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Emeritus

A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU EMERITUS FACULTY





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

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



NEWS BRIEFS

Patients young and old have a new, welcoming space at OHSU to receive state-of-the-art eye care for issues ranging from macular degeneration to inherited conditions that can cause blindness. On Dec. 8, the 60,000-square-foot Elks Children's Eye Clinic building opened its doors after two and a half years of construction. As a result, OHSU's ophthalmology department, better known as the Casey Eye Institute, is now based in two neighboring buildings. The structure is named after the Oregon State Elks fraternal organization, which donated \$20 million toward the \$50-million project and has supported pediatric eye care at OHSU for seven decades. Among many other generous donations that made the new facility possible is a gift from the Wold family to support macular degeneration research. "The new Elks Children's Eye Clinic represents a monumental game changer in pediatric ophthalmology," said **Daniel Karr, M.D.**, professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine, director of the Elks Children's Eye Clinic. "Because of the Oregon Elks' enduring commitment to our program, we are now reaching a new plateau of care."

Residents of a Northeast Portland neighborhood continue to show up to a COVID-19 testing site each week under a covered area behind Prescott Elementary School, even though a pilot project to conduct free COVID-19 tests originally was due to end more than a month ago. The reason: The site is still helping communities that have been hardest hit by the pandemic – especially people of color. As researchers continue compiling a trove of data generated since weekly and twice-weekly

community testing began in mid-November, Oregon Health & Science University scientists and community activists say the project has already paid off by building trust in science as a vehicle to improve people's lives. OHSU began the project as a pilot study intended to discern early signals of the novel coronavirus in four Portland neighborhoods through wastewater screening combined with voluntary testing of people who live and work in the areas. The university partnered with Self Enhancement Inc., a nonprofit focused on guiding underserved youth and building community. **Donna Hansel, M.D., Ph.D.**, the study's lead investigator and chair of pathology in the OHSU School of Medicine, said preliminary findings validate the approach. "This was a really good test in an urban center," she said. "It shows the potential that screening even a small area of a large city could give you a good sense of how the virus is spreading in large population centers."

David Bangsberg, M.D., M.P.H., dean, OHSU- PSU School of Public Health, joined leaders from Portland State University, OHSU, Portland Community College, and the City of Portland for the Community Blessing and Dedication Ceremony for the new SW Fourth and Montgomery Building on PSU's downtown Portland campus. Bangsberg and others spoke at length about anti-racism, responding to a recent hate incident this past May on the construction site for the building which is slated to open later this fall. "The School of Public Health has room for students seeking to end racism, climate change, and COVID-19," Bangsberg declared, "but there is no room for hate." The 175,000-square-foot building houses the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, PSU College of Education, PCC's dental programs, and office for the City of Portland Bureau of Sustainability.

Connie Seeley, chief administrative officer and chief of staff at OHSU, has been appointed by Gov. Kate Brown as special adviser for COVID-19 vaccine implementation. Effective Friday, Dec. 11, Seeley joined the governor's health policy team on temporary assignment through an intergovernmental agreement with OHSU. She assists in directing the execution of Oregon's vaccine distribution and public communications plans, as well as coordinating efforts across federal, state and local partners.

Mentorship Academy is a newly launched professional development program at OHSU that teaches faculty to be better mentors in research – from improving communication skills to aligning expectations with mentees and more. It is based on the pioneering, evidence-based curriculum by the University of Wisconsin's Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research (CIMER). While the academy's case studies focus on mentorship in a research lab setting, says **Kirstin Moreno, Ph.D., M.S.Ed.**, assistant professor, Office of Academic Affairs, administrators are assessing whether the curriculum can be broadly applicable for anyone who mentors OHSU learners in any of OHSU's disciplines. Modules are discussion-based and cover topics such as fostering independence and addressing equity and inclusion. Participants develop a mentoring philosophy and mentoring plan by the end of the academy. "Like anything else, good mentoring skills require continual education and practice," said academy participant **Jonathan Pruneda, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of molecular microbiology and immunology, School of Medicine. "Taking the time to reflect on my approaches to mentoring has been very rewarding. I feel better prepared to maintain healthy relationships with my trainees and to deal with difficult situations as they arise." He added, "I've learned to adapt my mentoring style to suit the needs of each trainee. Different trainees require different levels and types of support, and one of my jobs as a mentor is to identify what roles I can play to help them grow and thrive."

Since April 2020, researchers in the Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics at OHSU have been leading efforts to track the different SARS-CoV-2

variants across Oregon. Through a partnership with a specialized biorepository that maintains positive COVID-19 test samples generated by the OHSU Pathology COVID-19 testing lab, OHSU's Oregon SARS-CoV-2 Genome Sequencing Center, uses a technique called genome sequencing to break down RNA into tiny pieces. They then reassemble the fragments to identify visible changes to the genetic make-up of the test sample. Such changes, particularly those to the infamous 'spike proteins' on the outside of a SARS-CoV-2 molecule, may symbolize a significant virus variant. "While genome sequencing is a specialized and very complex process, it has become an increasingly practical and important tool that helps us -as well as public health officials - to better understand how COVID-19 is entering, spreading and changing across Oregon," says **Andrew Adey, Ph.D.**, associate professor of Molecular & Medical Genetics, School of Medicine, who also uses genome sequencing and other cell technologies to study neurodevelopment and cancer biology. To date, the center has sequenced more than 1,800 SARS-CoV-2 genomes and is ramping its capacity to be able to process up to 300 samples per week. These findings are added to an international database known as GISAID, and shared with state and county public health authorities to aid in contact tracing efforts across the Portland Metro area.

