

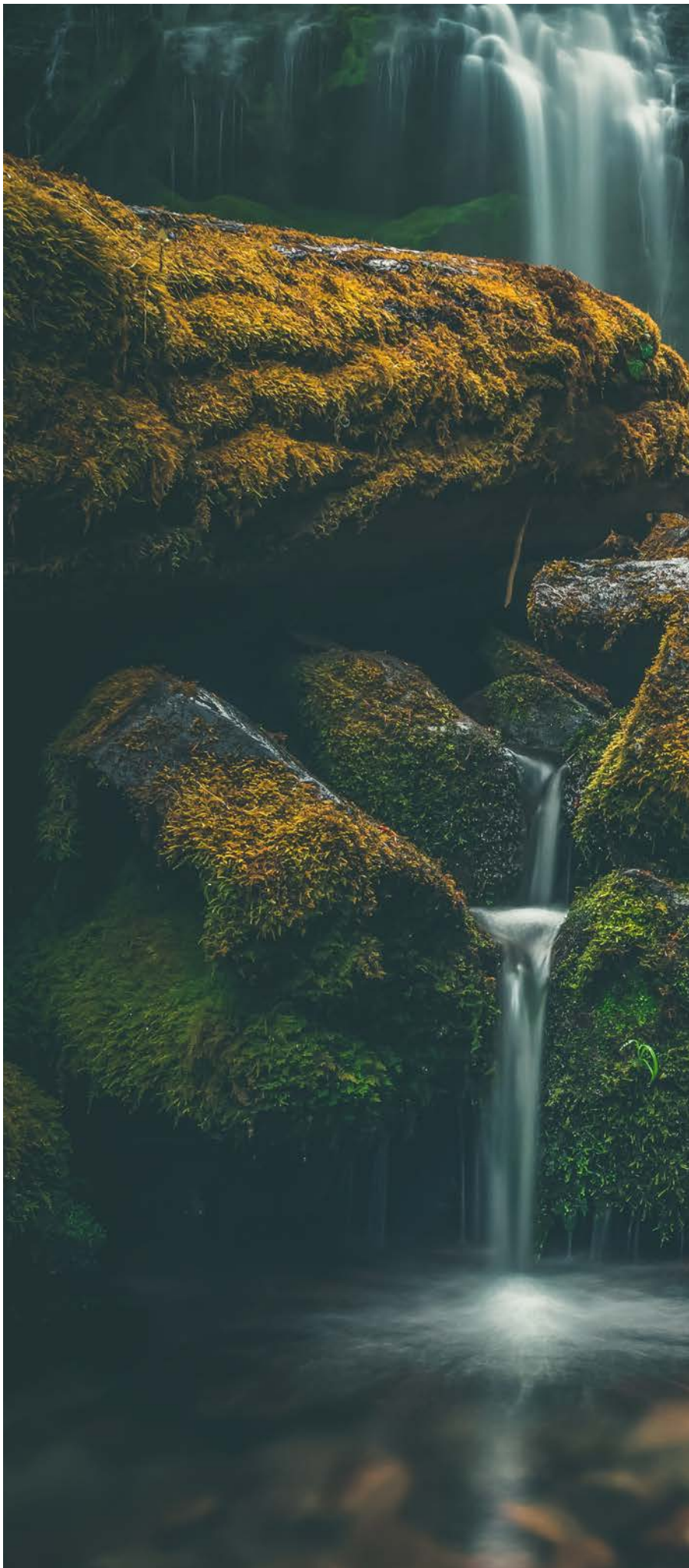
FALL
2020



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.

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



NEWS BRIEFS

A longtime health outreach program is reaching directly into vulnerable communities to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus among vineyard and winery workers across the Willamette Valley. The program, known as ¡Salud!, is operated by OHSU Health Hillsboro Medical Center, formerly Tuality Healthcare. “Agriculture workers are essential workers,” said **Leda Garside, M.B.A.**, the program’s longtime clinical nurse manager and cultural liaison with OHSU Health Hillsboro Medical Center. “They are providing us with an incredible service, and they are essential to our economy. It’s a skill, which is something that many people forget. Picking grapes from vines, picking strawberries or blueberries is a lot of work and it’s a skill. You have to be resilient, strong, and have an incredible work ethic.” A series of outbreaks have affected the food processing sector across the region. Workplace issues including physical proximity of workers, long shifts, and concern about guarantees such as sick leave have been cited among the factors driving the outbreaks. At the same time, the pandemic has had a disproportionate effect on many of the communities of color who also form the backbone of the labor pool including Latino populations. ¡Salud! serves about 2,500 workers and their families, primarily through longstanding contacts with vineyards and wineries that provide 100% funding support for the program through philanthropy.

OHSU’s 150 newest medical students recently began orientation virtually, with online sessions instead of the typical on-campus lectures and tours. Due to

the global coronavirus pandemic, the OHSU School of Medicine M.D. Class of 2024’s first six weeks of instruction will take place online. After that, the first-year medical students may be physically on campus in 2020 only for learning activities that require face-to-face contact, including practicing clinical skills like taking each other’s vital signs. It’s unknown when in-person classes will happen, and some traditions such as the white coat ceremony, where brand-new medical students typically receive their white coats for the first time, have been postponed. While many plans are flexible due to the pandemic’s difficult-to-predict nature, OHSU School of Medicine faculty remain dedicated to ensuring all OHSU medical students receive the training and experiences needed to become skilled and compassionate physicians. A quick statistical snapshot of the M.D. Class of 2024, as well as profiles of two of its members, are below.

