

## Celebration Honors the 11th Graduating Class: The Class of 2019

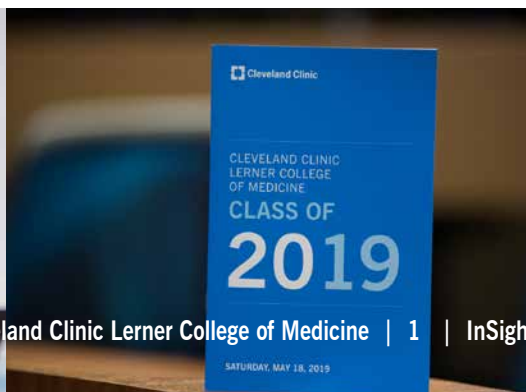
The 32 students of the CCLCM graduating class, their family and friends gathered on Saturday evening, May 18, to celebrate their hard work and many accomplishments over the last five years.

After welcoming colleagues, faculty, supporters, family and friends to the event, J. Harry Isaacson, MD, Executive Dean of the Lerner College of Medicine, acknowledged the 175th anniversary of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and Dean Pamela Davis, MD, PhD, who was awarded the Medal of Excellence in Health Science Innovation, CWRU's highest honor. He then recognized Mrs. Norma Lerner, who addressed the group with a video message since she was attending a family graduation. Dr. Isaacson also recognized Tom Mihaljevic, MD, CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic, and offered a special thanks to CCLCM caregivers Sade Jackson, Tanya Moore and Sammi Tobias who helped execute the graduation celebration.

Addressing the students, Dr. Isaacson shared three caregiver stories, all of which demonstrated compassion and the value of human connection in their professional lives. He referenced the book "Compassionomics: The Revolutionary Scientific Evidence That Caring Makes a Difference," by Stephen Trzeciak and Anthony Mazzealli, which shows that compassion reduces pain, improves healing, lowers blood pressure and helps alleviate depression and anxiety. "Compassion also seems to prevent doctor burnout — a condition that affects almost half of U.S. physicians," said Dr. Isaacson. "Evidence shows that connecting with patients makes physicians happier and more fulfilled."

Dr. Isaacson continued, saying, "Students, think of the opportunities you will have to touch the lives of not only patients but other residents, faculty, nurses and other healthcare providers in your

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# Celebration Honors the 11th Graduating Class: **The Class of 2019**

residencies and beyond. .... Tonight, as you prepare to make the transition from student to physician, remember the value of compassion in medicine.”

Dr. Mihaljevic then took the podium to congratulate the graduates and remind them that they always have a job at Cleveland Clinic if they so choose. “You are definitely the source of our pride ... and an essential part of our mission,” he said. Dr. Mihaljevic offered the students many words of wisdom, including to treat one another and their patients as their family. “I wish you nothing but the very best. Remember, we will always keep our lights on for you, so Cleveland Clinic will always be your home.”

Ling-Ling Lee and Jose Vega presented a thank-you book to both Mrs. Lerner and Dr. Mihaljevic for their ceaseless support of the program and its students.

The class gift to the college, presented by Josephine Volovetz and Kate Ituarte, was the establishment of the Franco Hull Class Gift for Student Wellness-related Activities. The fund is designed to support activities that promote physical and mental health while fostering community and camaraderie at CCLCM.

Roy Xiao introduced the student video, a reflection on the students’ last five years.

[View the student video.](#)

Marvin Natowicz, MD, Professor of Pathology and Thread Leader for Genetics, delivered the faculty presentation, which focused on collegiality and working together. “... as you now look at the person on your left and the person on your right, you see persons that you collaborated with and shared important learning experiences. For now and forever you have each other. This is a great success that you’ve been part of and an everlasting gift, both for your professional career and in your personal life,” he said.

On behalf of the class of 2019, Alex Chaitoff delivered the student presentation, which began with his knowledge, back in 2007 – the year he participated in a summer internship program at Cleveland Clinic – that he wanted to graduate from CCLCM. “This place does things differently, and that is precisely why we are prepared to have long, impactful careers,” he said. “Instead of focusing on grades, we were taught to focus on patients. Instead of taking esoteric tests, we were tasked with finding mentors to help us pursue our passions. Instead of sitting in lectures, we were working in small groups and in clinic learning the communication skills that really make healthcare work.”

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. As each student was recognized, CCLCM alumni Daniel Hettel, MD (’18), Jazmine Sutton, MD (’12), and Christine Warren, MD (’09) presented the graduates with alumni pins, welcoming them into the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association.

[View the entire graduation celebration video.](#)

During his remarks, Dr. Isaacson reminded the class of how much they’ve grown since 2014. “You have brought unique talents to medical school and worked intensely in teams for the past five years. You have touched the lives of patients. You have contributed to scientific discovery. You have made CCLCM a better medical school,” he said.

