



InSight

Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine

June 2016

Celebration Honors the Graduating Class of 2016

The thirty-one students of the CCLCM graduating class, their families and friends gathered on Saturday evening, May 14, to celebrate their hard work and their many accomplishments over the past five years. The class chose the song “A Sky Full of Stars” by the band Coldplay to open the event.

James B. Young, MD, Executive Dean of the Lerner College of Medicine, and Delos (Toby) M. Cosgrove, MD, President and CEO of Cleveland Clinic, welcomed family and friends to the event. Dr. Young acknowledged Margot Copeland from the KeyBank Foundation, whose organization helps provide scholarships to CCLCM students.

During his address to students, Dr. Young said, “Your achievements are made possible by the grit of you, your families, friends and loved ones. And it has not been easy,

as I said, for any of us, but so worthwhile and more, and, perhaps most important, worthwhile for our patients, the society and our world at large.”

Dr. Young noted that 12 graduates would receive master’s degrees in addition to their degree that reads “MD with Special Qualifications in Biomedical Research.” Eight students received master of science degrees in clinical research. Two received master’s degrees in biomedical engineering. One student received a master’s degree in nutrition and another in public health. He also noted that on Match Day, 58 percent of the students matched to their first choice in hospitals, and 74 percent matched to one of their top three choices. With tremendous enthusiasm, Dr. Young added that one-third of the graduating class would be staying to train at Cleveland Clinic.





This graduating class will be known not only for their many accomplishments (see page 5), but also for their compassion and gratitude. They presented Dr. Cosgrove and Mrs. Norma Lerner, who, along with her late husband, Al, founded the Lerner College of Medicine, with a book of student photos and thank-you messages as well as a DVD with eight videos crafted by the students. The class gift to the college was a donation to the Community Health Initiative, the student-run free clinic established by students in 2006. The graduates chose this gift as a way of giving back to the patients and the community they serve.

Richard Prayson, MD, MEd, Director of Student Affairs, gave the faculty presentation, which focused on the importance of gratitude, particularly in this fast-paced, hectic world in which we live. He reminded students to be grateful not only in this moment, but also wherever they are headed. He pointed out three aspects of gratitude that are essential: giving or expressing gratitude, accepting gratitude and the feeling of living it.

Jonathan Rose delivered the student presentation on behalf of the class of 2016. He congratulated everyone on their huge success in graduating and the futures that are in front

of them, then challenged his fellow students to keep their passion alive and to continue to focus on the patient. He encouraged his fellow students to embrace their future but to always remember their time at CCLCM.

[View the student video.](#)

The students honored Deborah Routh, Research and Assessment Coordinator, with the Award for Outstanding Contributions, and Justin Lathia, PhD, with the Excellence in Research Education award.

Each student received a scroll featuring the original Cleveland Clinic building along with its mission: to provide better care of the sick, investigation into their problems, and further education of those who serve.

Generous contributions from Mr. and Mrs. Lerner helped establish the Lerner College of Medicine in 2002. In 2004, we matriculated the first class of students, and each year since 2009 we proudly graduate thirty-some extraordinary individuals who think differently and are eager to make great things happen. The class of 2016 worked hard to build a foundation for a promising future — a sky full of stars — and they will undoubtedly be successful wherever they go.



Class of 2016



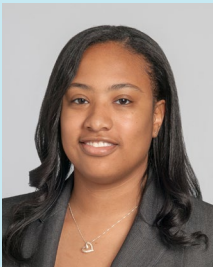
Vincent Cruz
Education: BS,
University of Michigan -
Ann Arbor, 1998
Residency:
Internal Medicine,
Case Western Reserve
University Hospital Case
Medical Center, OH



Emily Holthaus
Education: BA,
Johns Hopkins
University, 2011
Residency:
Obstetrics-Gynecology,
Cleveland Clinic, OH



Bogdan Kindzelski
Education: BS,
University of Michigan
- Ann Arbor, 2011
Residency: Thoracic
Surgery, Cleveland
Clinic, OH



Debra Dixon
Education: BS,
University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill,
2010
Residency: Internal
Medicine, Vanderbilt
University Medical
Center, TN



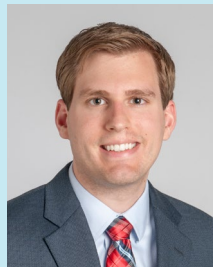
Jason Hsieh
Education: BS,
University of California
- Berkeley, 2004
Residency:
Neurological Surgery,
Cleveland Clinic, OH



