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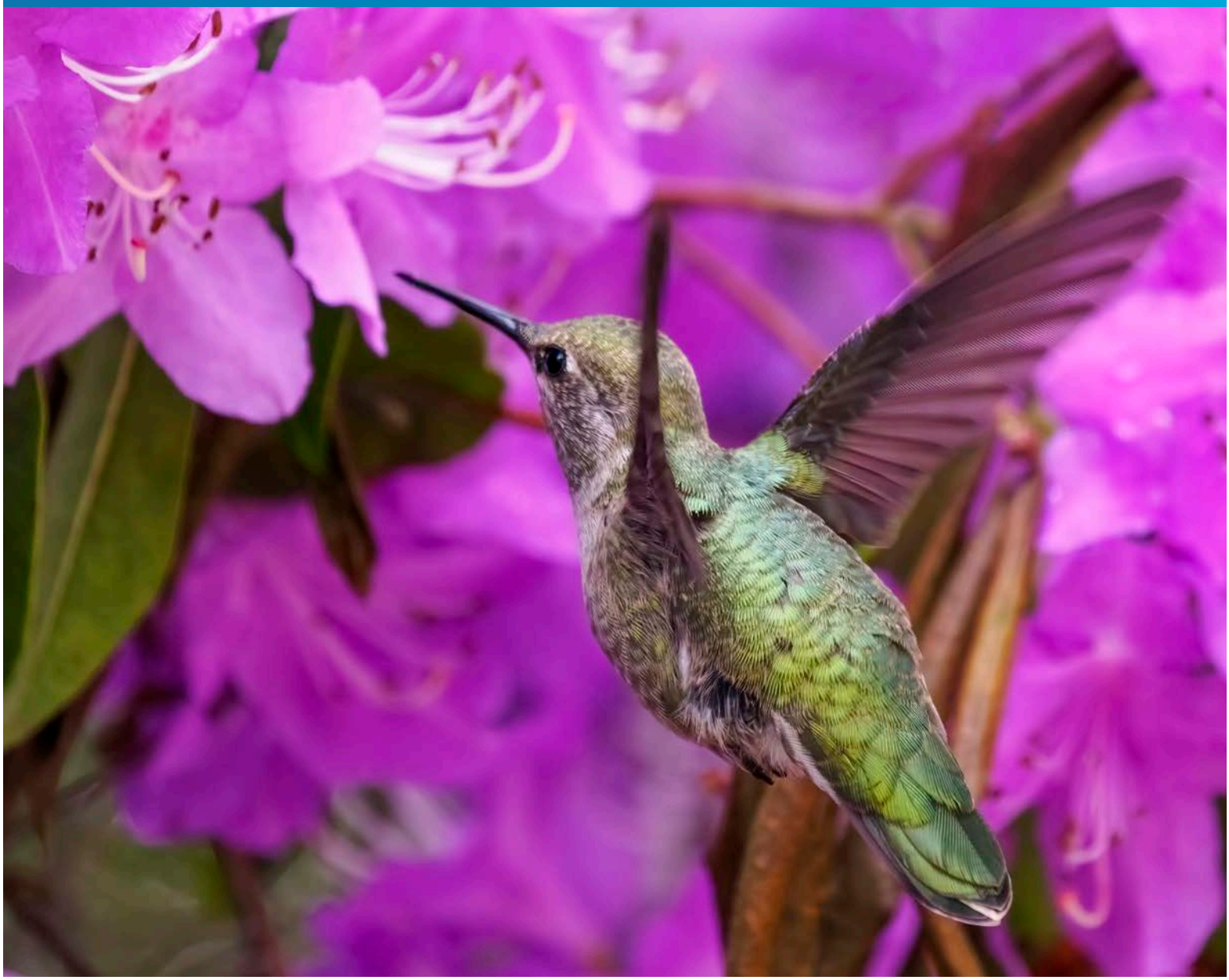
OHSU

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

OHSU was celebrated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) for pledging ongoing action to decarbonize the health care sector and make health care facilities more resilient to the effects of climate change. A September 2021 consensus statement from more than 200 medical journals named climate change the No. 1 threat to global public health. It exposes millions of people in the United States to harm every year—with disproportionate impacts on communities that are often already the victims of longstanding discrimination—through increases in extreme heat waves, wildfires, flooding, vector-borne diseases and other factors that worsen chronic health conditions.

The health care sector also contributes to climate change, accounting for approximately 8.5% of U.S. domestic emissions. OHSU recognizes climate change as a public health challenge and has formally committed to pursuing the Biden administration's climate goal of reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050, and has joined 102 other health companies, representing 837 hospitals as well as leading health centers, suppliers, insurance companies, group purchasing organizations, pharmaceutical companies, and more, in signing the White House/HHS Health Sector Climate Pledge.

OHSU has begun the work to minimize our carbon footprint, including purchasing 75% of electricity from carbon-free sources; designing all new buildings to aim for LEED Gold certification; creating an innovative transportation program for members to reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel—avoiding millions of pounds of carbon dioxide emissions; recycling and compost; preparing our facilities for extreme weather; and, much more. By signing the Health Sector Climate Pledge, we remain focused and committed to reducing our carbon footprint and preparing our facilities for chronic and catastrophic impacts.

As Americans face a sharp curtailment of reproductive rights since the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* last year, OHSU continues to be on the leading edge of creating access for essential health care with a new Center for Reproductive Health Equity to advance reproductive health services, education and policy research.

Last year's devastating rollback of *Roe v. Wade* protections has resulted in abortion services—what should be basic health care—becoming unsafe and inaccessible to individuals in more than a dozen states, disproportionately affecting low-income people and already marginalized communities.

In the face of growing health disparities, OHSU has been a leader in reproductive health care and education, including: working to provide access to abortion services for out-of-state patients; advising on international efforts to improve reproductive health; and, most recently, offering abortion training for medical residents who live in states where abortion is banned or restricted, and, therefore, don't have access to clinical experience with abortion care as part of their family planning training.