*Congratulations to the Class of 2019!*







## 2019 Award Winners



Outstanding  
Contributions Award  
**Kathleen Franco, MD**



The Gender Equity  
(Pre-clinical  
Faculty) Award  
**Robert Wilson, DO**



Excellence in Research  
Education Award  
**Trine Jorgensen, PhD**



Kaiser Permanente  
Award - Pre-clinical  
**Joseph V. Nally, MD**



Elaine F. Dannefer,  
PhD Award  
**Julie Rish, MD**



Kaiser Permanente  
Award – Clinical  
**Jennifer S. Kriegler, MD**

## Class of 2019

### Who's Staying?

Out of the 342 students who comprise  
all the CCLCM graduating classes:

- 59 matched at Cleveland Clinic for  
a residency program
- 7 are Cleveland Clinic staff  
physicians:



**Sumit Sharma, MD ('09)**  
Ophthalmology  
Appointed: 2016



**Ehsan H. Balagamwala, MD ('13)**  
Radiation Oncology  
Appointed: 2018



**Kevin Shrestha, MD ('13)**  
Internal Medicine  
Appointed: 2016



**Bradley Gill, MD ('12)**  
Urology  
Appointed: 2018



**Neil Woody, MD ('11)**  
Radiation Oncology  
Appointed: 2016



**Jazmine Sutton, MD ('12)**  
Hospital Medicine  
Appointed: 2017



**Christine Warren, MD ('09)**  
Dermatology  
Appointed: 2013



**Joseph Abraham**

Education: BA, Grinnell College, 2013; MS, Case Western Reserve University, 2019  
Residency: Research Fellowship Program, Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic



**Rachael Baird**

Education: BS, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2014  
Residency: Obstetrics-Gynecology, Cleveland Clinic



**Alexander Chaitoff**

Education: BS, The Ohio State University, 2013; MPH, University of Sheffield, 2015  
Residency: Medicine-Primary, Harvard/Brigham & Women's Hospital



**Karen Fang**

Education: BS, University of Southern California, 2013  
Residency: Pathology-AP & CP, University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals



**Anna Faris**

Education: BA, University of California at Berkeley, 2012  
Residency: Urology, University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor



**Joseph Featherall**

Education: BS, Rochester Institute of Technology, 2011  
Certificate Premedical Sciences, Columbia University, 2013  
Residency: Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Utah Affiliated Hospitals



**Jennifer Hu**

Education: BS, University of Chicago, 2014  
Residency: Medicine-Preliminary, Icahn SOM at Mount Sinai Ophthalmology, Columbia/Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute



**Catherine Ituarte**

Education: BS, University of Oregon, 2012  
Residency: Internal Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center



**Jaes Jones**

Education: BS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2014  
Residency: Neurological Surgery, University of Michigan Hospital, Ann Arbor



**Sahar Khan**

Education: BA, George Mason University, 2012; MS, Johns Hopkins University, 2014  
Residency: Emergency Medicine, Christiana Care Health System



**Michael LaBarbera**

Education: BS, University of Cincinnati, 2010; MS, Case Western Reserve University, 2014  
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals



**Ling-Ling Lee**

Education: BS, Carnegie Mellon University, 2013  
Residency: Family Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital



**Lin Lin**

Education: BS, Tsinghua University, 2008; PhD, UCLA, 2014  
Residency: Urology, University of California, Los Angeles, School of Medicine



**Aaron McBride**

Education: BS, Brigham Young University, 2014  
Residency: Surgery-Preliminary, Case Western/Univ Hosps Cleveland Med Ctr Radiology-Diagnostic, Cleveland Clinic



**Blair Mitchell-Handley**

Education: BS, Valparaiso University, 2011  
Residency: Obstetrics-Gynecology, Mercy Hospital & Medical Center





**Joshua Niforatos**  
Education: BA, Univ. of New Mexico-Main Campus, 2010  
Residency: Emergency Medicine, Johns Hopkins Hospital



**Tulsi Patel**  
Education: BS, Emory University, 2014  
Residency: Transitional, Aventura Hospital-FL Radiology-Diagnostic, George Washington University



**Ellen Romich**  
Education: BS, University of Pittsburgh, 2014  
Residency: Internal Medicine, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania



**Kelly Shibuya**  
Education: BS, Carnegie Mellon University, 2013  
Residency: Internal Medicine, University of Hawaii



**Dattanand Sudarshana**  
Education: BS, University of California, Irvine, 2013  
Residency: Neurology, University of California, San Francisco



**Bob Sun**  
Education: BA, Columbia University, 2014  
Residency: Pediatrics, University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals



**Carol Swetlik**  
Education: BA, University of Chicago, 2012  
Residency: Neurology, Cleveland Clinic



**Alexander Ulintz**  
Education: BS, University of Dayton, 2013  
Residency: Emergency Medicine, Indiana University School of Medicine



**Jose Vega**  
Education: BA, MA, Case Western Reserve University, 2014  
Residency: Orthopaedic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic



**Josephine Volovetz**  
Education: BA, Harvard College, 2014  
Residency: Neurological Surgery, Cleveland Clinic



**Natalie Walker**  
Education: BS, University of Kansas, 2014  
Residency: Obstetrics-Gynecology, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine



**Michael Walters**  
Education: BS, Xavier University, 2014  
Residency: Anesthesiology, Cleveland Clinic



**James Witten**  
Education: BA, Cornell University College of Arts and Sciences, 2013  
Residency: Thoracic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic



**Roy Xiao**  
Education: BA, Princeton University, 2014  
Residency: Otolaryngology, Harvard/Massachusetts Eye and Ear



**Allen Xu**  
Education: BS, Rice University, 2014  
Residency: Emergency Medicine, Northwell Health/Staten Island University Hospital



**Jason Ya**  
Education: BS, University of Virginia, 2010  
Residency: Medicine-Preliminary, Alameda Health Sys-Highland Hosp  
Dermatology, University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals



**Erin Yamamoto**  
Education: BA, Colorado College, 2011  
Residency: Neurological Surgery, Oregon Health & Science University

CLASS OF 2019

## Additional Degrees

Nineteen students received a master's degree in addition to their MD with Special Qualifications in Biomedical Research:

### **Clinical Research in the Clinical Research Scholars Program**

Joseph Abraham  
Rachael Baird  
Anna Faris  
Jennifer Hu  
Catherine Ituarte  
Aaron McBride  
Tulsi Patel  
Ellen Romich  
Michael Walters  
Roy Xiao  
Allen Xu