Louis Picker, M.D., professor in the Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute, is one of two Oregon physician-scientists appointed by Gov. Brown to a multi-state workgroup to independently review the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines that receive emergency use authorizations from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for distribution. The Western States' Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, first announced in October, comprises nationally and internationally accomplished physicians, scientists and health experts from California, Nevada, Washington and Oregon who will evaluate any federally approved vaccine before it is made available to those most at risk, especially communities of color who have been severely impacted by COVID-19.

OHSU is shoring up some of its most stressed-out frontline health care workers with meals provided

by Portland restaurants. In recognition of health care workers at the front line of the COVID-19 pandemic, OHSU is providing the meals using \$30,000 in funding provided through a relief grant provided by SAIF, an Oregon-based nonprofit insurance company. The first meals were delivered Dec. 29. Additional meals will be delivered twice a day to cover both day shift and night shift workers in critical health care units on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays until late January. In total, the funding covers about 2,000 meals for the hospital units most impacted by the care of patients with COVID-19. “This has been an incredibly hard year,” said **Megan Furnari, M.D.**, assistant professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine, who has also taken on a leadership role with OHSU’s COVID-19 Wellness Task Force. “These are the staff that are at the highest risk for burnout. We’re really trying to make sure they know we are there for them, as they’ve put their own lives second and patient care first.” The meals will be purchased from five to 10 locally owned restaurants that have suffered deep economic losses because of the pandemic. This spring, many of those same restaurants provided meals to hospital workers throughout the Portland area in appreciation for their efforts in treating the first wave of people hospitalized by the novel coronavirus. “We recognize that back in March and April, the economic crisis wasn’t as severe as it is now,” Furnari said. “We wanted to make sure we purchased these meals from the same businesses that helped us in the beginning of the pandemic. In this way, we hope to help our city find its way through these very economically challenging times.”

An HIV vaccine candidate that OHSU researchers have been developing for the past two decades is being tested in people for the first time as part of a Phase 1 clinical trial. The investigational vaccine, called VIR-1111, is being evaluated in humans through a clinical trial sponsored by San Francisco-based Vir Biotechnology. Vir licensed OHSU’s cytomegalovirus-based vaccine platform through a merger with OHSU spinoff company Tomegavax in 2016. Researchers at the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute (VGTI) began developing the unique cytomegalovirus vaccine platform in the early 2000s. In addition to the virus that causes AIDS, the platform is also being explored as a way to

deliver vaccines against infectious diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria, as well as cancer. “Along with the many OHSU investigators who worked on this project over the years, we are very excited that this new vaccine platform is being evaluated in a clinical trial,” **Louis Picker, M.D.**, professor in the VGTI said. “This marks the first time that this new type of vaccine is being tested in humans. If successful, this approach will provide an entirely new set of tools for vaccine development.”

Another key accomplishment of the OHSU Sustainability Steering Committee has been the creation of the OHSU Climate Change Curriculum Task Force. In early 2020, the task force succeeded in incorporating some climate and health content into the core curriculum for medical and nursing students. Some of this content relies on an interactive module published by the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Other activities have included grand rounds presentations in psychiatry, family medicine, Ob-Gyn, anesthesiology and other departments, and seminars for resident physician groups. The task force’s most ambitious project has been the creation and implementation of a 10-week interprofessional education (IPE) course on Climate Change and Human Health which launched in January. A mix of mini-lectures cover a wide range of topics, supplemented by readings, videos, research projects and sharing observations with classmates. **David Pollack, M.D.**, professor emeritus of psychiatry, School of Medicine, is among OHSU members who have been long-time advocates around this work, at OHSU and nationally. He is committed to addressing the mental health and public health impacts of the climate crisis, including lecturing in the M.D. program. “We must adopt an all-hands-on-deck approach to addressing the climate crisis,” Dr. Pollack said. “When people realize the wide range of health impacts and the responsibilities that health systems have for cleaning up their acts, as well as preparing for the growing number of climate-derived health harms, it will cause all of us to overcome our denial and disavowal of the problems and to act collectively to fix the problems for us and future generations.”

RESEARCH

Researchers at OHSU have demonstrated a new method of quickly mapping the genome of single cells, while also clarifying the spatial position of the cells within the body. The discovery, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, builds upon previous advances by OHSU scientists in single-cell genome sequencing. The study represents another milestone in the field of precision medicine. “It gives us a lot more precision,” said senior author **Andrew Adey, Ph.D.**, associate professor of molecular and medical genetics, School of Medicine. “The single-cell aspect gives us the ability to track the molecular changes within each cell type. Our new study also allows the capture of where those cells were positioned within complex tissues, as opposed to a slurry of cells from the entire sample.”

New research in mice published today in the journal *Scientific Reports* strengthens the growing scientific consensus regarding the role of the gut microbiome, or community of microorganisms, in neurodegenerative disorders including Alzheimer’s disease. The study, led by researchers at OHSU, found a correlation between the composition of the gut microbiome and the behavioral and cognitive performance of mice carrying genes associated with Alzheimer’s. The mice carried the human amyloid precursor protein gene with dominant Alzheimer’s mutations generated by scientists in Japan. The study further suggests a relationship between microbes in the digestive tract and the expression of genes that trigger Alzheimer-like symptoms in mice. “You know the expression, ‘You are what you eat?’” said senior author **Jacob Raber, Ph.D.**, professor of behavioral neuroscience, School of Medicine. “This may be part of that. While all mice were fed the same diet, the gut microbiome is affected in a genotype-dependent fashion and this in turn might affect your brain.” The findings are the first to demonstrate a direct connection between the gut microbiome and cognitive

and behavioral changes in an Alzheimer’s disease animal model, and they are consistent with a recently published observational study in people newly diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. In fact, a U.S. clinical trial for the treatment of mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease is currently underway involving a compound that targets microbes in the gut. The next phase of research will determine whether it’s possible to reduce Alzheimer’s-like symptoms in genetically predisposed mice by altering their diet. “The exciting part of this is that you can manipulate the gut microbiome,” Raber said. “We can use probiotics and see what the effect is.”