The new center continues OHSU's steadfast commitment to comprehensive access to reproductive health services for all. "Reproductive health is fundamental right, yet so many Americans—especially people of color, immigrants, low-income individuals and LGBTQ+ people—do not have equal access to care," said **Maria Rodriguez, M.D., M.P.H.,** professor of obstetrics and gynecology, School of Medicine, and director of the new center. "The establishment of this center is an important and necessary step to ensure a person's right to make decisions about their health is not in any way limited by factors like race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity or socioeconomic status."

The establishment of the Center for Reproductive Healthy Equity represents another significant effort in OHSU's commitment to provide the full continuum of sexual and reproductive health care to all who seek it, and to educate the next generation of clinicians and advance groundbreaking research. The center builds on the ongoing support of generous donors and dedicated health care and community partners, who recognize the importance of advancing the field of reproductive health.

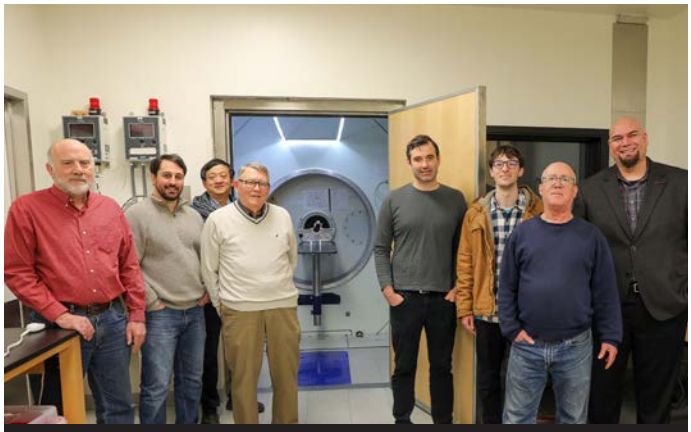
OHSU medical students and their families pose for photos and revel in the moment after the students learned on Friday, March 17, 2023, where they are going for the next phase in their careers. OHSU's 2023 Match Day percentage was 100 percent. That means every medical student has a placement for residency. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

165 members of the OHSU School of Medicine's M.D. Class of 2023 participating in Match Day awaited their professional fates with nervous anticipation. The annual event is how students find out where they'll continue their medical education as resident-physicians after they graduate this spring. Students greeted each other with hugs. They clutched coffee cups. They stood in anxious clusters as the Robertson Life Sciences Building atrium filled with family, friends, faculty and staff members. Led by M.D. Student Affairs Assistant Deans **Benjamin Schneider, M.D.**, associate professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, and **Rebecca Cantone, M.D.**, associate professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, the 2023 Match Day ceremony kicked off around 8:25 a.m. with an acknowledgment of the Native peoples on whose land OHSU is built. Students matched in 28 specialties in 32 different states, with 36% of students matching to institutions in Oregon. That's good news for Oregon's physician workforce. More than 70% of physicians who completed medical school and residency training in Oregon have stayed in Oregon to practice, according to the most recent physician workforce data from the Association of American Medical Colleges. Close to half of students who matched—44%—are entering primary care specialties, including internal medicine, family medicine or pediatrics.

RESEARCH

New research in a rodent model at OHSU shows that some positive effects of psilocybin, a naturally occurring compound found in "magic mushrooms," may take effect immediately. Researchers say the findings bolster the case for people using psilocybin in conjunction with clinical treatment for conditions like depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Cognitive inflexibility is a hallmark of many psychiatric disorders, including major depressive disorder. A team led by **Bita Moghaddam, Ph.D.**, professor of Behavioral Neuroscience, School of Medicine, examined the effect of psilocybin on cognitive flexibility in rats by measuring animals' ability to switch between previously learned strategies. They observed that psilocybin enhances cognitive flexibility. This finding suggests that the combination of psilocybin and clinician intervention, such as psychotherapy, may be effective in treating symptoms of mental illness because of the drug's impact on cognitive flexibility. The study, published in February 2023 in the journal *Neuropsychopharmacology*, suggests that psilocybin may be particularly effective in treating depression not as a standalone pharmacological treatment, but rather in combination with clinical intervention. The team observed, however, that other psychedelics didn't have the same effects as psilocybin. They are currently conducting further investigations into the differences between psilocybin and other psychedelics to better understand what makes psilocybin so special.

To survive, every cell in the body puts enormous energy into sustaining the right balance of water and essential electrolytes. Researchers at OHSU have developed a way to use magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, scanning to map this activity in fine detail in the human brain and other organs. The innovation—called metabolic activity diffusion imaging, or MADI—is opening up new possibilities for detecting cancers and revealing if a tumor is responding to treatment. In upcoming clinical trials enlisting subjects with glioma brain tumors, researchers will compare MADI with positron emission tomography, or PET, which uses injected radioactive agents to create images of cell energy production rates. "MADI is a new way to make images of metabolic activity within organs and tissues at high spatial resolution, and it's totally noninvasive," said inventor **Charles Springer, Ph.D.**, professor in the Advanced Imaging Research Center. "In principle, this method could apply to almost any pathology. Right now, we are pushing it in the direction of cancer and neuroscience."