### **Bioethics**

Bob Sun

### **Biomedical Engineering**

Jaes Jones  
Natalie Walker

### **Nutrition**

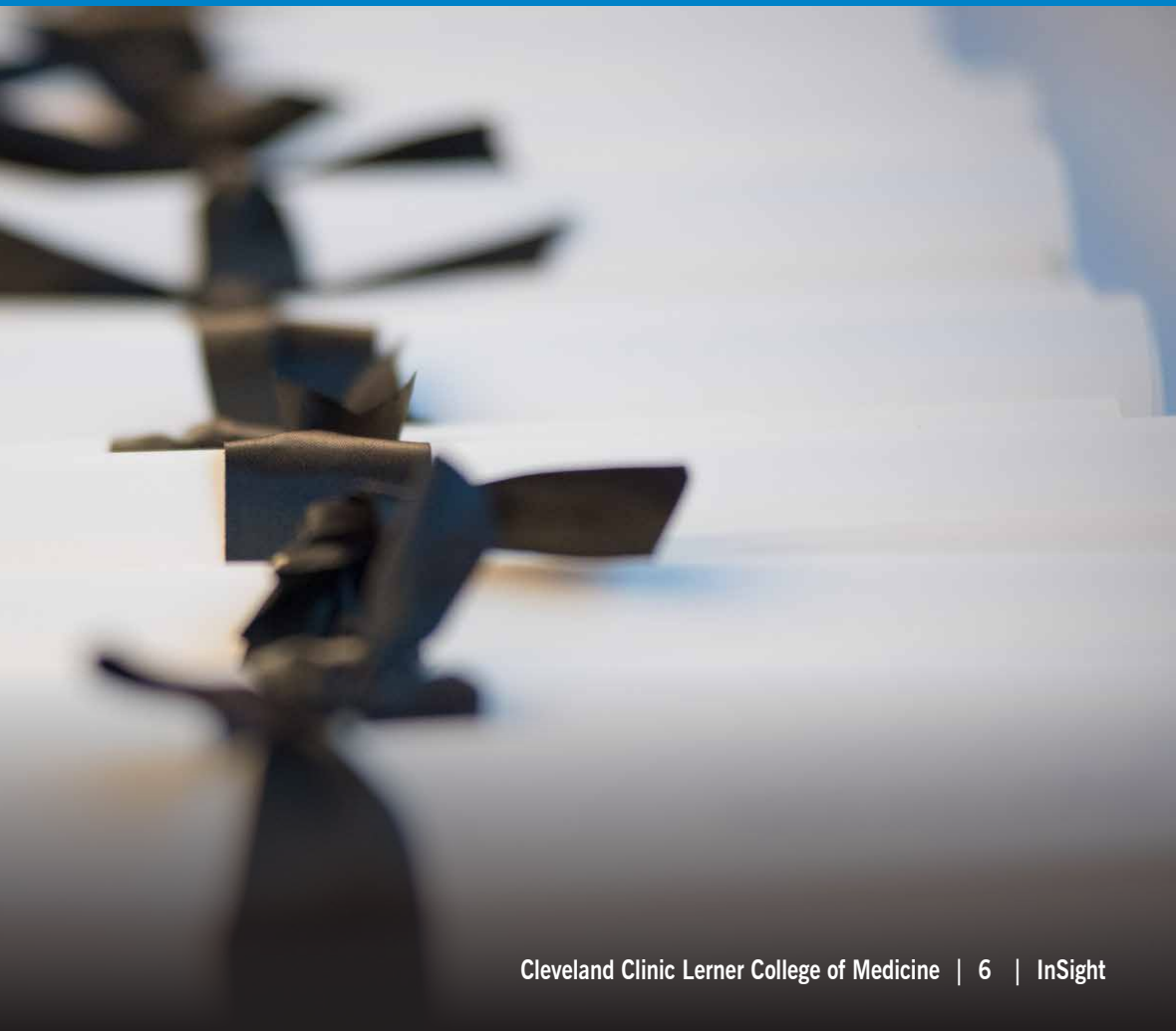
Ling-Ling Lee  
Kelly Shibuya  
Carol Swetlik  
Josephine Volovetz  
Erin Yamamoto

## Students share their aloha spirit

CCLCM seniors and native Hawaiians Kelly Shibuya and Erin Yamamoto arranged for beautiful floral leis to be shipped from Hawaii for the graduation ceremony. Leis are commonly given as a sign of affection and are often given at celebratory events, such as a graduation.

The student leis featured white orchids and fragrant tuberoses. Drs. Franco and Jorgenson wore leis made from Micronesian ginger. Dr. Isaacson wore a green orchid and tuberose lei, and Richard Prayson, MD, Professor of Pathology, wore a lei made from kukui nut and ti leaf.

"Throughout our five years, we've tried to share as much of Hawaii as possible with our classmates," says Kelly, adding that many of them have even taken a liking to Spam! "We were excited to have another opportunity to share some aloha with our wonderful classmates and faculty."



# Awards to Graduates

## The Betty Jean Frattianne, MD, Student Award

To the senior student who best exemplifies a commitment to the compassionate care of patients, volunteer service and sensitivity to the needs of the poor, the elderly and the handicapped.



Joshua Niforatos

## The John Phillips Award

For an outstanding performance of a graduating student in the field of internal medicine.