Yumeng Li
Education: BS,
McGill University, 2011
Residency: Medicine-
Preliminary, Akron
General Medical Center/
NEOMED, OH
Dermatology, Jackson
Memorial Hospital, FL



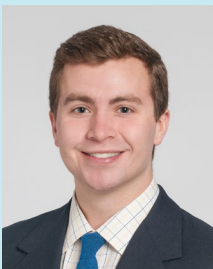
Rachel Elkin
Education: BA, Cornell
University, 2011
Residency: Pediatrics,
New York Presbyterian
Hospital-Columbia
University Medical
Center, NY



Thomas Hurst
Education: BS, Miami
University – Oxford,
2011
Residency: Internal
Medicine, University of
Michigan Hospitals-Ann
Arbor, MI



Christopher Loftus
Education: BS,
University of
Wisconsin - Madison,
2011
Residency: Surgery-
Preliminary/Urology,
University of
Washington, WA
Urology, University of
Washington, WA



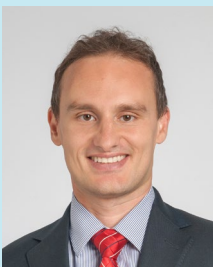
Nicholas Gajewski
Education: BA,
University of
Pennsylvania, 2011
Residency: Orthopaedic
Surgery, UCLA Medical
Center, CA



Sarah Jordan-Crowe
Education: BA,
St. Mary's College of
Maryland, 2010
Residency: Pediatrics,
Jefferson Medical
College/DuPont
Childrens, PA



Custon Nyabanga
Education: BA,
Pomona College, 2009
Residency: Internal
Medicine, New York
University School of
Medicine, NY



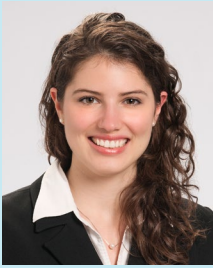
Fabrizio Galimberti
Education: BA, BS,
University of Hawaii at
Manoa, 2006 PhD,
Dartmouth College,
2011
Residency: Medicine-
Preliminary, Washington
Hospital Center, DC
Dermatology, Jackson
Memorial Hospital, FL



Jennifer Keene
Education: BS,
Franklin W. Olin College
of Engineering, 2010
MBA, Westminster
Gore School of
Business, 2011
Residency: Child
Neurology, University
of Washington, WA



Sameer Oak
Education: BS,
University of
Michigan - Ann Arbor,
2010
Residency:
Orthopaedic Surgery,
Cleveland Clinic, OH



Camila Odio
 Education: BA, Kenyon College, 2011
 Residency: Internal Medicine, Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT



Katherine Taljan
 Education: BS, Brown University, 2008
 Residency: Psychiatry, Cleveland Clinic, OH



Michael Zdradzinski
 Education: BA, LaSalle University, 2010
 Residency: Emergency Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, GA



Susan Orra
 Education: BA, Case Western Reserve University, 2011
 Residency: Plastic Surgery (Integrated), Georgetown University Hospital, DC



Sushrut Thiruvengadam
 Education: BA, Dartmouth College, 2011
 Residency: Internal Medicine, Stanford University, CA



Stuart Zeltzer
 Education: BS, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, 2011
 Residency: Family Medicine, Oregon Health & Science University, OR



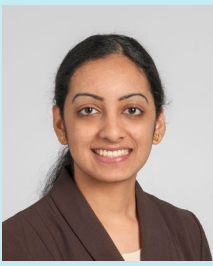
Jonathan Rose
 Education: BS, Boston College, 2006
 MS, Boston College, 2007
 Residency: Internal Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, MA



William Tierney
 Education: BA, University of California - Berkeley, 2008
 MS, Case Western Reserve University, 2011
 Residency: Otolaryngology, Cleveland Clinic, OH



Huan Zhang
 Education: BA, University of California - Berkeley, 2010
 Residency: Otolaryngology/Research, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, IA



Nehaw Sarmey
 Education: BS, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, 2011
 Residency: Neurological Surgery, Cleveland Clinic, OH



Jonathan Weimer
 Education: BS, University of Pittsburgh, 2011
 Residency: Medicine-Preliminary, Cleveland Clinic, OH
 Anesthesiology, Massachusetts General Hospital, MA



Yue Zhao
 Education: BS, University of California - Los Angeles, 2011
 Residency: Medicine-Preliminary, Akron General Medical Center/NEOMED, OH
 Ophthalmology, Cleveland Clinic, OH



Sean Steenberge
 Education: BS, John Carroll University, 2011
 Residency: Vascular Surgery, Cleveland Clinic, OH