Charles Springer and colleagues stand near a powerful magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, that scans the body to map electrolytes and water activity in fine detail. From left: Martin Pike, Ph.D., Eric Baker, M.S., Xin Li, Ph.D., Charles Springer, Ph.D., Brenden Moloney, M.S., Joshua Schlegel, B.S., Tom Barbara, Ph.D., and Ramon Barajas, M.D. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

Immunity from COVID-19 appears to gather strength with more time between vaccination and infection, a new laboratory study from researchers at OHSU suggests. The findings carry implications for vaccine recommendations as the pandemic transitions to an endemic state. Researchers measured the antibody response in blood samples for a group of people who gained so-called "hybrid immunity" through two means: either vaccination followed by a breakthrough infection, or by getting vaccinated after contracting COVID-19. They measured the immune response in blood samples of 96 generally healthy OHSU employees and found that the immune response was uniformly stronger the longer the time period between vaccination and infection. The longest interval measured was 404

days. Their findings suggest that vaccine boosters should be spaced no more frequently than a year apart, at least among healthy people. "Longer intervals between natural infection and vaccination appear to strengthen immune response for otherwise healthy people," said co-senior author **Fikadu Tafesse, Ph.D.**, associate professor of molecular microbiology and immunology, School of Medicine. Published in the *Journal for Clinical Investigation Insight*, the new research is the latest in a series of laboratory discoveries by OHSU scientists revealing a pattern of strengthened immune response through hybrid immunity. Their findings suggest that the magnitude, potency and breadth of hybrid immune response all increased with a longer time period between exposure to the virus—whether through vaccination or natural infection. This likely is related to the body's immune response maturing over time, said co-senior author **Marcel Curlin, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine, School of Medicine and medical director of OHSU Occupational Health. "The immune system is learning," Curlin said. "If you're going to amplify a response, what this study tells us is that you might want to boost that response after a longer period of learning rather than early after exposure."

OHSU is among several centers across the country involved in a clinical trial testing a promising new antibody to prevent Alzheimer's disease before symptoms develop. The AHEAD study is the first-ever clinical trial to test the effect of the antibody lecanemab in people who have no cognitive symptoms of Alzheimer's but have discovered through brain imaging the presence of a type of protein called amyloid that's often associated with the disease. The study is testing people as young as 55 who are at risk of developing symptoms of Alzheimer's as they get older. "If we can detect it and treat it early, we believe we'll have a better chance of fighting it," said **Aimee Pierce, M.D.**, associate professor of, School of Medicine, who is leading the OHSU clinical trial testing lecanemab in the Layton Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. In addition to the current clinical trial, Pierce also led an earlier clinical trial testing lecanemab among participants in the early stage of the disease. In January of this year, the Food and Drug Administration granted accelerated approval for the lecanemab, known by the trade name Leqembi, in treating patients with mild cognitive impairment or the mild dementia stage of Alzheimer's, as long as they had confirmed presence of amyloid in the brain.

Amy Cantor, M.D., M.P.H., is an associate professor of medical informatics and clinical epidemiology, family medicine and obstetrics and gynecology in the OHSU School of Medicine. Cantor has led several studies on the benefits of telehealth for women's healthcare services. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

OHSU researchers have found that replacing or supplementing in-person care with telehealth generally results in similar, and sometimes better, clinical outcomes compared with in-person care. In particular, the study, published in the *Journal of General Internal* Medicine, found comparable outcomes for services related to contraception and intimate partner violence, demonstrating that telehealth, even for sensitive preventive services like family planning, can still meet the needs of patients. "We know that telehealth can be a valuable tool to increase access and availability of care and services, especially to those who face barriers to receiving traditional care," said **Amy G. Cantor, M.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor of medical informatics and clinical epidemiology, School of Medicine. "These findings are encouraging because they provide valuable insight for us to create more effective design and delivery of telehealth services, and hopefully provide higher quality care to women who need it." Cantor's team of researchers conducted a comprehensive comparative analysis of several clinical trials, including eight randomized controlled trials; one nonrandomized trial; and seven observational studies, which included more than 10,000 women receiving services for contraception or IPV. Researchers analyzed the trials and found that when telehealth-delivered care was used to supplement or replace in-person services, clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction were similar, and sometimes better, compared with in-person care. Specifically, there were similar rates of contraceptive use, sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy in studies looking at contraception. There were also similar rates of IPV-related outcomes, including depression and posttraumatic stress disorder, compared with in-person care. Cantor said these results have positive implications for clinicians, who can feel confident that leveraging telehealth for certain preventive services will still meet the needs of their patients. Although these findings are encouraging, Cantor hopes that future research will focus on how outcomes differ among populations who face significant health disparities. Looking forward, she also notes that research must consider the barriers to broader telehealth implementation, including limitations in internet access and varying levels of digital literacy.

"We still have questions around the potential barriers and disadvantages telehealth may pose in delivering care to certain underserved populations," Cantor said. "Developing telehealth approaches that are inclusive, accessible and sustainable is crucial to reduce disparities and improve health outcomes for women everywhere."

OHSU researchers measured wide differences among U.S. states in the number of people who turn to hospital emergency departments for treatment of mental health conditions through Medicaid, highlighting the lack of suitable care in many states. The findings published in the February edition of the journal *Health Affairs*. The study is the first to examine mental health access through emergency departments for patients enrolled in Medicaid, which provides health care coverage to 90 million Americans. The disparate reliance on emergency departments among states comes amid a national mental health crisis identified by the Biden administration. "We know that access to mental health care is a problem," said lead author **John McConnell, Ph.D.**, professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine. "This study confirms that it's more of a problem in some areas than in others. If I were a federal policymaker, I'd be pretty concerned about states at the top and want to know what's happening there."

Researchers from OHSU Family Medicine and health care innovation non-profit OCHIN, a nonprofit leader in equitable health care innovation and a trusted partner to a growing national provider network, joined in order to measure the prevalence of acute and chronic diabetes-complications among people with diabetes. This was the first study to do so for this population. This work assessed nearly 65,000 patients with diabetes who received care from 276 CHCs nationwide in 2019. Of these patients, one in eight were diagnosed with an acute complication, and about three quarters had a diagnosis of a chronic complication – a significant health and financial burden for them. Those with acute or chronic complications had a greater number of ambulatory visits and were more likely to experience comorbid mental health or physical health conditions than patients with diabetes not experiencing complications. "These findings highlight the significant burden of acute and chronic complications for CHC patients with diabetes," says lead author **Nathalie Huguet, Ph.D.**, associate professor of family medicine, School of Medicine. This study reinforces the need for increased support for CHCs to improve accessibility and affordability of diabetes care management and help mitigate diabetes related complications among socioeconomically marginalized populations.

