

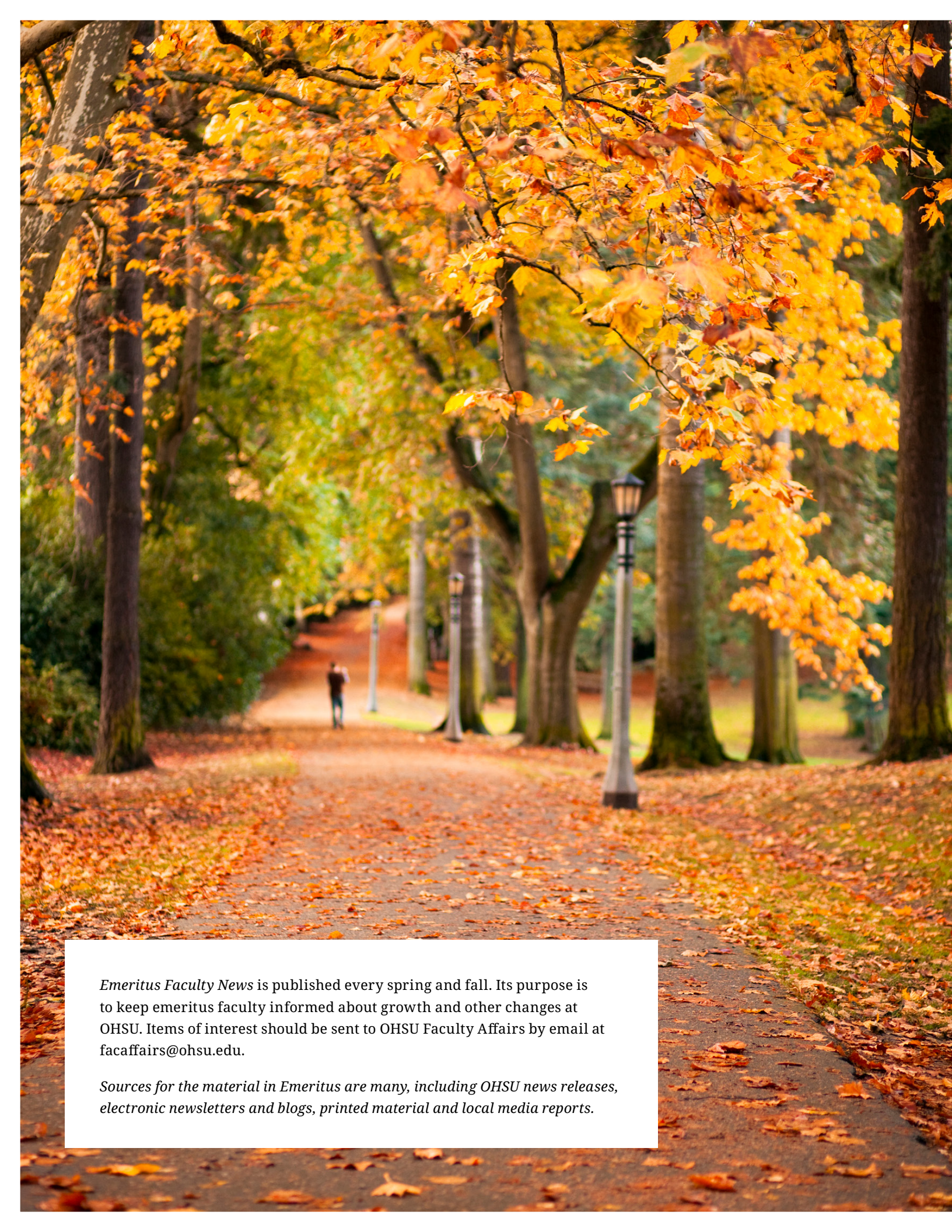
FALL  
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# Emeritus

A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU EMERITUS FACULTY





*Emeritus Faculty News* is published every spring and fall. Its purpose is to keep emeritus faculty informed about growth and other changes at OHSU. Items of interest should be sent to OHSU Faculty Affairs by email at [facaffairs@ohsu.edu](mailto:facaffairs@ohsu.edu).

*Sources for the material in Emeritus are many, including OHSU news releases, electronic newsletters and blogs, printed material and local media reports.*



# NEWS BRIEFS

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## Heart transplant program to reactivate

The United Network for Organ Sharing, or UNOS, has approved OHSU's new primary physician for heart transplantation, allowing the university to resume heart transplant care. The unanimous decision came less than 1 year after OHSU voluntarily suspended its program due to the departure of four advanced heart failure cardiologists.

"OHSU's Heart Transplant Program has a long history of serving the state of Oregon, providing more than 700 heart transplant procedures to date. With the successful recruitment of cardiologists from some of the preeminent programs in the country, we are pleased to resume the full spectrum of care for Oregonians with advanced heart failure, in need of heart transplantation," said President **Danny Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H.**

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## South Waterfront developments

Three years after breaking ground, the OHSU Center for Health & Healing Building 2 and Gary and Christine Rood Family Pavilion on Portland's South Waterfront are officially complete. Uniquely designed in close collaboration with patients, families and employees, the buildings exemplify an integrated, holistic approach to health care.

"For the first time in Oregon, we are bringing together treatment, research, patient and guest housing in a centralized location," said President **Danny Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H.** "These buildings are a palpable, visible reminder of OHSU's ongoing efforts to improve how we provide the very best care to patients from the state of Oregon and beyond."

The project budget for both facilities was \$360 million. CHH Building 2 is a 15-story health care facility offering advanced treatments in a setting designed for a patient's convenience, comfort and quick recovery. Approximately 700 OHSU employees and an estimated 600 patients will be in-house every day.

The guest house—named in honor of Gary and Christine Rood of Vancouver, Washington, who made a transformational \$12 million gift in April 2016—will meet a sizable demand for comfortable, affordable housing convenient to OHSU. More than 3,000 patients and families a year will stay in 76 guest suites—half are reserved for pediatric patients and half are reserved for adult patients. The building features a number of amenities important to families, including places to rest, work, prepare meals and gather, both indoors and out.

