

Bridges



A magazine of people, connections and community for alumni of the OHSU School of Medicine

Summer 2020

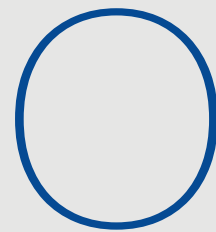




Sharon Anderson, M.D. R '82

I invite you to learn more at www.ohsu.edu/som and contact me at somdeansoffice@ohsu.edu.

Together, we rise



HSU, LIKE OUR NATION, IS FACING A MOMENT OF RECKONING.

First, COVID-19 rearranged our work and our lives, burgeoning into a full-blown public health crisis fraught with fear, suffering and loss. At OHSU and in the School of Medicine, we leapt to the fight, banding together and bringing a level of shared focus, innovation, creativity and unparalleled, sustained hard work, examples of which you will read about in this issue. Our efforts flattened the curve of infection; even as cases climbed again, we now know so much more about what to do.

But that crisis did not prove to be the one that would shake us to our core.

On May 25, four Minneapolis police officers murdered George Floyd in broad daylight outside a grocery mart. Amid the rage that erupted in Portland and across the world in the wake of his death, OHSU President Danny Jacobs proclaimed that we will dismantle systemic racism within our institution. The School of Medicine is joining him – from scrutinizing our curriculum to root out bias and embed health equity teachings to championing the termination of “race correction” in nationally utilized clinical algorithms that, while not the intention, have been shown to result in white people getting more and better care than Blacks.

How do we know we can help shatter and rebuild the racist foundation on which our country was forged? Because we have stared down the most terrifying virus the world has seen in a century, and we aren’t blinking. Health care can turn on a dime when it wants to. It’s time to bring that focus to the virus of racism that has caused devastating health disparities leading to untold suffering and millions in health care costs and lost productivity.

There is a role for each of us, most especially our alumni who are integral members of communities across Oregon and beyond. In this issue, you will learn about the work of our students, faculty and fellow alumni. Look for inspiration and follow it.

Together, we rise.

A handwritten signature of Sharon Anderson.

Sharon Anderson, M.D. R '82
Dean

ON THE COVER

The COVID-19 pandemic.
A pandemic of systemic
racism. Stories page 6-15.

PHOTO

Kristyna Wentz-Graff

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Change can't happen if we see things just one way.
That's why diversity is important to who we are.
We are proud to be an equal opportunity,
affirmative action employer. 0820(180)

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Black Lives Matter

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commits to change.

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Meet this year's alumni award winners

LCME fully accredits M.D. program while providing areas for improvement

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) has awarded the school's undergraduate medical education (MD) program full accreditation. The announcement came in late June, following the LCME's January site visit.

The LCME deemed 76 of 93 elements satisfactory, noting numerous areas of strength. These included the high caliber of the faculty, the experience of the program's educational leaders and the innovations made to the curriculum. OHSU is a national leader in competency-based medical education, and a 100% residency match for three years running has been a vote of confidence in student preparedness.

"I am pleased that the LCME has fully accredited our M.D. program and want to recognize the incredibly comprehensive preparation by the faculty, staff and students," said Dean Sharon Anderson. "I also want to be clear that we are committed to – and have already begun working – to make the improvements the LCME has asked of us."

The LCME found that OHSU must improve in 17 elements with a particular focus on improving the diversity of the faculty and on academic and career advising. For this reason, the school was given an accreditation for an indeterminate length of time until improvements are made.

"LCME appropriately zeroed in on two chronic issues that we must tackle forthwith," said George Mejicano, M.D., M.S., senior associate dean for education. "Increasing faculty diversity will require a concerted effort and sustained commitment at the highest levels of the institution. In addition, our approach to academic and career advising needs to be rethought, in particular, our well-intentioned faculty coaching program." – EHB



School celebrates new graduates virtually

The school held its hooding and graduation celebrations virtually this year, awarding 453 degrees and certificates over celebrations conducted via video streams.

"It's customary and fitting for leaders to tell graduates to go forth and do good," reflected Dean Sharon Anderson. "This year, we must also pause and reflect on a period that has been like no other. For our graduating students, the pandemic cut short clinical rotations, shut many out of their labs and disrupted time-honored traditions from Match Day to dissertation defense. We are also confronting a pandemic of racism in which we must look to our work as healers and our commitment to public service. I ask that you go forth and not only do good but help us bring about the changes required to provide even better care for all of our communities."

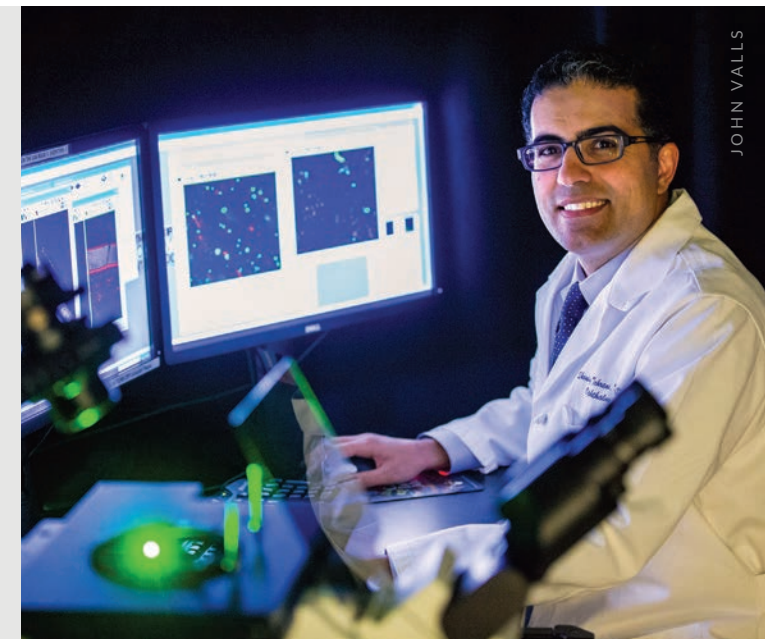
In March, all 149 M.D. students in the running for residency slots got matched during an Alt Match Day celebration from home. It was the third consecutive 100% match for OHSU's M.D. program; 42% of students matched in primary care, and 19% matched to OHSU. – EHB

▲ FRAMING THE MOMENT

Graduating M.D. student Victoria Trump Redd celebrates hooding and convocation at her mom's house in Portland, Oregon. Graduation celebrations were virtual this year. Dr. Trump Redd is now a psychiatry resident at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H.

