

InSight

Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine

September 2017



Annual Medical Mission to Peru Drives Innovation, Research and Empathy

The Peru Health Outreach Project (PHOP), a student-organized and -led project, in collaboration with the Peruvian American Medical Society, took medical care to the indigenous population in the Sacred Valley and Chíncha regions of Peru for the 10th year in a row. A collaboration between CCLCM and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, and under the guidance of faculty advisers Sangeeta Krishna, MD, and Humberto Choj, MD, PHOP gives students and their mentors the opportunity to provide free medical services and health education to the people of Peru.

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This year's team of 35 included 14 CWRU School of Medicine students and nine second-year CCLCM students: Paola Barrios, Andrea Boyd-Tressler, Jessica Cooperrider, Perry Dinardo, Mikey Jiang, Frank May, Daniel Moussa, Lillian Sun and LeAnne Young.

For the first time, the team attracted participants from the University of California, Los Angeles; University of Colorado; University of Michigan; and private groups from Michigan and Maryland. All told, this year's team consisted of nursing students, a Cleveland Clinic RN, pediatric staff and residents, family medicine residents, as well as staff from infectious disease, pulmonary critical care and oncology.

The students run health fairs where they provide diabetes, hypertension and anemia screenings, as well as sexual health education, and they set up vision clinics in both urban and rural areas where they distribute glasses. Instructors teach medical students how to conduct patient interviews and examinations, and how to develop a diagnosis and create a plan of care. Their primary goal is to empower community members to take better care of their health by offering counselling about lifestyle issues, dietary changes and physical activity.

During this year's trip, students taught CPR and sexual health education in local high schools, and faculty shared healthy lifestyle information with local television viewers. Under Lillian's leadership, the team educated Peruvian patients on common upper respiratory airway diseases for the first time. The group learned how to make spacers for inhalers out of plastic water bottles, a skill which proved useful when teaching asthma patients who needed inhaled medication. Students also taught their patients how to do this on their own.

The trip is also an opportunity for students to conduct global health research, the goal of which is to inform and eventually make impactful changes in the way medicine is practiced in Peru. This year, the students collected data for four research projects currently under analysis (see sidebar).

The group is beginning to incorporate innovative ways to help improve medical care in these communities. As an example, Mikey brought two devices with him on the trip as a pilot project to explore the viability of using imaging technology in remote locations. From within a tiny mountain village at 12,000 feet, Mikey's innovative idea helped acquire a clear image of a 3-year-old girl's heart.

The team hopes that by pairing portable technologies with a distance health platform they can enhance future medical missions.

Daniel says that while the trip provided a valuable learning experience for the students, the most important outcome is that it makes a sustainable difference in so many people's lives. Fellow student Lillian agrees. She says small things, like giving someone their first pair of glasses, can make a big difference in the quality of their life. But equally important, the mission is life altering for the students, who are inspired to use their gifts and training to improve health care globally.

PHOP instills collaboration and helps participants grow. Students gain a heightened awareness of global medical practices, and some have the chance to improve their Spanish-speaking skills. Each year, PHOP provides valuable takeaways not limited to healthcare and medicine. Its foundation of cultural discovery and self-reflection will last for both those the program serves and for those who serve.

For questions or if you are interested in participating, please contact Humberto Choi, MD (choih@ccf.org) or Sangeeta Krishna, MD (krishns@ccf.org).



An adapted version of this article originally appeared on Today, the Cleveland Clinic employee intranet. Photos courtesy of Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine student Andrea Huynh.



Student Research Projects

Participation in the Peru Health Outreach Project offers students the chance to apply their experience to research projects:

- *Assessment of dermatological needs in urban and rural Peru* by Andrea Huynh (CWRU) and Lillian Sun ('21)
- *Medication adherence in patients with chronic illnesses* by Sanaa Mansoor (CWRU) and Sadia Tahir (CWRU)
- *Exploring the impact of global medical mission trip on improving cultural competency* by Daniel Moussa ('21)
- *Assessing how access to care and lifestyle behaviors affect eye health needs and outcomes in Peru* by LeAnne Young ('21), Lillian Sun ('21), Jawad Arhad (CWRU) and Lynn Daboul ('21)

2017 Student Clinician's Ceremony

Before entering their third-year clerkship program, the Case Western Reserve University SOM Class of 2019 and CCLCM Class of 2020 were honored at the 2017 Student Clinician's Ceremony on July 21.