Of the 150 medical students matriculating this fall:

- **45%** come from **racial or ethnic backgrounds** other than white
- **77%** are **Oregonians** or of Oregon heritage
- **63%** identify as **female**
- **33%** come from a **disadvantaged background** or have faced adversity
- **25%** come from a **rural background**
- **21%** come from a racial or ethnic group **underrepresented in medicine**
- **Three** have completed **military service**



The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) has assumed stewardship for the Center for Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction, which is dedicated to the study of estuaries and blends science, education, and regional outreach. (Getty Images)

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) has assumed stewardship of a nationally renowned ocean and estuary research institution to better link knowledge of the Columbia River and Pacific Ocean. The Center for Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction (CMOP) was transferred via a May 29 Memorandum of Understanding between CRITFC and OHSU. CMOP is dedicated to the study of estuaries and blends science, education, and regional outreach. Integral to its creation was a pioneering infrastructure for the observation and simulation of the flows and ecosystems of the Columbia River estuary, featuring open access to scientific data and tools. “This is a tremendous capacity-building advance for the Columbia River tribes,” said **Jeremy Red Star Wolf**, chairman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. “Our professional river and salmon management staffs have wanted more ocean and river connectivity in research, applied science and management. CMOP will help deliver that. I want to commend the OHSU and CRITFC staffs for putting the pieces together and making this transition happen.” CMOP was instrumental in the development of regional and national partnerships for observing and predicting coastal systems. In particular, it served as one of two early pilots of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observation System (IOOS), which is now an established NOAA-led national program to assist decision-makers and scientists across the U.S. coastal margin and Great Lakes.

The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education has officially granted continuation of full accreditation status of the OSU/OHSU professional PharmD program for another eight years, recognizing the program’s high standard of PharmD education. OHSU and OSU have partnered to deliver this program for 25 years, and the College of Pharmacy is ranked No. 31 in Best Pharmacy Schools (2021 US News). The OSU/OHSU PharmD program trains future pharmacists to be collaborative, innovative, and passionate about advancing patient care and continuing groundbreaking research throughout the industry. Recognizing that the field of pharmacy is expanding and evolving, the OSU/OHSU PharmD program strives to offer the tools and knowledge students need to adapt and thrive in the pharmacy profession. **Grace Kuo, PharmD, M.P.H., Ph.D.**, dean, College of Pharmacy is deeply proud of the successful accreditation and the PharmD program. “This accreditation means we can continue training an incredible group of pharmacists well into the next decade,” Dean Kuo said.

Aiming to expand the number of residents by 100 slots in the next 10 years, the School of Medicine’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, 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.

OHSU is in the early stages of creating what is expected to be the first graduate medical education program primarily based in Central Oregon. OHSU has received a \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Health Resources &

Service Administration's Rural Residency Planning and Development Program. OHSU will use the grant to develop a new family medicine residency program in partnership with St. Charles Health System, which is based in Bend. "Establishing a family medicine residency program in central Oregon can help address health care gaps that occur too often in rural areas," said **Joe Skariah, D.O., M.P.H., M.B.A.**, assistant professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, who directs OHSU's family medicine residency program and is leading this new program's creation. "Knowing physicians often choose to stay and practice in the communities where they complete their residencies, this new program could also attract more skilled and compassionate health care providers to Central Oregon."

Boston-based philanthropists Lisa and Jim Mooney have made a \$2 million gift to the Oregon Health & Science University – Portland State University School of Public Health to advance the important role that public health practitioners, scientists, and educators play in shaping a healthier, more equitable world. The Mooney family's contribution will provide flexible resources to engage students and faculty, advance relevant science, and deepen the school's commitment to addressing equitable public health outcomes. "Today marginalized populations—including Black, Indigenous and people of color, immigrants, and those living in poverty or without secure housing—are being disproportionately impacted by various public health challenges, including COVID-19," said **David Bangsberg, M.D., M.P.H.**, dean, OHSU- PSU School of Public Health. "This wonderful gift will help us take important steps to confront the social determinants of health and help us boldly tackle oppressive structures within our own academic sphere."

Before COVID-19, nursing students from four of the five campuses visited vulnerable individuals and families in their homes, along with student partners in other health disciplines. The aim of I-CAN is to promote interprofessional collaboration, provide care coordination and support, and introduce students to barriers people face in accessing health care in disadvantaged communities. When the Oregon

lockdown started in March, I-CAN leaders scrambled to maintain the program. "We had clients across the state, and we wondered what we could do beyond reassurance," recalled **Heather Voss, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of nursing, School of Nursing, and evaluation director for I-CAN. "We provided I-CAN students with a phone they could use for three-way calls with the client and a team member or the clients and the faculty in residence. We were surprised at how much influence we had in helping people cope with challenges, barriers and stressors of the stay-at-home order," she said. "Being able to talk with someone outside the home relieved tensions." Voss says I-CAN currently has had contact with 87 active clients statewide. In southeast Portland, I-CAN serves immigrant and refugee populations. Before the pandemic, 24 students visited weekly with their clients.

Children and adolescents in five Oregon counties will soon benefit from new federal funding that will help to improve health outcomes, reduce health risks and prevent unnecessary foster care placements, emergency room visits and hospital stays. The grant is one of only eight cooperative agreements awarded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to the Oregon Health Authority in partnership with OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital. Collectively, OHSU and OHA will receive up to \$16 million over seven years to integrate community-based behavioral and physical health services, as well as other family support services, to positively impact children and youth covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP. Research shows that many of the factors that determine health outcomes are related to social determinants of health and health equity. This funding aims to help health care providers align with other public programs such as child welfare, education, housing, nutrition, and maternal and child health to expand access to care for children and youth. The model will also help advance Gov. Brown's policy priorities for the Oregon Health Plan by addressing social determinants of health and health equity, improving family behavioral health support, developing value-based payments for children's health care, and reducing costs.



Researchers and physicians at Oregon Health & Science University, using artificial intelligence and automated monitoring, have designed a method to help people with type 1 diabetes better manage their glucose levels. (OHSU)

RESEARCH

New research reveals a Medicaid payment model in Oregon leads to fewer traditional primary care services for patients, with the decrease focused entirely on imaging. The study, led by researchers at OHSU, was published in the journal *Health Affairs*. **Stephan Lindner, Ph.D.**, research associate professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, and colleagues examined Medicaid claims and enrollment data covering 150,000 Oregonians between January of 2010 and June of 2017. They compared community health centers that participated in a new alternative payment model that reimburses providers with a fixed monthly fee per patient against those using traditional per-visit reimbursements. The alternative model was associated with a 42.4% reduction in services, driven fully by decreased use of imaging such as radiographs and ultrasounds. “That’s a really strong signal,” said Lindner. Although some imaging is necessary, previous research

concludes that it’s a leading contributor to low-value care. One example is imaging for low-back pain, which often can be effectively treated with low-tech solutions such as exercise, physical therapy and massage.