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## New Department of Chemical Physiology and Biochemistry

In July, the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology merged into the **Department of Chemical Physiology and Biochemistry**. With 23 primary faculty, this will significantly expand the structural biology program at OHSU and enhance collaboration by bringing the disciplines of biochemistry, chemical biology, structural biology and physiology under one roof. Expanded investment in technology at OHSU including proteomics, cryoEM and the Center for Radiochemistry Research is expected to fuel discovery in the new department.

"The merger of biochemistry and molecular biology with physiology and pharmacology allows the new department to cover the full scope ranging from single molecules to intact organisms and patients," explained the department's chair, and professor, **Carsten Schultz, Ph.D.**, "The new term



HPV can cause six types of cancer, and the vaccine can prevent up to 90% of those cancers. This year's Community Partnership Program grants aim to increase vaccination rates across the state and protect Oregonians by utilizing a system of established community networks. (Getty Images)

‘Chemical Physiology’ describes the bandwidth of the research—with ‘Biochemistry’ as the bridging element.”

## HPV vaccination projects funded

The Knight Cancer Institute’s Community Partnership Program is advancing its goal to reduce cancer risk for all Oregonians by funding four human papilloma virus, or HPV, vaccination-focused projects statewide:

- In Multnomah County, APANO Community United Fund aims to conduct outreach and education among the Vietnamese immigrant community around cervical cancer and HPV vaccination.
- The Next Door, Inc. in Hood River and Wasco counties aims to increase HPV vaccinations for both Spanish and English speakers.
- The Crook County Health Department aims to advance awareness of the HPV vaccine among Crook County adolescents and parents.
- In Benton County, Oregon State University aims to reach college students, specifically, to promote the vaccine and prevent cancer.

“In 2018, the President’s Cancer Panel, a panel of advisors to the President on the National Cancer Program, urged a ‘renewed commitment’ to prioritize HPV vaccination for cancer prevention,” said **Jackilen Shannon, Ph.D.**, professor of public health, School of Public Health, and co-director of the Knight Cancer Institute Community Partnership Program. “We know that HPV can cause 6 types of cancer, and the vaccine can prevent up to 90% of those cancers, so the work these 4 projects are undertaking is of critical importance to the health of Oregonians.”

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## Ph.D. Program for Biomedical Sciences accredited

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities accredited the School of Medicine's new Ph.D. Program for Biomedical Sciences. The new program is flexible and interdisciplinary, which lets discovery define the path. The NWCC accreditation marks the final step that clears the way for the program's launch in fall of 2020, at the centennial anniversary of graduate education at OHSU.

"The external reviewers appreciated the strengths of the new program and noted all the careful thought and planning that went into creating PBMS," said program director **Georgiana Purdy, Ph.D.**, associate professor of molecular microbiology and immunology, School of Medicine. "A big thank you to faculty and students who participated in the IDEAS process, helped to develop the initial proposal and made the accreditation process successful."

PBMS will begin recruiting students this fall.

"This is truly a watershed moment for biomedical graduate education," said **Allison Fryer, Ph.D.**, professor of medicine and associate dean for graduate studies, School of Medicine. "OHSU is at the forefront of transforming how we train scientists. It's incredibly exciting to embark on this innovative path."

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## Class of 2023 offers the most diverse set of experiences

The most diverse group of students to enter the School of Medicine began their journey toward becoming physicians by symbolically slipping on their white physicians' coats at the school's annual White Coat Ceremony.

"While the U.S. spends more than any other developed nation on health care, we have

the worst health and health care disparities," said **Sharon Anderson, M.D.**, dean of the School of Medicine. "These disparities are disproportionately experienced in medically underserved communities, including rural areas and communities of color. As OHSU's most diverse medical class yet, the OHSU M.D. Class of 2023 will become well-rounded physicians who reflect the diversity and understand the cultural context of all of our patients."

Of the 160 medical students matriculating this fall:

- 33% come from racial or ethnic backgrounds other than white
- 86% are Oregonians or of Oregon heritage
- 61% identify as female
- 31% come from a disadvantaged background or have faced adversity
- 21% come from a rural background
- 14% come from a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in medicine
- 3 have completed military service

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## June convocation welcomes new graduates

A new generation of health care professionals, educators and researchers graduated from OHSU this summer. A total of 1,253 degrees were awarded. Ceremonies for the schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health were held June 3 at the Oregon Convention Center. The featured speaker was L.D. Britt, M.D., M.P.H., D.Sc., who is the Henry Ford Professor and Edward J. Brickhouse Chairman at Eastern Virginia Medical Schools' Department of Surgery.

Ceremonies for the Oregon State University/OHSU College of Pharmacy and the School of Nursing campuses outside the Portland area took place June 13 – 15.

“As Oregon’s academic health center, one of our most important duties is educating the next generation of leaders who will advance human health in our state, our nation and the world,” said President **Danny Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H.** “On the occasion of convocation, we celebrate a new generation of health care professionals, educators and researchers. I am confident that their experiences at OHSU have prepared them to impact the health and well-being of people in Oregon and beyond.”

- The OHSU School of Dentistry awarded 96 degrees this year.
- The OHSU School of Medicine awarded 480 degrees and certificates.
- The OHSU School of Nursing awarded 496 degrees and certificates.
- The OHSU-PSU School of Public Health awarded 85 degrees and certificates.
- The OSU/OHSU College of Pharmacy awarded 96 degrees.

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## Joe Gray goes to Washington

**Joe Gray, Ph.D.**, professor of biomedical engineering, School of Medicine, recently spoke at a hearing on academic espionage and theft of U.S.-funded discoveries for Congress.