As part of the program, several resident physicians, representing MetroHealth Medical Center, University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center and Cleveland Clinic, are honored with Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards. The residents are nominated and selected by medical students. This year, among the winners was Justin Abbatemarco, MD, a neurology resident at Cleveland Clinic. (See article on page 9.)

The Student Clinician Ceremony celebrates the transition of medical students from pre-clinical to full-time clinical education. The event gives students an opportunity to rededicate themselves to medical professionalism and to be inspired by outstanding resident physicians who will be their teachers in the coming year.

During the ceremony, students recited the oath of professionalism they wrote as part of the White Coat Ceremony when they entered medical school in 2015. Alfred F. Connors Jr., MD, Senior Vice President and Chief Quality Officer at MetroHealth Medical Center, served as the event's keynote speaker.

The ceremony was made possible by a generous grant from the Philip D. Junglas Compassion in Medicine Fund, established by Diane Collier and Friends.



Adventure of a Lifetime



Michaela Stiber recently partook in a journey she claims she is “still trying to find the words to describe.” However, she did a pretty amazing job capturing an adventure that she knows will stay with her for the rest of her life, one she hopes to repeat again someday.

This past July, Michaela, Evaluation Manager for the Lerner College of Medicine, traveled to Baja California, Mexico, for the field portion of her summer course related to her pursuit of a Master’s in Biology at Miami University.

Though the trip was only 10 days, “every day felt like a week!” says Michaela. The journey began at the Rancho San Gregorio, an active biological conservation reserve run by the Villavicencio family. Rafael, a descendant of the Villavicencio family, operates the ranch’s working cattle farm and holistic health clinic.

As a naturopathic doctor, Rafael uses plants for their medicinal functions. “He partners with various educators and students, showing the value of never taking more than what is produced, an attitude that is relatively foreign to the majority of society,” notes Michaela. Despite dissimilar languages, a collective appreciation for the land united the group with the ranch’s residents.

Next, the group traveled to the Vermilion Sea Field Station in Baja de Los Angeles, where their new classroom bordered the Sea of Cortez.

“I saw something new every moment of the day. My GoPro doesn’t do it justice!” exclaims Michaela, reflecting on just a few moments of self-discovery: diving extremely close to a whale shark’s caudal fin and witnessing first-hand the spectacular swimming abilities of sea lions.

Days were filled with classroom exploration, experimental design, student activities, free time and journaling. A memorable instance of fun came from searching for scorpions that resembled plastic neon green toys under UV lights. When researching field methods, the students broke into groups to study plant species diversity and abundance. “It was exciting to be able to use the knowledge I had gained to design and implement a project to answer a question,” says Michaela.

A contemplative wonder about the world was an inevitable result of her experience, and Michaela feels that the program had satisfied its objectives: Safety first, have fun, make friends, learn something, rediscover your curiosity.

The program’s non-traditional synthesis of science and expedition initially appealed to Michaela, and she is eager to participate in more biology and environmental conservation courses.

“Going forward,” she says, “I hope to combine the traveler mindset with conservation, inspiring others to fall in love with the environment.” When asked what she hopes to achieve, she says, “Discovering, learning and traveling!”

[View a few of the amazing photos from Michaela’s experience.](#)

Register Now for Faculty Workshops

CCLCM faculty, take advantage of the fall workshop series hosted through the Center for the Advancement of Medical Learning (CAML) in the CWRU School of Medicine. The series includes courses on searching PubMed effectively and preparing your Scholarship in Teaching Award application.

In addition, you can register for a special webinar series, focused on health professions education around the world, hosted by the International Association of Medical Science Educators.

[View the complete workshop and webinar list.](#)

Questions? Contact Diane R. Dowd, PhD, at caml@case.edu or 216.368.7561.