New research published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation Insight* finds that a typical Western-style diet high in fats is associated with decreased fertility. The longitudinal study, led by scientists in the Oregon National Primate Research Center, assessed the *in vitro*, via test tube, fertilization outcomes of female rhesus macaques while on a low-fat diet, and then again after transitioning to a Western-style diet consisting of a higher proportion of fat and refined sugar. The collaborative research team, including **Shawn Chavez, Ph.D.**, associate professor, **Jon Hennebold, Ph.D.**, professor, and **Paul Kievit, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, found that in the majority of the macaques observed, the transition to the Western-style diet increased weight gain and body fat as soon as 4-month post-intake. After the transition to a Western-style diet, the ability of the animals to generate blastocysts, or embryos that would be capable of implantation, was significantly reduced. RNA-sequencing of blastocysts that did form, revealed that the Western-style diet caused significant changes in the expression of a variety of genes, including those involved in protein binding and cell adhesion processes necessary for successful embryo development. Together, these results indicate that even short-term exposure to a Western-style diet can have a major negative effect on fertility and lower the likelihood of successfully undergoing infertility treatments. Additional assessment of the biological processes and signaling pathways of embryos exposed to a Western-style diet is necessary to help improve pregnancy outcomes in overweight individuals.



Walt Dawson, D.Phil. (OHSU)

The COVID-19 pandemic's heavy toll on older Americans highlights the need to strengthen the nation's safety net for people in need of long-term services and supports, an Oregon Health & Science University researcher and co-authors argue in a new report published by *Milbank Quarterly*. The report proposes a system of universal coverage to support the long-term care of all older Americans. "This approach would protect against financial catastrophe and end the current system that is based on the need to be financially destitute in order to access coverage via Medicaid," the authors write. "Such an approach would benefit both individuals and families and would also create a far more stable and more generous funding stream to providers." **Walt Dawson, D.Phil.**, assistant professor of neurology, School of Medicine, said he believes the pandemic could be an inflection point to improve the U.S. system of long-term services and support. Dawson, also a senior Atlantic Fellow of Equity in Brain Health with the Global Brain Health Institute, studies the public policy implications of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias—including the financial impact on families and the public programs that finance care. The report

lays out a series of recommendations to repair what it characterized as a fragmented and patchwork system of long-term services and supports for older Americans living with physical and cognitive impairments.

Long-term recommendations

Universal coverage: The report calls for establishing universal coverage for all Americans' long-term care needs through Medicare. "Universal coverage is essential to achieving greater equity in access and coverage, but it is also essential to the fiscal viability of the financing mechanism (e.g., everyone pays into the system)," the authors write.

Creating an age-friendly health system: The report calls for better collaboration between public health, health care systems and long-term care to safeguard the health and safety of older adults.

Near-term recommendations

Improved reporting of COVID-19 infections: The report calls for improving a "lack of publicly available information" nationally about COVID-19 infections among people receiving long-term services and supports and the workforce caring for them.

Support for unpaid caregivers: Family caregivers could be identified through Medicare and compensated at the rate of home health aides. In addition, the report calls for improved lines of communication between acute care facilities and other forms of long-term services and support.

Equitable treatment: The Medicaid reimbursement system should provide resources to support independent long-term care and home care providers who often care for the most vulnerable and medically fragile older adults.

An assessment published this week in the journal *Lancet HIV* provides new insight about an initiative to integrate treatment of opioid use disorder along with HIV in Vietnam. The study marks one of the first scientifically robust assessments of a new model of treating HIV in

lower or middle income countries where injection drug use is a major cause of HIV infection. It also suggests the importance of building support for peer and community connections to tackle the opioid epidemic that continues to ravage the United States in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The study was led by scientists and physicians at Hanoi Medical University and OHSU. “Our study suggests that countries that want to expand treatment for opioid use disorder with buprenorphine should consider interventions to support retention on treatment directed at family networks, peers and community health workers,” said co-author **Todd Korthuis, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of medicine, School of Medicine. Korthuis is already implementing a similar outreach model in several rural counties in Oregon through an initiative funded by the National Institutes of Health. Known as Oregon HIV/Hepatitis and Opioid Prevention and Engagement, or Oregon HOPE, the initiative relies on peers who have recovered from addiction to engage their neighbors in prevention and treatment services.



the risk of foregoing medical care far outweighs the risk of contracting the novel coronavirus, especially in hospitals that have taken extraordinary measures to ensure patient safety.

Care for stroke dwindled by nearly 20% during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new worldwide assessment published in the *International Journal of Stroke* that included a contribution from a co-author from OHSU. That’s not because stroke suddenly became more uncommon with the pandemic. “Fear of contracting SARS-CoV-2 may have led many patients with milder stroke presentations to avoid seeking medical attention,” the authors write. Waiting to get care is dangerous, said study co-author **Helmi Lutsep, M.D.**, professor of neurology, School of Medicine. “If you think that you might be having a stroke, please, please come in. Do not hesitate,” Lutsep said. “The risks of having a bad outcome of a stroke are greater than the risk of catching COVID in a hospital.” The decrease in stroke cases is especially notable in light of the fact that COVID-19 has been associated with blood clotting often associated with stroke. Last April, several American medical associations emphasized the importance of people calling 911 and seeking medical care when they need it. They cited declines in stroke care as well as heart attacks, with many people reluctant to visit hospitals or emergency rooms during the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet

Although having a diverse physician workforce is critical to meeting health care needs in underserved communities, efforts to diversify medicine with and for Native Americans are lacking, concludes an OHSU paper published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association Network Open* and primarily written by American Indian physicians. Health disparities are particularly problematic among American Indian and Alaska Native, or AIAN, populations, which have been affected by 500 years of colonization and genocide, and other long-standing socioeconomic determinants of health. AIAN physicians are more likely than their non-AIAN peers to work with and address disparities in AIAN populations, as well as understand AIAN cultures and historical trauma. Yet in 2018, only 0.3% of active medical doctors in the United States reported being AIAN alone or in combination with another race. However, despite there being more AIAN medical students, the study found their graduation rate slightly declined or remained the same. “It is alarming that even with more medical school applicants and matriculants reporting AIAN heritage due

to the change in how racial and ethnic data is collected, the rate at which they graduate is flat or decreasing,” said the study’s first author, **Erik Brodt, M.D.**, associate professor of family medicine, School of Medicine and director of the Northwest Native American Center of Excellence at OHSU. The authors recommended U.S. medical schools better appreciate the nuances of AIAN identity in the application process and in academic medicine. They noted American Indian and Alaska Native identity has been the subject of contentious debate for generations and has been continuously redefined, burdening both tribal affiliations and American Indian people trying to self-identify within multiple cultural contexts. The authors wrote: “Adopting a cultural identity-specific approach rather than a genetic one could allow AIAN populations to move away from an artificially imposed racial past. No other race has been required to prove their identity in this way.” They concluded that, while many equity programs support AIAN students’ and other underrepresented minority students’ entry into medical school, more support may be needed because studies have found underrepresented minority students need different support systems during medical school. The article is thought to be the first time an American Medical Association journal has published an original research article about American Indian/Alaska Native medical education.

Scientists have uncovered new clues implicating a type of herpes virus as the cause of a central nervous system disease in monkeys that’s similar to multiple sclerosis in people. The findings, published in the *Annals of clinical and Translational Neurology*, expand on previous work to understand the cause of the disease and potentially develop antiviral therapies. The work was led by scientists at OHSU. The new study reveals the presence of two types of T cells, a type of white blood cell that’s a critical part of the body’s immune system. In this case, scientists determined the T cells were associated with an immune response involving the loss of myelin, the protective sheath that covers nerve fibers. Myelin and nerve fibers become damaged in multiple sclerosis, which slows or blocks electrical signals required for us to see, move our muscles, feel sensations and think. By linking these specific T cells to the loss of myelin, scientists say the new study opens the possibility of developing an antiviral therapy that could



Erik Brodt, M.D. speaks at the Indigenous Faculty Forum, November 17, 2017 at the PSU Native American Student and Community Center. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

be especially useful for newly diagnosed cases of multiple sclerosis. “If we found a unique virus that we believed was causing MS, then you could in theory come up with a vaccine against that virus,” said co-author **Dennis Bourdette, M.D.**, professor emeritus of neurology, School of Medicine. The work builds on a chance discovery in the colony of Japanese macaques at the primate center.

A new study demonstrates that antibodies generated by the novel coronavirus react to other strains of coronavirus and vice versa, according to research published today by scientists from Oregon Health & Science University. However, antibodies generated by the SARS outbreak of 2003 had only limited effectiveness in neutralizing the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Antibodies are blood proteins that are made by the immune system to protect against infection, in this case by a coronavirus. The study published today in the journal *Cell Reports*. “Our finding has some important implications concerning immunity toward different strains of coronavirus infections, especially as these viruses continue to mutate,” said senior author **Fikadu Tafesse, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of molecular microbiology and immunology,

School of Medicine. Given the speed of mutations – estimated at one to two per month – it’s not surprising that an antibody generated from a virus 18 years ago provides a meager defense against the new coronavirus. Nonetheless, Tafesse said the findings suggest more work needs to be done to determine the lasting effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines. “I don’t think there is any one size-fits-all vaccine,” he said. “Although the vaccines coming out now may break the momentum of the virus and end the pandemic, they may not be the end game.”

According to new research, published in the journal *Women’s Health Issues*, preventive care services for individuals who identify as female have increased following the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. Using electronic health record data from the ADVANCE Clinical Research Network, researchers at Oregon Health & Science University and OCHIN, Inc. in Portland, Oregon, examined rates of screenings for cervical cancer, HIV, chlamydia and blood pressure, as well as vaccination for human papilloma virus and influenza, among more than 700,000 female patients aged 11 to 65. All accessed care in one of 354 community health centers across 14 states, 10 of which had expanded Medicaid under the ACA. The team found that all preventive services, with the exception of blood pressure screening, increased after ACA implementation in both expansion and non-expansion states; flu vaccination and blood pressure screening increased more in expansion states, and chlamydia screening more in non-expansion states. “These findings show that community health centers improved delivery of necessary preventive care to underserved populations, and this work is critical to reducing health disparities,” says the study’s lead author **Brigit Hatch, M.D., M.P.H.**, assistant professor of family medicine, School of Medicine. “Despite modest increases in preventive care after implementation of the Affordable Care Act, additional supports are needed to improve the receipt of preventive care for all populations.”

A decade after the birth of the first primates born with the aid of a gene therapy technique designed to prevent inherited mitochondrial disease, a careful study of the

monkeys and their offspring reveals no adverse health effects. Led by scientists at OHSU, the study published in the journal *Human Reproduction*. The new study generally bolsters the scientific basis for mitochondrial replacement therapy in human clinical trials, with an important caveat: Researchers found varying levels of carryover maternal mitochondrial DNA that had preferentially replicated and accumulated within some internal organs, although not enough to cause health effects. “Our data show that MRT is compatible with normal development, fertility and aging in nonhuman primates without any detected adverse effects,” the authors write. “However, carry-over maternal or paternal mtDNA contributions increased substantially in selected internal tissues/organs of some MRT animals, implying the possibility of mtDNA mutation recurrence.”