Chen Yan
 Education: BS, Case Western Reserve University, 2011
 Residency: Neurology, Cleveland Clinic, OH



Joanna Zhou
 Education: BS, Duke University, 2011
 Residency: Obstetrics-Gynecology, University of Washington, WA



Sarah Strandjord
 Education: BS, University of Puget Sound, 2008
 Residency: Pediatrics, University of Washington, WA

2016

Class of 2016 Additional Degrees

The following students received degrees in addition to their MD with Special Qualifications in Biomedical Research:

- Vincent Cruz, MS in Clinical Research
- Debra Dixon, MS in Clinical Research
- Rachel Elkin, MS in Clinical Research
- Jason Hsieh, MS in Biomedical Engineering
- Jennifer Keene, MS in Biomedical Engineering
- Bogdan Kindzelski, MS in Clinical Research
- Marina Li, MS in Clinical Research
- Sean Steenberge, MS in Clinical Research
- Sarah Strandjord, MS in Nutrition
- William Tierney, MS in Clinical Research
- Jonathan Weimer, MS in Clinical Research
- Joanna Zhou, MPH

Awards to Graduates – Class of 2016

Student	Award	Description
Stuart Zeltzer	The Andrew J. Fishleder, MD Leadership Award	To a graduating Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities during medical school
Emily Holthaus	The Gita Gidwani, MD Award for Obstetricians and Gynecologists – Cleveland Clinic	In recognition of Dr. Gita Gidwani, first female surgeon at Cleveland Clinic. This award is given to the graduating student who most exemplifies integrity, compassion and hard work
Rachel Elkin	The Alfred S. Maschke Prize	To graduating students who have demonstrated excellence in the art and practice of medicine
Chen Yan	The American Academy of Neurology Award (AAN)	To the graduating student who excelled in neurology throughout their clinical years at Cleveland Clinic
Fabrizio Galimberti	The Dermatology Faculty Prize	To graduating students whose performances in dermatology have been outstanding
Rachel Elkin	The Senior Award for Excellence in Pediatrics sponsored by Cleveland Clinic Children's	To a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding performance in pediatrics
Jonathan Rose	The John Phillips Award	For an outstanding performance of a student in the field of internal medicine
Katherine Taljan	The Senior Award for Excellence in Psychiatry sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute	Given to the graduating medical student who demonstrated excellence in the Basic Core Psychiatry Clerkship at Cleveland Clinic. This student also demonstrated the qualities and characteristics of an empathic clinician using their training and clinical acumen to put "patients first"
Stuart Zeltzer	The Daniel E. Sweeney Award in Family Medicine sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic Medicine Institute	Given to the graduating student, having rotated at Cleveland Clinic, who demonstrates a commitment to excellence and upholds the high standards of family medicine
Chen Yan and Michael Zdradzinski	CCLCM Student Affairs Deans Award	Presented annually to a graduating student who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the Admissions and Student Affairs Office
Katherine Taljan	The Miriam Rosenthal Award for Excellence in Women's Mental Health	Awarded to a graduating medical student who has completed a project related to women's mental health and who has shown an appreciation for mental health concerns related to perinatal, post-partum and /or perimenopause issues.
Chen Yan	The Alice Paige Prize Cleveland	Awarded to a woman in the School of Medicine graduating class who has shown outstanding leadership qualities
Sean Steenberge	The Myron F. Kanter and Lawrence J. Kanter Endowment Fund Award	To the outstanding student enrolled in the School of Medicine specializing in cardiology or cardiovascular surgery

CCLCM Student Advocates for Healthcare in Washington, DC

Jessica Zhang ('20) was one of several medical students from across the country who attended last month's American College of Physicians' annual conference in Washington, DC. Jessica represented CCLCM in the Leadership Day advocacy events.

Teams of medical students and physicians spoke with elected officials and their legislative support teams about issues that shape internal medicine and primary care in the US, including the problem of rising drug costs and the importance of graduate medical education.

Thank you, Jessica, for participating in this important work.



CCLCM Faculty: Three Questions

Marguerite Group, MD
Physician Advisor

Q: What inspires you to teach?

Francis Bacon said, "Knowledge is power." Though Mr. Bacon, being a genius (but otherwise oafish and awkward), said this to gain political advantage, I read the quote through a different lens. Basic sciences — chemistry, biology and physics — do not deceive. The learner is freed to comprehend mysteries, overcome impediments and empathize with the universe by understanding science. The more one knows, the less one fears. Knowledge empowers us to solve problems, understand the world and those around us; perhaps one day, understand and accept ourselves.