Ellen Romich

## The CWRU Medical Alumni Association Award

To a noteworthy graduating student whose kindness, empathy, respectfulness, appreciation of the human condition that impacts all patients and whose enthusiasm for clinical medicine, learned critical thinking and sense of motivation inspires classmates and faculty. The student has provided outstanding service and exemplifies the qualities of a true physician that are uniquely valued at the School of Medicine.



Alexander Chaitoff

## The Senior Award for Excellence in Neuroscience

To the graduating student who demonstrated excellence in the Basic Core Neuroscience Clerkship at Cleveland Clinic. *(Sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute)*



Michael LaBarbera

## The American Academy of Neurology Award (AAN)

To the graduating student who excelled in neurology throughout his/her clinical years at Cleveland Clinic.



Carol Swetlik

## The Alice Paige Cleveland Prize

Awarded to a woman in the School of Medicine graduating class who has shown outstanding leadership qualities.



Blair Mitchell-Handley

**The William Bligh-Glover, MD, Memorial Award** To the graduating student whose tutorial commitment has helped other students reach their full academic potential, thereby honoring the passion and dedication of the late Dr. William Bligh-Glover.



Josephine Volovetz

## The Senior Award for Excellence in Psychiatry

To a graduating medical student who displays excellence in psychiatry.  
*(Sponsored by the Cleveland Clinic Neurological Institute)*



Alexander Chaitoff



Joshua Niforatos



Carol Swetlik

## The Harry Resnick Memorial Fund Award

To graduating medical students who are deserving by virtue of unusual accomplishments.



Alexander Ulintz

## The Albert L. Lewin Award

To a graduating medical student who has demonstrated clinical excellence in pediatrics.



Bob Sun

## The Robert E. Hermann, MD, Award in Surgery in the Department of General Surgery at Cleveland Clinic

To a graduating medical student who most exemplifies outstanding academic and clinical performances during the surgical clerkship.



James Witten

>>continued

# Awards to Graduates *continued*

## The Dean's Award — The Office of Student Affairs

To graduating medical students who exemplify outstanding service and dedication to their classmates by assisting in their classmates' educational goals and achievements.



Rachael Baird

**The Sam Packer, MD, Memorial Award** To the graduating medical student whose intellectual ability, strength of character, demonstrated compassion, commitment to the community and belief in the high calling of the medical profession best exemplifies the ideals of Sam Packer, MD, Class of 1950.



Catherine Ituarte

**The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Award** To a graduating medical student who has demonstrated excellence in the specialty of emergency medicine.



Joshua Niforatos

## The American College of Emergency Physicians Award

To a graduating medical student who excels in compassionate care of patients, professional behavior, and service to the community and/or specialty.



Alexander Ulintz

## The Gita Gidwani, MD, Award for Obstetrics/Gynecology – 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.



Rachael Baird

## The Daniel E. Sweeney Award in Family Medicine

To the graduating student, having rotated at Cleveland Clinic, who demonstrates a commitment to excellence and upholds the high standards of family medicine.



Ling-Ling Lee

## 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.



Michael LaBarbera

## The Ivan E. Shalit Prize

To the graduating medical students who demonstrate excellence in care of patients.



Jose Vega

## The James S. Winshall, MD '92 Memorial Award

To the graduating medical students entering primary care who have distinguished themselves with superlative clinical and interpersonal skills.



Alexander Chaitoff

# 2019





J. Harry (Bud) Isaacson, MD

## We Must Address this Public Health Emergency

As physicians, we are committed to helping our patients live healthy, productive lives. In this age of a rapidly changing climate, that commitment extends to helping them understand how climate change can affect their health — more intense allergy seasons and deadly heat waves are just two examples — and what we all can do to both combat climate change and minimize its health effects.

In this issue of *InSight*, we highlight the work of Renee N. Salas, MD, MPH, MS ('09), the lead author of the "2018 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change Brief for the United States of America" (see "An urgent call to action," p. 13). According to the report, the threats to human health include increases in:

- **HEAT AND HEATWAVES,** which have contributed to roughly 1.1 billion labor hours lost in the U.S. between 2000 and 2017.
- **EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS,** including 16 (from hurricanes to wildfires) in the U.S. in 2017 alone, each costing north of a billion dollars and more than 3,275 lives.
- **VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES,** including Lyme disease and West Nile virus, the incidence of which has tripled between 2004 and 2016.

Adverse effects from climate change result from just a half-degree of warming. In the book "The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming," David Wallace-Wells writes that today we have "fully a third more carbon in the atmosphere than at any point in the last 800,000 years—perhaps in as long as 15 million years." He warns of collapsing ice sheets, water scarcity and an equatorial band too hot to be livable that could come with 2 degrees Celsius of warming.

As physicians, we must educate ourselves about the impacts of climate change on health and educate our patients without wading into political waters. We must elevate the discussion to focus on health, not politics.

The Cleveland Clinic Longitudinal Clerkship included a session on climate change and health during this past year. Dr. Salas and I are exploring how to build on this to develop a curriculum around climate change for our students, many of whom feel passionately about this topic. They wisely understand that climate change is a public health emergency, and we simply have no time to waste.

**Bud Isaacson, MD**  
*Executive Dean*

## IPE INFLUENCER:

Interprofessional education, or IPE, promises to be a major focus at the new Health Education Campus. IPE is defined as “occasions when two or more professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care” by the Center for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education (CAIPE). When healthcare students are prepared to truly work collaboratively, the benefits are many: improved patient outcomes; increased caregiver satisfaction; fewer medical errors; and reduced costs.

In this series, we'll introduce you to the people from CCLCM and CWRU who are leading and influencing the IPE movement. This month's IPE influencer is Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN, from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing.