Investing in the future of glaucoma research

Shandiz Tehrani, M.D., Ph.D., associate professor of ophthalmology, splits his time between the clinical and surgical care of glaucoma patients at Casey Eye Institute and laboratory research investigating better treatments for glaucoma, which leads to irreversible blindness and currently has no cure. Recently, the junior physician-scientist received the school's Physician-Scientist Transitional Support award, \$100,000 over two years, which will help Dr. Tehrani with staffing, materials and equipment for his lab while he seeks his first independent NIH R01 grant. Dean Sharon Anderson launched the Physician-Scientist Program in 2018 in response to declining numbers of physician-scientists across the U.S. and at OHSU.



Two new residency programs coming to Hillsboro

Aiming to expand the number of residents by 100 slots in the next 10 years, the school's new Graduate Medical Education Statewide office is collaborating with hospitals to help them start their own programs.

The initiative's early successes include two new residency programs coming to OHSU Health Hillsboro Medical Center, formerly known as Tuality Healthcare. The programs will train residents in family medicine and internal medicine for three years and have already received approval by national accreditors.

"Bringing more medical residents to Oregon is key to bringing more physicians to Oregon," said Jim Anderson,

M.D., professor of diagnostic radiology, OHSU School of Medicine, who also directs the school's Graduate Medical Education Statewide initiative.

The programs could welcome their first residents as early as July 2021.

"Residents will be embedded within our community – in our primary care clinics, through the ¡Salud! health outreach program for seasonal winery workers and with local health care partners – and will hopefully remain here to serve our community for years to come," said Brian C. Ricci, M.D. R '15, assistant professor of medicine, OHSU School of Medicine, and director of graduate medical education, OHSU Health Hillsboro Medical Center, who leads the Hillsboro internal medicine residency program. – FW



Becoming an anti-racist institution



WHITE COATS FOR BLACK LIVES

On June 5, people from across the university observed eight minutes and 46 seconds of silence, the amount of time a Minneapolis police officer knelt on George Floyd's neck. Earlier that week, many also participated in #ShutDownSTEM to draw attention to racism in the sciences.

When people are sick, dying, injured or experiencing other negative health consequences, I believe that we, as health care professionals, have a duty and responsibility to address the underlying causes – including structural racism," said President Danny Jacobs.

Leaders committed to new initiatives and action steps, including, but not limited to:

OHSU-wide

- Enhance and build on unconscious bias training and develop a training and mentoring program for OHSU members of color to support upward mobility and career development.
- Terminate the OHSU contract with Oregon Correction Enterprises for laundry services.
- Review our Public Safety organization.

In the school

- Established an Equity and Justice Subcommittee of the Undergraduate Medical Education (M.D.) program's Curriculum Committee at the committee's July meeting. The subcommittee will develop and continuously improve curricular elements related to the elimination of health inequities and the promotion of an anti-racist and anti-oppressive medical education.
- Analyze the use of race in clinical algorithms that guide patient care to root out uses where factoring for race is, in practice, leading to less aggressive care for patients of color.
- Expand anti-racism faculty development offerings, including in the area of bystander training and review and enrich our professional development activities with anti-racist education, exploration of cultural competencies, and ensuring respect for gender identity.
- Enhance recruitment and interview strategies, ensuring diverse and unbiased interviewers. Develop and implement specific interventions to recruit and retain a faculty diverse in gender, ethnicity, and race.



We have the power to change this

Like so many Black people and people of color, I have been devastated by the most recent acts of horrific, life-ending violence against people of color. The collective grief, sorrow and pain is a weight I carry with me every day. Oregon has a dark history of racism that, at its best, is felt as an undercurrent of pain and tension, and at its worst, actively contributes to violence against Black people and people of color. When these all too frequent acts of violence occur throughout the country, Black Oregonians feel it deeply. That is because of the chronic racial aggression and oppression that permeates throughout the state.

OHSU is a beacon of hope. Its commitment to diversity has been a unique reprieve. I challenge OHSU to take the next step, which includes a public statement, financial support and a commitment to addressing violence against people of color, specifically Black people, as the public health crisis that it is. Health care disparities are among the evidence of inequity in the system. We have the power to change this.

– Samuel Rogers, M.P.A.S. '19, PA-C,
Knight Cardiovascular Institute



COURTESY DONN SPIGHT

To the M.D. class of 2020

In August 2019, data published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences showed that 1 in 1,000 Black men in America will die at the hands of the police.

We all know that police brutality is a manifestation of structural racism in this country. It was a public health emergency in 1920, as it is in 2020.

It will not change until we ALL stand together and demand that it end.

As you leave this place to begin your journey, commit to leaning in.

Do something Class of 2020. I implore you.

Do something to rewrite this horrible narrative that has played over and over for generations.

Be the difference to end inequality so that I can teach my son in the past tense about a world where the color of his skin would have defined his rate of mortality.

When the fires stop burning and the spotlight moves on, under this white coat I remain a Black man in America. I am no different than the people you see on TV suffering and outraged. Please do not try to separate me from it as I share equally in the pain.

**– Donn Spight, M.D., Professor of Surgery,
OHSU School of Medicine,
Diversity Navigator in the M.D. Program**
(pictured, above left, with his son)

► CHANGE AGENTS

From the Mackenzie Hall fountain to downtown Portland, OHSU members reacted to the murder of George Floyd and other Black Americans by organizing vigils, joining in protests and supporting protesters with first aid and supplies. The collective action spurred a commitment to change across the university.