Elizabeth Needham Waddell, M.A., Ph.D., Associate Professor of public Health in the OHSU-Portland State University School of Public Health. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

People recently released from incarceration face a risk of opioid overdose 10 times greater than the general public, according to researchers at OHSU, Oregon State University and the Oregon Department of Corrections. The research, appeared in the *Journal of Substance Use and Addiction Treatment*, also found that risk of overdose is highest among women and in the first two weeks following release from incarceration. "Drug overdose, and opioid overdose specifically, is a leading cause of death among people who have recently been in prison—and it's happening right here in our Oregon communities," said **Elizabeth Waddell, Ph.D.,** associate professor of public health, School of Public Health, and the study's senior author. "It's crucial that we do more to identify those who are at highest risk and implement interventions that support the health of these individuals who are at such a pivotal crossroad." Roughly 1.4 million people in the United States are held in state and federal prisons, and more than 600,000 are released from custody each year. Additionally, nearly two-thirds of all adults in custody in the United States have a documented substance use disorder. "We need to make sure everyone in the criminal justice system has access to the treatment and resources they need," Waddell said. "It's up to us to ensure these individuals can stay safe, healthy and be able to successfully re-enter the community."

Shoukhrat Mitalipov, Ph.D. (OHSU News)

A commonly used scientific method to analyze a tiny amount of DNA in early human embryos fails to accurately reflect gene edits, according to new research led by scientists at OHSU. The study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, involved sequencing the genomes of early human embryos that had undergone genome editing using the gene-editing tool CRISPR. The work calls into question the accuracy of a DNA-reading procedure that relies on amplifying a small amount of DNA for purposes of genetic testing. In addition, the study reveals that gene editing to correct disease-causing mutations in early human embryos can also lead to unintended and potentially harmful changes in the genome. Together, the findings raise a new scientific basis for caution for any scientist who may be poised to use genetically edited embryos to establish pregnancies. Although gene editing technologies hold promise in preventing and treating debilitating inherited diseases, the new study reveals limitations that must be overcome before gene-editing to establish a pregnancy can be deemed safe or effective. "It tells you how little we know about editing the genome, and particularly how cells respond to the DNA damage that CRISPR induces," said senior author **Shoukhrat Mitalipov, Ph.D.**, professor in the Oregon National Primate Research Center. "Gene repair has great potential, but these new results show that we have a lot of work to do."

New menstrual technologies—including underwear, menstrual cups and discs—have been able to address more diverse needs and improve sustainability, discretion and inclusivity. However, these new technologies are not routinely integrated into clinical care and research, which instead typically evaluate menstrual flow based on the use specific products, like the traditional tampon or pad. The review study, published today in *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, aims to advance clinical understanding of current menstrual technologies, which is essential to improving reproductive health outcomes and empowering individuals to make educated decisions related to their menstrual health. "Menstrual health is a key patient-reported outcome and can be an important general indicator of health and fertility, so it's alarming that menstruation is so understudied," said **Abigail Liberty, M.D., M.S.P.H.,** instructor of obstetrics and gynecology, and co-author of the study. "Individuals deserve to understand the options available to them so they can make informed decisions about their menstrual health, and it's crucial that clinicians have the knowledge and resources to be able to support their patients in these conversations."

Growing mini-organs for research to unlock the mysteries of cancer and other human diseases. Engineering artificial but living tissues for transplant. These are some of the applications of biofabrication—and researchers at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute have secured more than $1 million to equip and expand a newly formed Knight Cancer Precision Biofabrication Hub. Located in the Knight Cancer Research Building on Oregon Health & Science University's South Waterfront campus, the hub is off and running with biomedical engineering and cell biology experts collaborating on projects. "Now we have these additional funds to equip the hub with state-of-the art technologies," said its director, **Luiz Bertassoni, D.D.S., Ph.D.** "The real focus is to recreate cancer tissues using these fabrication techniques. This will let us dissect the complexities of cancers and understand the contribution of each one of these cells and tumor building blocks. It's almost as if you had a big puzzle—and cancer is absolutely a big puzzle—and you can now separate each one of those pieces and see what each one of those pieces are doing."

The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust contributed half the funding, which was matched by awards put together by the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, the OHSU School of Medicine, and Bertassoni, an associate professor in the OHSU School of Medicine, Division of Oncological Sciences, and a member of CEDAR, the Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research Center in the Knight Cancer Institute.

3D-printing tissue to understand cancer: Knight Cancer researchers are using lab-grown organoids and other biofabricated models to explore fundamental disease processes with more focus and flexibility than is possible with animal models or cultures of cells growing in a flat plastic dish. Organoids are tiny, three-dimensional constructs grown from adult human stem cells. They can be engineered to replicate much of the complexity of a human organ. 3D printers—another tool of choice to fabricate tumors in the hub—can deposit living human cells, layer upon layer, to form tissues composed of many cell types. Within these bioprinted tissues, cancer cells can grow and exchange signals with other cell types. Together they mature, secrete extracellular matrix—or the proteins and molecules that give structure to cells—and self-organize to form features typical of real tumors, such as networks of blood vessels. Organs-on-a-chip, which are also frequently used by engineers to study human biology, are microchips that simulate organ structure and function. Cells, air and fluid are transported by the chip's grooves and channels and can build an entire interconnected vascular network with patient cells and flow tumor cells to predict what they do in the body.

"We can see the cells travel and metastasize before our eyes," Bertassoni said. "This gives a lot of power in understanding cancer biology." The approach is particularly important for early detection research because of the limitations of using animal models to study how human cancers grow and turn life-threatening. "We'd like to go even earlier and ask what cells are predisposed to developing into a tumor, what is setting them up for cancerous growth?" said CEDAR Co-director **Shelley Barton, Ph.D.** "With biofabrication, we can get as close as possible to human tissue, and then alter different variables—if I take this away or take that away, can I stop the tumor from developing?"