The medical learning environment keeps the wonder of science fresh and familiar. Let me share a secret: I am not a teacher. I love learning and enjoy hanging out with people who love it too...shhh, don't tell.

Q: What's one lesson you wish you would have learned in college/medical school?

We humans are here for the process, not for the "ultimate" goal. Here are a few related concepts: The cost — emotional, social, monetary — of attaining a goal should be balanced with benefits or joys. Primary joy in achievement is enough for some. Others need a mosaic of life experiences. Find and be true to your place on the benefit spectrum. Worry is a waste of neurotransmitters and ATP. Problem solve with the

resources at hand. Remember, others' thoughts may lend a different, useful perspective. Then quiet fears of making the "wrong" decision. Few outcomes are permanent beyond death and bad tattoos. Finally, calm empathy, insight and personal accountability are more effective than verbal or physical manipulation. In the words of the Quaker missionary Etienne de Grellet, "I shall pass this way but once; any good that I can do or any kindness I can show to any human being; let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."

Q: If I weren't a physician at Cleveland Clinic and a faculty member at CCLCM, I would be...

The Clinic has been my second home for over 30 years. Few other venues could offer the depth and breadth of experience: Interesting cases, bizarre diagnoses, crazy stories, world-changing innovation, wonderful talent and famous, infamous and everyday humanity. Cleveland has been a terrific place to live and raise a family: great houses at great prices, inexpensive cost of living, college and professional sports, good food, nice people and Cedar Point. It sounds smarmy, but I wake up every day glad to care for patients, glad to work with young professionals. In a decade or so, when I leave Cleveland Clinic, I wish I could say I will travel, garden, maybe write novels. No, those options are too boring. I plan to be a physician and faculty member at the John A. Burns Medical School in Honolulu, Hawaii. Aloha, baby!

CCLCM Hosts Second Look 2016

The 13th CCLCM class will matriculate in July! Applicants accepted to the Lerner College of Medicine Class of 2021 returned for a second visit in April. Minority applicants reported early to meet minority faculty, students and administrative staff.

This year's faculty panel comprised Kathleen Franco, MD, Associate Dean, Admissions & Student Affairs; Linda Graham, MD, Assistant Dean, Research Education; Kendalle Cobb, MD, Physician Advisor; Altagracia Chavez, MD (retired); Alan Hull, MD, PhD, Associate Dean, Curricular Affairs; and Womack Stokes, MD, PBL Facilitator. Stacey Jolly, MD, Internal Medicine, was the keynote speaker.

The incoming class heard from a panel of current students on a variety of topics:

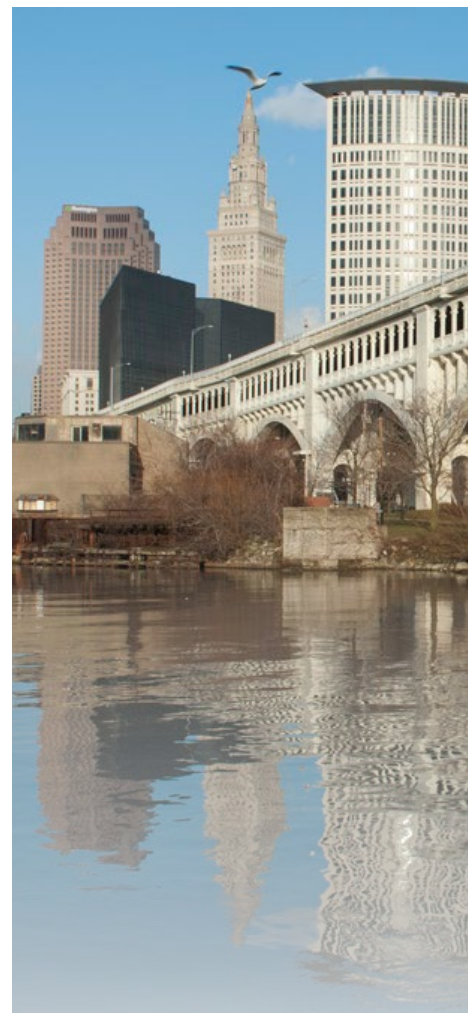
- Rachel Baird ('19): assessment and portfolio / mock PBL
- Mike Zdradzinski ('16): clinical experience, years 3, 4, 5 / mock PBL / CCLCM and Case opportunities / Free Clinic / Community Health Initiative
- Severine Kako ('20): PBL and interactive learning / mock PBL
- Janet Adegboye ('20): anatomy / mock PBL
- Alex Cantrell ('20): housing
- Noble Jones ('18): patient diversity / mock PBL / sports in Cleveland
- Kate Ituarte ('19), longitudinal preceptor / mock PBL
- Michael LaBarbera ('19): Physician Advisor Program / mock PBL
- Jennifer Keene ('16): research experience and opportunities / mock PBL
- Nick Szoko ('17): Doc Opera / diversity dinner series / LGBT
- Stuart Zeltzer ('16): Peru medical mission
- Megan Morisada ('18): surgery interest group