“The United States represents only 5% of the world’s population, and we draw the best minds from all of the world,” said Gray, “So, what we don’t want to do is diminish our brain gain by making

it unattractive for others to come here and help us solve major societal problems and form the companies that are driving the U.S. economy.”

Gray was responding to a question from Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) on the need for “more robust vetting” of the recipients of federal research grants.

“I acknowledge there have been misuses of intellectual property and data and there needs to be vigorous enforcement of laws that punish countries and individuals who have committed such violations,” he said. “But the issue of imposing additional vetting is a difficult one. The process of doing this vetting stigmatizes the entire community that is being vetted and decreases their enthusiasm for coming to the United States to advance our science. I’m worried that it will diminish our own ability to innovate.”

Gray testified at the invitation of Senator Ron Wyden (D-Oregon), who shares Gray’s concerns about undermining the vitality of U.S. science.

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## Attacking cancer with data

OHSU and the University of Oregon announced plans for a joint center in biomedical data science, empowering researchers at both institutions to attack cancer with big data. The partnership combines efforts at the UO’s Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact with those at the Knight Cancer Institute to detect and fight deadly forms of cancer and other diseases in a jointly operated center initially involving as many as 20 researchers and their teams. The new research center will develop new approaches to quickly and efficiently analyze large groupings of data, allowing researchers to “listen in” on cell development for early detection of lethal diseases.

“Breakthroughs in early detection and precision



UO's Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact. (Photo courtesy of University of Oregon)

medicine require expertise in a variety of areas such as engineering, bioinformatics and genomics,” said **Brian Druker, M.D.**, professor of medicine, School of Medicine, and director of the Knight Cancer Institute. “By leveraging each institution’s strengths, we can maximize our combined research efforts, and ultimately, make the greatest impact for patients.”

The initiative, along with UO graduate programs in areas such as computer science, math, life sciences, ethics and soon, bioengineering, will combine with OHSU’s large-scale efforts in precision medicine to identify more quickly cell abnormalities that lead to cancer and other diseases. Earlier detection of lethal cancers represents the greatest opportunity to boost survival rates and has been an area of priority for the cancer institute.

With an effort to boost research collaboration, 10 OHSU-UO research teams examining everything from health disparities to bio-inspired fractal

implants were awarded funding to jump-start research projects as part of the program.

“This collaboration nicely kicks off our new relationship with UO around data science,” said **Peter Barr-Gillespie, Ph.D.**, OHSU chief research officer and executive vice president. “This research effort should lead to exciting discoveries around how normal cells work and how cancer cells differ from them. Moreover, these ongoing initiatives with UO will continue to strengthen our commitment to the state of Oregon.”

### New data sharing initiative

Microsoft and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center announced 4 new members of a data sharing initiative: BC Cancer, the University of British Columbia, the University of Washington eScience Institute and the Knight Cancer Institute. The collaboration is called the Cascadia Data



Lindsey Hutchinson of Klamath Falls (left) talks with Dr. Katie Ruth as she looks at his knee during an office visit at the OHSU-Cascades East Family Medicine Center, June 3, 2019 in Klamath Falls. Ruth is a resident at Cascades East, a collaboration between OHSU and Sky Lakes Medical Center operating since 1994, with an aim to improve health access in rural Oregon. Ruth loved practicing in a rural area and will continue to serve the community after she graduates this summer. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

Discovery Initiative, or CDDI.

“At the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, we view patients as our partners in our mission to end cancer as we know it and they may permit us to responsibly use their data to achieve optimal benefit through broad data sharing,” said **Shannon McWeeney, Ph.D.**, professor of public health, School of Public Health, and associate director of computational biomedicine in the Knight Cancer Institute. “We envision a global research community in which sharing de-identified data becomes the norm. Efforts like CDDI that are working towards this vision will help maximize the knowledge gained from the efforts and sacrifices of our patients.”

### Grant to expand access

A major grant awarded to OHSU and the University of California, Davis, promises to expand access

to quality health care between Sacramento and Portland through a network of teaching hospitals and clinics in mostly rural areas. The five-year, \$1.8 million American Medical Association grant will allow medical schools at OHSU and UC Davis to establish a robust graduate medical education collaborative known as COMPADRE, short for California Oregon Medical Partnership to Address Disparities in Rural Education and Health.

Over the next several years, COMPADRE will place hundreds of medical students and resident physicians to train under faculty and community physicians at 10 health care systems, 16 hospitals and a network of Federally Qualified Health Center partners throughout Northern California and Oregon. Students and residents will provide services in 7 medical specialties. 10 OHSU residency programs will be directly involved, including the internal medicine and family medicine residencies at OHSU and Tuality, family medicine at Klamath Falls and the OHSU

emergency medicine, general surgery, ob-gyn, pediatrics and psychiatry residency programs.

COMPADRE's main goals are to: address health care workforce shortages in rural, tribal, urban and other communities that lack resources; increase access to health care providers; and improve the health of patients from ethnic and racial minority groups who are disproportionately affected by certain conditions.

“Our responsibility as a medical school is not only to train outstanding physicians, but also to train physicians who meet the needs of all our communities,” said **Sharon Anderson, M.D.**, dean of the School of Medicine. “This grant provides the resources and framework needed to build on our existing efforts in an intentional and coordinated manner so that we have more and even clearer pathways for students and trainees motivated to serve where they are most needed. We applaud the AMA for this vehicle to better serve our country and are thrilled about our partnership with UC Davis.”

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## Transgender and non-binary access expands

Transgender and non-binary Oregonians will soon have expanded access to care and services with the continued growth of the OHSU Transgender Health Program. OHSU is adding 4 new staff members, creating its first-ever fellowships in gender-affirming surgical care and is involved in a number of projects to further advance its Transgender Health Program, which launched in 2015 to ensure patients receive respectful and quality health care regardless of their gender identity. Caring for more than 1,000 adult and youth transgender patients, OHSU has one of the largest and most comprehensive transgender health programs in the U.S.