View Forthcoming Education Sessions Designed for Those Who Teach

The [2017-18 schedule for Essentials for Health Professions Educators](#) is now available. The first session of the new academic year is the mini retreat in November.

Sessions topics include:

- Interactive teaching techniques
- Observation and feedback
- Competency-based education
- Narrative assessment methods
- Technology and learning

A number of sessions are new this year (e.g., developing small groups for learning, difficult conversations in education, creating effective poster presentations).

You may sign up for as many – or as few – sessions as you desire. You do not need to attend the entire program. The requirements for the Distinguished Educator Level I certificate remain the same (one mini retreat and eight individual sessions).

Clinicians, remember to block time in your clinical calendar. Faculty/instructors and residents/fellows are encouraged to sign up early, as a number of these sessions fill quickly. Register via COMET.

Questions? Please contact [Allison Prelosky, MEd.](#)

Medical School Survival Tip

According to Daniel R. Paull, MD, author of *So You Got Into Medical School... Now What? A Guide to Preparing for the Next Four Years*, “The whole point of a clinical rotation is for you to augment your clinical knowledge and skills while learning to be a doctor.”

To benefit yourself and your future patients, take the time to learn and grow from your clinical experiences. These experiences are what will make you a great physician.

206 TRAINEES EARN RESIDENT TEACHING AWARD

Residents and fellows participate in the education of several groups, including medical students, health science students and other residents, within Cleveland Clinic. The following 206 trainees were chosen to receive the Resident Teaching Award, which recognizes their outstanding skill and enthusiasm for teaching, for the 2016-17 academic year:

Mohammad Ali Abbass, MD, General Surgery
Baraa Abduljawad, MBBS, Hepatology
Ahmad Abouleila, MD, Critical Care Anesthesiology
Nour Abuhadra, MD, Internal Medicine
Alicia Adams, MD, General Surgery
Oloruntosin Adeyanju, MD, Pediatric Hospital Medicine
Deepak Agarwal, DO, Anesthesiology
Mahwish Ahmad, MD, Bioethics
Shehab Ahmad Redha Alansari, MD, Internal Medicine
Ashhar Ali, DO, Headache Medicine Fellowship
Allawy Allawy, MB, BCh, Internal Medicine
Matthew Allemang, MD, Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery and Flexible Surgical Endoscopy Fellowship
Nima Almassi, MD, Urology
Adam Alter, MD, Pulmonary Diseases/Critical Care
Zarmeneh Aly, MBBS, Neuromuscular Medicine
Hans Arora, MD, Urology
Zubin Arora, MBBS, Gastroenterology
Ambalavanan Arunachalam, MBBS, Pulmonary Diseases/Critical Care
Tamer Attia, MD, Thoracic Surgery Integrated
Thandar Aung, MBBS, Epilepsy
Anas Abdel Azim, MD, General Surgery
Djurabek Babadjanov, MD, General Surgery
***Ehsan Balagamwala, MD**, Radiation Oncology
Jorge Betancor, MD, Advanced Cardiac Imaging
Hershel Bhadsavle, MD, Internal Medicine
Gauri Bhuchar, DO, Internal Medicine
Ryan Bradstreet, MD, Anesthesiology
David Brigati, MD, Orthopaedic Surgery
Andrew Browne, MD, Vitreoretinal Surgery
Nicholas Bruns, MD, General Surgery
Julia Bucklan, DO, Neurology
Andrew Blake Buletko, MD, Vascular Neurology
Dominykas Burneikis, MD, General Surgery
Kathryn Bux, MD, Internal Medicine
Cassandra Calabrese, DO, Rheumatology
Devin Caswell, DO, Anesthesiology
Julietta Chang, MD, General Surgery
Pulkit Chaudhury, MD, Vascular Medicine
Rejo Cherian, MD, Neurology
Allan Chiunda, MD, Diagnostic Radiology
Sung Cho, DO, Neurology