# Three Questions

**Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN**

*Dean, Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing*



A member of the school of nursing faculty since 1994, Carol M. Musil, PhD, RN, was recently named Dean of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing after having served as interim dean since last September. A prominent researcher, Dr. Musil is deeply involved in studying the physical and psychological effects of caregiving, with special emphasis on grandmothers raising grandchildren. She leads a four-year, \$2 million grant from the NIH's National Institute on Nursing Research for her clinical trial "GIFT: Grandmother Initiatives in Family Transformation." She is also heading the Pilot Projects Core of the NIH/NINR-funded SMART (Self-Management Advancement through Research and Training: Brain-Behavior Connections) Center at CWRU. A Fellow in the American Academy of Nursing and the Gerontological Society of America, Dr. Musil was honored by the Midwest Research Society in 2018 for her "Distinguished Contributions to Research in the Midwest." She earned a PhD in nursing and a Master of Science in nursing from CWRU; completed an NIMH post-doctoral fellowship in geriatric mental health nursing at CWRU; and earned her Bachelor of Science in nursing from the University of Cincinnati.

## 1. Give an example of a professional behavior that's necessary to have in order to succeed in an IPE environment.

Certainly professional behavior is important, but that should be a given. We need to be more thoughtful listeners and, as a result, more thoughtful learners. We are taught to debate and discuss, but we are challenged to create genuine dialogue where we really listen to what the other person says, learn from their perspective and come up with the best approaches to patient-centered care, interdisciplinary research and pedagogy that brings it all together.

## 2. Any myths about the profession of nursing you'd like to bust?

Myth #1: Nurses work only in hospitals at the bedside. Many people think that nurses work primarily in hospitals, providing bedside care, and many do. But nurses can be found in any healthcare setting and beyond, including as principal investigators of NIH-funded research, presidents of hospitals or leaders in international health efforts. A nursing degree opens up an unimaginable number of opportunities.

Myth #2: Nurses are only there to take orders from others. Nurses are an integral part of any healthcare team. As the one who spends the most time with patients, nurses often take the lead in patient care. Their role varies depending on their level of education, certification and state regulations on scope of practice. Nurses with advanced degrees can become nurse practitioners who run their own practice or work in collaboration with physician teams; can become midwives who deliver babies; or provide mental healthcare, just to name a few possibilities.

## 3. What excites you most about IPE?

IPE is an opportunity for students from different disciplines to learn together and practice together as colleagues and to change the way that we deliver healthcare. I'm hopeful that the structure of the HEC itself will create opportunities for students and faculty to interact in new ways that lead to both planned and serendipitous changes in the healthcare system.

[Learn more about Dr. Carol Musil.](#)

## Dr. Christine Warren selected to lead Admissions and Student Affairs

Christine Warren, MD, MS ('09), Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine and a staff member in Dermatology, has been selected as the new Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs. She will fully assume the role after Kathleen Franco, MD, retires in August after 17 years of exemplary service to CCLCM and 27 years of service to Cleveland Clinic as a staff physician in Psychiatry.



"As a graduate of the inaugural class, I am invested in preserving and supporting its diverse, curious and collaborative student body, which is essential to achieving the program's mission of training physician investigators," says Dr. Warren. "A critical aspect of being the Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs is encouraging and preserving student wellness and being consistently available to them for their personal and academic concerns. I aim to model the support provided by Dr. Kathy Franco to the students and am grateful for her mentorship."

Dr. Warren completed her internship at Georgetown University Hospital and residency in dermatology at the Yale School of Medicine. A Lerner College graduate, she joined Cleveland Clinic as a staff member in 2013.

Please join us in thanking Dr. Franco for her vision, dedication and countless contributions to CCLCM and to the outstanding education of our medical students. Please also join us in warmly welcoming Dr. Warren to her new role.

## CWRU and Cleveland Clinic dedicate new dental clinic and community park

Part of the Health Education Campus, the new dental clinic and community park are ready for use. The 132,000-square-foot dental clinic is located directly across from the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion on Chester Avenue and opened to patients on June 3. The 28,000-square-foot Newton Avenue Park features playground equipment, a walking trail and green space. Both the dental clinic and park are designed to enhance the health and well-being of area residents.

"Cleveland Clinic is firmly committed to supporting our community. We are proud that the addition of the dental clinic became part of the Health Education Campus design and will provide greater access for patients where they live and to nearby schools and community centers," said Tom Mihaljevic, MD, Cleveland Clinic CEO and President.

[Read the entire story and view photos.](#)

## Students present research at national conference

Kaitlin Keenan ('20) and Alex Chaitoff ('19) presented their research at the Society of General Internal Medicine's annual meeting in Washington, DC, last month.

Kaitlin presented two posters:

- "Characteristics of patients who receive opioids during an acute medical hospitalization"
- "Characteristics of use of self-monitoring of blood glucose in patients with non-insulin dependent type 2 diabetes"

Alex also presented two posters:

- "Scope and correlates of chronic non-cancer pain in primary care"
- "Opioid prescribing patterns for chronic non-cancer pain in a primary care population"

Alex contributed to the work presented on another poster, entitled "Evaluating the effect of reporting pain on care for elevated blood pressure."





## Postcards from Hawaii

Several CCLCM students and alumni visited Hawaii recently, most within the last couple of months.



Hiking to the Lanikai Pill Boxes were Class of 2019 members (top) Alex Chaitoff and Erin Yamamoto; (bottom) Kelly Shibuya and Natalie Walker. Graduating seniors Kelly Shibuya and Erin Yamamoto are both from Hawaii and went home for vacation after they matched into their residency programs in March. Natalie spent her vacation week in Hawaii, and Alex joined the group during a one-day layover from New Zealand.