“OHSU is committed to providing compassionate and competent health care to every Oregonian, including transgender individuals,” said **Renee Edwards, M.D., M.B.A.**, associate professor of obstetrics & gynecology and vice president and chief medical officer of OHSU Healthcare. “The addition of new staff and projects to the OHSU Transgender Health Program demonstrates our long-term commitment to ensure OHSU has the resources needed to meet the real and pressing health needs of the transgender community.”

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## Biomedical innovation Program awardees

The Biomedical Innovation Program awards provide funds, project management and mentorship to facilitate the development of innovative technologies at OHSU and accelerate their translation to the marketplace. 3 OHSU investigators will be funded in the program's drug discovery track this year. This category of funding supports drug discovery platforms and early-stage therapeutic technology projects, including validation of drug targets and development of small molecules, antibodies, vaccines or biologics:

- **Luiz Bertassoni, D.D.S., Ph.D.**, assistant professor, restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry, “BoneMimetics—A drug discovery platform for bone-related therapies”
- **Summer L. Gibbs, Ph.D.**, associate professor, biomedical engineering, School of Medicine, “Near infrared nerve-specific probes enable improved surgical outcomes”
- **Michael Cohen, Ph.D.**, associate professor, physiology and pharmacology, School of Medicine, “Allosteric modulation of PARP1-DNA binding with small molecule inhibitors: a potential therapeutic strategy for treating Ewing sarcoma”



Luiz Bertassoni, D.D.S., Ph.D., shows an engineered material that replicates human bone tissue. The material is being used to explore disease processes such as the origin of metastatic tumors in bone, and as a treatment for large bone injuries. (OHSU/Joe Rojas-Burke)

## RESEARCH REPORTS

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### Engineering human bone tissue

Researchers at OHSU have engineered a material that replicates human bone tissue with an unprecedented level of precision, from its microscopic crystal structure to its biological activity. They are using it to explore fundamental disease processes, such as the origin of metastatic tumors in bone, and as a treatment for large bone injuries.

“Essentially it is a miniaturized bone in a dish that we can produce in a matter of 72 hours or less,” says biomedical engineer **Luiz Bertassoni, D.D.S., Ph.D.**, associate professor of restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry and a member of CEDAR, the Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research Center

in the Knight Cancer Institute. Like real bone, the material has a 3D mineral structure populated with bone cells, nerve cells and endothelial cells that self-organize into functioning blood vessels. “It can even be relevant to dissect the mechanisms that are leading to diseases such as leukemia.”

Bertassoni published the results in the journal *Nature Communications*.

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### Study finds barriers persist

Despite significant improvements offered by the Affordable Care Act to remove barriers to health insurance, researchers at OHSU have determined that more than 5 million Americans who receive care at Community Health Centers, or clinics that tailor services to vulnerable populations, remain uninsured.

“This finding is significant in that it shows that factors such as health plan affordability,



A study found that short-term bursts of exercise—the human equivalent of a weekly game of pickup basketball, or 4,000 steps—promoted an increase in synapses in the hippocampus and prime the brain for learning. (Getty Images)

Medicaid eligibility standards and general program understanding are continual barriers to insurance access for the most at-risk populations,” says the study’s lead author **Nathalie Huguet, Ph.D.**, research assistant professor of family medicine, School of Medicine.

Furthermore, the recent removal of the ACA’s individual mandate penalty and a shortened enrollment time for marketplace insurance have the potential to increase the number of uninsured individuals in the coming years. According to Huguet, the high-quality, low-cost services provided by CHCs are essential.

Based on electronic health record data compiled from January 2012 to December 2015, the majority of uninsured patients had at least 1 health condition that would require continuous care.

“To ensure that underinsured individuals receive the health care services they require, it is crucial to lift the remaining barriers to insurance accessibility, while increasing funding for

Community Health Centers, our nation’s safety-net,” she says.

The study findings published online in the *Annals of Family Medicine*.

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### Exercise benefits brain in mice

Neuroscientists at OHSU working with mice, have discovered that a short burst of exercise directly boosts the function of a gene that increases connections between neurons in the hippocampus, the region of the brain associated with learning and memory. The research is published online in the journal *eLife*.

“Exercise is cheap, and you don’t necessarily need a fancy gym membership or have to run 10 miles a day,” said co-senior author **Gary Westbrook, M.D.**, senior scientist, Vollum Institute and Dixon Professor of Neurology in the OHSU School of Medicine. “Previous studies of exercise almost all focus on sustained exercise,” Westbrook said. “As



A weakened form of an HIV vaccine is able to eliminate an HIV-like virus in monkeys, and also gives them long-lasting immunity, as nine of 12 vaccinated monkeys could still fight off an infection three years later. (OHSU/Boone Speed Photography)

neuroscientists, it's not that we don't care about the benefits on the heart and muscles but we wanted to know the brain-specific benefit of exercise."

So, the scientists designed a study in mice that specifically measured the brain's response to single bouts of exercise in otherwise sedentary mice that were placed for short periods on running wheels. The mice ran a few kilometers in 2 hours.

The study found that short-term bursts of exercise—the human equivalent of a weekly game of pickup basketball, or 4,000 steps—promoted an increase in synapses in the hippocampus. Scientists made the key discovery by analyzing genes that were increased in single neurons activated during exercise.