Peter Ciolek, MD, Otolaryngology
***Joshua Clevenger, MD**, Internal Medicine
Aaron Cohen, DO, Critical Care Medicine
Megan Crawford, DO, Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism
Laura D'Addese, MD, Pediatric Cardiology
Heather Daniels, DO, Pediatric Infectious Diseases
Erin Dean, MD, Psychiatry
Pardha Devaki, MBBS, Gastroenterology
Conor Devine, MD, Otolaryngology
Megha Dhamne, MBBS, Neuromuscular Medicine
Rodica Di Lorenzo, MD, Neurology
Michael Doan, MD, Anesthesiology
Samantha Domingo, PsyD, Health Psychology
Eoin Donnellan, MB, BCh, Internal Medicine
Erika Duxtader, MD, Cytopathology Fellowship
Yvonne El Kassis, MD, Nephrology
Mohamed Elshazly, MD, Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology
Mohamed Eltemamy, MB, BCh, ASTS Urology/Renal Transplant
Vahid Entezari, MD, Orthopaedic Surgery
Emily Erstine, MD, Anatomic & Clinical Pathology
Sara Falzarano, MD, Genitourinary Pathology Fellowship
Ahmed Fayed, MB, BCh, Psychiatry
Patrick Feasel, MD, Anatomic & Clinical Pathology
Wifredo Fernandez, MD, Vascular and Interventional Radiology
Kathryn Fong, MD, General Surgery
Gabriel Gabarain, MD, Otolaryngology
Abhishek Gadre, MBBS, Internal Medicine
Shruti Gadre, MBBS, Pulmonary Diseases/Critical Care
Ari Garber, MD, Gastroenterology
Colin Gause, MD, General Surgery
Rod Ghassem-Zadeh, MD, Pediatric Cardiology
***Bradley Gill, MD**, Urology
Julian Gingold, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Aldo Schenone Giugni, MD, Cardiovascular Disease
Robert Guerin, PhD, Bioethics
Amar Gupta, MD, Diagnostic Radiology
Brandon Hamm, MD, Psychiatry
Kelly Hanley, DO, Anatomic & Clinical Pathology
Serge Harb, MD, Advanced Cardiac Imaging

Andrew Harris, MD, Internal Medicine
Alexander Hawson, MD, Hospice and Palliative Medicine
***Jason Ho, MD**, Orthopedic Surgery
Sara Hogan, MD, Dermatology
Charlotte Horne, MD, General Surgery
Ramona Ilie, MD, General Surgery
Ryan Incledon, DO, Diagnostic Radiology
Osamuedemen Iyoha, MD, Psychiatry
Scott Johnson, MD, Diagnostic Radiology
Brandon Jones, MD, Interventional Cardiology
Daniel Joyce, MBChB, General Surgery
Sami Judeeba, MBBS, General Surgery
Hari Kalagara, MBBS, Anesthesiology
Georgios Karagkounis, MD, General Surgery
Ahmadreza Karimianpour, DO, Internal Medicine
Adeel Khan, MD, Internal Medicine
Jack Khouri, MD, Hematology and Oncology
Erich Kiehl, MD, Cardiovascular Disease
Michael Kot, MB, BCh, Anesthesiology
Rupesh Kotecha, MD, Radiation Oncology
Alexandr Kotlyar, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Sobia Laique, MBBS, Internal Medicine
William Lang, DO, South Pointe Hospital Family Medicine
***Jason Lappe, MD**, Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology
Bryan Lee, MD, Neurological Surgery
Tiffany Lee, MD, Neurology
Alexander Leone, MD, Anesthesiology
Melissa Levack, MD, Thoracic Surgery
Charles Leyrer, MD, Radiation Oncology
Mingsi Li, MD, Otolaryngology
Christina Lindenmeyer, MD, Gastroenterology
***Michael Liu, MD**, Colorectal Surgery
Hilary Mabel, JD, Bioethics
Adam Mace, MD, General Surgery
Jamal Mahar, MBBS, Internal Medicine
***Preethi Mani, MD**, Cardiovascular Disease
Gautam Mankaney, MD, Gastroenterology
Rabeea Mansoor, MBBS, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Hugo Paz Y Mar, MD, Pulmonary Diseases/Critical Care
Zane Maroney, MD, Psychiatry
Kelsey McHugh, MD, Anatomic & Clinical Pathology

Resident Recognized for Outstanding Teaching, Patient Care

Congratulations to Justin Abbatemarco, MD, a Cleveland Clinic neurology resident, who was recognized for his outstanding teaching and patient care, earning him a Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award at the 2017 Student Clinician Ceremony. (See article on page 4.)