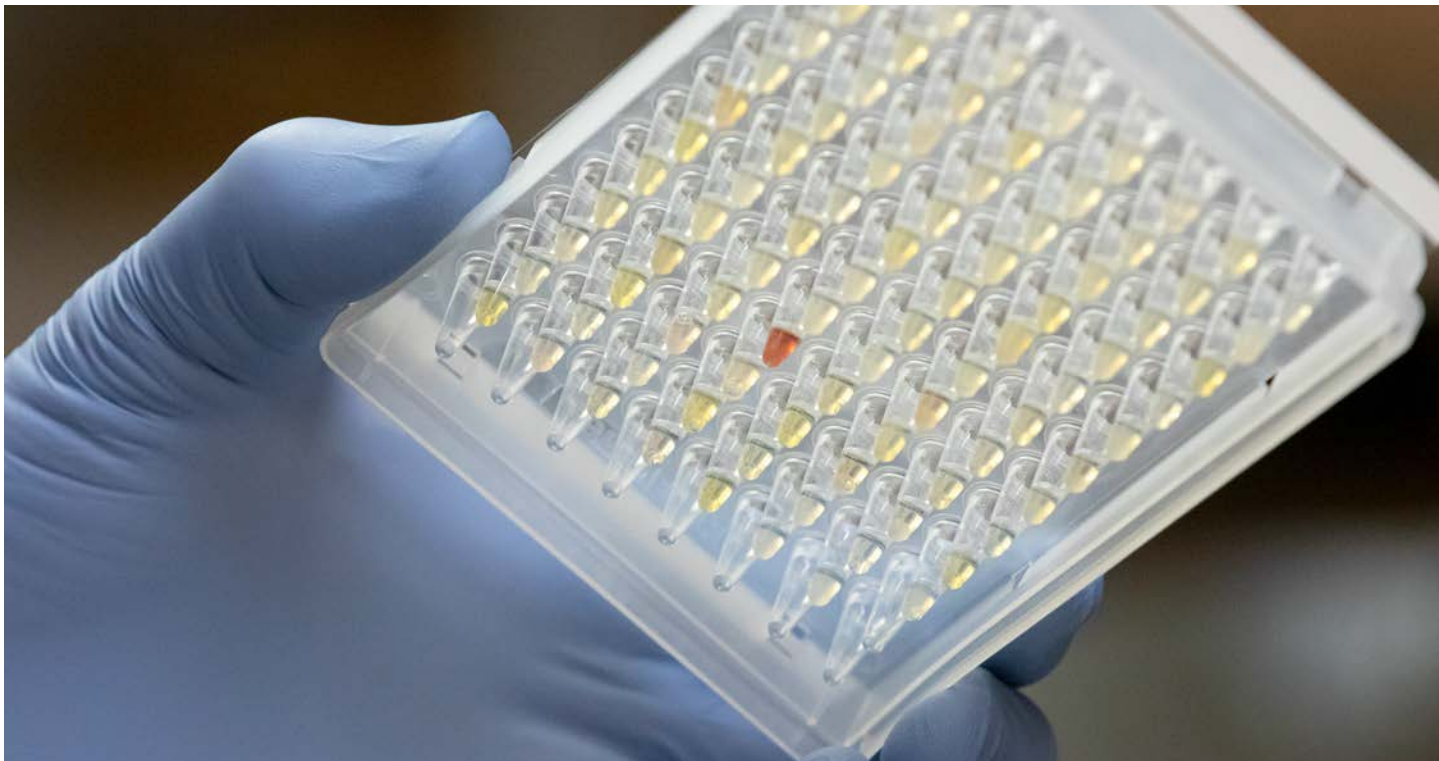
Researchers and physicians at OHSU, using artificial intelligence and automated monitoring, have designed a method to help people with type 1 diabetes better manage their glucose levels. The research was published in the journal *Nature Metabolism*. Paired with a smart phone app called DailyDose, the recommendations from the algorithm were shown to be in agreement with physicians 67.9% of the time. The new study involved monitoring 16 people with type 1 diabetes over the course of four weeks, showing that the model can help reduce hypoglycemia, or low glucose. If left untreated, hypoglycemia can cause coma or death. The engine was developed in a collaboration between the OHSU Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center and the Artificial Intelligence for Medical Systems Lab led by **Peter Jacobs, Ph.D.**,

associate professor of biomedical engineering, School of Medicine. “There are other published algorithms on this, but not a lot of clinical studies,” said Jacobs, senior author on the study. “Very few have shown a statistically relevant outcome—and most do not compare algorithm recommendations with those of a physician. In addition to showing improvement in glucose control, our algorithm-generated recommendations that had very high correlation with physician recommendations with over 99% of the algorithm’s recommendations delivered across 100 weeks of patient testing considered safe by physicians.” OHSU intends to continue to advance the technology.

Approximately 20,000 Americans are currently living with Dravet syndrome, a severe and progressive form of genetic epilepsy characterized by frequent, prolonged seizures that usually begin within the first year of life. The rare condition is associated with significant developmental delays and cognitive impairment that can severely impact the long-term quality of life for the individual, as well as their family. While treatments that range from various prescribed medications, including cannabidiol, to medical diets can be somewhat effective in alleviating the symptoms of Dravet, currently there is no approved therapy to treat the underlying cause of the condition. However, a promising new investigational drug from Stoke Therapeutics, Inc., may become the first treatment to do so. On Aug. 5, 2020, nearly one year following FDA designation, physicians at OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital in Portland, Oregon, administered the inaugural dose of STK-001 to a 13-year-old female, making her the first human to ever receive the therapy. The company announced March 23 that the FDA accepted its Investigational New Drug application, clearing the way for the clinical study now underway. “This marks an important milestone in a long fight against Dravet syndrome, as well as other forms of childhood epilepsy,” says **Colin Roberts, M.D.**, associate professor of neurology, School of Medicine, director of the Childhood Epilepsy Program at OHSU Doernbecher. “The leap to disease-modifying therapies for people with epilepsy is of great importance and carries great hope for the future.”