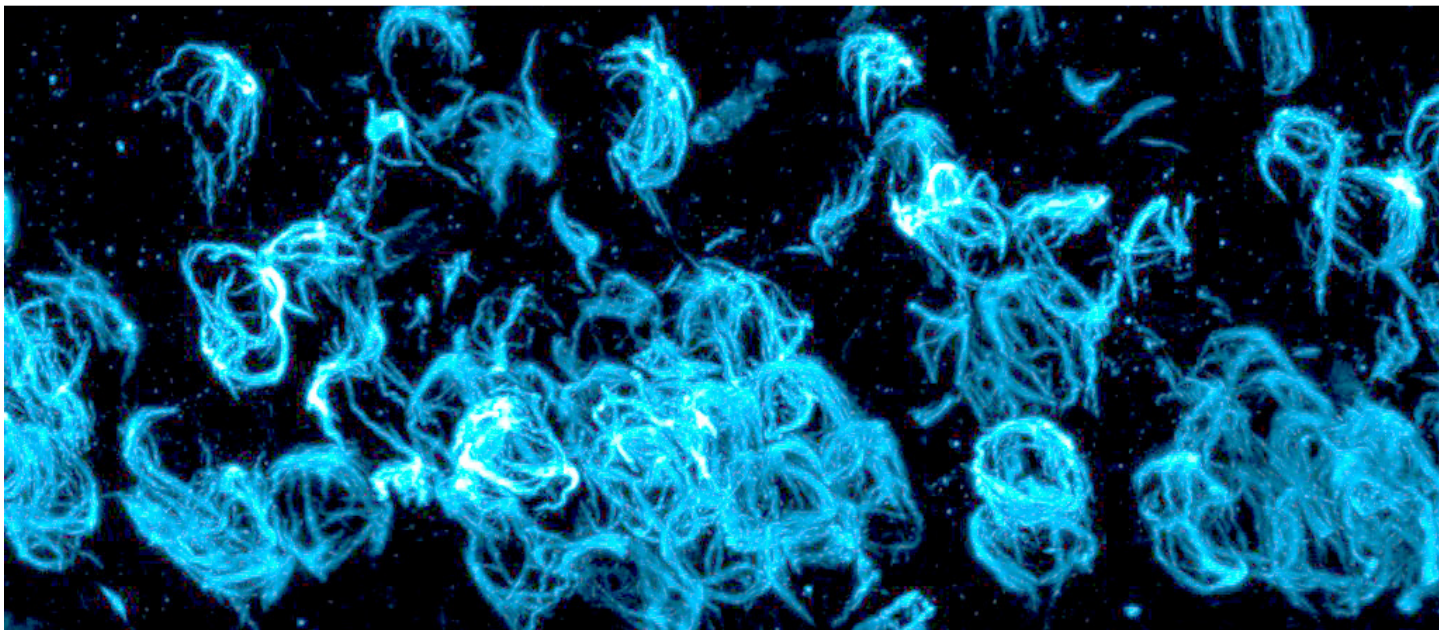
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### Weakened vaccine for HIV-like virus sees similar results

A promising vaccine that clears an HIV-like virus from monkeys is closer to human testing

after a new, weakened version of the vaccine has been shown to provide protection similar to its original version. A pair of papers published in *Science Translational Medicine* describe how the vaccine—which uses a form of the common herpes virus cytomegalovirus, or CMV—was live-attenuated, or weakened, so CMV couldn't spread as easily. The new version still managed to eliminate SIV, the monkey version of HIV, in 59% of vaccinated rhesus macaques. That result is similar to earlier findings involving the vaccine's original version. The immunity generated by the weakened vaccine was also long-lasting, as nine of 12 vaccinated monkeys could still fight off SIV infection three years later.

Having a weakened version of the vaccine is key to potentially being able to use it in humans. Though humans are often infected with CMV without any trouble, the virus can wreak havoc on those with weakened immune systems such as people with organ transplants. It's also dangerous for pregnant women, as it can cause congenital defects such as hearing loss and microcephaly in babies.



A mouse model of Parkinson's disease and dementia with Lewy bodies shows abnormal aggregated alpha-synuclein Lewy pathology within neurons in the brain's hippocampus. New research suggests that alpha-synuclein proteins repair DNA breaks within the nucleus of brain cells. When they cluster outside the nucleus, as shown here, it can lead to cellular dysfunction and death. (OHSU)

“This research, using rhesus CMV, provides potentially important insights into the design of a human CMV-based HIV vaccine,” said **Klaus Früh, Ph.D.**, professor, VGTI. “We significantly attenuated CMV and still got the same type of immune responses as with the wild version of this vaccine.”

### Study sheds new light for neurodegenerative disorder treatment

A discovery, published today in the journal *Scientific Reports*, marks the first demonstration of the role that alpha-synuclein plays in preventing the death of neurons in brain diseases such as Parkinson's, which affects 1.5 million people in the U.S. alone.

The findings suggest that it may be possible to design new therapies to replace alpha-synuclein's function or boost it in people with Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders. Aggregates of alpha-synuclein, known as Lewy

bodies, have long been connected to Parkinson's and other forms of dementia.

The study published today casts a new light on that process. The findings suggest that Lewy bodies are problematic because they pull alpha-synuclein protein out of the nucleus of brain cells.

The study, which examined the cells of living mice and postmortem brain tissue in humans, reveals that these proteins perform a crucial function by repairing breaks that occur along the vast strands of DNA present in the nucleus of every cell of the body. Alpha-synuclein's role in DNA repair may be crucial in preventing cell death. This function may be lost in brain diseases such as Parkinson's, leading to the widespread death of neurons.

“It may be the loss of that function that's killing that cell,” said senior author **Vivek Unni, M.D., Ph.D.**, associate professor of neurology, School of Medicine.



New data shows that pharmacist-prescribed contraception is an innovative program that can improve access to birth control as well as lower unintended pregnancy rates. (Getty Images)

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## New birth control program reaches new users

In 2016, Oregon became the first state to allow pharmacists to independently prescribe hormonal birth control to consumers without a traditional clinic visit. The initiative, which has since expanded to numerous other states including California, Colorado and Washington, is intended to increase the accessibility of contraception and reduce the overall cost and rate of unintended pregnancies.

Data reported in two new studies, conducted by researchers at OHSU and the OSU/OHSU College of Pharmacy and published in the journal *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, underscores that pharmacist-prescribed contraception is an innovative program that is capable of reaching such outcomes.