Seven students from CCLCM Class of 2019 visited Hawaii last winter, climbing to the top of Koko Head Crater on Oahu. L to R: Erin Yamamoto, Kate Ituarte, Rachael Baird, Anna Faris, Kelly Shibuya, Aaron McBride and Bob Sun.



Alex Ulintz ('19) stopped by the Big Island to swim with manta rays on his way home from New Zealand.



CCLCM alumni and new graduates gather for fun and sun. L to R: Michael Tee, MD ('14), Vishnu Ganesan, MD ('17), Joseph Hadaya, MD ('17), Kelly Shibuya ('19) and Erin Yamamoto ('19). Dr. Tee is currently working on his intern (preliminary) year at the University of Hawaii, and Drs. Ganesan and Hadaya coordinated their vacation to visit him.



James Witten ('19) and his wife, Meg, hiked the Honopu Ridge Trail at Kōke'e State Park, Kauai.





## ***AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION***

**DOCTORS ARE A TRUSTED SOURCE TO  
SPEAK OUT ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF  
CLIMATE CHANGE ON HUMAN HEALTH**





## AN URGENT CALL TO ACTION

DOCTORS ARE A TRUSTED SOURCE TO SPEAK OUT ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON HUMAN HEALTH



Renee Salas, MD, MPH, MS

A nationally recognized expert on climate change and health, Renee N. Salas, MD, MPH, MS ('09), was recently the lead author on a pivotal climate change report, noting the ways in which climate change is currently affecting the health of Americans. The report, entitled the ["2018 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change Brief for the United States of America,"](#) was published on Nov. 28, 2018.

Using U.S.- specific data from the 2018 global Lancet Countdown report, case studies, and straightforward charts and graphics, the report underscores the critical need to respond to climate change to reduce and prevent its negative health impacts, including death, to Americans. Dr. Salas and her co-authors outlined recommendations for action, including:

1. to understand the negative impacts of climate change (e.g., heat, extreme weather events, climate-sensitive illnesses) on human health.
2. for hospital systems to lead the evolution toward renewable energy.
3. for increased spending for health-related adaptation to climate change.
4. to prepare healthcare professionals on climate change impacts and educate the public to understand the urgency.

"While addressing climate change can seem daunting, there is a lot of hope in the unique opportunity we have at this time in history to impact the lives of future generations and to protect the vulnerable," says Dr. Salas.

Dr. Salas is currently Affiliated Faculty and a Burke Fellow at the Harvard Global Health Institute and a clinical instructor of emergency medicine at Harvard Medical School. She practices emergency medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital.





# Welcome New Caregivers

**Traci Brandt** joined the CCLCM team as an education coordinator, supporting the Basic Science Education program. Traci has been at Cleveland Clinic for more than three years, supporting several physicians in the Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute as an administrative assistant. Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic, she worked as a case manager, associate teacher and assistant, working with children and young adults with special needs and autism. She earned her BA in psychology and sociology from Kent State University.



Traci Brandt



Nichole Davis

**Nichole Davis** joined the CCLCM team as the new education coordinator for the year-three team-based care clinical curriculum. With more than 15 years of administrative experience at Cleveland Clinic, Nichole served as the night coverage program coordinator for the Hospital Medicine Department and as an administrative assistant in the Cerebrovascular Center and Internal Medicine Department. She has a BS in business management and is currently pursuing a Master of Education degree in adult learning and development.



Brenda Lowe

**Brenda Lowe** joined the CCLCM team as the new administrative assistant for Executive Dean J. Harry Isaacson, MD, and CCLCM. Brenda has more than 15 years of executive administration, and project and office management experience. She had been supporting the Cleveland Clinic Hospital Medicine Department for more than two years. Prior to that, she served as the executive assistant to the CEO and executive staff of Fives North American Combustion, Inc. Brenda has a BS in business management and a certificate in religious studies and human resources from Indiana Wesleyan University.

Please join us in welcoming Traci, Nichole and Brenda to our CCCLM family.



ACCOLADES



Lestella Bell

## Student earns top spot for clinical science poster

At the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Annual Medical Education Conference in April, **Lestella Bell** ('20) participated in the Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan Research Forum. At the forum, she presented her poster, entitled "Pregnancy Outcomes and Reproductive Health after Liver Transplantation: A Survey of 100 Women," which was selected for the Medical Student Clinical Science Poster Award.

In addition to earning a top spot for her poster, Lestella was voted the Region V MAPS Liaison for SNMA. "This position provides me the opportunity to support the matriculation of medical students from undergraduate universities across Michigan, Ohio and Indiana," she says.

Congratulations, Lestella!



## Students awarded scholarships

**Chan-Mi Lee** ('21) and **Bryan Naelitz** ('21) were chosen by the Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) Board of Trustees to each receive a \$5,000 AMEF scholarship to help them with their 2019-20 academic year.

These annual scholarship awards are given to qualified third- and fourth-year medical students who possess leadership skills and demonstrate both academic achievement and an interest in organized medicine and community activities.

AMEF is the charitable arm of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio.

**Jacob Knorr** ('22) was awarded a scholarship from the Blancheola Bontrager Medical Trust. The scholarships are available to eligible students who are residents of Holmes or Wayne County in Ohio, and are designed to help defray the costs of medical school.

## Student accepted into cancer research program

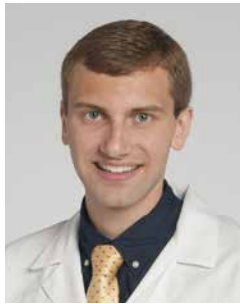
**Matt Nagy** ('23) was accepted into the Cancer Center Summer Training for Medical Students program, which is supported by the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Brian Werbel Memorial Fund. The program is designed to support medical student fellows while they conduct cancer research.