OHSU is building a resource for researchers with newly available national Medicaid data, a critical source for understanding and evaluating access, quality, and the cost of care for low-income Americans. This Medicaid data—known as the Transformed Medicaid Statistical Information System—was recently made available to researchers across the U.S. This creates an enormous opportunity for studying the Medicaid system, which has routinely been restricted to single-state studies, limiting options for research. Acquiring and setting up the database, however, required an investment of roughly \$650,000, but, once established, the cost of re-use for new projects is nominal. “The investment in this data system was made possible at OHSU by the Silver Family Innovation Fund and builds on a 2012 matching gift by the Silvers that helped launch the center,” said **John McConnell, Ph.D.**, professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine, and director of the OHSU Center for Health Systems Effectiveness, which is building the database. “I’m eager to see the new avenues of research that this will make possible.” The Center for Health Systems Effectiveness has built deep expertise in the Medicaid program since its founding in 2012. This grew alongside the state of Oregon’s development of programs that have made the state a nationally recognized leader in Medicaid reform. In the past five years the center has published more than 40 studies of Medicaid in journals including *JAMA*, *New England Journal of Medicine*, and *Health Affairs*. The Center has led or supported more than \$23 million in Medicaid-related grant and contract funding. Medicaid is the largest insurer in the U.S., covering 70 million people, including 40% of all children. It pays for 50% of all births, is the single largest payer for mental health services and plays an expanding role in funding substance use treatment.

New research from OHSU for the first time documents the presence of astrocytes in zebrafish, a milestone that will open new avenues of research into a star-shaped type of glial cell in the brain that is critical for nearly every aspect of brain assembly and function. The research was published this week in the journal *Nature Neuroscience*. “There is no neurodegenerative disease that I know of where astrocytes are not profoundly



Daniel Streblow, Ph.D., holds a plate of plasma samples that contain COVID-19 antibodies, to be evaluated in OHSU's in-house COVID-19 testing lab. Researchers are looking for antibody testing approaches, as well as hoping to find out if people can be re-infected, and how long antibodies remain in the body following infection. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

affected in some way,” said senior author **Kelly Monk, Ph.D.**, professor and co-director of the Vollum Institute at OHSU. “This gives us a powerful tool to get a handle on what these cells do and how they do it.”

Overcoming the nation’s opioid epidemic will require clinicians to look beyond opioids, new research from OHSU suggests. The study reveals that among patients who participated in an in-hospital addiction medicine intervention at OHSU, three-quarters came into the hospital using more than one substance. Overall, participants used fewer substances in the months after working with the hospital-based addictions team than before. The study published in the *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*.

OHSU is part of a randomized, controlled clinical trial intended to determine whether convalescent plasma—the liquid portion of blood collected from patients who have recovered from COVID-19—is effective in fighting

infection caused by the novel coronavirus. The study will recruit clinical trial participants who show up at emergency departments with relatively mild symptoms of COVID-19. The goal is to prevent a mild infection, which can be treated at home, from worsening to the point that it results in a patient being hospitalized. Participants must have at least one other factor that presents a risk to their health, such as hypertension or being over age 50. Convalescent plasma has been tried with varying levels of effectiveness. Led by Stanford University, the new trial is the first to test effectiveness through a randomized controlled trial—the gold standard of clinical research. “Despite some of the media attention around convalescent plasma, we don’t really know if it works,” said **Bory Kea, M.D.**, associate professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine. “There has not been a randomized, controlled trial using this intervention, and that’s why we need to do this study.” Half of participants will be given an injection of convalescent plasma, and half will be given a saline solution with multivitamin as a placebo.



Jonah Sacha, Ph.D., at OHSU's Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute and Oregon National Primate Research Center. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

A new study will examine whether a concentrated version of an experimental drug can prevent HIV infection with less frequent treatment. OHSU is leading the five-year, \$3-million study to explore if a new formulation of the drug leronlimab can prevent infection of the monkey version of HIV in rhesus macaques. If the new formulas work, the injectable drug could potentially be taken every three months instead of weekly, as is recommended with the drug's current design. Leronlimab is a monoclonal antibody that blocks HIV from entering immune cells through a surface protein called CCR5. Following a Phase 3 clinical trial, Vancouver, Washington-based biotechnology firm CytoDyn is seeking FDA approval to use their current formula of leronlimab to treat humans infected with HIV. Clinical trials to evaluate leronlimab's use for pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, to prevent human infection from the virus that causes AIDS are also planned. Some PrEP drugs are already available, but they can lead to adverse side effects such as liver, heart and bone problems, and some people are resistant to them. Existing PrEP options typically require frequent

use, such as taking a pill daily or must be given at a clinic. Leronlimab is designed to be a self-administered injection. **Jonah Sacha, Ph.D.**, professor in the Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute, is leading the study.

A study published in *JAMA Open Network* shows an increase in the use of the most effective birth control methods in women who live in states that expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, with a stronger effect among adolescents. While the change may be small—at increase rates of 1.2% and 1.8%, respectively—study author **Blair Darney, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, assistant professor of obstetrics & gynecology, School of Medicine, says the outcome is significant in terms of population health. “Unintended pregnancy disproportionately affects women who have lower incomes or who are underinsured,” says Darney. “Even a small increase in access to the most effective methods of contraception will reduce disparities in unintended pregnancy. Our findings indicate that Medicaid expansion increased access to the most effective methods of contraception in community health centers, independent of other programs for low-income women such as Title X and state family planning programs.” This work is part of the EVERYWOMAN study, a five-year project aimed at understanding the impact of the Affordable Care Act and state health policies on women's health care, led by **Erika Cottrell, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, and an investigator at OCHIN.

OHSU will establish a federally funded research center focused on studying the properties of herbs used traditionally to lower stress, improve sleep and mood, and stave off cognitive decline in aging. The OHSU Botanical Research Center is a collaboration between OHSU, Oregon State University, the University of Mississippi and Redmond-based Oregon's Wild Harvest. Together, researchers at the new center will conduct interactive scientific research over the next five years examining biological effects, chemical properties, and reliable cultivation methods for two botanicals known as Gotu kola (*Centella asiatica*) and Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*). Both herbs grow naturally in tropical regions, and they are among the most popular dietary supplements sold in the United States. “The

ultimate goal is to do the research that will inform good-quality clinical trials for both of these botanicals,” said Amala Soumyanath, Ph.D., associate professor of neurology, School of Medicine, and director of the center. “We expect to clarify and expand on traditional knowledge about these herbs’ effects on measures such as mood, sleep and memory.”