ERIN HOODER BARNETT



KRISTYNA WENTZ-GRAFF

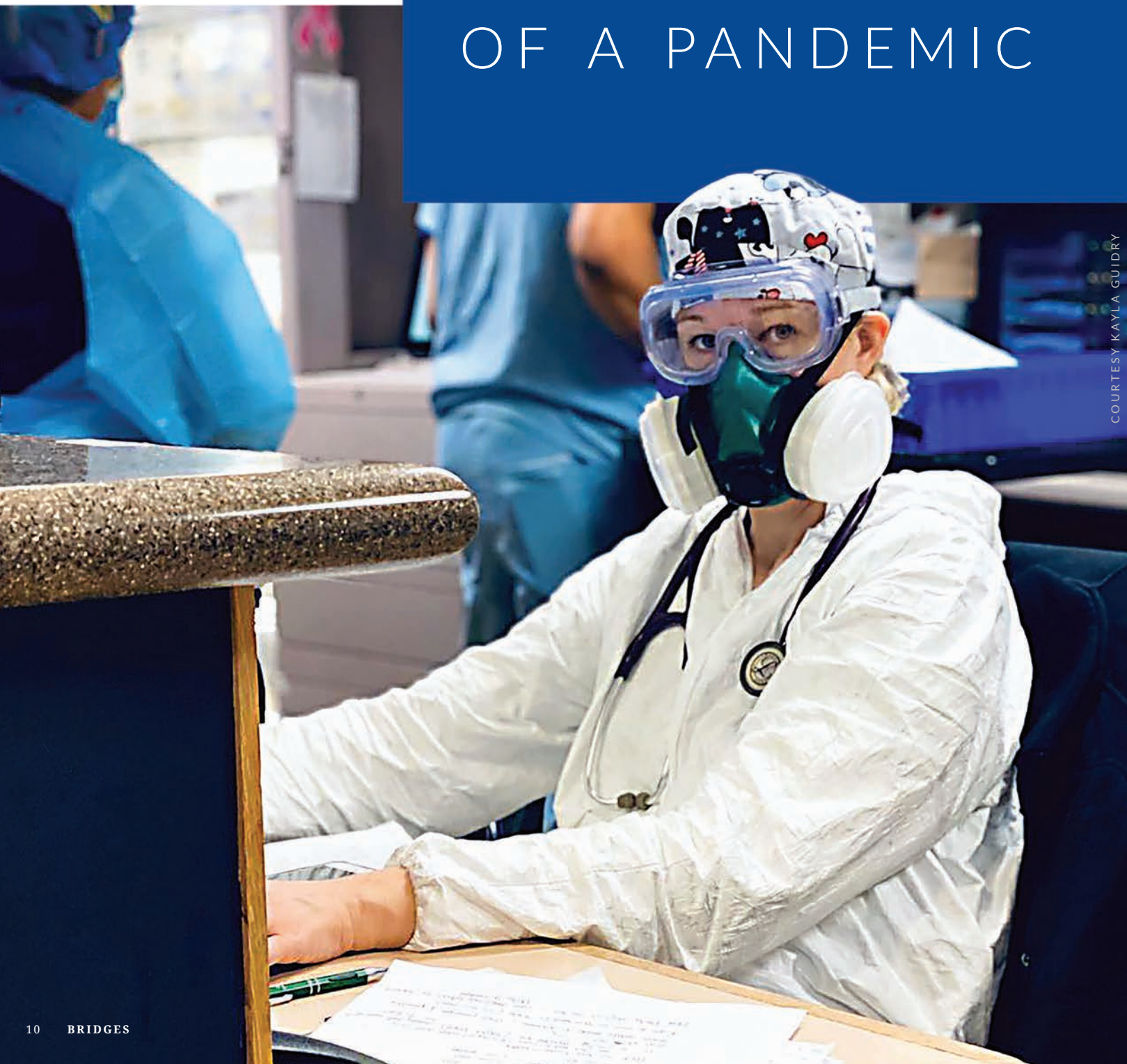


KRISTYNA WENTZ-GRAFF

HOT ZONE

Dr. Mary McLean caring for patients in New York, which experienced one of the nation's worst-hit coronavirus outbreaks in April.

ON THE FRONTLINES OF A PANDEMIC



COURTESY KAYLA GUIDRY

Mary McLean, M.D. '17, is an emergency medicine resident physician in the New York metro area, working in the emergency department (ED) and ICU before, during and after the peak of COVID-19 in the Northeast.

When did you first become concerned about COVID-19?

I started becoming very concerned at the beginning of March while traveling by Amtrak from Albany to New York City. People were coughing and having gastrointestinal symptoms on the train. One rider even vomited on the floor, and the train stopped so an ambulance could bring this person to the hospital. Suddenly I found myself feeling unsafe in this public place in the face of the growing concern for the pandemic. I started taking social distancing seriously at that point.

What's your experience so far?

My husband is temporarily living in Oregon as a precaution. My coworkers and I went through serious things together, trying to help so many critically ill patients who had been hit hard by COVID-19, and we bonded more than ever. Our community came together to donate items and help take care of health care workers. It was heartwarming and so important in these difficult times.

How did your education and training help you prepare?

From the basic science courses in anatomy and cell structure and function, to the numerous clinical exposures that started early in the first year of medical school, it was all important to my understanding of this new and evolving disease. Emergency department rotations and residency training brought it all together in time for me to be helpful during this epidemiologic crisis.

What is the biggest challenge you face?

It is extremely frustrating going to work and risking my own health for my community when people are being reckless, ignoring social distancing and choosing not to wear masks for unimportant reasons. Even more difficult to face is the knowledge that some people believe COVID-19 is a hoax altogether. I wish they could shadow an emergency physician in a hot zone for one hour.

What are your thoughts on the future?

We need to think about how our system failed us and how we failed ourselves. Our leadership, our policies and our individual responses are supposed to help keep us safe, but none of those puzzle pieces are in the right place, and we've made ourselves vulnerable. We need to analyze every hole in this Swiss cheese model, take action and never make the same mistakes again.

Read the full interviews at ohsu.edu/som/alumni.

Geoff Melly, Ph.D. '19, is a microbiology fellow at Washington State Public Health Laboratories. The state experienced one of the earliest outbreaks of COVID-19 in the United States.

When did you first become concerned about COVID-19?

I remember being astounded at the speed with which the SARS-CoV-2 virus was identified and its genome sequenced in mid-January. Towards the end of February, as I started to hear about human-to-human transmission and suspected a-/pre-symptomatic transmission, it became clear that we were heading into something we hadn't seen before. On a scientific and professional level, I felt a focused exhilaration, since in a very basic sense, this was why I decided to work in microbiology. On a personal level, however, I was worried about my friends and family, many of whom have risk factors for severe COVID-19.

What's your experience so far?

I'm on a PCR (polymerase chain reaction) testing team, so I've been performing and analyzing tests that detect viral genetic material in patient samples. We have tested thousands upon thousands of patient samples, and we are constantly improving our testing efficiency to better support the state public health response. We have also been collaborating with local research groups to perform genomic analyses of SARS-CoV-2 strains circulating in Washington.

How did your education and training help you prepare?

Purdy Lab shout-out! My mentor was Dr. Georgiana Purdy. The technical and analytical skillset I gained at OHSU is the foundation of my current role as a public health microbiologist and has enabled me to make an immediate contribution to the COVID-19 response in Washington State.

What have you learned?