Among Oregon Medicaid enrollees in the first two years of the program, the studies note that 10% of all new oral and transdermal contraceptive prescriptions were written by pharmacists.

The majority of claims originated from retail chain pharmacies in urban areas, and nearly 74% of patients given either the pill, patch or ring had not used any form of prescribed birth control in the prior month.

“This indicates that the program is indeed reaching new contraceptive users who may be at risk for unintended pregnancy,” says co-author **Maria Rodriguez, M.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, School of Medicine. “Furthermore, claims show that the safety profile seen with pharmacists is equal to what is seen among clinicians prescribing contraception. This suggests that pharmacists are an important strategy to safely reach women with unmet need for contraception.”

# AWARDS AND HONORS

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OHSU Hospital ranks among the best in the country and No. 1 in Oregon, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* “Best Hospitals 2019–2020,” and six of its adult specialties are ranked among the top 50 nationwide. “These rankings are reflective of the tremendous talent, hard work and dedication of our exceptional faculty and staff, and I couldn’t be prouder,” said **John Hunter, M.D.**, professor of surgery, School of Medicine and executive vice president and chief executive officer, OHSU health system.

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The National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research ranked the School of Dentistry 16th in the nation for NIDCR research funding, the primary funding metric for academic dental research. In July NIDCR released its rankings for FY 2018 and with \$3,344,772 awarded to OHSU researchers the School now places in the top 25 percent of the 66 US dental schools for research funding. Last year OHSU ranked 27th and has been in the bottom 50 percent for funding as recently as 2015. **Phillip Marucha, Ph.D.**, dean of the OHSU School of Dentistry, attributes the School’s rise in ranking and increased research dollars to both the strategic hiring of new faculty and increased productivity among existing faculty. Over the past several years the Dean Marucha has worked to reposition the school as a center for oral health research, bringing on new faculty who have received grants in this field, which is paying off in research support for the school. Principal investigators **Carmem Pfeifer, D.D.S., Ph.D.**, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, and **Jack Ferracane, Ph.D.**, chair and professor of restorative dentistry, will

receive more than \$2.4 million over five years to work independently toward the common goal of doubling the service life of dental composites. Their study is titled “Tertiary Methacrylamides and Thiourethane Additives as Novel Dental Composites.” Current dental composites—the materials developed in the 1960s for tooth-colored restorations that harden when exposed to blue light—degrade over time.

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**Laura Iwasaki, Ph.D.**, chair and professor of orthodontics, School of Dentistry, and her research team, were recently awarded \$3,042,749 from the NIH to study how mechanobehavior effects of outcomes of orthopedic appliances in brachyfacial and dolichofacial children. The focus of the NIH award to OHSU is to identify how TMJ intracapsular mechanics, and day- and night-time muscle activities differentially affects outcomes of orthopedic appliances in diagnostic subgroups of growing children. The long-term goal of the research is to identifying practical ways to improve outcomes and reduce the financial burdens of unsuccessful therapies.

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OHSU is one of at least six institutions winning a Grand Challenge for Universal Influenza Vaccine Development grant to develop long-lasting and more broadly effective flu vaccines. Such a vaccine could replace the current norm: An annual flu shot that is manufactured 6 months ahead of time and can miss the mark, causing some of its recipients to still get sick. OHSU is receiving nearly \$1.7 million to adapt its existing vaccine platform, which already is being used to develop vaccines against HIV and tuberculosis, so it can also fight the flu. OHSU’s platform inserts pieces of target pathogens into the common herpes virus cytomegalovirus, or CMV. The combination triggers a remarkably effective, long-lasting immune response with effector memory T cells, which can search out

and destroy infected cells. This approach stops infection where it starts, preventing the spread of disease and illness. “CMV-based vaccine protection happens quickly where the pathogen enters the body,” said lead researcher **Jonah Sacha, Ph.D.**, professor, VGTI, and a core scientist at the ONPRC. “The trick will be to see how well it can fight the flu virus, which replicates very quickly.”

In an effort to sustain and improve faculty engagement in continuous learning and development opportunities, Provost **Elena Andresen, Ph.D.**, this winter and spring offered grant funds to support the professional development of faculty at OHSU. Over \$20,000 was awarded to applicants from the School of Medicine, School of Dentistry and the Teaching and Learning Center. They were:

- **Silvia Amaya-Pajares, D.D.S.**, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry
- **Carrie Bailey, M.A.**, instructor, Central Administration
- **Danielle Wingrove, D.D.S.**, assistant professor of Endodontology, School of Dentistry
- **Despoina Bompolaki, D.D.S.**, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry
- **Jeffrey Jones, M.E.T.**, instructor, Central Administration
- **Samyia Fatima Chaudhry, D.M.D.**, assistant professor of restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry
- **Sylvia Nelsen, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of integrative biomedical & diagnostic sciences. School of Dentistry

- **Sarah Drummond-Hays, Ed.D.**, assistant professor of physician education, School of Medicine
- **Bryan Tervo, D.D.S.**, assistant professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, School of Dentistry



OHSU has once again been recognized as a leader in LGBTQ healthcare equality by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation’s largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer civil rights organization. The Healthcare Equality Index is a benchmarking tool that evaluates U.S. healthcare facilities.

The designation demonstrates OHSU’s commitment to providing inclusive care for all. It signifies that the institution is exhibiting best practices in the areas of LGBTQ patient care and support, employee policies and benefits, and LGBTQ patient and community engagement.

OHSU is one of 406 facilities that scored a perfect 100 to earn the coveted status of “2019 LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader.” This is the 8th year that OHSU has achieved this status.