Matt is working with Seth Rotz, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and a pediatric oncologist with Cleveland Clinic Children's, to discover whether or not there are alterations to the gut microbiome of pediatric cancer survivors that predispose them to developing metabolic syndrome, a chronic condition that includes central obesity, elevated blood sugar, hypertension and dyslipidemia.

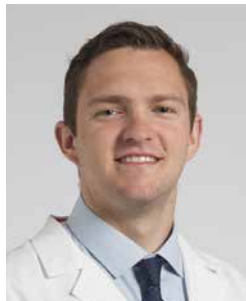
Congratulations, Matt!



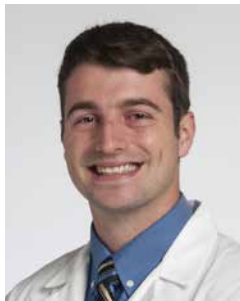
Chan-Mi Lee



Bryan Naelitz



Jacob Knorr



Matt Nagy

## CCLCM displays strong presence at national ACP meeting

Three CCLCM students attended the recent American College of Physicians Internal Medicine Meeting in Philadelphia, and one returned with a first-place prize.

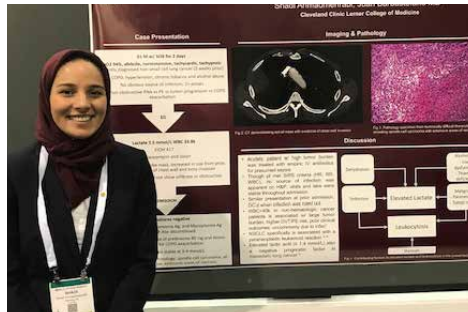
**Lauren Larkin** ('21) presented her clinical vignette poster, entitled "Atypical Presentation of Mycoplasma Pneumonia-associated Mucositis Syndrome in a Young Adult." Her poster was among five that were chosen as winners in the Medical Student Clinical Vignette Poster category.

**Shadi Ahmadmehrabi** ('21) presented her clinical vignette poster, entitled "Leukocytosis and Elevated Lactate – Is it Always Sepsis?"

**Emily Rose** ('21) helped plan the meeting as a student member of the National ACP Council.



Lauren Larkin



Shadi Ahmadmehrabi



Emily Rose

## Students Volunteer at Minority Men's Health Fair

Nearly two dozen CCLCM students were among the 400 Cleveland Clinic volunteers who donated their time and service at the 17th Annual Minority Men's Health Fair, which took place at four Cleveland Clinic facilities this past April: main campus, Akron General Hospital, Lorain Family Health Center and Lutheran Hospital.

Volunteers provided free health education and many tests and screenings, including blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, prostate cancer, kidney function, heart disease, hepatitis C, sickle cell disease, vision and dental, to name but a few.

One group of students, pictured and named at the right, helped with HIV testing. "I'm sure I speak for a lot of us when I say that this was a great experience that allowed us to learn new medical skills, interact with the community, as well as work with some wonderful, experienced health experts," says Joan Nambuba ('22).

Another group of students helped with hypertension/kidney disease screening and/or research. The group included: Vision Bagonza ('23), Perry Dinardo ('21), Dena Guo ('23), Carrie Johnson ('23), Severine Kako ('20), Jacob Knorr ('22), Chan Mi Lee ('21), Bryan Naelitz ('21), Stephanie Njemanze ('23), Srinidhi Singuri ('23) and Lamont Wilkins ('20).

Paola Barrios ('21) volunteered at Lutheran Hospital with Monica Yepes-Rios, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine. "It was absolutely amazing that we could do this for this population. This event inspired me to continue working towards my goal of wishing to closely work with this population during my career as a physician," says Paola. "I was very excited to be part of this event!"

[Learn more about the health fair in this local media coverage video.](#)

This annual health fair could not be as successful as it is without the tremendous help of volunteers such as our students. Kudos to our students for selflessly giving to others and for helping to make this community event that much more meaningful to its attendees.



L to R, front row: Surabhi Tewari ('23), Lauren Heusinkveld ('23), Lisa Kojima ('23), Maleeha Ahmad ('23), Diana Lopez ('23) and Joan Nambuba; back row: Heeruk Bhatt ('23), Anthony Onuzurike ('23), Emese Kanyo ('23) and Sherif Mossad, MD, Professor of Medicine.



Dr. Yepes-Rios and Paola Barrios (second and third from right, respectively), pictured with their fellow volunteers, a group of residents and attendings.



## Dr. Matifadza Hlatshwayo expands role to include clinical instruction

Matifadza Hlatshwayo, MD, MPH ('10), has joined the Department of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases as a clinical instructor at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. In her clinical practice, Dr. Hlatshwayo cares for people living with HIV and hepatitis B and C infections. She also serves as the lead HIV clinician, GME coordinator and OPAT supervisor at the VA Medical Center in St. Louis.



Matifadza Hlatshwayo, MD, MPH

In addition to her clinical duties, Dr. Hlatshwayo holds a leadership position within the medical school's Office of Inclusion and Diversity, and is involved in recruiting, retaining and mentoring underrepresented trainees.