The award is given to resident physicians who are nominated and selected by Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and Lerner College of Medicine students. This award recognizes outstanding resident teachers who:

- consistently demonstrate compassion and empathy in the delivery of care to patients
- serve as a role model -- illustrate professional behavior by example -- for students and colleagues
- are approachable and accessible to students, welcoming opportunities for teaching and one-on-one mentorships with students
- exhibit enthusiasm and skill in professional and personal interactions with students
- show respect for everyone he/she comes in contact with
- demonstrate cultural sensitivity in working with patients and family members of diverse ethnic or religious backgrounds
- display effective communication and listening skills.

The Student Clinician Ceremony, which was held in July, celebrates the transition of medical students from preclinical to full-time clinical education and allows them to rededicate themselves to medical professionalism and to be inspired by outstanding resident physicians who will be their teachers in the coming year.

Congratulations, Dr. Abbatemarco, on this well-deserved recognition!



Dr. Bud Isaacson Wins Master Teacher Award



J. Harry "Bud" Isaacson, MD, has been selected to receive The Evelyn V. Hess, MD, MACP Master Teacher Award of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Physicians for 2017. The Master Teacher Award recognizes physicians who have at least 10 years of experience actively teaching medical students, residents or colleagues.

Dr. Isaacson serves as the Assistant Dean for Clinical Education and co-directs the Art and Practice of Medicine (formerly Foundations of Medicine) curriculum for CCLCM. His interest in teaching began during his chief resident year at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, where he served as an instructor at the University of Vermont College of Medicine.

Since joining Cleveland Clinic in 1993, Dr. Isaacson has been involved in numerous educational roles, including serving as the Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency Program; chairing the Education Committee and directing educational programs for General Internal Medicine; and serving as an Associate Professor of Clinical Internal Medicine at Ohio State University School of Medicine and Associate Professor of Medicine at CCLCM. He is also an active member of the Cleveland Clinic Education Governance Group.

Dr. Isaacson has earned numerous Scholarship in Teaching Awards from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). He was named a Master Educator at Cleveland Clinic in 2008; earned the Kaiser-Permanente Teaching Award from CWRU School of Medicine and the Graduating Student's Award from CCLCM in 2009; won the Stephen Ockner, MD Clinician Educator Award from General Internal Medicine in 2014; and was elected to the Academy of Scholar Educators at CWRU School of Medicine in 2015.

Dr. Isaacson will receive his Master Teacher Award at the ACP Ohio Chapter Meeting in Columbus on Oct. 19.

Congratulations, Dr. Isaacson, on this well-deserved recognition of your commitment to medical education and to preparing the next generation of physician investigators.

Students and faculty: Be sure to email [Laura Greenwald](#) with news about your achievements, such as publications, presentations, awards and patents, so that we can share your terrific news with our entire education community!



Draggin' Warriors team ready to race

EXTRA MILE

CCLCM Team Competes in Traditional Asian Water Event

Eight CCLCM students participated in the 11th Cleveland Dragon Boat Festival on Lake Erie on Aug. 12. “The team trained for this event throughout the summer and developed the necessary teamwork, technique and fitness levels to participate in this very competitive event,” says Robert A. Cain, MD, Family Medicine Discipline Leader, and physician with Cleveland Clinic Brunswick Family Health Center. This was Dr. Cain’s sixth year organizing a team for the annual event.

The races kicked off at Wendy Park on Whiskey Island. This year, they were shorter than typical and lasted about 1:20 to 2 minutes each.