Building bone: Among other projects, Bertassoni's team has developed a bone replacement material that can be injected into bone defects to form a scaffold for bone regeneration. By approximating the cellular, structural and chemical composition of native bone, the engineered material promotes native-like mechanisms of bone formation, the researchers reported in April in the journal Advanced Healthcare Materials. Using a rat animal model, Bertassoni's team showed that bone repair stimulated by their injected biomaterial mimicked the architecture of native bone down to its microscopic crystal structure. In the naturalistic but engineered microenvironment, both the implanted stem cells and the host animals' stem cells contributed to the regeneration of mature bone tissue.

Key to this work is its potential to treat bone injuries without invasive surgery or having to harvest bone from another anatomic site. The material also stimulates bone repair without the severe side effects of competing, noninvasive methods that require recombinant growth factor. Barton said the Precision Biofabrication Hub fits well with the work underway at CEDAR. "And Luiz is a really good mentor of trainees," she added. "This hub is an inviting opportunity for grad students and postdocs to come build an organ from the ground up."

AWARDS

The Society of Neuroscience recognized **Marina Wolf, Ph.D.**, professor of behavioral neuroscience, School of Medicine, for groundbreaking work in synaptic plasticity. Wolf was honored with the Julius Axelrod Prize, which recognizes distinguished achievements in the broad field of neuropharmacology or related area and exemplary efforts in mentoring young scientists. Wolf pioneered the idea that synaptic plasticity is a mechanism fundamental to the development of substance use disorder. Her groundbreaking work has been at the forefront of understanding the persistence of vulnerability to drug craving and relapse even after long periods of abstinence.

Courtney Temple, M.D., assistant professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine, was awarded the Inaugural Charles E. Becker Medal for Outstanding Achievement as a Medical Toxicology Fellow.

Zane Horowitz, M.D., professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine, received the 2023 American College of Medical Toxicology Career Achievement Award for his work in toxicology.

For many cancer patients, clinical trials offer a lifeline to promising new therapies. But patients in underserved and rural communities can face daunting obstacles to getting into clinical trials. The list is long: language barriers, lack of insurance, transportation issues, limited internet access, lack of direct outreach, and even a lack of trust in those conducting the trial. As a result, participants in cancer trials skew toward white, non-Hispanic and urban. For example, Hispanic/Latino people make up 15% of Oregon's population, but only 5% of cancer patients in interventional clinical trials—the trials designed to benefit patients. **Eneida Nemecek, M.D., M.B.A.**, professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine, is working to change that. Medical director of clinical research at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, she was recently awarded a $625,000, three-year grant from Genentech's Health Equity and Diversity in STEM Innovation Fund to close that gap. "I'm very excited about this project," she says. "What I'm hoping we can do is develop ideas that will be useful nationally or even internationally." The immediate goal is to double the number of Hispanic/Latino patients who take part in cancer trials at OHSU. But Nemecek has long-term goals in mind, too. "With this project, we aim to develop a framework to optimize the experience and access to cancer care and clinical trials for Hispanic/Latino patients in Oregon," she says. "We hope lessons learned from this project will inform similar future projects for other underrepresented groups in our community and beyond."

Eneida Nemecek, M.D., M.B.A., focuses on better understanding pediatric cancers and other diseases that can be treated with bone marrow transplantation. Nemecek is medical director for clinical research within the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

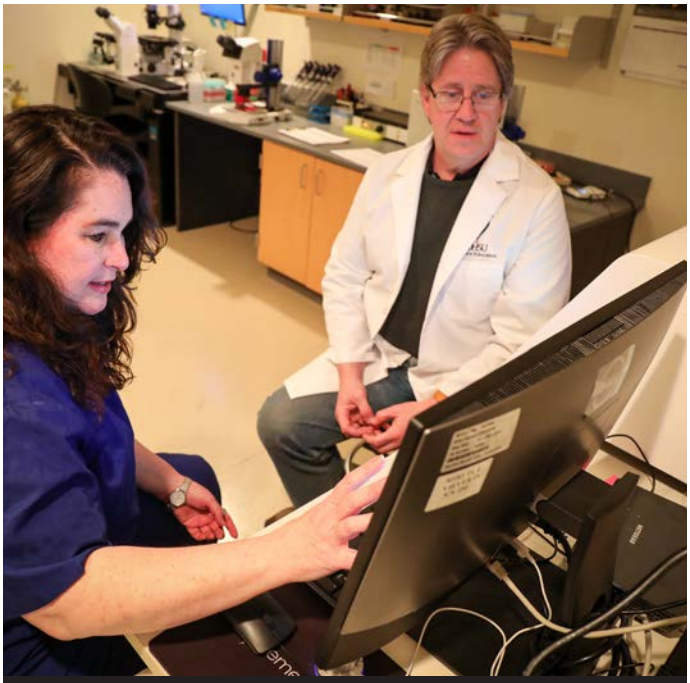
Dennis McCarty, Ph.D., professor emeritus public health, School of Public Health was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences, his alma mater. McCarty has studied the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders throughout his career as he blended research with policy development and implementation.

Two projects received funding from OHSU's 2022 Biomedical Innovation Program, both in the Device, Diagnostic, Software track. The funding program, which is a collaboration between the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute and OHSU Innovates, aims to improve patient care by advancing innovative discoveries through moving them closer to market–and in addition to funding, provides project management and mentorship in technology commercialization.

Hyperspectral Imaging for Advanced Diagnostics (HIAD): Deep Learning in Surgery
Necrotizing fasciitis is a life-threatening disease. It is difficult to distinguish necrotizing fasciitis from severe soft tissue infections without surgery. The co-principal investigators of this project are **Albert Chi, M.D.**, associate professor of surgery, School of Medicine; and **Xiao-Yue Han, M.D.**, general surgery resident. They propose to use hyperspectral imaging to make this distinction, saving patients who don't need surgery from the operating room and preserving critical operating room space for those who do. Yet hyperspectral imaging for medical applications has been challenged by high camera costs, low reproducibility, and high data processing needs. To overcome these barriers, Chi and Han have designed a bedside hyperspectral platform for advanced diagnostics in surgical patients with hardware that enables reproducible measurements. The goal of this project is to build a proof-of-concept platform and produce preliminary data that can be used to bring this technology to the patient.