Speaking as a microbiologist, it is absolutely fascinating to be on the ground as this is unfolding in real time. Each day brings a new revelation about this virus and the disease it causes. However, this is tempered by recognizing the morbidity and mortality that is being caused by this pandemic. Lives and livelihoods are being upended, and these effects are unevenly distributed. This pandemic is making everything that was already true about life in the U.S. even more so.

What are your thoughts on the future?

I want to believe that we will learn from this. We need to valorize proactive public health measures and basic biomedical research. More importantly, we need to substantively address systemic inequity in American society. Dramatically expanding access to health care, especially longitudinal care and especially to traditionally underserved populations, would be a start in this direction. These are the areas in which the US response to the COVID-19 pandemic has failed most conspicuously. We need to address these major shortcomings to better prepare ourselves for the future. **B**

OHSU RESPONDS to COVID-19

Teams deliver the highest level of care

After two months of hospitalization, Maria Nevarez (pictured below) – one of OHSU Health’s first patients with COVID-19 – was discharged May 13 after spending a month on Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation, advanced life support that infused her blood with oxygen.

As of publication, Nevarez is one of 2,001 patients treated in person or virtually in OHSU hospitals or clinics for COVID-19 since February 28; 10 patients have died.

In addition to launching an onsite COVID-19 diagnostic lab and two mobile testing sites in the Portland area, OHSU Health quickly accelerated its work to implement a virtual ICU (VICU) program, exponentially expanded its telemedicine programs, co-hosts a weekly video meeting for hundreds of primary care physicians across Oregon and established a Connected Care Center – available by phone at 833-647-8222 – to provide COVID-19 consultation statewide.



▲ TRAIN, PREPARE

OHSU’s simulation programs allow health care workers to train in a safe environment where they can learn and perfect skills needed to care for COVID-19 patients safely. “We are helping make sure staff are ready to deliver quality care to coronavirus patients before the pandemic gets worse,” said Donn Spight, M.D., professor of surgery, OHSU School of Medicine and medical director of OHSU Simulation.

◀ HANDS-ON

Ashley Stading, M.D. Class of 2022, joined fellow students and community members in sewing masks for distribution through agencies serving vulnerable communities in Portland. A local clothing company helped organizers mass-cut the fabric and surgical wrap, and then volunteers followed patterns provided by the organizers to sew the masks.

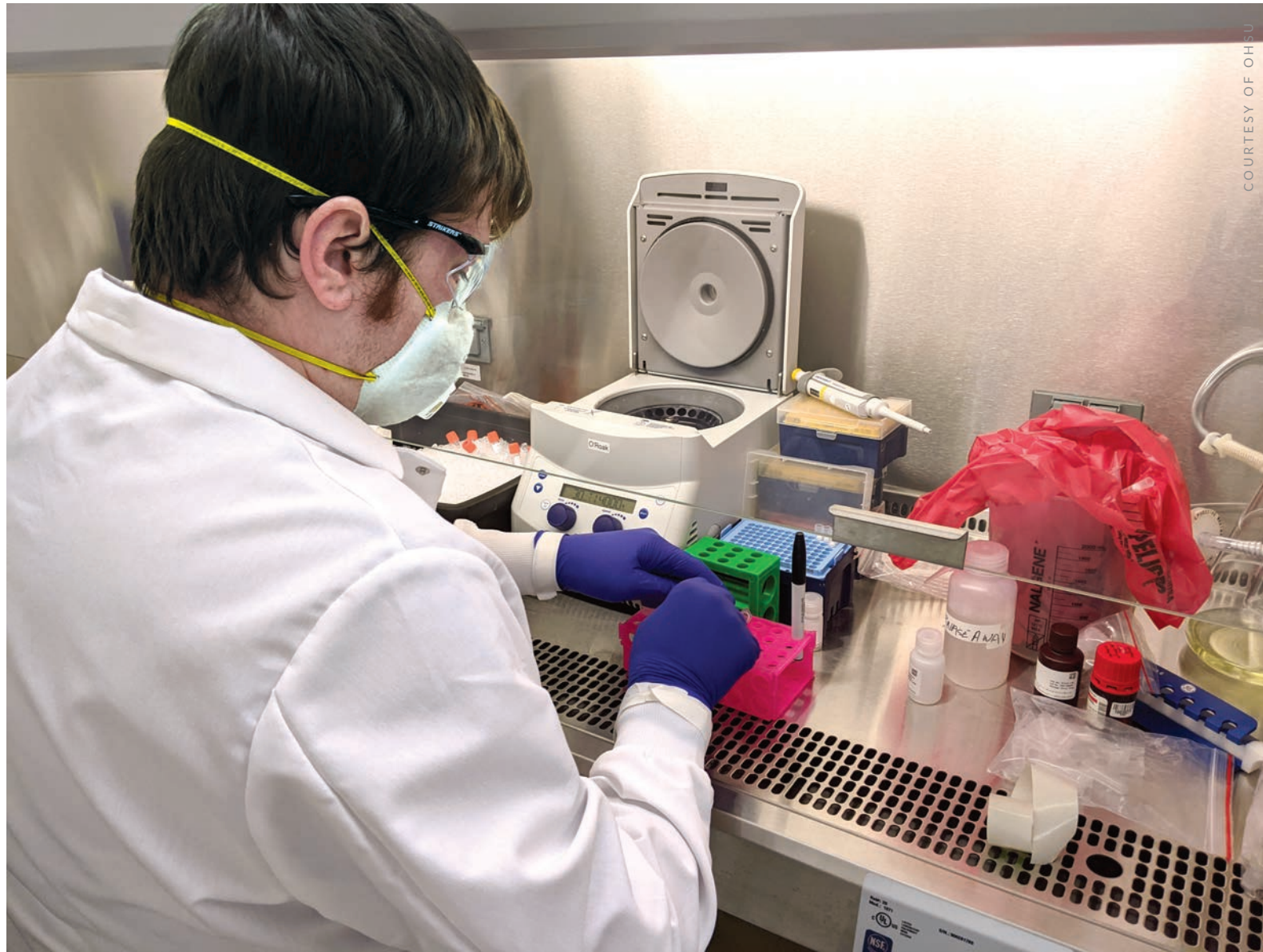


Learning adapts in a pandemic

OHSU canceled all face-to-face instruction on March 16, and during subsequent terms, academic programs moved to remote instruction, using digital delivery methods. Labs closed down and graduate students performed data analyses remotely; labs are now slowly reopening. Student clinical rotations and similar experiences were paused, but have now resumed.