Steeped in tradition, the boat festival began more than 2,000 years ago in southern Chinese rivers. Ancient Chinese mythology revered the dragon as the omnipotent water god, and it was believed that participating in dragon boat racing would help to bring on the rains needed for crop growth. The timing was significant too, as the summer months were not only agriculturally key but also seen as a period of spiritual darkness against which the races protected.

Although medals are awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners, the ultimate focus of the festival is positive team building and raising funds for The Gathering Place, a “non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the emotional, physical, spiritual and social needs of people affected by cancer,” explains Dr. Cain. According to the Cleveland Dragon Boat Association, providing a “social and recreational opportunity” for and increasing awareness of Asian culture and the city’s Asian community are top goals.

Representing CCLCM were Janet Adegboye ('20), Rachael Baird ('19), Kate Ituarte ('19), Mike LaBarbera ('19), Daniel Moussa ('21), Kelly Shibuya ('19), Mike Walters ('19) and Jessica Zhang ('20). Kate and Mike LaBarbera were competing for the second year, and Kate served as one of her team’s pacers, which means she was responsible for setting the tempo of paddling for the entire team. Three CWRU School of Medicine students also participated: Allison Hyland, Adil Menon and Roy Swanson.

The 40-foot-long race boats, each capable of holding 20-plus people, are usually painted bright colors and with

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After blessing the dragons, the participants call upon the gods and Buddhas of the four winds, and the Buddhist priest paints the eyes of the dragons open



The Buddhist priest exhorts the crowd to make noise after opening the eyes of the dragons to awaken them for the competition



The dragon heads are affixed to the boats for racing



Front L-R: Daniel Moussa; Jessica Zhang; Samantha Canada; Sarah Kolberg; Jackie Whitehair; Janet Adegboye; Middle L-R: Mike Walters; Karen Cooper, DO; Rachael Baird; Kelly Shibuya; Lyla Blake-Gumbs, MD; Kate Ituarte; Allison Hyland; Stacie Thompson; Miluska Mejia, MD; Back L-R: Robert Cain, MD; Mike LaBarbera; Adil Menon; Roy Swanson



L-R: Daniel Moussa; Mike Walters; Rachael Baird; Robert Cain, MD; Kelly Shibuya; Jessica Zhang; Kate Ituarte; Janet Adegboye; Mike LaBarbera



L-R: Mike Walters, Kate Ituarte, Kelly Shibuya, Rachael Baird



Draggin' Warriors team ready to race

large dragon heads and tails that have been separately crafted. Teams are made up of 20 paddlers, a drummer — whose beating on a traditional drum symbolizes the “heartbeat” of the dragon boat and helps to synchronize the strokes of the rowers seated behind — and a steersman.

“This was a great shared experience for the students from both programs,” says Dr. Cain. “They have been awesome to work with, and we’ve had a blast.”

In addition to the students, the remainder of the Draggin’ Warriors team comprised nearly all Cleveland Clinic employees including Karen Cooper, DO; Lyla Blake-Gumbs, MD; Kellie Kirksey, PhD; research fellow Miluska Mejia, MD; Stacy Thompson, RN; Dawn McDonald, medical assistant; Deborah Ruddy, MRI technician; mammography technician Jackie Whitehair; and two ultrasound technicians, Samantha Canada and Sarah Kolberg — a true multidisciplinary endeavor!

Students Address Health Disparities at Community Health Fair

A group of CCLCM students provided blood pressure and glucose screenings to community members at a recent health fair in Cleveland's Mt. Pleasant neighborhood. Sponsored by the Queen Elizabeth #9, Order of the Eastern Star, PHA, the health fair focused on health disparities, which overwhelmingly impact impoverished/low income and African American communities.

"Volunteering at the health fair was a wonderful experience. Not only did I have the opportunity to meet members of the community I live and work in, but I also got to work with medical students from the second-year class, something I had not done before," says Josie Volovetz ('19). "Every time we get together to help out with health screenings, as we did at this fair, we are afforded the opportunity to teach and learn from our patients and each other."

In addition to Josie, the students who participated were Andrea Boyd-Tressler ('21), Jessica Cooperrider ('21), Perry Dinardo ('21), Michael LaBarbera ('19) and Ellen Romich ('19).



