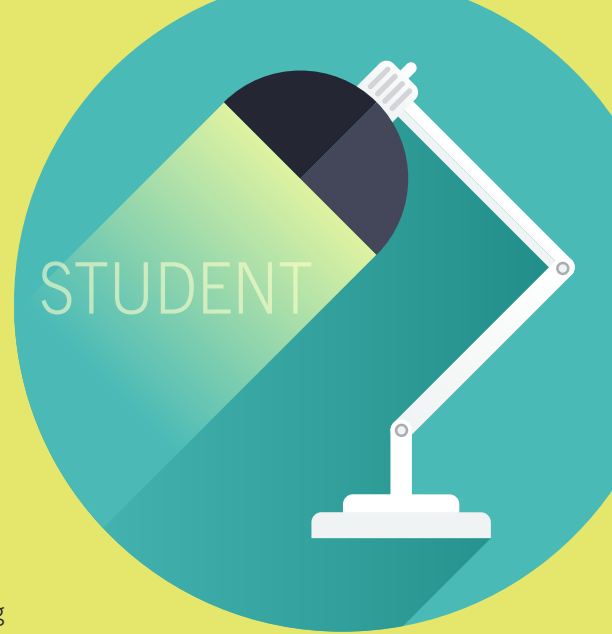
[Watch this short video about the KeyBank scholarship, featuring Jose and three fellow student scholarship recipients.](#)

After Jose matriculated at CCLCM, he was paired with Physician Advisor Richard Prayson, MD, Professor of Pathology and Chair of the Physician Advisor Committee. Jose explains that medical students typically spend the first couple of years trying to be outstanding students, learning the material and preparing for success. By the clinical and research years, students begin thinking about getting a good residency spot and preparing for residency. “Dr. Prayson has been there every step of the way, answering any questions I had,” he says.

“The KeyBank scholarship allowed me to get through medical school without having to borrow a penny from anyone,” says Jose, who is of Cuban descent. Following the Cuban Revolution, his parents fled to Puerto Rico and then came to the U.S., settling in Strongsville.

Having that level of support is invaluable and one of the reasons Jose feels lucky to have landed at CCLCM. He also appreciates that CCLCM students are given the freedom to learn and study the way they want. As he's interacted with more medical students from other programs lately, he's discovered that other schools don't offer these same benefits. “That knowledge reinforced my decision that I wouldn't have gone anywhere else,” he says.

As Jose looks toward graduation and the Match, he offers this advice to incoming CCLCM students: “Connect with the many talented people at Cleveland Clinic who are willing to teach and help you. You can have experiences that you will not find anywhere else. All you have to do is take the first step.”



Jose Vega

Two Faculty Earn Teaching Awards

Congratulations to Valeria (Andrea) Arrossi, MD, Anatomic Pathologist and Assistant Professor of Pathology, and Marvin Natowicz, MD, PhD, Clinical Pathologist and Professor of Pathology, who were recently honored with the inaugural 2018 PLMI CCLCM Teaching Award.

This new award, created by the Center for Pathology Education within the Robert J. Tomsich Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Institute (PLMI), will be given each year in recognition of the dedication and exemplary teaching of pathology by two anatomic and clinical pathology PLMI faculty members. The selection is based on feedback provided by the students and CCLCM administration.

Drs. Arrossi and Natowicz, who received their award at a ceremony and reception last month, were commended on their many achievements and for their tireless commitment to education.

Congratulations again!



Valeria (Andrea) Arrossi, MD



Marvin Natowicz, MD, PhD

Dr. Amy Nowacki Appointed to Serve on USMLE Committee



Amy Nowacki, PhD

Congratulations to Amy Nowacki, PhD, who has been appointed to serve as a member of the USMLE Biostatistics and Epidemiology Test Material Development Committee (TMDC) for 2019-20.

An Associate Staff Biostatistician, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director of the Clinical Research Block for CCLCM, Dr. Nowacki was chosen for this role by the National Board of Medical Examiners as a result of her content expertise and extensive teaching experience. In her role, she will help write USMLE (steps 1 through 3) test questions related to biostatistics and epidemiology.

According to the National Board of Medical Examiners, the ideal committee comprises about a dozen members with the following backgrounds:

- four to six internists, general or subspecialists
- one to two pediatricians, general or subspecialists
- up to two family medicine physicians
- two public health/preventive health physicians
- two PhDs in biostatistics and epidemiology

Dr. Nowacki is honored to be one of the two PhDs selected for this important role.

Congratulations again!

STUDENTS AND FACULTY:

Be sure to email [Laura Greenwald](#) with news about your achievements so that we can share your terrific news with our entire education community!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Dec. 4, 2018

Deadline for Scholarship in Teaching Award applications | [Get details](#)

Dec. 4, 2018 | 7-8 a.m.

CCLCM Faculty Promotion Workshop
Lerner NA5-04

Dec. 8, 2018 | 7-10 p.m.

Doc Opera
John Hay High School Auditorium

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CCLCM Faculty Promotion Workshop
Lerner NA5-08

Advancing Our Mission

The Education Institute welcomes donations to advance its mission of educating those who serve. Individuals, families, foundations and corporations that believe in the value of education are making a difference in the future of patient care with their generosity. To learn how you can help, please contact Theresa Holthaus at 216.444.1839 or at holthat@ccf.org.

Alumni: Share Your News

We'd like to hear about what you've been doing since graduation. If you have news to share (maybe you're involved in an interesting research project or you recently returned from a global health mission), please email Laura Greenwald at greenwl@ccf.org.

InSight

Laura R. Greenwald, MBA,
Managing Editor
Mary Reagan, Art Director

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