Novel riboflavin and oxygen delivery methods for transepithelial corneal collagen crosslinking
The common eye disorder keratoconus results in a thinning cornea, negatively affecting vision for many children and young adults–and it's a leading cause of corneal transplants. In 2016, corneal collagen cross-linking surgery to strengthen the cornea was approved as a treatment by the FDA. This treatment halts the progression of keratoconus by inducing a photochemical reaction that creates covalent bonds between collagen fibers to strengthen the stroma. Standard cross-linking treatment, however, requires the removal of epithelium so that riboflavin, oxygen, and UV can easily enter the corneal stroma, and while it is effective, often the epithelium is slow to heal. This delay raises the risk of corneal haze and infections. Thus, improving cross-linking surgery is important for those with keratoconus. The principal investigator of this project is **David Huang, Ph.D., M.D.**, professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine, and director of research at the Casey Eye Institute. Dr. Huang and his team have developed an advanced technology that may overcome the epithelial barrier to delivery of riboflavin, oxygen, and UV while also strengthening the cornea. This project will validate the new technology in preparation for clinical trials.

Lisa K. Marriott, Ph.D., associate professor of public health, School of Public Health, is Oregon's only recipient of the 2022 National Institutes of Health (NIH) award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Mentorship. This award supplements her lab's ongoing work to enhance training for a diverse scientific workforce. Marriott's work aims to help students who are interested in biomedical sciences see themselves as scientists and develop the persistence they'll need to succeed. Her lab builds research and training tools for international use, including informatics-based data collection platforms, training websites, and supportive approaches for engaging students from middle school through graduate levels. Marriott is the principal investigator of OHSU's NIH-funded Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) and leads research studies examining biomedical workforce development. With collaborators at OHSU, Portland State University and the Portland Metro STEM Partnership, her lab is building the STEM Assessment and Reporting Tracker, or START, to help schools and programs measure the science development of their students. This one-year NIH DEIA award serves as supplemental funding to Marriott's SEPA grant to develop professional portfolio mentoring for trainees across programs and build data collection structures that enhance long-term outcomes research. It also supports trainees in the lab working on projects that enhance biomedical workforce development, such as inclusive demographics in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), strengths-based strategies for impulsivity and neurodiversity in STEM, motivational resilience strategies for Pacific Islander students, START user testing, and qualitative methods training in photovoice.



Carrie Hanna, Ph.D., director of the Assisted Reproductive Technology Core at the ONPRC, goes over embryo images and data with Larry Sherman, Ph.D., professor in the Division of Neuroscience at the primate center. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

New federal funding will enable investigators at the Oregon National Primate Research Center to generate and store embryos of nonhuman primates for use by researchers across the country to better understand and develop treatments for diseases affecting both people and monkeys. OHSU will use the $2.7 million, four-year award from the National Institutes of Health to establish a first-of-its-kind resource to preserve gametes, embryos and fibroblast cellular tissue from nonhuman primate models of human disease. Gametes are mature male or female germ cells that unite to form a zygote. “It’s going to allow researchers to have access in a way we’ve never had before, while also reducing the number of animals needed to maintain these incredibly valuable disease models,” said **Larry Sherman, Ph.D.**, professor in the Division in Oregon National Primate Research Center. The database enables scientists to study a wide array of naturally occurring conditions in nonhuman primates, making them ideal models for developing therapies that are ultimately applied to people. “Some of these diseases are incredibly rare,” Sherman said.

OHSU was recognized at the 2022 Oregon’s Most Admired Companies Awards in the Health Care category. OHSU has been honored four times in the Health Care category, which is sponsored by the Portland Business Journal. OHSU’s Doernbecher children’s hospital as well as two OHSU institutes received top awards as well. OHSU’s rankings in the awards’ 2022 Health Care category are as follows:

- No. 1: OHSU
- No. 4: OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital
- No. 8: OHSU Knight Cancer Institute
- No. 10: OHSU Casey Eye Institute

Five OHSU researchers were named among the world’s most highly cited by 2022 Highly Cited Researchers, a list compiled each year by the Institute for Scientific Information at data analysis firm Clarivate. The list identifies global scientists whose exceptional influence is reflected through their publication of multiple papers frequently cited by their peers. According to the report, this list is drawn from the highly cited papers that rank in the top 1% by citations for field and publication year in Clarivate’s Web of Science citation index. Of the world’s population of scientists and social scientists, highly cited researchers are 1 in 1000, with 6938 highly cited researchers worldwide in 2022. The methodology, in which papers are weighed against others in the same annual cohort, is intended to remove the citation advantage of older papers relative to recently published ones.

- Molecular Biology and Genetics category - **Lisa M. Coussens, Ph.D.**, professor of cell, developmental and cancer biology, School of Medicine
- Cross-Field category - **Kevin Winthrop, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of public health, School of Public Health
- Clinical Medicine category - **Eric Simpson, M.D., M.C.R.**, professor of dermatology, School of Medicine
- Social Sciences category - **Mark Helfand, M.D., M.P.H**., professor of Medicine, School of Medicine
- Biology and Biochemistry - category **Eric Gouaux, Ph.D.**, professor, Vollum Institute

Maria Fleseriu M.D., professor neurological surgery, School of Medicine, was recognized by the Society for Endocrinology for international achievements in

endocrinology clinical research. Fleseriu was honored as the 2022 UK Clinical Endocrinology Trust Visiting Lecturer. Fleseriu's plenary lecture highlighted recent advances in Cushing's disease management, with a focus on novel therapies and associated complications that may compromise patient health and quality of life.