About 20% to 30% of women with breast cancer have tumors that are missed by mammogram screening. And these interval breast cancers—discovered between routine mammograms—seem to be more lethal than those detected by screening. A new study by Oregon researchers has found that survival is worse only if the interval cancer appears within one year after a mammogram that did not detect cancer. Among the researchers are **Zhenzhen Zhang, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, assistant professor of medicine, School of Medicine, **Pepper Schedin, Ph.D.**, professor of cell developmental and cancer biology, School of Medicine, and **Sonali Jindal, M.D.**, research assistant professor of cell developmental and cancer biology, School of Medicine. The findings add to the evidence that some interval breast cancers may be fundamentally different from screening-detected cancers, and that their unique biology makes them more dangerous. “Current screening strategies are not good enough to identify these interval breast cancers,” Zhang said. “We need more research to find a better way to find them in time.”

A new nationwide model of care for hip and knee joint replacements appears to reduce disparities in health outcomes for Black patients, according to new research led by OHSU. Researchers examined health outcomes for about 700,000 patients who underwent joint replacement procedures through Medicare between 2013 and 2017. The study examined differences in outcomes before and after April 2016, when Medicare adopted a model called Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement, a bundled payment model designed to reduce spending and improve outcomes for all joint replacement patients. The review was published today by the journal *JAMA Network Open*. The OHSU-led retrospective study is the first to gauge the plan’s comparative effect on Black

and Hispanic patients, who have historically had worse outcomes compared with white patients. Overall, the study found substantially reduced use of institutional post-acute care for all groups. “These represent relative improvements, a notable finding given general concerns that value-based payment models may exacerbate care for racial/ethnic minorities,” the authors concluded. “Nonetheless, racial/ethnic differences in joint replacement care still persist, indicating the need for additional and sustained efforts to create an equitable health care system.”

OHSU has been selected along with two other institutions to coordinate neuroscience research across the country involving marmosets, a nonhuman primate that’s ideally suited as a model for human neurological disorders and new treatments. The center was awarded by the National Institutes of Health’s BRAIN Initiative. Although the Oregon National Primate Research Center does not currently house marmosets, the center emphasized its strong record building a shareable genomic database and genetic analysis in its proposal to the NIH to help lead the new science initiative. “We have 10 years of experience in our division in building electronic databases for nonhuman primates,” said **Don Conrad, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the ONPRC who will lead the new marmoset coordination center. “I don’t know that there’s anyone else out there with that kind of experience.”

Tiny, 3D-printed bricks have been designed to heal broken bones—and could one day lead to lab-made organs for human transplant. Inspired by Lego blocks, the small, hollow bricks serve as scaffolding onto which both hard and soft tissue can regrow better than today’s standard regeneration methods, according to new research published in *Advanced Materials*. Each brick is 1.5 millimeters cubed, or roughly the size of a small flea. “Our patent-pending scaffolding is easy to use; it can be stacked together like Legos and placed in thousands of different configurations to match the complexity and size of almost any situation,” said **Luiz Bertassoni, Ph.D.**, associate professor of restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry. Bertassoni collaborated

Help the Food Resource Center @OHSU get off the ground

The Food Resource Center @OHSU is seeking donations to help us get what we need to eliminate hunger in our community.

The Food Resource Center has been set up to:

- Provide fresh, frozen and packaged goods, sourced locally and grown sustainably when possible, to OHSU students and employees experiencing food insecurity.
- Offer access to information and referral services for those in need.
- Educate in the areas of food safety, nutrition, cooking and preserving food.

Your donation will help us to cover:

- Refrigerators and freezers for food storage.
- Kitchenware and fresh, frozen and packaged food.
- Staffing and operational supplies including a laptop, stationery and cleaning supplies.

To learn more about us and what we do, please email food@ohsu.edu.

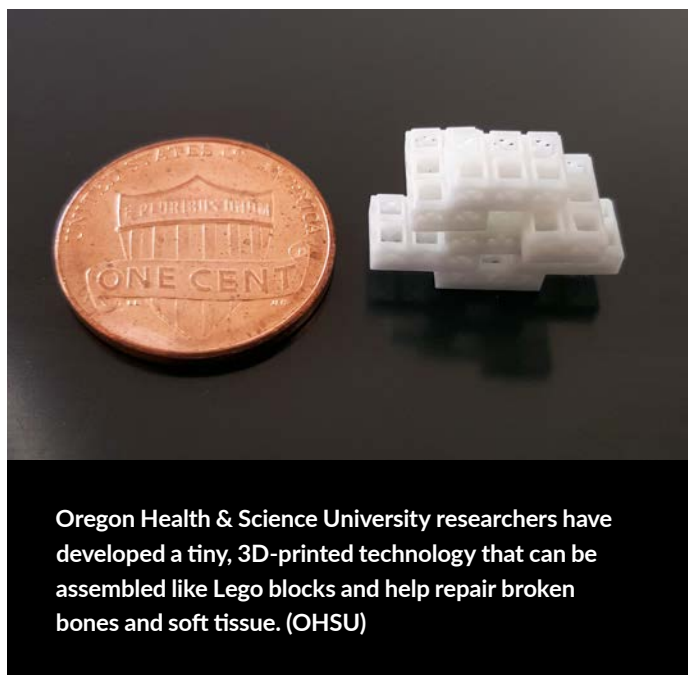
How can you make a financial gift?

Donating by card?

- + Go to support.ohsufoundation.org/OHSV20QF and make a donation from your card

OHSU employee donating by payroll?

- + Go to the OHSU O2 Employee Giving Site at o2.ohsu.edu/foundations/employee-giving
- + Select 'Payroll Deduction' below 'Ways To Give' at the top right
- + Follow the log-in options to proceed to 'Giving Opportunities'
- + Add 'Food Resource Center at OHSU'



Oregon Health & Science University researchers have developed a tiny, 3D-printed technology that can be assembled like Lego blocks and help repair broken bones and soft tissue. (OHSU)

with colleagues from OHSU, University of Oregon, New York University and Mahidol University in Thailand to develop and evaluate the technology.