Educators and students adapted during the shutdown, and the learning continued. In lieu of in-person rotations, the school created several virtual electives including a COVID-19 epidemiology course taught by Paul Lewis, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics, OHSU School of Medicine. About 100 medical students are now volunteer contact tracers for Multnomah County.

Students also collaborated to volunteer their services – ranging from child care to grocery delivery – serving frontline health care staff. Kyungjeen Paik, M.D. '20, pictured above, joined fellow students in delivering care kits to Asian elders in the Portland area that included cleaning supplies, toilet paper, food and masks. And 68% of M.D. Class of 2020 completed their M.D. graduation requirements on March 20, the end of winter term, thanks to the school's competency-based curriculum in which students progress based on skill mastery not seat time. That allowed many to start their residencies and join the health care workforce early.



Research rises to the challenge

As the arrival of COVID-19 in Oregon came into focus in March, researchers across OHSU quickly pivoted, tackling simultaneous priorities. They prepared for significant disruption to their labs and studies, which are now slowly restarting. At the same time, they identified expertise and skills they could bring to the COVID-19 effort.

Data scientist Peter Graven, Ph.D., modeled the projected spread of the virus and began sharing those projections with health care leaders and policymakers in mid-March. These projections helped inform Oregon's "Stay Home, Save Lives" campaign to reduce the spread of the virus and ensure it doesn't exceed the capacity of health systems to treat a surge of patients who required hospitalization.

Researchers sequenced COVID-19-positive samples and

comparing genomes to characterize how COVID-19 is spreading around the country and world and how it entered and is spreading in Oregon. "Most of the samples are descended from the A2a lineage, which you might have heard about in the news," said Brian O'Roak, Ph.D., associate professor of molecular and medical genetics in the OHSU School of Medicine. "This is the strain that spread across Europe and New York. We have multiple independent introductions of this strain to Oregon, including one that makes up 20% of the samples."

Trauma surgeon Albert Chi, M.D., M.S.E., is leading an effort to generate low-cost ventilators using 3D printing technology. These ventilators could be useful in hot spots experiencing an overwhelming surge of critically ill patients.

Gov. Kate Brown tapped an OHSU team to help lead a community-based testing effort called "Key to Oregon." The



▲ INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

Dr. Albert Chi, left, and Whitney Menzel look over a new ventilator created with 3D-printing technology, at OHSU, April 22. The design does not require electricity and operates off of a standard oxygen tank.

◀ MAPPING THE VIRUS

Brendan O'Connell isolates viral RNA from a sputum sample from a patient positive for COVID-19/SARS-CoV-2. Researchers are sequencing COVID-19-positive samples and comparing genomes to characterize how COVID-19 is spreading around the country and world and how it entered and is spreading in Oregon.

effort will gather data about the virus across the state, identify new cases at their earliest stage, identify asymptomatic individuals and locate emerging hot spots for containment – all of which are critically important for restoring the economy and protecting public health.

The World Health Organization funded an evidence review led by Roger Chou, M.D., director of the Pacific Northwest Evidence-based Practice Center at OHSU and a professor of medicine (internal medicine and geriatrics) in the OHSU School of Medicine. The review confirmed that combining PPE use with proper training in infection control lowers the rate of infection in health care workers.

"Science will tell us how to stop the virus and how to heal people," said Susan Hayflick, M.D., professor and chair of molecular and medical genetics. "Science will lead us out of the pandemic." – RS

STORIES OF THE
2020ALUMNI
AWARDEES

by Carin Moonin

Feeling
all writePATRICIA KULLBERG, M.D. '79, M.P.H.
CHARLES PREUSS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNAE AWARD

At eight years old, Dr. Patricia Kullberg accompanied her physician father on rounds. By high school, she worked in his office: drawing blood, developing X-rays and assisting with minor surgery.

Like her father, she wanted to go into family practice. And she wanted to do it in an urban setting.

"I was a child of the '60s and aspired to develop a career around service," Dr. Kullberg explained. "Initially, I considered rural areas in need, but I was an urban animal."

After her residency at University of California, Davis, she joined the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program, preparing physicians for positions in teaching, research and clinical leadership. She did her thesis on the health care reform movements of the '60s: a natural outgrowth of her interests.

But she wanted to cement her clinical skills as a practitioner. So she returned to Portland to seek employment in community health centers. After physician stints at Cowlitz County Health Department, Kaiser Permanente and the nonprofit Outside In, she landed the position of medical director for the Multnomah County Health Department.

At Multnomah County, Dr. Kullberg appreciated the mission-driven environment and the ability to widely influence care and policy. During her tenure, Multnomah County also instituted numerous quality initiatives, such as landing Joint Commission accreditation and establishing standards of care around birth control, diabetes management and pain management.

She thought it was crucial that the county delivered the highest quality service possible, and during her entire tenure, she continued to care for patients.

"Sometimes, medical directors will pull back from working in clinic," she said. "I think that's dangerous because you lose touch with what you're managing. It's important to have your feet on the ground."

Dr. Kullberg excelled at keeping patient needs a priority, said Dr. Peter Hatcher, who worked with her at Multnomah County. "We'd be discussing processes and efficiencies, and she'd always make it clear her head and heart stayed with what the patient needed," he explained.

She prided herself on not only the high level of care the clinic provided but also the long-term relationship between primary care provider and patient. "You can really engage with someone around their health care," she said. "I stayed for 20-something years because it never got boring."

Dr. Kullberg has also been writing for years. She began by writing about politics and health. After she entered into medical practice, she used writing for self-therapy: a way to work through personal issues and patient encounters that didn't go well.

"Putting it on paper forces clarity," she said.

In 2011, Dr. Kullberg retired, allowing her to spend more time writing. Her current projects include articles for Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, an organization that advocates for policy changes to protect human health. Recently, she wrote an editorial about radioactive fracking waste dumped in Oregon. She also volunteers at Oregon public radio station KBOO as a radio engineer.

Recently, Dr. Kullberg has discovered writing fiction; she likes how it allows her to explore ideas in a broader way. In 2015, she published her first novel, *Girl in the River*, about the lives of women in vice-laden Portland during World War II. *On the Ragged Edge of Medicine*, her memoir detailing poverty's impact on the delivery of health care, came out in 2017. Her latest book-length work is a novel chronicling life in Vanport, Oregon, in the 1940s before the flood wiped the town out.

"She delights in the complexities of her character's lives and the choices that make them human," said Dr. Robert Henriques, who also worked with Dr. Kullberg at Multnomah




I think the more we illuminate each other's lives and get to know people who aren't like us, the better off we are as a society.