A number of faculty and students participated in the minority lunch, including: Janet Adegboye; Eric Anderson, MD; Lestella Bell ('20); Alex Cantrell; Altagracia Chavez, MD; Kendalle Cobb, MD; Kathleen Franco, MD; Alan Hull, MD, PhD; Kate Ituarte; Stacey Jolly, MD; Noble Jones; Severine Kako; Margaret McKenzie, MD; Kathleen Quinn, MD; Raul Seballos, MD; Elizabeth Shay ('20); Alicia Stallings ('17); Womack Stokes, MD; and Lamont Wilkins ('20).

CCLCM student Anne Runkle ('17) also helped with the event, along with several faculty members: Richard Drake, PhD, Director of Anatomy; Justin Lathia, PhD, Cellular and Molecular Medicine; Richard Prayson, MD, MEd, Physician Advisor; and James B. Young, MD, Executive Dean.

Applicants also participated in networking opportunities with faculty, staff, students and one another during lunches, receptions and open discussion panels. Applicants and current students enjoyed a dessert potluck and a social outing at the Corner Alley Uptown, a restaurant/bar/bowling alley.

The 2016 Second Look event was a tremendous success, and we look forward to the arrival of the Class of 2021!



ROUND UP

CCLCM Celebrates the Talent of Cleveland Arts Prize Winner

H. Leslie Adams, the winner of the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Prize in Music, shared his music and wisdom with attendees at “A May Bouquet” on May 10.

Mr. Adams is a Cleveland, Ohio, native who began playing the piano when he was 4. He studied music in New York City and California and in 1979 became a full-time composer. Since then, he has become the acclaimed composer of numerous works for solo instruments, songs and orchestral and theatrical works. His orchestral works have been performed by numerous renowned organizations, including the Cleveland Orchestra. His stage work, *BLAKE*, was featured in the VOX Showcase of the New York City Opera in addition to being featured in programs of the National Opera Association.

The Cleveland Arts Prize annually gives one Lifetime Achievement Award to a local artist who has worked in the region for decades. It was an honor to have Mr. Adams as a guest.

The program was presented by the Cleveland Clinic Arts and Medicine Institute; the Program in Medical Humanities (of the Center for Ethics, Humanities & Spiritual Care and Lerner College of Medicine); and the Cleveland Arts Prize.



CCLCM Hosts Humanities Conference

Over three days in April, over 130 humanities professionals from North America, Australia and Israel gathered in Cleveland for the “Arts and the Health Humanities: Intersections, Inquiry, Innovations” conference.

Those in attendance were treated to a broad array of presentations and performances in the burgeoning field of health humanities. The conference kicked off with a tour of the Cleveland Clinic art collection, poster presentations, panel discussions and a performance and workshop. The first evening wrapped up with a Hippocrates Café musical and literary event, featuring Jon Hallberg, MD, Robert Bell and Dan Newton.

The second day featured a number of speakers, panel presentations, five-minute flash presentations, workshops and performances. Jonathan Metzl, MD, PhD, from Vanderbilt University, delivered a keynote address on “The Politics of Health: Building an Interdisciplinary Pre-Health Curriculum around the Complex Meanings of Health and Illness.” A special lunchtime event emphasized poetry and the healing power of words, led by Jeanne Bryner, RN, BA, CEN, and Holly J. Hughes. The day closed with an art tour and dinner at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

A highlight of the last day of the conference was a performance called “Dancing with Dr. C. – a true story of brain surgery, ethics, writing, and the relationship between a patient and surgeon,” performed by Linda E. Clarke,

healthcare humanities practitioner, writer and storyteller; Katherine Burke, MFA, CCLCM; and James Lally, actor.

CCLCM students Megan Morisada ('18), Anne Runkle ('17), Alicia Stallings ('17) and Nick Szoko ('17), along with Case Medical School student DaShawn Hickman, participated in a workshop called “Learning about Empathy through Chekhov: “A Doctor’s Visit,” led by Guy Glass, MD, from the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics at Stony Brook University. Student Bob Sun ('19) was part of the panel on “Learners as Partners in Developing Health Humanities Curriculum and Scholarship” with colleagues from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

Throughout the three days, Katherine Burke and several attendees tweeted the highlights of the conference at #HHCLE2016.