For the first time, early research in hamsters demonstrated that an investigational coronavirus vaccine candidate may help protect against severe COVID-19 disease. The study, led by Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston with contributions from OHSU, was published Sept. 3 in the journal *Nature Medicine*. It examines the investigational vaccine being developed by Johnson & Johnson affiliate Janssen Pharmaceuticals. In earlier preclinical research, the same investigational vaccine robustly protected nonhuman primates against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. This investigational vaccine candidate now is being tested in humans through a Phase 1/2a clinical trial in the U.S. and Belgium. "This small animal model study suggests that, in cases where a vaccine can't completely prevent infection, it may lessen COVID-19's severity by preventing its most catastrophic outcomes such as death," said study co-author **Jacob Estes, Ph.D.**, professor in the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute and chief of the pathobiology and immunology division at the Oregon National Primate Research Center.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Lissi Hansen, Ph.D., professor of nursing, School of Nursing, and **Hector Olvera Alvarez, Ph.D.**, professor of Nursing and Senior Associate Dean, School of Nursing, received Hartford Award for Research and Practice (HARP) grants. The HARP program aims to improve the health and health care of older adults through research and innovations in care by providing support for OHSU faculty research and practice change projects. The grants will fund a multi-institutional project that will add to the body of knowledge around end-of-life and the preferences of individuals in various Hispanic sub-groups. With these projects, preliminary data will be gathered to reassess the role of cultural factors in “advance directive” use among three generations of Hispanics of Mexican origin in Oregon and Texas. They are uniquely designed as a collaboration between OHSU School of Nursing and University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) SON. The research, *Cultural beliefs of End-of-Life decision process of undergraduate nursing students and their parents and grandparents: A comparative study of two U.S. regions*, will measure end-of-life preferences and demographic-cultural factors of “advance directive” use among undergraduate-nursing students, their parents, and grandparents in Portland, Oregon and El Paso, Texas. The results will be compared by site and ethnicity (e.g., Hispanic vs. non-Hispanic Whites) to help identify potential intervention targets to be evaluated in future R-level funding and to further our knowledge of culturally appropriate, quality care for older adults. Additionally, they will assess the feasibility of systemically engaging undergraduate nursing students from both universities in end-of-life research.



Amy Penkin, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., at a meeting in Sept. 2019, has led OHSU's Transgender Health Program since it started in 2015. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

OHSU is again being recognized as an LGBTQ Healthcare Equality Leader by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation. OHSU has earned this honor eight times since 2011. OHSU is named a leader in the Healthcare Equality Index 2020, a national benchmarking tool that evaluates health care facilities' policies and practices related to the equity and inclusion of patients, visitors and employees who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer, or LGBTQ. OHSU is among 495 institutions nationwide and 11 in Oregon that earned a top score of 100 for their commitment to offering an equitable, inclusive environment for LGBTQ patients and employees. “The Healthcare Equality Index offers a roadmap for achieving equality,” said **Amy Penkin, M.S.W.**, director of the OHSU Transgender Health Program. “It can also serve to inspire OHSU to go beyond providing important institutional policies, procedures and resources by also encouraging meaningful change through daily actions by every OHSU member to create a truly affirming, inclusive and welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ patients and the broader community.”



John Masson is the second person to receive a heart transplant at OHSU since 2019. John and his high school sweetheart and wife of 43 years, Diane, live in Eugene and are making plans for the future for the first time in years. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

OHSU has been named a Cardiac Center of Excellence by independent patient safety and health quality accreditor DNV GL Healthcare. The certification recognizes OHSU's leadership, processes and standards for cardiac health care related to chest pain, heart failure and ventricular assist device heart pumps. The honor recognizes hospitals that take all necessary steps to deliver safe, effective and excellent cardiovascular care. OHSU is the first institution to receive Cardiac Center of Excellence certification from DNV GL. DNV GL certification combines national and international standards, including those from the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the International Organization for Standardization.

Joe Gray, Ph.D., professor of biomedical engineering, School of Medicine, and **Paul Spellman, Ph.D.**, professor of molecular and medical genetics, School of Medicine, are among the recipients of the 2020 AACR Team Science Awards for their work on The Cancer Genome Atlas. The project convened researchers from various scientific areas working in a number of institutions across the United States and Canada, and it continues to effectively serve as the premier model for team science initiatives. The Cancer Genome Atlas, launched in 2006, has analyzed more than 20,000 tumor samples and matched controls for 33 cancer types, identifying chromosomal rearrangements, copy number alterations, DNA methylation events, and RNA expression changes that can drive cancer initiation and progression.

Charold L. Baer, Ph.D., professor emerita, was awarded the Mildred E. Newton Distinguished Educator Award by The Ohio State University College of Nursing Alumni Association in October of 2019. The Mildred E. Newton Distinguished Educator Award honors an Ohio State College of Nursing graduate who has served, or is currently serving, as an educator or dean of a nationally accredited college/school of nursing. The awardee's personal integrity, leadership, commitment to nursing education and advancement of nursing science has contributed significantly to the advancement of the nursing profession and the preparation of the next generation of nurses.

OHSU was awarded the 2020 Excellence in Assessment (EIA) Designation. The EIA designation recognizes colleges and universities that successfully:

- integrate educational assessment practices throughout the institution;
- provide evidence of student learning outcomes to stakeholders; and
- utilize assessment results to guide institutional decision-making and improve student performance.

This year, just 12 institutions received this honor, and OHSU now joins a total 39 designees since 2016. The designation highlights key achievements, including growing the educational assessment enterprise by contributing to assessment scholarship, and drawing on our own data and research to guide change. The designation from the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment (NILOA) is directly built from the NILOA Transparency Framework, and is the first national program designed to recognize institutions engaging in intentional institution-wide assessment. The evaluation process included a rigorous and systematic self-study led by **Constance Tucker, M.A.**, Ph.D., Vice Provost of Educational Improvement and Innovation, followed by a peer review. Dr. Tucker is incredibly proud of this achievement. "We are elated," Dr. Tucker said. "Receiving this external validation from NILOA about our internal processes is an honor. It shows OHSU is an institution committed to continuous improvement and striving for excellence, and those efforts are effective."

OHSU Hospital ranks among the best in the country and No. 1 in Oregon, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Hospitals 2020–2021," and six of its adult specialties are ranked among the top 50 nationwide. "At a time of unprecedented challenge for health care workers dealing with a global pandemic, these rankings reflect the hard work, talent and dedication that our exceptional faculty and staff deliver to the people of Oregon day in and day out," said **John Hunter, M.D.**, executive vice president and chief executive officer of OHSU Health. "I couldn't be prouder of the teamwork that allows OHSU Health to be recognized for excellence by *U.S. News & World Report*."