The All-Hill Student Council hosted the 18th Annual FLAME Awards ceremony, and awarded several faculty.

Faculty Award - 2023 Winners

- **Brianna Hanson, M.S.**, assistant professor of physician assistant education, School of Medicine
- **Amy Moran, Ph.D.**, professor of Cell Developmental and Cancer Biology, School of Medicine
- **Emily Elliot, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of nursing, School of Nursing.

This award recognizes faculty members who are role models in the academic community, and whose attitude and actions produce superior patient care and teaching environments. This is presented to faculty who are passionate about student learning and strive to improve outcomes by conducting scholarly, innovative activities.

Mentor Award – Faculty - 2023 Winners

- **Kristen Mackiewicz Seghete, Ph.D.**, associate professor of psychiatry, School of Medicine
- **Michael S. Cohen, Ph.D.**, associate professor of chemical physiology and biochemistry, School of Medicine
- **Kevin Wright, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of molecular and medical genetics, School of Medicine.

This award recognizes faculty who demonstrate commitment to mentoring. Faculty committed to mentoring prioritize their students' personal, intellectual, and career development. They lead by example, while also dedicating time with students to provide guidance.

Three School of Nursing faculty members received Naomi Ballard Research Awards. The purpose of the awards is to provide seed money for promising nursing research projects. NBRA proposals are evaluated on relevance, design, and feasibility. The award is offered bi-annually (fall and spring) and available to faculty and students.

- **Angie Docherty, Nurs.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor of nursing - Project Title: Exploring Pre-Nursing Career Intention: A Collaboration with Western Oregon University and Southern Oregon University
- **Laura Mood, Ph.D., M.S.N.**, assistant professor of nursing - Project Title: Exploring the role and practice of community-based nurses - Project Title: Exploring Partner Support/Breastfeeding Self-Efficacy in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- **Sandra A Banta-Wright, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of nursing

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Jenny Firkins, Ph.D., assistant professor of nursing, School of Nursing, will serve as Principal Investigator on the 2022 Interprofessional Hartford Award for Research and Practice (IP-HARP), "Evaluation of Values and Preferences in Treatment Decision Making in Cancer Survivors over the Age of 65 in the Pacific Northwest". This is a cross-sectional study with qualitative and quantitative aims designed to examine and better understand the values and preferences that impact treatment decision making in older adult cancer survivors. This one year, $24,973, grant demonstrates the team-based science the IP-HARP is intended to advance. Dr. Firkins completed her doctoral work in 2019; work that included an examination of quality of life in cancer survivorship.

The DAISY Foundation Faculty Award was created to recognize and celebrate the contributions faculty make to the future of nursing. It is their hope that just as The DAISY Award for direct care nurses helps mitigate burnout and compassion fatigue, meaningful recognition of nursing faculty will help sustain faculty's commitment to teaching our next generation of nurses. Five OHSU faculty in the School of Nursing were recognized in 2022:

- **Francesca Gardella, M.N.E.**, instructor of nursing,
- **Diana Siltanen, B.S.N.**, lecturer of nursing
- **Kristy Lanciotti, M.N.**, assistant professor of nursing
- **Heather Freiheit, M.A.**, assistant professor of nursing
- **Elizabeth Espinoza, D.N.P., M.S.N.**, assistant professor of nursing

Three scientists at Oregon Health & Science University have earned unrestricted funding to extend leading-edge research to ultimately improve human health. (OHSU)

A trio of promising and exceptionally talented scientists at OHSU has earned unrestricted funding to extend leading-edge research to ultimately improve human health. Recipients of the 2023 Faculty Excellence and Innovation Awards, made possible by the Silver Family Innovation Fund, receives a total of $750,000 over three years. Awardees are early- or mid-stage investigators of exceptional creativity and promise. OHSU deans, center and institute directors, and department chairs nominate candidates from their respective units, and applications are reviewed by prominent scientists from institutions across the country.

- **Aaron Grossberg, Ph.D., M.D.**, assistant professor of radiation medicine, School of Medicine - Fighting cancer is physically demanding. Yet cancer-related weight loss prevents the body's normal abilities to gain weight and preserve strength, no matter how much a person eats. This metabolic condition, known as cachexia, causes feebleness and fatigue, and often means that many patients are not fit enough to receive the best treatments for their cancer. Grossberg will use his Faculty Excellence and Innovation Award to expand his laboratory's ability to study how cancer affects the metabolism of fat and muscle, and identify new drug targets to prevent or reverse this process.
- **Miguel Marino, Ph.D.**, associate professor of family medicine, School of Medicine - Marino, a first-generation Mexican American scientist and associate professor of biostatistics, will use the award in collaboration with **John Heintzman, M.D., M.P.H.**, to establish a new center that will incorporate information about Latino populations in the study of health inequities; build capacity in this area of research by developing an ethnically diverse workforce; and work to ensure the center's approach aligns with community needs.
- **Carmem Pfeifer, Ph.D., D.D.S.**, professor of restorative dentistry (biomaterials and biomechanics), School of Dentistry - Biomedical devices, from dental fillings to artificial hips to shunts in the brain, are all at risk for complications over time. Infections and gradual degradation may lead to potentially life-threatening conditions. Pfeifer envisions using her award to extend her research in dental materials to other biomedical devices.