Participants offered enthusiastic praise for the quality of the conference, which would not have been possible without the extraordinary efforts of the conference staff: Martin Kohn, PhD; Katherine Burke, MFA; Margo Schmiederer, intern; and volunteers Emilie Unkrich, Betsy Mesard and Michaela Stiber. Special thanks goes to the John P. Murphy Foundation for their generous support of the conference, as well as to CCLCM Executive Dean James B. Young, MD, for making this event possible.



Graduates Honor Colleagues for Excellence

On Saturday, May 14, at the Class of 2016 graduation celebration, Emily Holthaus ('16) presented Deb Routh, Research and Assessment Coordinator, with the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine Graduating Students' Award for Outstanding Contributions. This award is presented by each graduating class to a member of the college who most embodies the ideals of CCLCM and demonstrates the highest level of commitment to students.

Jason Hsieh ('16) presented Justin Lathia, PhD, with the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine Excellence in Research Education Award. This award was established in 2010 to recognize exceptional contributions to student learning and professional development in research.

Skyler Kalady, MD, General Pediatrics, received the Kaiser-Permanente Excellence in Teaching for Clinical Science, and Dileep Nair, MD, Neurology, received the award for Basic Science. The awards are given to faculty members who demonstrate exceptional commitment to the education of medical students. Students choose the winner of the awards, which are given to preclinical and clinical faculty members (two from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and two from the Lerner College of Medicine).



Dr. Tracy Hull receives Gender Equity Award

Tracy Hull, MD, Acting Chair of Colorectal Surgery, received the American Medical Women's Association Gender Equity Award. The award is supported by the women faculty of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and each year is presented to a clinical and preclinical faculty member who the students feel exemplify the principle of gender equality in their teaching and who promote a gender-fair environment in the education and training of physicians. The recipients of these awards are chosen entirely by the senior medical school graduating class.

Two Students Win Best Medical Student Project

Congratulations to the following students, who were recognized for “Best Medical Student Project” during the 2016 Pediatric Research Day, held on May 10:



Nicholas Szoko ('17) for
“Proteomic Analyses of Autism
Spectrum Disorder Brains”



Samantha Simpson ('17) for
“Serum Brain-Derived
Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF) Levels
Can Predict Bronchopulmonary
Dysplasia In Neonates”

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to pediatrics, and congratulations on your achievements!

Student Recognized for Interest in Infectious Disease

Congratulations to Jessica Ray ('17), who was chosen to receive the 2016 Rottman Family Fund Award, given to students who show interest in infectious disease.



Jessica Ray ('17) for “Molecular and clinical immune status
of HIV-exposed but uninfected (HIV EU) infants compared
to control HIV-unexposed infants (HIV UU): A cohort study
in Kisumu District, Kenya”

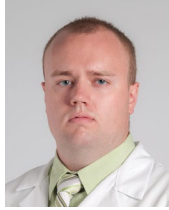
The award allows winning students to travel to Africa or another resource-limited country to conduct research on or help treat people with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The Rottman Family Fund Award is sponsored by Dr. Fritz and Carol Rottman and their family. To be considered for the award, students had to create a project relating to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis or malaria in a resource-limited country.

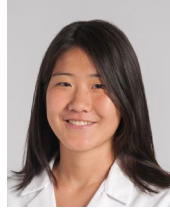
Congratulations!

Four CCLCM Students Included in HHMI Fellows Program

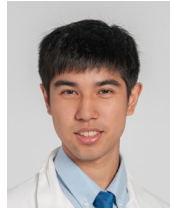
Four CCLCM students are among only 66 medical and veterinary students across the country who will spend a year in the HHMI (Howard Hughes Medical Institute) Medical Research Fellows Program.



Two students, Charles Dai ('17) and Daniel Hettel ('18), identified Cleveland Clinic researcher Nima Sharifi, MD, as their research mentor. Dr. Sharifi's lab focuses on prostate cancer research.



Anne Song ('18) will be doing research at Cleveland Clinic with Jeremy Rich, MD, as her mentor. Dr. Rich's lab focuses on brain cancer research.



Jason Ya ('19) will be mentored by Paul Khavari, MD, PhD, and Howard Chang, MD, PhD, both at Stanford University. His research focus will be non-coding RNAs in squamous cell carcinoma of the skin.