— Dr. Patricia Kullberg

County. "Her love for literature is very consistent with her work. I've heard her say repeatedly that she doesn't trust a doctor who doesn't read literature."

For the past seven years, Dr. Kullberg has volunteered for Write Around Portland, which leads creative writing workshops in correctional facilities, residential homes and treatment facilities. "These are places where writing can help work through personal issues and build community," she said.

Whether in fiction's pages or on health care's front lines, she's drawn to giving the under-represented a voice. "I think the more we illuminate each other's lives and get to know people who aren't like us, the better off we are as a society," she said. 

Their complaints were never trivial

The following excerpt from an essay by Dr. Kullberg reflects on medicine at its ragged edge. Read "This is how it was" in full at powells.com/post/original-essays/this-is-how-it-was.

They came to the clinic in clothing too thin for the cold. They came in layers of cheap shirts, vests, sweaters, dresses, and pants over saggy long underwear, a great strategy for living on the streets. They came in clothes too heavy for the heat because they were jacked up on too much meth or crack and couldn't stand the cold. They came in long-sleeved shirts to hide their tracks. A few came veiled. Older women from somewhere else in the world usually came in black shapeless dresses, except for Lupe from Honduras, who favored bright-colored, short-sleeved frocks. Ronald came in wide-lapelled, double-breasted suits, patterned ties in loud colors, and a spiffy hat set at a jaunty angle. I'd tell him he looked like a million bucks and

boy did he love to hear that.

Some patients I saw only once. Some I knew for more than 20 years. They complained of all the usual things. They also complained that their bones were cold or insects lived under their skin. Shirley complained that a surgeon had ripped out her organs years ago and left her rotting deep inside. Lois complained that the neighbors were pumping poisonous gases into her vents. Carol claimed that five men had raped her from front and behind in the middle of the day in the middle of downtown Portland in an alley that did not exist — a fabrication, I suspected, that was not nearly as horrible as what she had actually endured as a child and refused to talk about. Their complaints were never trivial. To complain of something that does not matter is a privilege accorded only those with means. — PK

Seeing what develops

SUSAN POUND BAGBY, M.D. R '71 R '76
ESTHER POHL LOVEJOY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dr. Susan Bagby knows about sharing ideas. When she joined the OHSU faculty in the 1970s, she brought a lifelong love of learning and thirst for tackling complex health concerns. From 1974 to 2009, she taught renal and hypertension pathophysiology, served as a course director, served four terms on the OHSU Curriculum Committee and won career teaching awards.

While teaching, practicing nephrology and conducting grant-funded hypertension research, Dr. Bagby also joined the Women in Nephrology (WIN) organization. From 1995 to 2000, she served as its treasurer, program chair and president, and embraced opportunities to develop educational programming at a national level. Partnering with the American Society of Nephrology and the National Kidney Foundation, she and her WIN colleagues organized symposia focused on often-neglected

women's health issues – such as estrogen and autoimmune disease, hypertension during pregnancy and sex steroids in hypertension – while also showcasing women experts.

In the late 1990s, Dr. Bagby met David Barker, M.D., Ph.D., FRS, the physician who founded the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) field. This discipline addresses the effects of the maternal environment on fetal development and chronic adult diseases: hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and obesity.

This led her to refocus her own work. “These are preventable outcomes, but require a new, trans-generational perspective,” she said, “It’s so important to get this message out to the world.”

Working with Dr. Barker and Kent Thornburg, Ph.D., she helped organize “Nutrition in the Womb” courses for local and regional public health and educational leaders. In 2011, she chaired the Program and Organizing Committee for the international 7th World Congress for Developmental

Origins of Health and Disease, held in Portland, Oregon. Dr. Bagby serves as a steering committee member and community outreach chair at OHSU’s Bob and Charlee Moore Institute for Nutrition & Wellness. The Moores, founders of the food company Bob’s Red Mill, had long wanted to combat obesity and chronic disease by promoting healthy, nutrient-rich diets. Dr. Bagby’s role in introducing the Moores to developmental health helped convince them to donate \$25 million to create the eponymously named institute. She’s now developing nutrition education tools for students from elementary school through college, emphasizing basic nutrition, choosing healthy foods and learning how diet, toxins and stress affect the health of their future children.

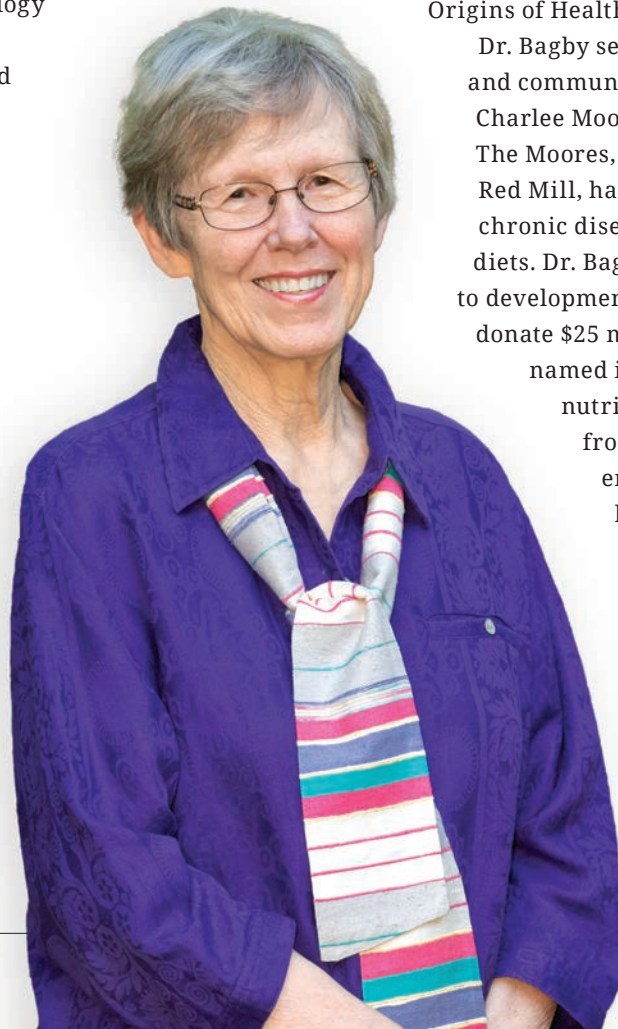
Moore Institute Director Dr. Thornburg has worked with Dr. Bagby for decades. “She has a lot of creativity in what we do for the K-12 community and beyond,” he said. “It’s a treat to work with such an outstanding scientist, writer and person.”