# RECENT APPOINTMENTS

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**Hector A. Olvera Alvarez, Ph.D.**, has been named senior associate dean for research at the School of Nursing. Olvera Alvarez comes to OHSU from the University of Texas, El Paso, where he was director of research and co-director of the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program. An interdisciplinary scientist, Olvera Alvarez investigates stress and wellness, environmental health and health disparities. He investigated life stress, particulate matter exposure and inflammatory reactivity as a senior fellow with the JPB Fellowship Program on Environmental Health Research at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. “Dr. Olvera Alvarez will focus on strengthening and building capacity for research and scholarship in the SON,” said **Susan Bakewell-Sachs Ph.D.**, dean of the OHSU School of Nursing. “That will include providing strategic direction, supporting faculty development, enhancing the visibility of SON scientists, and fostering collaborative science across OHSU. Dr. Olvera Alvarez will also maintain an active program of research, focusing on the health burden of vulnerable populations caused by social disadvantage.”

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**Nicole Bowles, Ph.D.**, research assistant professor, OIOHS, was selected to participate in the Program to Increase Diversity in Behavioral Medicine and Sleep Disorders Research Summer Institute at NYU’s Langone’s Center for Healthful Behavior Change at the end of July. The PRIDE Summer Institute offers an intensive, multidisciplinary research training and mentorship to junior-level faculty members and other scientists who come

from underrepresented racial and ethnic minority groups or who have a disability. PRIDE is funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. During the 2-week PRIDE Summer Institute, the 12 selected participants will develop skills needed to apply for independent research grants in behavioral medicine and sleep disorders. The program offers individualized training in the fundamentals of health disparities research, grant writing, and peer review. Guidance and mentorship will be facilitated by NHLBI staff, as well as recognized faculty experts in the fields of cardiovascular health, behavioral medicine, and sleep disorders.

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**Damien Fair, Ph.D.**, has been selected as a fellow by the Association for Psychological Science, recognizing his leadership in the field. The Association for Psychological Science, based in Washington D.C., is considered the leading international organization dedicated to advancing scientific psychology across disciplinary and geographic borders to provide a richer understanding of the world through research, teaching and application of psychological science.

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National League for Nursing welcomed **Paula Gubrud-Howe, Ed.D, M.S.**, associate professor of nursing, School of Nursing, as one of 17 fellows this year. Gubrud-Howe has made significant contributions to nursing education as a founding leader involved in establishing the Oregon Consortium Nursing Education. As director of OCNE she has developed a sustainable infrastructure designed to lead the vision, mission and strategic initiatives required to maintain an innovative competency-based curriculum supporting a shared baccalaureate curriculum through School of Nursing and 11 partner community colleges.



Oscar Miranda-Dominguez, Ph.D. (left) and Damien Fair, Ph.D., P.A.-C. (right) Nov. 2017. Dr. Fair has been selected as a fellow by the Association for Psychological Science. (OHSU)

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**Lissi Hansen, Ph.D.**, professor of nursing, School of Nursing, was appointed the May E. Rawlinson Distinguished Professor. Hansen is one of few investigators focused on symptom, palliative and end-of-life care research with adults and older adults experiencing end-stage liver diseases and their families. Through her program of funded research, she has contributed to knowledge of ESLD treatment decision-making, pain and symptom distress, illness and symptom experience in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma and their caregivers, and published the protocol on symptom burden in end-stage liver disease. She and her interdisciplinary research team are preparing publications on preliminary data from a current NIH-R01 project that will bring forth leading edge knowledge to the fields of hepatology and gastroenterology on ESLD symptom prevalence, interference, and clusters.

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**Gordon Mills, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor of cell, developmental and cancer biology, School of Medicine, has been appointed interim associate director for clinical research in the Knight Cancer Institute. “Gordon will work with Kristin Bialobok, Mindy Roberts, and Eliana Turk to

build on the excellent work they have done in the clinical trials arena, and will help develop clinical research partnerships, define strategic goals for the program, and set priorities for clinical trial recruitment,” said Tom Beer, M.D., professor medicine, School of Medicine, who led the clinical research program since 2012 and recently accepted the role of chief medical officer for the institute’s Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research Center, or CEDAR. “As we increasingly focus on precision oncology, it’s fitting that Gordon should take a leadership role in clinical trials, and I look forward to supporting him as the program grows stronger.”

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**Joanne Noone, Ph.D.**, professor of nursing, School of Nursing, was appointed the A.B. Youmans Spaulding Distinguished Professor. Noone has achieved national recognition for her innovative work in undergraduate nursing education. Two main areas of focus have been learning activities to prepare nurses to care for diverse populations and promote health equity and educational strategy to support improvement in the diversity of the nursing workforce. Noone was inducted as a Fellow in the National League for Nursing Academy for Nursing Education in 2017 and as a Fellow into

the American Academy of Nursing in 2018, both recognizing her work in developing a model to improve nursing workforce diversity with impact at state and national levels.

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**Robert Orfaly, M.D.**, associate professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, School of Medicine, is now chair of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Board of Councilors. Orfaly took on the role at the organization's 2019 Annual Meeting; he is also chair of the AAOS Membership and Leadership Development Committee.

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**Cynthia Perry, Ph.D.**, associate professor of nursing, School of Nursing, was appointed the Elizabeth N. Gray Distinguished Professor. Perry's funded program of research seeks to promote health equity and eliminate health disparities by promoting physical activity in underserved and disenfranchised populations. She is accomplishing this through community-based participatory research, interdisciplinary research projects and national networks. Perry is a recognized expert in health promotion research with underserved populations. She was inducted as a Fellow of the American Health Association in 2015, in recognition of her contributions to promoting cardiovascular health with women and minority populations.

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**Rosalie Sears, Ph.D.**, professor of molecular and medical genetics, School of Medicine, was appointed the inaugural recipient of the Krista L. Lake Chair in Cancer Research.

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**Asma Taha, Ph.D.**, associate professor of nursing, School of Nursing, was named Oregon's only fellow in the American Academy of Nursing. Taha, the director of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

program in the School of Nursing, practices as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Dorenbecher Children's Hospital CDRC.