To apply for the fellowship, students need a mentor and a research proposal. If they are chosen, they spend an entire year conducting research, taking a break from their medical school studies.

This fellowship is the second for Charles, who competed for funding for another year.

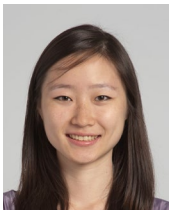
Congratulations, all!



Julie Foucher: Girl With Grit

Congratulations to Julie Foucher ('17), who appeared on Fox 8 News in a piece called "Girls with Grit" to talk about her life before and after CrossFit.

[Watch the segment.](#)



Yuanjia Zhu Elected to Leadership Post

Yuanjia Zhu ('17) was recently elected Medical Regional Director (Region 2) of the American Medical Student Association. She also serves as a student representative on the CCLCM Research Education Committee and the College Board of Student Representatives.

Congratulations, Yuanjia!

Two Researchers Win Outstanding Educator Award



Congratulations to the recipients of the annual Awards for Excellence, presented by the Lerner Research Institute to recognize faculty who excel in the areas of education, science and service. This year's recipients for the Outstanding Educator are David Van Wagoner, PhD, and Micheala Aldred, PhD, for contributions to research education.



CCLCM Faculty Member Accepts Prestigious Ockner Award

Many CCLCM faculty members have won numerous awards throughout their career, and that list continues to grow as we congratulate Neil Mehta, MBBS, MS, for winning the 2016 Stephen Ockner Internal Medicine Clinician Educator Award.

The award, named after the late Stephen Ockner, MD, an accomplished physician, teacher and scholar, and former chairman of Internal Medicine at Cleveland Clinic, is designed to recognize a staff physician in internal medicine who embodies the exceptional clinician educator qualities of Dr. Ockner.

A superb clinician, Dr. Mehta, Assistant Dean of Education Informatics and Technology at CCLCM, consistently exemplifies high quality care and compassion. His passion for and contributions to medical education, particularly around the use of technology, have earned him a solid reputation as a top educator. He also serves as a role model and mentor to many.

Dr. Mehta joins a distinguished group of faculty members including Mark Mayer, MD (2015), J. Harry Isaacson, MD (2014), and Craig Nielsen, MD (2013) who've won this award.

Congratulations, Dr. Mehta, and thank you for your continuous contributions to the college and our future physician investigators.



ALUMNI NEWS



From left to right: Dr. Gary Puckrein, President and CEO of the National Minority Quality Forum; Dr. Michael G. Knight; and Congresswoman Robin L. Kelly, Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust

Dr. Michael Knight Named Among the “40 Under 40 Leaders in Health”

Michael G. Knight, MD ('12) has been named one of the “40 Under 40 Leaders in Health” by the National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF). In its inaugural year, this award program honors young, influential minority leaders, including physicians, pharmacists, dentists, nurses, policy experts and researchers, who are making a difference in healthcare around the country.

The award winners were recognized at the 2016 NMQF Leadership Summit on Health Disparities and Congressional Black Caucus Spring Health Braintrust in Washington, DC, on April 12.

Dr. Knight completed his chief residency at Cornell and is now a physician and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania. He also serves as the founder and president of the [Renewing Health Foundation](#).

Dr. Nicholas Tan Presents Poster at IM Meeting

Nicholas Tan, MD ('15) presented a poster on post-op infection at last month's annual American College of Physicians Internal Medicine Meeting in Washington, DC.

Currently an internal medicine resident at Mayo Clinic, Dr. Tan reports that the culture, and depth and range of patients are very similar to those of Cleveland Clinic. The biggest difference is that he spends some days in a suit before changing into a white coat. He also reports that he still wants to pursue cardiology.

When the time comes, we're hoping he'll consider Cleveland Clinic!



Welcome New Applicant for the Class of 2043!

Cleveland Clinic urology resident Bradley Gill, MD, MS, and his wife, Heather, welcomed their baby boy into the world. Cameron Frederick Gill was born on April 16, 2016. The Lerner College of Medicine is looking forward to seeing Cameron's application in 2038!



We Mourn the Passing of Dr. Elaine Dannefer

Cleveland Clinic educator Elaine Dannefer, PhD, MSW, passed away peacefully at home May 26 with her husband, Dale, by her side.

Dr. Dannefer joined Cleveland Clinic in 2003 as Director of Educational Research and Assessment at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and Professor of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. She was responsible for overseeing the development, implementation and ongoing maintenance of the school's unique and innovative portfolio-based assessment system and educational research program.