It’s so important to get this message out to the world.

– Dr. Susan Bagby

JORDAN SLEETH



Knocking out cancer

KRISTINA YOUNG, M.D. R '15, PH.D. '10
EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

When Dr. Kristina Young is boxing, she doesn’t think about her sore arms. Or a patient’s prognosis. Or challenges in the lab. Instead, she concentrates on the sport’s art and science: eluding while striking, seizing opportunity once it arises.

It’s a hobby that parallels her work.

As a radiation oncologist with the Oregon Clinic and head of the Tumor Microenvironment Lab as an assistant member of the Earle A. Chiles Research Institute at Providence Cancer Institute in Portland, Dr. Young’s research focuses on activating a patient’s own immune system against her cancer.

A tumor consists of more than just cancerous cells: It may include immune cells, structural cells, blood vessels, and connective tissue. Dr. Young manipulates these types of cells to strengthen the body’s own defenses. She also studies how the immune system can fight metastatic breast cancer by depleting its supply of TGFβ, a common protein found in these types of tumors. (This research recently won a \$450,000 grant from the Susan G. Komen Foundation.)

“We take anti-tumor cells out of a patient, engineer them to have more anti-tumor activity, re-infuse them into the patient, then use radiation to cause localized inflammation, resulting in more anti-cancer immune cells infiltrating the tumor,” Dr. Young explained.

During her undergraduate years at UCLA as a chemical engineering major/biomedical engineering minor, she worked in genetics and neurology labs headed by M.D./Ph.D. mentors. When she needed to pick medicine or research, she couldn’t decide. So she opted for both – and OHSU was her first choice.

“I interviewed all over the country, but I had a gut feeling about OHSU,” she said. “I felt like big things were going to happen there.”

DARREN YOUNG

Two fortuitous coincidences brought Dr. Young to radiation oncology during her third year of medical school. First, a friend suggested the discipline might suit her engineering background. Shortly thereafter, she met Charles Thomas Jr., M.D., professor and chair of radiation medicine, OHSU School of Medicine, who proposed she rotate into radiation oncology her next term, instead of waiting until her fourth year. After that rotation, Dr. Young was hooked.

“Dr. Young is a superior example of a well-balanced and productive physician-scientist,” said Dr. Thomas. “She is highly disciplined, focused and blessed with the ability to prioritize effectively. Her tumor microenvironment work is leading to novel clinical trials and targeted therapeutics.”

A typical week for Dr. Young involves two days in the clinic and three days a week in the lab. She believes this variety enlivens her and prevents burnout.

“Treating people with cancer can be emotionally intense,” she explained. “I enjoy those relationships and helping people – and I also need to find new therapies that might help the next person.”



I had a gut feeling about OHSU. I felt like big things were going to happen there.

– Dr. Kristina Young



Remembering

JOHN W. KENDALL JR., M.D. F '62 (1929-2019)



COURTESY, OHSU

“a generous spirit”

By Rachel Shafer

The school celebrates the life of John W. Kendall Jr., M.D. F '62, dean emeritus and professor emeritus of medicine, who died Dec. 11, 2019, after an extended illness. He was 90.

Former colleagues, students, friends and family remembered a man who built a remarkable career in academic medicine and who leaves behind a distinguished and lasting legacy at OHSU and the VA Portland Health Care System.

Dr. Kendall earned his M.D. from University of Washington School of Medicine in 1956 and completed a residency in internal medicine at Vanderbilt University in 1959 and a fellowship there in endocrinology in 1960. He sought additional training in endocrinology at OHSU, completing another fellowship in 1962.

In 1964, he joined the OHSU faculty and the VA as a staff physician, where his career blossomed. Over the next few decades, he honed an aptitude for leadership and administration, serving as interim chair of the Department of Medicine and assistant dean for research, among other roles. At the Portland VA, he served as the associate chief of staff for the research program, which grew under his vision and guidance.

Dr. Kendall was appointed the school's eighth dean in 1983 and served until 1992, during which time he made significant and lasting contributions. Among his key accomplishments was placing M.D. students in clinical settings from day one instead of after two years of basic science classes, earning the school national recognition for curricular innovation.

Another accomplishment was convincing Senator Mark Hatfield to direct federal funding for the construction of a sky bridge between the OHSU and VA campuses – an architectural feature that fundamentally improved operations and is now an enduring symbol of the interconnected relationship between OHSU and the VA.

Dr. Kendall's hallmark was building relationships on behalf of the school, said John Benson Jr., M.D., dean emeritus and professor emeritus of medicine, who succeeded Dr. Kendall as dean of the school.

“John was a generous spirit,” said Dr. Benson. “He was very thoughtful, and he always had a smile on his face. He would greet you with his hand out, and it was impossible not to shake it. That was his style.”

GENTLEMAN SCHOLAR

Dr. John Kendall in his lab, right, and below (far right) at the ribbon cutting to commemorate the OHSU-VA Sky Bridge opening in 1992.



COURTESY, OHSU



COURTESY, OHSU

In addition to teaching, clinical and administrative roles, Dr. Kendall spent 20 years researching the physiological relationship between the pituitary and adrenal glands and published widely.

Some of his many honors include the Portland VA Research Investigators Award, the Medical Research Foundation Mentor Award and the school's Charles Preuss Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Even in retirement, Dr. Kendall stayed connected with the school, serving as president of its Alumni Council and teaching a first-year M.D. class on physical examination.

In his free time, Dr. Kendall loved to hunt for mushrooms, fish, grow grapes, make wine, study art history and compete with his wife, Betty, to see whose tomatoes would ripen first.

Dr. Kendall is survived by Betty; three children and their spouses; seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

The family kindly requests that donations in Dr. Kendall's memory be made to the John A. Benson Jr. M.D. & John W. Kendall Jr. M.D. Visiting Professorship administered by The Foundation for Medical Excellence. [E](#)

Class notes

WE WELCOME YOUR NEWS AND PHOTOS

Email alumni@ohsu.edu or write a note to *Bridges* Class Notes c/o Rachel Shafer, OHSU School of Medicine, 3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Rd., MC L102, Portland, OR 97239. Please write a maximum of 250 words and include your name, degree/training information and graduation/completion year. We may not be able to publish all items and may edit for length and clarity.