Shoukhrat Mitalipov, Ph.D., professor in the Oregon National Primate Center, led the work. Researchers say that the initial five rhesus macaque monkeys—born in 2009—all developed normally to adulthood, and they observed normal healthy development in their offspring as well. Through a budgetary rider, Congress has blocked the Food and Drug Administration from providing oversight for such clinical trials in the U.S. Even though the technique was developed at OHSU as a way to break the cycle of disease passed from mother to baby through mutations in mitochondrial DNA, it is only available overseas through clinical trials currently underway in the United Kingdom and Greece. Mitochondria control respiration and energy production within every cell of the body, so mutations in mtDNA can cause a range of potentially fatal disorders affecting organs with high-energy demands such as the heart, muscle and brain. Mitalipov’s mitochondrial replacement technique mitigates this problem by replacing disease-causing mitochondrial mutations in a mother’s egg with donor mitochondria. In 2009, researchers successfully demonstrated the technique with the birth of rhesus macaques at the ONPRC. The study provides insight about their health over the long term and across generations. “The question was always there about the long-term safety of this technique,” Mitalipov said. “We wanted to find out whether this procedure will somehow show negative effects later in life. We saw no adverse health effects across two generations.”

Provost Elena Andresen, Ph.D., announces retirement

Dear OHSU Community,

I am writing to inform you that Elena Andresen, Ph.D., executive vice president and provost, has notified me of her intent to retire as of June 30, 2021. A driven scholar and loyal partner, Dr. Andresen has devoted her talent, leadership and expertise to OHSU's education mission for the schools of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Public Health and other health care professional programs and initiatives for more than nine years.

With Dr. Andresen at the helm, OHSU's education mission has flourished. She drove the expansion of OHSU's rural campus by building close relationships in the surrounding communities and closely collaborating with the leadership at our partner schools. Dr. Andresen has also been integral to advancing policies and procedures to ensure equity and access to students of all backgrounds.

Dr. Andresen was appointed executive vice president and provost in June 2017, and served as interim provost beginning in Sept. 2016. Prior to that she was the interim dean for the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, a professor of public health and preventive medicine in the School of Public Health, and served as chief, Disability & Health Research Group, for the Institute on Development and Disability in the School of Medicine.

Dr. Andresen spent the preceding six years as a professor at the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions, where she served as the founding chair of the department of epidemiology and biostatistics, and served three years as a research health scientist at the VAMC Rehabilitations Outcomes Research Center. From 1996 to 2004, Dr. Andresen was at the Saint Louis University School of Public Health where she was

promoted to professor and received tenure, and was the division director of epidemiology.

With a deep desire to solve problems related to disease in populations, particularly in the elderly and people with disability, her research interests lie at the intersection of epidemiology and health services outreach.

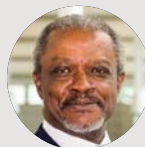
Dr. Andresen's extensive experience with academic program development and accreditation at the University of Florida's College of Public Health was instrumental in helping the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health secure accreditation. Her big ideas combined with a keen attention to detail helped to create the foundation of the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health as we know it today.

Dr. Andresen strives for excellence in all she does and prioritizes people's best interests. In retirement, Dr. Andresen looks forward to touring the Pacific Northwest with her husband Kevin in their 1972 Airstream, and continuing her education as an English Language Learner instructor. As a fluent Spanish speaker, she hopes to open a center for adult English Language Learners in Wasco County in Central Oregon.

A national search will be conducted to fill the role of provost. The search committee will be announced as details of the search are finalized.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Andresen for her unwavering service and dedication to OHSU, and wishing her all the best in retirement.

Sincerely yours,



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

AWARDS AND HONORS

The 16th Annual Flame Awards ceremony, hosted by the All Hill Student Council, celebrated the volunteer work, generosity, compassion and achievement displayed by students and faculty across schools, campuses and programs. This year the following faculty were recognized:

- **Kristen Beiers-Jones, M.N.**, assistant professor of nursing, School of Nursing
 - **Linda Brown, M.S.**, assistant professor of nursing, School of Nursing
 - **Heidi Funke, M.N., M.A.**, instructor of nursing, School of Nursing
 - **Kenneth Gundle, M.D.**, assistant professor of orthopedics and rehabilitation, School of Medicine
 - **Lisa Marriot, Ph.D.**, associate professor of public health, School of Public Health
 - **Gabrielle Meyers, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine, School of Medicine
 - **Diane Stadler, Ph.D.**, professor of medicine, School of Medicine
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For several years, the OHSU Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) has amplified the individual and team efforts required to advance diversity, equity and inclusion at OHSU through the Diversity and Inclusion Awards. CDI launched the nominations process for the 2020 awards a year ago, with plans for a late spring awards ceremony. A few weeks later, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed OHSU into modified operations, and the ceremony was put on hold. Less than four months after, Minneapolis police killed George Floyd. “In so many ways, the year 2020 became a mirror for our country,” said **Derick Du Vivier, M.D., M.B.A.**, OHSU senior vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion. “The pandemic laid bare the disproportionate burden of illness and death too long borne by communities of color. The deaths at the hands of police of George Floyd, Breonna

Taylor and too many others trumpeted that racism is a public health crisis. And at OHSU, it became clear that it will take ALL of us to change our climate, change our thinking, change our actions, to become an anti-racist institution.” Now in 2021, we would like to recognize the following OHSU faculty:

- **Raina Croff, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of neurology, School of Medicine
Dr. Croff is recognized for using innovative strategies in her research on ageing and dementia to recruit more diverse research subjects and improve access for underserved patients, launching a unique research program to improve the cognitive health of older African Americans in gentrifying neighborhoods, and promoting diversity and inclusion in every aspect of her work, including mentoring students and trainees.
- **Casey Seideman, M.D.**, assistant professor of urology, School of Medicine
Dr. Seideman has committed herself to increasing the support network and visibility for women in urology through mentoring medical students and residents and joining colleagues to create a community of inclusion in this department and in the profession. She partnered with colleague Geolani Dy, M.D., assistant professor of urology, and Shannon Cannon, M.D., a fellow in pediatric urology at Seattle Children’s Hospital and University of Washington, to form Urologists for Equity.
- **Donn Spight, M.D.**, professor of surgery, School of Medicine
Dr. Spight is honored for launching the Second Look program for surgery residency applicants in the Department of Surgery, inviting prospective trainees who identify with under-represented groups to OHSU to learn more and decide whether OHSU feels like the right choice for them, dramatically increasing the number of trainees of color. Dr. Spight chaired the department’s Diversity Committee, which devised a way to honor past surgery leaders while also depicting the department’s growing diversity. Dr. Spight is a Diversity Navigator in the M.D. program and engaged in local and national diversity and health equity committees and task forces.

Karen Reifenstein, Ph.D., M.S.N., assistant professor of nursing, School of Nursing, has been accepted into the AACN Diversity Leadership Institute, a competitive program for academic nursing leaders/diversity officers committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion. The program will focus on key areas including increased awareness, attitude, knowledge, and skill development. Dr. Reifenstein says, “I’m honored to be part of this dynamic group of academic leaders who are very strongly committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts at their respective institutions. I look forward to the exchange of ideas with everyone, and hope to bring fresh innovative perspectives to the OHSU School of Nursing community.” The central focus of the Diversity Leadership Institute is to provide an overview of the evolution of diversity and inclusion and the role of Diversity Officers in academic nursing and nursing practice. It frames diversity within the context of higher education and academic nursing while presenting high-involvement diversity practices in teams and leaders.

Now in its eighth year, the OHSU Women in Academic Health and Medicine (WAHM) Conference convened more than 250 faculty members, trainees, students, and staff from across the university in a first-ever virtual format. Four faculty were presented with awards this year:

- **Clinical Excellence Award: Cathy L. Emeis, Ph.D.**, associate professor of nursing, School of Nursing
- **Discovery in Science Award: Melanie B. Gillingham, Ph.D.**, associate professor of molecular and medical genetics, School of Medicine

The award is given to a faculty member who has dedicated their career to excellence in patient care. The recipient has advanced the quality of care for OHSU through education and quality improvement and is recognized as an outstanding clinician by their peers.

The award is given to a faculty member who not only demonstrates outstanding achievements in research early in her/their career but also presents a model to inspire future generations of women and non-binary individuals in science through her/their work.

- **Emerging Leader Award: Nicole Bowles, Ph.D., M.S.**, research assistant professor, Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences

The award recognizes an individual who early in their career demonstrates talent and capacity for driving change who is running significant initiatives and is fast becoming a prominent and visible leader of the future.

- **Mentorship Award: Julia Maxson, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of medicine, School of Medicine

The award is given to a faculty member who goes above and beyond their duties, and exemplifies a deep commitment to fostering the professional and personal development of women and non-binary students, residents, fellows, post-docs, and faculty.

Monica Holland, M.S.N., instructor of nursing, School of Nursing, was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Margaret Stewart Lindsay Courageous Provider Award by the Courageous Parents Network. Of receiving the award she said, “Building relationships based on trust is integral to the work that I do in providing families with compassionate, evidenced-based care for their children experiencing chronic, complex or life changing illness. Focusing on meeting families where they are at, then empowering them with a holistic set of tools with which to provide care for their child embodies the education and training that I received in my time at the SON where the emphasis on assessing and treating the “whole” child and family ... physically, emotionally and spiritually was integral.” The award comes with a significant gift to the honoree’s place of work/program. Nominators emphasized Monica’s curiosity and humility which drive her to seek first to form trusting relationships, and then to learn what matters most to families, and then devising (creative) strategies to honor the families’ wishes. The Selection Committee connected this to the legacy of Margaret Lindsay who, they say, “had a big heart and strong attraction to those who might need extra support in order to thrive—and who did not give up in the face of challenges, but rather worked to overcome them.”



David Huang, M.D., Ph.D., is a professor of ophthalmology in the OHSU School of Medicine. (OHSU/John Valls)

An ophthalmologist and researcher at OHSU Casey Eye Institute is being honored for co-inventing an eye imaging technology that is widely used to diagnose and guide treatment for people with the leading causes of blindness. **David Huang, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor ophthalmology, School of Medicine, was awarded a Visionary Prize from the Sanford and Susan Greenberg Prize to End Blindness during a live-streamed ceremony on Dec. 14. Huang is among 13 scientists sharing \$3 million in prizes for their scientific and medical contributions to ending blindness. *National Geographic* highlighted some of the award winners in a Dec. 3 story. Huang co-invented optical coherence tomography, also known as OCT. The technology is used to diagnose macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma, and helps physicians decide how to best treat patients with blindness-causing disease. This technology is also increasingly used to evaluate treatments for multiple sclerosis and other diseases. Huang has been widely recognized for his co-invention of OCT. In 2012, he was honored with an António Champalimaud Vision

Award, known as the largest scientific and humanitarian prize in the field of vision research.