Many colleagues and CCLCM students visited and wrote to Dr. Dannefer during the months of her illness, sharing the significance of her work and legacy. For example, in 2008, she was part of a small working group convened by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the National Board of Medical Examiners to explore the application of portfolios across the education continuum. She and Margaret McKenzie, MD, represented CCLCM at a national landmark conference to demonstrate how the CCLCM portfolio system could serve as a model for medical education, beginning in medical school and continuing into medical practice.

Before retiring at the beginning of 2016, Dr. Dannefer also served as a faculty member in the joint Cleveland Clinic and Cleveland State University Master of Education in Health Professions Education program.

During her career, Dr. Dannefer published numerous scholarly works. "Time to Loosen the Apron Strings: Cohort-based Evaluation of a Learner-centered Remediation Model at One Medical School," a paper she co-authored with S. Beth Bierer, PhD, MEd; and John Tetzlaff, MD, was recently chosen to receive the 6th Annual John A. Benson Jr., MD Professionalism Article Prize from the ABIM (American Board of Internal Medicine) Foundation.

Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Dannefer was the Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs at the University of Rochester School of Medicine where she established the Curricular Affairs Office, responsible for faculty and curriculum development, educational research and program evaluation. She played a key role in designing and implementing Rochester's comprehensive assessment of professional competence and developed the Dean's Teaching Fellow program.

Dr. Dannefer earned her master of social work degree from Indiana University and her PhD in sociology from the University of Rochester.

Everyone who had the pleasure of working with Dr. Dannefer knew her to be an exceptional educator and a kind and compassionate person. Many knew how much she loved her work. Her wisdom and quiet strength will be missed by all.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2016, at 2 p.m. at Forest Hill Presbyterian Church, 3031 Monticello Blvd., Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118.

[Read the online obituary and sign the guestbook.](#)



Annual Event Celebrates Humanism and Medicine

The Alice and Bert Lefkowich Celebration of Humanism and Medicine is an annual gathering to recognize the important intersection of medical practice, the humanities and the arts. This year's program, called "Reflective Practice Beyond Medical School," featured the voice of two Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine alumni.

Graduates shared how their special CCLCM education made them inspired physicians and more compassionate caregivers. Bryan Sisk, MD ('13) and Renee N. Salas, MD, MS ('09) engaged an audience of CCLCM students, Cleveland Clinic staff, community members and philanthropic supporters with tales of their journey through medical school and the impact of reflective writing on their career.

Through storytelling, poetry and song, Drs. Sisk and Salas demonstrated how personal reflection kept them grounded in the deep meaning of medicine and encouraged them to care for the human spirit as well as the body. Because of reflective practice, both have perfected empathetic patient practices and have navigated some of the more difficult medical cases, personally and professionally, confronted during their careers.

CCLCM's distinctive model of medical education empowered these practitioners to be holistically in tune with their role as caregivers and allowed them to identify their unique personal passions within the field of healthcare. Dr. Salas, currently practicing Wilderness Medicine at Massachusetts

General and serving as a clinical instructor for Emergency Medicine at Harvard Medical School, commented that without the opportunity to be creative and reflective during her training she would have not found her passion and instead would have followed a more "traditional" and less fulfilling career path. She now teaches the importance of reflective practice to others.

Dr. Sisk, specializing in pediatrics and palliative care, explained that because of his CCLCM training in the medical humanities, he now has a thoughtful ability to connect and communicate with his patients and others around the world. He is the accomplished author of *A Lasting Effect: Reflections on Music and Medicine* and has been published in several medical humanities journals and media outlets such as ABC News, Pediatric News and ChildrensMD.org.

The Alice and Bert Lefkowich Celebration of Humanism and Medicine is made possible by the generosity of Alice and the late Bert Lefkowich. They established the fund in gratitude for the care provided by their Cleveland Clinic physicians. At the event, Alice was recognized for her appreciation of the CCLCM program and its outstanding students.

Through the Lefkowich's charitable support, CCLCM continues to advance the work of the medical humanities in healthcare and serves as an admired training ground for gracious physicians.

Philanthropic Giving

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 Amy Kubacki, Senior Director of Development, at 216.636.5024 or at kubacka@ccf.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 2, 2016 | Noon

Body Donation Memorial Service
Cleveland Clinic, Lerner Building

June 16, 2016

Project Medical Education Day
Cleveland Clinic

July 5-10, 2016

Orientation for the new class
Cleveland Clinic

July 10, 2016 | 11 am

New Class White Coat Ceremony
Severance Hall

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.

Laura R. Greenwald, MBA, Managing Editor

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