1970s



◀ **Blaine E. Tolby, M.D. ’75 R ’78 F ’79, Ph.D.**, wrote, “During the past few years, a remarkable honor has been bestowed upon me by members of my community. I have been a practicing physician for nearly 45 years, and, for nearly 37 years, I have been practicing with a wonderful group of partners at the Child & Adolescent Clinic here in Longview, Wash. The community has responded to me in an unofficial poll sponsored through the local newspaper, *The Daily News*. The past fall, for the 13th year in a row, I was honored to be voted the Best Doctor in our community.”

1980s

Peter B. Hulman, M.D. ’89, wrote, “I retired from clinical practice on Jan. 1, 2018, and am now adjunct faculty at University of Washington and University of Alaska-Anchorage teaching medical students in the multi-state WWAMI program.”

2010s



◀ **Jackie Wirz, Ph.D. ’10**, transitioned from the school as assistant dean for student affairs in Graduate Studies to executive director of Saturday Academy in Portland, Oregon. She said, “Saturday Academy has served as a leader in STEM education for the past 37 years and I look forward to continuing this important work to ignite curiosity and a love of learning in our students.”

▶ The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine inducted **Richard Bruno, M.D. ’13, M.P.H.**, into its Distinguished Teaching Society.



Andy Dworkin, M.D. ’14 F ’17, wrote, “I now work at Legacy as an outpatient geriatrician, mostly doing long geriatric assessments: 90-minute consultations evaluating cognition, mood, medications, sleep, falls and function. My daughter, a baby in med school, is in kindergarten and just lost her first tooth. (Her classmate is the daughter of Katie Rompala from our med school class.) My son, who was in diapers when med school started (and provided the stool samples most of our class looked at in pathology lab), is in middle school. And out of diapers. My wife is still smarter than me. I feel old (and am, my classmates will say) but my patients keep me young, and engaged, and challenged. I regularly miss my med school days (some of them) and classmates (all of them).”

Centenarian’s wisdom remains a lesson today

On March 24, **Walter Reynolds, M.D. ’49**, celebrated his 100th birthday in Portland, Oregon. Dr. Reynolds was the first African American to receive his degree from the University of Oregon Medical School, now OHSU School of Medicine.

Dr. Reynolds joined his mentor Dr. DeNorval Unthank as one of two African-American physicians in Portland, according to the OHSU archival records. In 1953, Dr. Reynolds opened his own practice and 30 years later, built his own medical clinic on North Williams Avenue: “The Phil Reynolds Clinic,” named after his father. Reynolds turned no one away and was especially known for caring for members of Portland’s large, Romany-speaking community, shunned by most other doctors.

Reynolds served as president of the Urban League of Portland in 1959, president of the medical staff at Emanuel Hospital and president of what became the OHSU School of Medicine Alumni Association. He worked with the dean to recruit more students of color.

Though his children’s plans to celebrate his centennial at the Northeast Portland Hazelwood Retirement Community where he lives were derailed by public health precautions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the era of physical distancing has not dampened their pride in their father.

In honor of Dr. Reynolds, one of the Portland Aerial Trams is named “Walt.”

– EHB



In memoriam

John D. Dryden, M.D. ’88, of Washougal, Washington, died Feb. 25, 2020, at age 67.

Stanley J. Huber, M.D. ’65, of Lake Oswego, Oregon, died April 22, 2020, at age 86.

Julie Isaacson, M.D. R ’82, of Newberg, Oregon, died Feb. 10, 2020, at age 74.

Marilyn Beam Jones, B.S. ’52, of Portland, Oregon, died Jan. 16, 2020, at age 89.

Richard C. Keniston, M.D. R ’75, of Aloha, Oregon, died April 24, 2020, at age 72.

Wallace K. Kurihara, M.D. ’71, of Springfield, Oregon, died March 20, 2020, at age 75.

James D. Lambrecht, M.D. R ’77, of Renton, Washington, died March 1, 2020, at age 71.

Bryan D. Lee, M.D. ’55, of Watsonville, California, died March 26, 2020, at age 97.

Mary Ann A. Lockwood, Hon ’73, of Portland, Oregon, died May 22, 2020, at age 90.

Richard P. Mills, M.D. R ’69, of Seattle, Washington, died May 9, 2020, at age 76.

Robert A. Neill, M.D. ’55, of Great Falls, Montana, died June 1, 2020, at age 90.

Lance K. Parks, M.D. R ’76, of Billings, Montana, died Jan. 30, 2020, at age 77.

Ben Selling, M.D. ’48, of Newton, Massachusetts, died April 14, 2020, at age 95.

William R. Sweetman, M.D. R ’78, of Portland, Oregon, died April 23, 2020, at age 72.

Marvin J. Urman, M.D. ’51, of Portland, Oregon, died Feb. 12, 2020, at age 92.

George E. Wright, M.D. ’53, of Bellevue, Washington, died March 27, 2020, at age 93.

Additional in memoriam entries are at www.ohsu.edu/alumni.

Calendar

Introducing Marquam Talks

These shorter, virtual talks are reimagined from the original Marquam Hill Lecture Series. They’ll continue to showcase faculty research and clinical advances on topics of interest to the community. Thursdays, 7 p.m.

SEPT. 17	Meeting the Challenge: Innovation Amid Crisis Albert Chi, M.D.
OCT. 15	Sleuthing COVID-19: Lessons Learned and What’s to Come Peter Graven, Ph.D., and William Messer, M.D., Ph.D
NOV. 19	Redrawing Story Lines: Improving Health for Older African Americans in Changing Neighborhoods Raina Croff, Ph.D.

For more details and to join online, visit www.ohsu.edu/mhlectures.

Continuing Professional Development

15th Annual Northwest Regional Hospital Medicine Conference	
SEPT. 25	OHSU CAMPUS, PORTLAND, OREGON, AND VIRTUAL
21st Annual Oregon Geriatrics Society Conference	
OCT. 2020	VIRTUAL
44th Annual Pacific Northwest Update in Ob-Gyn and Women’s Health	
OCT. 15–16	VIRTUAL
15th Annual Pediatric Review and Obesity Update	
OCT. 23	OHSU CAMPUS, PORTLAND, OREGON, AND VIRTUAL
Musculoskeletal Update for Primary Care: New Approaches to Understanding and Managing Pain	
OCT. 23	OHSU CAMPUS, PORTLAND, OREGON, AND VIRTUAL

For the latest information and more events, go to www.ohsu.edu/som/alumni.

Schedules are subject to change. Please contact cme@ohsu.edu for registration and program updates. For the latest information on these and other continuing professional development events, visit www.ohsu.edu/som/cme.



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