Congratulations to the 2020 Senate Distinguished Awards recipients. The awards were bestowed upon six faculty members during a ceremony on Oct. 16:

- **Mark D. Mitchell, M.A.**, associate professor, School of Dentistry, Service Award
- **Dr. Andrew C. Adey, Ph.D.**, associate professor, School of Medicine, Excellence Award
- **Dr. Carla M. Hagen, Ph.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor, School of Nursing, Leadership Award
- **Dr. Lisa Marriott, Ph.D.**, associate professor, School of Public Health, Teaching Award
- **Dr. Taifo Mahmud, Ph.D.**, professor, College of Pharmacy, Research Award
- **Dr. Betsy Ferguson, Ph.D.**, Professor, Oregon National Primate Research Center, Collaboration Award

Tyler Duffield, Ph.D., assistant professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, was awarded a Department of Defense Discovery Award. Dr. Duffield will be combining several eye-tracking metrics with the military computerized cognitive battery (ANAM) for validation, and will attempt to improve diagnostic accuracy of mild traumatic brain injury, post-concussive headache, and post-concussive sleep disturbance, with intention of remote testing capabilities.

Katherine Bradley, Ph.D., associate professor of public health, School of Public Health, was awarded the Oregon Public Health Association's 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award at the OPHA Annual Nursing Section meeting. The award is given to a person who has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to public health and to the improvement of health in Oregon.



Donald Sullivan, M.D., M.A., M.C.R., assistant professor of medicine (pulmonary and critical care medicine) in the OHSU School of Medicine. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

Donald Sullivan, M.D., assistant professor of medicine, School of Medicine, was the recipient of the 2020 Cambia Foundation Sojourns Scholar Award and \$180,000 in funding to conduct an innovative and impactful clinical, policy, educational, health equity or systems change project in the field of palliative care. The Sojourns Scholar Leadership Program identifies, cultivates and advances

the next generation of palliative care leaders. conduct an innovative and impactful clinical, policy, educational, health equity or systems change project in the field of palliative care.

The OHSU Physician Assistant Board presented **Shannon Anderson, M.P.A.S.**, assistant professor of neurology, School of Medicine, with the PA of the Year award on Dec. 10, 2020. This award is given every year to an OHSU physician assistant highlighting their clear passion for excellence.

Melanie Gillingham, Ph.D., associate professor of molecular and medical genetics, School of Medicine, is the recipient of the RareGenomics BeHEARD Award. The BeHEARD competition (Helping Empower and Accelerate Research Discoveries) is a global Rare Disease Science Challenge that offers rare disease researchers, who traditionally have difficulty attracting funding, grants of the latest life science innovations and technologies. This unique biotechnology contest allows companies to contribute their technology to make a difference for the rare disease community.



Yali Jia, Ph.D.
(OHSU News)

Yali Jia, Ph.D., associate professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine received the 2021 OHSU School of Medicine Alumni Association Richard T. Jones Distinguished Alumni Scientist Award.

RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Monica Hinds, Ph.D., professor biomedical engineering, School of Medicine, has been appointed assistant dean of student affairs effective Feb. 1. Dr. Hinds joined the faculty in 2003. Her research investigates biomaterials for cardiovascular applications. She also brings years of experience with the education mission serving on the graduate faculty in the Program for Biomedical Sciences and the M.D./Ph.D. Program Committee. As assistant dean of student affairs, Dr. Hinds will be primarily involved with student advocacy, student progress and supporting student development, creating and implementing policies affecting graduate students and representing graduate student interests. “I am very honored and excited about the opportunity to engage students in graduate programs across the School of Medicine,” said Dr. Hinds. “My goal is to support all students during their education and to best prepare them for their future careers. I am hoping to use my engineering skills and process approach to provide resources and support systems for all graduate students in the school.”

Tobie Jones, D.M.D., assistant professor of restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry, and **Graciela Vidal, M.A.**, instructor, Office of Academic Affairs, have been named chair and co-chair of the Interprofessional Initiative Steering Committee. The Interprofessional Initiative (IPI) works collaboratively across OHSU’s schools and programs to build a model for interprofessional practice and education, aimed at making team-based, patient-centered care the new standard. We know that effective collaboration among health professionals has the potential to profoundly improve the quality of patient care. Effective collaboration between biomedical researchers and health care providers also has a foundation in interprofessional practice and education (IPE), and is key to the translation of basic science research to improve patient care and community health. At OHSU, we believe we all need to learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.

Nic Lendino, M.S., has been named to the Office of the Ombuds, effective Dec. 21, 2020. This role reports administratively through the Office of the Provost, and Provost Elena Andresen, but does not report directly to anyone to maintain confidentiality. Mx. Lendino has served as Assistant Integrity Officer on the Integrity Team at OHSU since June 2014. In the Ombuds role, Mx. Lendino will serve as a designated neutral: neither an advocate for any individual nor the organization, who acts as a confidential source of information and referral. Mx. Lendino will aid in answering questions that are brought forward by any member of the organization (employees and students), and assist in the resolution of concerns and critical situations. The Office of the Ombuds will supplement the University’s existing resources for formal conflict resolution, and will collaborate and partner with other OHSU services on work that helps improve individual and community concerns and outcomes. Ombuds services are open to all mission areas and members of OHSU. While this role does not report directly to anyone, the administrative connection to the Office of the Provost highlights the importance of this work.

The Oregon Health Authority has named **Derick Du Vivier, M.D., M.B.A.**, OHSU senior vice president for diversity, equity and inclusion, and **Kalani Raphael, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine, School of Medicine, to its COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee, which will provide guidance on vaccine sequencing for phases 1b, 1c and 2 of the state’s vaccine distribution plan. “COVID-19 has intensified the disproportionately adverse public health impacts that have long harmed groups including tribal communities, communities of color, aging adults and those of lower socioeconomic status,” said OHSU President **Danny Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H.** “OHSU is proud of the shared strengths these faculty offer, and will provide to such an essential committee that will help ensure that the people of Oregon, especially those who are disproportionately affected, are vaccinated as quickly as possible.”