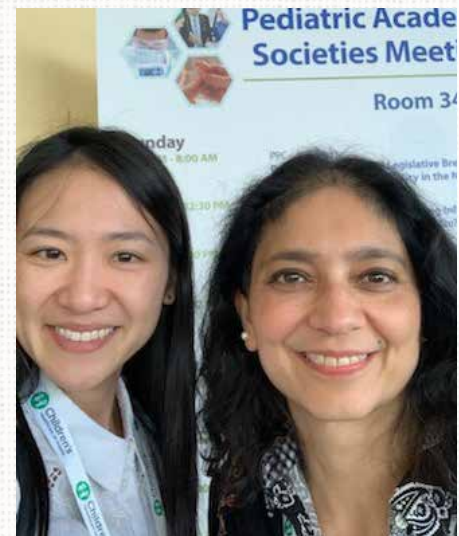
After graduating from CCLCM, Dr. Hlatshwayo completed a two-year infectious disease fellowship, a one-year non-ACGME HIV fellowship and a dedicated two-year STD fellowship from Washington University School of Medicine.

## Alumni connect

While attending the Pediatric Academic Society annual meeting in Baltimore recently, Sangeeta Krishna, MD, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Associate Clerkship Director of Pediatrics, ran into Satoko Kanahara, MD ('11), and Marcella Luercio, MD ('14).

At the conference, Dr. Kanahara presented a workshop called "Delivering Refugee Healthcare in a Community Setting." She is currently working as a med-peds primary care physician in a federally qualified health center in the South Bronx. "If any of the students are interested in working in a medically underserved community clinic, please let me know!" she says.

Dr. Luercio completed a chief resident year last year and is in her first year as a pediatric hospitalist at Boston Children's Hospital. She is also involved in increasing the diversity of trainees in her residency program. "I was just bragging about CCLCM to my colleagues the other day!" she says.



Satoko Kanahara, MD, and Sangeeta Krishna, MD



## We mourn the loss of Michael Licina, MD

Anesthesiologist Michael Licina, MD, Professor of Anesthesiology, died April 24 after a nine-year struggle with renal cell cancer. He was 64 years old.

In 1988, Dr. Licina began his career at Cleveland Clinic in the Department of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology. Prior to this, he served in active duty service for the U.S. Navy for eight years. He was a superb clinician, educator and administrator for the department, serving as its Vice Chair of Operations from 2007 to 2017.

Dr. Licina had many academic accomplishments and numerous publications. He was Senior Examiner for the American Board of Anesthesiology, a committee member of the National Board of Echocardiography, a Problem-Based Tutor for CCLCM, and recipient of multiple clinical teacher of the year awards in the Department of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology over the course of his career. In recognition of his professional and personal excellence, the department renamed the Clinical Fellow of the Year award after Dr. Licina in 2017.

“I knew Mike for many years, as a cardiothoracic anesthesiologist, colleague, friend and devoted member of the CCLCM faculty, starting in the very early years. We owe him a debt of gratitude for being a PBL facilitator before we really knew much about the role. He will be missed by students and faculty,” says Christine Moravec, PhD, Assistant Professor of Molecular Medicine and Assistant Dean for Basic Science Education.

Dr. Licina was famous for his irreverent humor, his comforting management style, his consummate respect for all members of the care team and his extraordinary experience in managing critically ill patients.

He was an avid golfer and enjoyed skiing with his children, vacationing yearly in Kiawah, South Carolina, and traveling with his dear wife, Kelly, all over the world during their 40 years of marriage. He loved to savor Scotch and read military history while his beloved dog, Toby, laid at his feet.

Dr. Licina is survived by Kelly, daughter Lauren Licina, MD (Department of Pediatric Anesthesiology), son-in-law Daniel Wyler, MD (Department of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology), daughter Claire Licina, RN (Ob/Gyn & Women's Health Institute), daughter Catherine Licina, son Matthew Licina, and daughter Rachel Licina.



>>continued

## We mourn the loss of Rakesh Engineer, MD

Emergency Medicine physician and Assistant Professor of Medicine Rakesh Engineer, MD, died May 10 in his sleep. He was 49 years old.

He began his career at Cleveland Clinic in 2001 in the Department of Emergency Medicine, where he worked as an accomplished physician caring for patients for 18 years.

“We all knew Rakesh as a brilliant, caring physician and as a terrific, enthusiastic educator who gave so much to CCLCM,” says Neil Mehta, MBBS, MS, Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs.

Dr. Engineer conducted research and organized conferences to continue to advance the practice of medicine. He completed his Bachelor of Science in 1992 and medical doctorate in 1996 from The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. He then completed post-graduate training at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, and Spectrum Health at Butterworth Hospital/Michigan State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He also became a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Medicine in 2004.

Emergency Medicine physician and colleague Baruch Fertel, MD, says Dr. Engineer “loved teaching” and “was passionate about high quality emergency care.”

“He was a nationally known expert on evidence-based medicine in his field and a leading expert on the use of high-sensitivity troponin in the ED for the evaluation of patients with chest pain,” Dr. Fertel says, adding that for this work, Dr. Engineer was nominated for the prestigious 2018 Martin Sones Award.

Dr. Engineer also led a popular, long-running national Emergency Medicine CME course, called “Emergencies in Medicine,” and he was very active in the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM), having served on the SAEM Program committee and Finance committee and having also chaired the Continuous Medical Education accreditation committee.

Outside of work, Dr. Engineer loved spending time with his family and his friends, and he was active in the community. He had diverse interests, including biking, gardening, home improvement projects, watching sports, music, traveling and cooking. Dr. Engineer also served as a coach for his sons’ sports teams and as a Trustee on the Board of Ruffing Montessori School in Cleveland Heights. He is survived by his wife, Nivi, and his three sons.





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

**June 14, 2019 | 7:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Basic Science Curriculum Leader's Retreat**  
Health Education Campus



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:greenwl@ccf.org).

# InSight

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