Andrea Boyd-Tressler



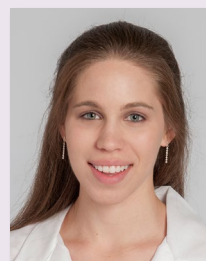
Jessica Cooperrider



Perry Dinardo



Michael LaBarbera



Ellen Romich



Josie Volovetz

Alumni “In Sight”

A special feature on our alumni who have been appointed to the professional staff at Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Neil Woody, Radiation Oncologist



A native of Toronto, Ontario, Neil Woody, MD ('11), credits the research opportunities and problem-based learning models as the reasons for ranking CCLCM his first-choice medical school. After graduation, Dr. Woody stayed at Cleveland Clinic to complete his residency in radiation oncology and then accepted a staff position, mainly because of the opportunity to work with multidisciplinary teams.

“Training at Cleveland Clinic encourages you to understand and foster multidisciplinary collaboration,” he says. “The outcomes of our oncology teams are a testament to our culture, where physicians across disciplines interact and develop a comprehensive plan that accounts for the total needs of the patient.”

For some healthcare professionals, working with cancer patients can be emotionally challenging. To help manage stress, Dr. Woody works toward building endurance -- he rode in Velosano -- enjoys singing and spends time outdoors with his wife and two young sons, hiking, cycling, canoeing and fishing.

In addition, he garners strength from the exceptional leadership and mentorship in radiation oncology as well as in the Taussig Cancer Institute.

“I aim to remain present for patients and try to recognize that, particularly in the setting of cancer, each physician and each discipline has only a finite amount of control over the outcome,” he says, adding, “We cannot judge success purely on a clinical outcome. I try to remember that we don’t always know the answer right away, and patients appreciate the honesty of physicians acknowledging what we do and don’t know and what we plan to do next to determine a solution.”

In terms of the future, Dr. Woody is most excited to increase his understanding of how to best use radiation and chemotherapy following surgical resection of oral cavity cancer, which is a type of head and neck cancer. “Because of recurrence, oral cavity cancer is more difficult to manage than other head and neck subsites,” he says. “I am also excited to work with the multidisciplinary team in liver oncology to advance their center of excellence.”

Though serving as a junior staff member can be difficult at times, Dr. Woody is devoted to self-care and learning from his experiences. “Each day I see patients with the courage to face cancer and the side effects of treatment. I am privileged to see both some of the worst of disease and the best of humanity,” he says.

His advice to medical students: Be humble. “Realize that as a physician there is always more knowledge to be garnered, and that our colleagues, patients and support staff teach us each day.”

ALUMNI UPDATE

Alumni Touts Experience at CCLCM

CCLCM alumni Rebecca D. Ganetzky, MD ('10) recently published an article in *Academic Medicine*, praising her educational experiences at CCLCM and crediting its innovative curriculum for her successful transition to a physician-scientist.



Called “Becoming a Physician-Scientist: A View Looking Up From Base Camp,” the article highlights the “long and often harrowing” process of becoming a physician-scientist. Dr. Ganetzky outlines the challenges she faced, which included an unstructured

pathway, long lag time between training and faculty appointment, and an unclear definition of what success looks like.

In the article Dr. Ganetzky states:

“Despite these hurdles, however, I’ve made it this far largely because of an incredibly supportive educational milieu and mentorship team. Many of my benefits have come from novel educational programs aimed at reducing barriers for young physician-scientists.”

Citing CCLCM’s five-year research curriculum, Dr. Ganetzky notes that the dedicated research time helped her to shorten her training and achieve faculty status sooner than she otherwise would have.

[Read the entire article.](#)

Dr. Ganetzky is a physician at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, working in the Division of Human Genetics & Metabolic Diseases, and serves as an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania’s Perelman School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics.

Congratulations, Dr. Ganetzky, for reflecting and writing about these important issues. You inspire us to keep working for progress!

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

Sept. 28, 2017 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

CWRU Lepow Medical Student Research Day
Wolstein Research Building Atrium and Lecture Hall,
CWRU

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.

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