Colin Gold D.A.O.M., assistant professor of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine, School of

Medicine, is the new Chair of the Clinical Working Group at the Academic Consortium of Integrative Medicine and Health where he served last year as vice-chair. The consortium is made up of over 60 academic medical centers, including OHSU. The Clinical Working Group plans and hosts the Consortium's monthly Grand Rounds webinars.

Amy Miller Juve, Ed.D. is joining the Society of Directors of Research in Medical Education. The society promotes research in medical education, collaboration among its members and with other organizations, professional development for its members, and the development of research units in medical education. The society is an advocate for education and research and scholarship in medicine and seeks to influence national research policy.

TRANSITIONS

Grace Kuo, **PharmD, M.P.H., Ph.D.**, is stepping down as Dean of the College of Pharmacy, and will continue as a tenured professor in the College. Dr. Kuo has served as Dean since June 2019. She led the College through a successful reaccreditation, increased the College's focus on diversity, and streamlined operational policies. **David Bearden, PharmD**, will serve as Interim Dean of the College of Pharmacy. Dr. Bearden most recently served as Associate Dean for Academic Integration and Clinical Advancement, and previously as Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice. He has been with the College for 19 years with a focus in infectious diseases pharmacy. Dr. Bearden has been an integral member of the OHSU Interprofessional Initiative since its inception, and currently serves as Chair of the Steering Committee. The College of Pharmacy represents a vital partnership between OHSU and OSU, fostering a collaborative approach to patient-focused care and cultivating an essential interprofessional network for our students and faculty.

An Invitation from the OHSU School of Medicine Alliance

As an emeritus faculty member or partner, you are warmly invited to join the School of Medicine Alliance (SMA). The SMA is a network mostly of women who come together to promote service to the School of Medicine and greater OHSU community, and to enjoy shared interests and friendship.

SMA brings together a broad spectrum of members, including both active and retired faculty, healthcare professionals, attorneys, artists, homemakers, and volunteers. Members enjoy camaraderie and learning through participation in special interest groups that align with individuals' busy schedules. These include a morning and an evening book group, garden group, movie group, and a threads group that prepares layettes for the OHSU Mother and Baby unit.

Founded in 1947, SMA builds on a proud history of welcoming new faculty, hosting fundraising events such as the annual Summer Garden Party to benefit our Blankets and Books for Babies project, sponsoring social events and service projects for students, and organizing luncheons that feature outstanding speakers.

As healthcare, education, and our society evolve, the SMA seeks to respond to better serve the School of Medicine and the OHSU community, while providing a valued resource for our membership to participate in an impactful—and fun—organization. We invite you to join us as we strive to support OHSU's mission and the School of Medicine, and as we envision a new SMA for our ever-changing world!

Additional information about SMA is available at the SMA website at www.sma-ohsu.org or by contacting our membership chair, Donna Van Winkle, PhD. at donna.charvat@gmail.com

NEW EMERITUS



Susan P. Bagby, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE



Marjorie R. Grafe, M.D., Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PATHOLOGY



Antonio M. Baptista, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, OFFICE OF THE DEAN



Paula M. Gubrud-Howe Ed.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SCHOOL OF NURSING



Dale R. Barker, D.D.S.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITUS, ENDODONTOLOGY



John M. Holland, M.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS, RADIATION MEDICINE



Thomas M. Becker, M.D., Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Katharine L. Hopkins, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY



Robert M. Bennett, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE



Ross G. Kaplan, D.Orth, M.D.S.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, ORTHODONTICS



Michelle Berlin, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY



Frederick S. Keller, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY



Cynthia L. Bethea, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, OREGON NATIONAL PRIMATE
RESEARCH CENTER



Karla S. Kent, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, INTEGRATIVE BIOMEDICAL AND
DIAGNOSTIC SCIENCES



Katherine J. Bradley, Ph.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SCHOOL OF
PUBLIC HEALTH



Molly F. Kulesz-Martin, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DERMATOLOGY



Rita M. Braziel, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PATHOLOGY



William E. Lambert, Ph.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC
HEALTH



John C. Crabbe, Jr., Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE



James D. MacLowry, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PATHOLOGY



Michael P. Davey, M.D., Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE



Curtis A. Machida, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, INTEGRATIVE BIOMEDICAL AND
DIAGNOSTIC SCIENCES



Renee M. Menkens, M.S.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SCHOOL OF NURSING



Robert J. Steelman, M.D., D.M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY



Heidi D. Nelson M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICAL INFORMATICS AND
CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY



Michael C. Taylor, D.M.D.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITUS, RESTORATIVE
DENTISTRY



Robert E. Nickel M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PEDIATRICS



Bradley M. Tebo, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DEAN ADMINISTRATION



Molly L. Osborne, M.D., Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE



Annie B. Terry M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PEDIATRICS



Frank Parker, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DERMATOLOGY



Jan P.H. van Santen, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PEDIATRICS



Steven L. Primack, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY



William H. Wilson, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PSYCHIATRY



Carolyn Sue Richards, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MOLECULAR AND MEDICAL
GENETICS



Bruce M. Wolfe, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SURGERY



Karin D. Rodland, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, CELL DEVELOPMENTAL AND
CANCER BIOLOGY



Mark H. Zornow, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, ANESTHESIOLOGY AND
PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE



Brian T. Rogers, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PEDIATRICS



Ronald G. Rosenfeld, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PEDIATRICS



Christine M. Sedgley, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, ENDODONTOLOGY



Thomas R. Shearer, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, INTEGRATIVE BIOMEDICAL AND
DIAGNOSTIC SCIENCES

CONVOCATION

In line with other schools in the state, OHSU has made the incredibly difficult decision that all OHSU 2021 Convocation and graduation-related events will not be held in-person this year. There will be an opportunity for the OHSU community to watch an online ceremony. Details on that are still forthcoming.



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SPRING
2021

Emeritus

A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU EMERITUS FACULTY