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**Eric Walsh, M.D.**, professor of medicine, School of Medicine, received the Edward E. Rosenbaum Hospice Life Award from Housecall Providers. Walsh is hospice medical director for the in-home primary care, palliative care, and hospice services organization Housecall Providers (part of CareOregon).

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**David Wilson, M.D.**, professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine, and director, Casey Eye Institute, was appointed the inaugural recipient of the Paul H. Casey Chair in Ocular Oncology.

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The OHSU Library welcomed 2 new faculty members this year. **Basia Delawska-Elliott, M.L.I.S.**, and **Tova Johnson, M.L.I.S., M.P.H.** Prior to joining the OHSU Library team, Basia was a medical librarian at Providence St. Joseph Health where she used her expertise to support clinicians with their information and research needs, and engaged students in learning more advanced searching skills. Basia's professional and research interests include supporting the Nursing Magnet recognition process, facilitating the transition of research skills to support clinical practice, and measuring and promoting the value of libraries and librarians in health care settings. Tova's professional and research interests include biomedical sciences, public health, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. She previously worked in continuing resources at the College of William & Mary and in mobile library services in the Williamsburg Regional Library in Virginia where she used her expertise to develop and deliver programming, public service, and collection development, including online resources.

# TRANSITIONS

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**John Ma, M.D.**, professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine, stepped down as chair after 12.5 years of leading the department. Sharon Anderson, dean of School of Medicine has selected **Mary Tanski, M.D., M.B.A.**, associate professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine, to serve as interim chair.

# UPDATES

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**Kathie Lasater, Ed.D.**, Professor Emerita, School of Nursing, 2019

On March 7, 2019, the Edinburgh Napier University Visiting and Emeritus Panel named me Visiting Professor for 2019–2021. In 2018, I served as a Fulbright Research Scholar in the School of Health and Social Care at the University.

The work of the visiting professorship builds on my 2018 research and involves consultative assistance for curricular revisions to meet U.K.-wide standards that were introduced in May 2018.

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**Dorothy W. Hagan, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine, School of Medicine, 2007

After designing and incorporating both a Master of Nutrition and a Master of Clinical Nutrition with the Dietetic Internship Program, I retired in January 2007. My husband and I then traveled 11 of 12 months for 4 years before returning to Portland and reduced travel to 3–4 months per year. We then built a retirement home and moved to Vancouver, Wash.

While working I was not able to pursue in any depth my passion for textiles and traditional rug hooking. In 2015, I became a certified McGowen Rug Hooking Teacher and have pursued this textile art form publishing some short articles in trade magazines.

Having a passion for both work and pleasure and achieving those goals brings success and contentment and satisfaction.

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**John Oakley Beahrs, M.D.**, Professor Emeritus, Psychiatry, School of Medicine, 2006

Following retirement, I held inpatient locum tenens placements in California and Oregon, sampling the local cultures.

In the Group for the Advancement of Psychiatry, I participate on two working committees: Research, and Terrorism & Political Violence.

I presented a paper on “traumatophobia” for the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law (2014) and the American Psychiatric Association (2016), and presented a “shared self-deception hypothesis” of mind and culture at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2015).

Three book manuscripts are in advanced revision: Reality Question (natural philosophy), Sociodynamics (psychotherapy, which physically changes brains from the outside inward), and Freedom Paradox (how liberal democracy is anomalous, powerful, rare, fragile, and always under threat).

I have hiked on four 12-day animal-assisted Sierra Club outings, and was principal French horn player with the Marylhurst Symphony. My wife Claudette remains professionally active, and we both enjoy our family, local culture, and traveling.

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**David C. Dawson, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus,  
Physiology and Pharmacology, 2014

Kay and I now spend 6 months of each year in Bar Harbor, Maine and the remainder in Portland, Oregon, except for two months in Lahaina, Maui. In Bar Harbor I lead grant writing workshops at The Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, where I was Scientific Director from 1993–1999, and the Jackson Laboratory, as well as working with individual young investigators on their applications.

My primary activity, however, is music. I play guitar and sing, solo and with several groups, at various local pubs, libraries and churches. In Maui I have played in Front Street pubs as well as the Methodist Church. In Portland, I play at bi-monthly jam sessions and open mics.

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**Mitch Greenlick, Ph.D.**, Professor Emeritus,  
School of Public Health, 2000

In 2002, I was elected to his first of 8 terms in the Oregon House of Representatives, serving District #33. I currently serve as Chairman of the House Committee on Health Care. In 2005, I was selected for the “Public Health Genius” award by the Oregon Public Health Institute and “Lifetime Achievement” award by the Oregon Public Health Association.

I established the Mitch Greenlick Public Health Scholarship for students committed to serving the health of underrepresented communities in 2007. In 2013, I was invited to return to Stanford’s Center for Advanced Study of Behavioral Sciences, where I served as a fellow in 1995.

Among my 200 career books, articles and papers are recent publications, *Managing Research: The Cat-Herd’s Toolkit* (2012) and *Capitol Letters: An Inside View of the Legislative Process* (2016).

# SCHOOL OF MEDICINE EMERITA EMERITI FACULTY GROUP

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On June 1, the group held its inaugural Lunch and Learn. “We were privileged to have Dr. Robert Berdahl, former Chancellor at UC Berkley and President University of Oregon, join us says **David Nardone, M.D.**, professor emeritus of medicine, School of Medicine, “In addition to the opportunity to visit with colleagues, there were three excellent presentations from Sonia Buist, Don Girard, and Peter Sullivan with focused Q and A.”

Going forward, the group hopes to identify emerita emeriti faculty who would be willing to serve as mentors to students, trainees, and faculty as well as catalog elements of clinical skills curriculum that would more likely be suitable for emerita emerita faculty to participate as volunteers. For more information on the group contact: [nardoned@ohsu.edu](mailto:nardoned@ohsu.edu)

## IN MEMORIAM

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**Milton Yatvin, Ph.D.**  
December 13, 2018



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# Emeritus

A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU EMERITUS FACULTY