The Institute for Healthcare Advancement—the leading health literacy advocacy organization in the country—recently honored **Cliff Coleman, M.D.**, M.P.H., associate professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, with the Health Literacy Award for Innovative Programs. Dr. Coleman's pioneering work focuses on teaching health professionals about health literacy and clear communication best practices, such as using plain language, limiting information overload, eliciting patients' questions, and using teach-back (where patients teach information back to their provider). In the U.S., 43% of adults have basic or below-basic literacy skills. Low literacy level makes it difficult for patients to understand their diagnoses and treatment plans, or simply how to improve their health. "Every health outcome we care about is linked to literacy skills," Dr. Coleman explains. When the health care industry began talking about health literacy around two decades ago, the focus was on improving patients' literacy skills. Not much was being done to address the way the industry interacted with patients. That's been Dr. Coleman's life's work: teaching health care professionals how to communicate better with patients. "Good communication actually takes less effort and less time," Dr. Coleman says. In addition to improving patient understanding, "these techniques are designed to make the clinician's life better. We never add to the burden of care."

RECENT APPOINTMENTS



Derick Du Vivier, M.D., M.B.A., 2018. (OHSU/
Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

Derick Du Vivier, M.D., M.B.A., assistant professor of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine, School of Medicine, has been named senior vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion, effective Sept. 14, 2020, reporting directly to President Danny Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H. Du Vivier has served as interim vice president for diversity and inclusion since November 2019. In this role, Du Vivier will provide executive leadership

and vision in the administration of services, policies and procedures related to institutional diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as OHSU's efforts to address structural racism. The addition of this position to the president's direct reports highlights the priority of this important work, and will ensure diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives are implemented across the institution. With expanded authority and responsibility, Du Vivier will be empowered to affect meaningful change in OHSU's workplace culture and make significant strides toward becoming an anti-racist institution. Du Vivier received his medical degree from Emory University and master's in business administration from Duke University. He completed his residency at Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York.

The National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners has appointed **Asma Taha, Ph.D., M.S.N.**, associate professor of nursing, School of Nursing, as the chair of the Global Health Center Special Interest Group. Dr. Taha said, "I am a pediatric nurse practitioner, an academician, researcher, and mentor to practicing nurses, nurse practitioners, nursing students, other healthcare professionals, at the local and global community. My international contribution is focused on building health and nursing education capacity in areas of conflict." She has presented on topics such as Building global nursing education capacity, Rebuilding health post-conflict: A dialogue for the future, Nursing education challenges post-conflict and global health equity in countries such as Jordan, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates, India, Jamaica, Panama, and Australia. "I have done all of this while creating and implementing nursing training programs in countries with limited specialized pediatric capacity," said Dr. Taha. "I completed one year as a co-chair of the Global Health Special Interest Group (SIG). I am honored to work and serve nurse practitioner colleagues and learn from their different international experiences."

A husband-wife team known for specializing in cancer drug development have joined the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. **Shivaani Kummar, M.D.**, will lead



L-R: Shivaani Kummar, M.D. (OHSU), Sanjay Malhotra, Ph.D. (OHSU)

the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology in the OHSU School of Medicine, overseeing more than 90 faculty members. Kummar brings a wealth of experience in conducting clinical trials tailored to make early, informed decisions regarding the suitability of new drug candidates for further clinical investigation. In her most recent role at Stanford University, Kummar held a number of titles, including: professor of medicine and radiology; associate division chief for academic affairs; director, phase I clinical research program; and co-director of the Translational Oncology Program. In addition to her role as division head, Kummar will serve as co-director for a new center in the Knight Cancer Institute, the Center for Experimental Therapeutics, which she will co-lead with **Sanjay Malhotra, Ph.D.** Malhotra's background is in chemical biology and drug development with a strong expertise in medicinal chemistry, including small molecule synthesis. Most recently, he was the director for Stanford SRI Drug Discovery and Development Program, and he trained with Nobel laureate Herb Brown at Purdue University.

Kerri Winters-Stone, Ph.D., research professor of nursing, School of Nursing, has accepted an invitation from the National Institutes of Health to serve as a standing member of the Community-Level Health Promotion Study Section, Center for Scientific Review, for the term beginning July 01, 2020 and ending June 30, 2024. Winters-Stone brings her expertise as a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, which recently gathered experts from 17 organizations,



Kerri Winters-Stone, Ph.D., Feb. 11, 2019. (OHSU/
Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

including the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute, to review scientific evidence and offer recommendations about the benefits of exercise for prevention, treatment, recovery and improved survival for cancer patients. In addition, her transdisciplinary collaborative science approach to reducing cancer burden through behavior change shines a light on the contributions she will make as a member of this study section. Dr. Kerri Winters-Stone is Co-Director of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute's Community Partnership Program and Co-Leader of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute's Cancer Prevention and Control Program. Her expertise and research focus centers on the use of physical activity to prevent and manage chronic disease. Winters-Stone said, "I'm honored to participate as a standing member on the CLHP study section because I understand the importance of peer-review in advancing biomedical research and ultimately improving public health. As someone who has submitted a lofty number of grants for peer-review, it is time for me to commit to long-term service."

TRANSITIONS

Phillip Marucha, D.M.D., Ph.D., stepped down as dean of the OHSU School of Dentistry on Oct. 1, 2020. Dr. Marucha will focus on personal and professional goals until the end of the year and return to support the education and research missions of the school as a tenured professor in the Department of Periodontology, at the beginning of the next calendar year. Dr. Marucha joined the school in 2013, and he is the ninth dean to lead Oregon's only dental school since its establishment in 1898. "He worked to position the School of Dentistry as a national leader, and to ensure the state's only

dental school remains a viable public resource for underrepresented and marginalized communities statewide," said Provost Elena Andresen, Ph.D. "We are grateful for his service to OHSU and to the people of Oregon." Dr. Andresen has asked **Ronald Sakaguchi, D.D.S., Ph.D., M.B.A.**, professor of management, School of Medicine, to serve as interim dean until a national search for a new dean is conducted. Dr. Sakaguchi brings extensive academic, clinical, financial, operations and research experience to the new appointment, with numerous publications and NIH grants. He is the senior editor of a textbook in dental biomaterials used in dental schools internationally, and is trained as a prosthodontist and practiced for many years prior to joining the OHSU School of Dentistry.



Among the former dean's accomplishments at OHSU was the transition of the dental school in 2014 from the Marquam Hill Campus to a new state-of-the-art training, research and patient care facility in the Skourtes Tower, part of the OHSU Robertson Life Sciences Building on the South Waterfront. (OHSU/ Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

Michael F. Chiang, M.D., associate director of OHSU's Casey Eye Institute, has been named the new director of the National Eye Institute, also known as NEI and part of the National Institutes of Health. In his new role, Chiang will oversee the nation's federal research on vision—from understanding blinding eye diseases and the mechanisms of visual function to meeting the needs of the visually impaired. NEI has an annual budget of nearly \$824 million, most of which supports research grants and training awards for scientists. Chiang expects to start at NEI in late 2020. Chiang welcomes the new opportunity, but regrets it will take him away from Oregon. "It has been an incredible privilege to work at OHSU and Casey Eye Institute," Chiang said. "We are fortunate to be at an institution that is big enough to make a worldwide impact in advancing the science, technology and art of health care—yet collaborative and intimate enough that people can work effectively together."

IN MEMORIAL

Robert M. Bennett

MAY 29, 2020

Wilma Peterson, Ph.D.

MARCH 9, 2020

Taking action to address institutional racism – *a message from President Jacobs on our steps forward*

JUNE 5, 2020

To the OHSU Community,

On Saturday [May 30, 2020], I shared with you my view that addressing the structural racism responsible for the unjustified killing of Black men and women demands the attention of us all. In this piece, I wrote about the importance of holding ourselves accountable and the need to take action. Now is that time.

I have read many comments and I have received great feedback and suggestions about the urgent need to address these issues internally at OHSU so our institution appropriately reflects our ideals. We must hold the mirror up to ourselves and get our house in order so that we can best educate, inform and lead others on behalf of those we serve. This is one of our most important duties and responsibilities.

It is glaringly evident that we have work to do in this regard. While our members have been mourning the senseless loss of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers, OHSU has also been completing an investigation and action plan regarding an incident involving noose imagery within our OHSU community – the third incident of its kind in the last three years.

On April 10, during an online workgroup, a team member posted an image of two nooses in the chat room.

On April 22, an OHSU employee reported the posting of the image to the OHSU Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Department. OHSU AAEO immediately investigated and, after interviewing all parties involved, took strong disciplinary action with the responsible employee on May 5.

Let me be clear: OHSU will not tolerate racist actions, imagery or speech. After addressing this issue, we took time to devise an action plan that will allow us to make even more meaningful changes going forward. On Wednesday, we shared that plan with the employee who reported the incident. I now want to share our commitment with you.

To put an end to this specific behavior, OHSU is:

- Revising the OHSU Code of Conduct to make displaying hateful imagery an explicit violation, subject to discipline up to and including termination.
- Enlisting an outside consultant to assist in reviewing OHSU policies and practices to ensure equal application of conduct violations and to ensure they meet our institutional values. Although we are heavily curtailing our use of consultants due to our budget constraints, there are times when outside help is warranted. This is one of them.

Having to address another noose incident in our own work community amid the tragic killing of Mr. Floyd is incredibly disturbing. It is appalling that one of the most deplorable and feared symbols in American history was posted in a workgroup discussion. I unequivocally condemn any representation of a noose or other hateful symbols on our campus, and I appreciate the swift action our AAEO investigative team took to address this issue.

At the same time, the death of Mr. Floyd again reminds us that the steps laid out above are far from sufficient to bring the changes needed at OHSU and to allow us to continue to serve as leaders for our communities, our state and even our nation. What we have tried in the past, doing the same things over and over again, has not been sufficient.

OHSU must do better, and we will.

To begin to address structural racism inherent to OHSU, with an eye toward making change happen, we are committed to:

- Developing a training and mentoring program for our employees of color to support upward mobility and career development, focusing in particular on the lowest wage earners among us, following a recommendation made by our Black Employee Resource Group.
- Actively requesting input from our Employee Resource Groups and students in reforming our policies to focus our efforts on the changes most needed.
- Reviewing our practices of using the services of incarcerated individuals.
- Reviewing the policies, procedures and training of our public safety officers.
- Creating additional opportunities to connect, such as listening sessions and town halls, to hear your ideas to further address racism at OHSU and create lasting change.

We recognize that this is merely a start. We will support OHSU's communities of color and our tribes to help them heal and be heard. We will develop a systematic process to identify additional policies and practices in need of change. We will measure that change and we will hold ourselves accountable. Please know this is not a complete list of actions; it is the beginning of a change that will require a deep commitment for us all to work together to transform our organization to be actively anti-racist. We must also ask ourselves what we must do as individuals to achieve the change that we want as community members.

Please join me in OHSU's commitment to dismantling racism at OHSU, in the health care industry, and our country. I need your help.

Stay safe,



Danny Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H., FACS,
OHSU PRESIDENT

EMERITUS SPOTLIGHT

Donald E. Girard, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, 2016

I practiced, served in numerous administrative positions, taught medical students and residents in internal medicine and participated in education research and peer review authorship during my 4-plus decades at OHSU. My particular academic interest has been and remains physician wellness. Colleagues and I have published research relating to resident physicians' career satisfaction at all training levels and in numerous sites, both in the US and Australia. I am currently invested in three professional activities: (1) the planning, development and implementation of an Oregon-wide service to help physicians and physician assistants maintain and improve the wonder of medicine (Oregon Wellness Program); (2) the establishment of a physician education exchange program for Chinese physicians to work and learn in the U.S.; and (3) a task force to explore ways to establish a more robust and meaningful School of Medicine Emeritus program to serve the goals of the institution.

George D. Olsen, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGY, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, 2012

I served on the basic science faculty of the School of Medicine from 1970 to 2012, teaching, directing courses, and conducting research on maternal, fetal and neonatal pharmacology. Since retirement I have served on the Board of Oregon BRAVO Youth Orchestras (oregonbravo.org), an El Sistema-inspired program to provide intensive orchestral instruction for underserved children. I am head of the BRAVO Board Evaluation Committee and volunteer for BRAVO once a week at Cesar Chavez School in North Portland. Recently I funded a modest scholarship for medical students at OHSU.



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OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.

FALL
2020



Emeritus

A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU EMERITUS FACULTY