The Teaching and Learning Center's TLC Awards recognize outstanding online learning experiences. This year faculty were awarded for the following three categories:

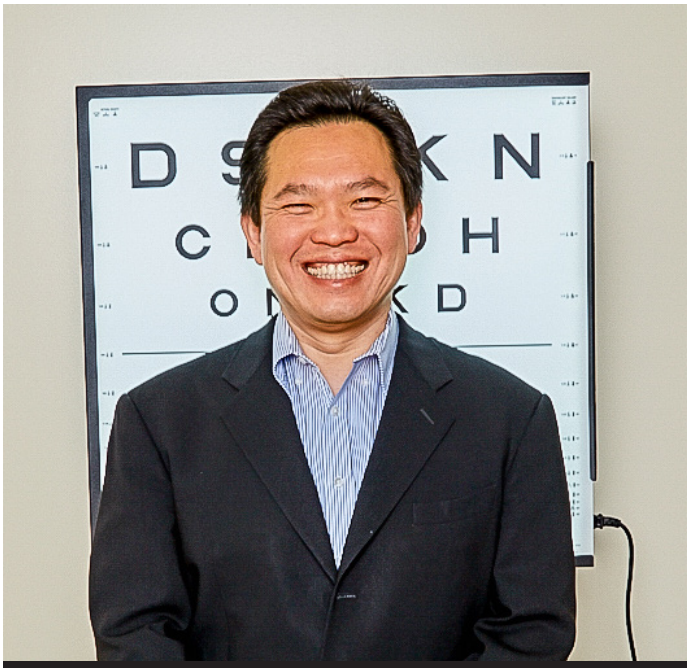
- **Sakai Torchbearer Award: Mary Clark, M.N., M.P.H.**, instructor of nursing, School of Nursing - Mary Clark introduced the use of Twitter in her Population Health Practice Course to engage students in social media as a way to communicate evidence-based public health and health information as well as dispel misinformation and disinformation. Mary has also introduced Padlet as a social platform for students. Nominators said these course directors created an environment that was both engaging and equitable for all students to contribute their thoughts and ideas. The course incorporated multiple forms of learning material such as videos, podcasts, chapter readings, and essays. This helped keep morale high for learning throughout the online course.
- **Sakai Inclusivity Award: Amy Miner Ross, Ph.D., M.S.N.**, associate professor of nursing, School of Nursing - Dr. Ross developed and taught three 1-credit courses Clarifying Racism: Institutional Racism, Clarifying Racism: Foundations of Bias, and Clarifying Racism: Unequal Treatment. In each of the courses, students read current topic texts and explore their reflection and evolution of understanding based on several texts. Explored over three quarters, these courses allow for evolution in the learner's understanding of how to effect change and remedy personal, professional and structural racism that they encounter.
- **IPad Excellence award: Steven King, Ph.D.**, associate Professor of integrative biosciences, School of Dentistry - Dr. King found clever ways to use the Explain Everything whiteboarding app on the iPad to enhance his instruction, while his use of this app in concert with other tools is very innovative. His nominator added that they had never seen anybody use the tools the way Dr. King did.

The OHSU Innovation Awards honor pioneering scientists who work with the OHSU Innovates network to disclose new technologies and collaborate with external partners to advance innovative healthcare solutions. OHSU Innovates is a collaborative network that supports the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems at OHSU and the region. Collaborators include OHSU Technology Transfer, OHSU Collaborations and Entrepreneurship, the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute (OCTRI) and Strategic Alliances for the OHSU School of Medicine and Knight Cancer Institute.

- **Yali Jia, Ph.D.**, professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine - Jia has received the OHSU Innovates 2023 Career Innovation Excellence Award in recognition of her prolific spirit of innovation in the field of vision research and commitment to translating her discoveries into solutions for real-world problems. The National Academy of Inventors elected Jia as a Senior Member in 2022, recognizing her significant contributions as an inventor of new diagnostic techniques in the field of ophthalmology. Jia is a leading pioneer in the field of optical coherence tomography (OCT), a highly efficient, non-invasive eye imaging technology that has been used to diagnose and track age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma and diabetic eye diseases—the three leading causes of blindness. Inventions from Jia and colleagues have helped pave the way for broader application of OCT angiography in clinical care, potentially improving disease early diagnosis and monitoring for patients with numerous ophthalmic diseases.
- **Beth Habecker, Ph.D.**, professor of chemical physiology and biochemistry, School of Medicine - Habecker has received the OHSU Innovates 2023 Partnership Award for her sustained entrepreneurial spirit and works closely with the OHSU Innovates commercialization network to foster and encourage collaborations. Habecker is the co-director of the Pacific Northwest Biomedical Innovation Co-laboratory, or PMedIC, a long-standing and successful collaboration between OHSU and the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Launched in 2018, this partnership has led to several collaborative grants and the establishment of the large joint National Institutes of Health Pacific Northwest Cryo-EM center.
- **Erik Tucker, Ph.D.**, research assistant professor of biomedical engineering, School of Medicine - Tucker was elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, or NAI, in recognition of his significant contributions toward developing anti-thrombotic therapeutics. Tucker's graduate work at OHSU led to scientific discoveries around coagulation factors, which formed the foundation for new blood thinners that could revolutionize the treatment of blood clotting diseases. This work led to the development of the OHSU startup company Aronora, for which Tucker is the co-founder and CEO.

APPOINTMENTS

Erik Tucker, Ph.D., research assistant professor of biomedical engineering, School of Medicine, was named a 2022 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). NAI fellows are academic inventors elected by their peers for demonstrating "a prolific spirit of innovation in creating or facilitating outstanding inventions that have made a tangible impact on quality of life, economic development and the welfare of society." Tucker is an inventor on more than ninety U.S. and international patents, and his research has resulted in the development of four unique drug candidates. Two of these drug candidates are in mid-stage clinical development for the treatment of thrombosis, or clotting inside blood vessels that can lead to stroke and heart attack, at the OHSU spinout company Aronora, Inc. Tucker serves as chief executive officer of Aronora.



David Huang, M.D., Ph.D., is among 124 new members who have been elected to the academy, which is among the highest professional distinctions for engineers. He is believed to be the first OHSU representative to become an elected National Academy of Engineering member. (Courtesy of Scott Areman)

An ophthalmologist and research engineer at OHSU has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering in recognition for co-inventing a medical imaging technology that is commonly used to diagnose and guide treatment for the leading causes of blindness. **David Huang, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine, is among 124 new members who have been elected to the academy, which is among the highest professional distinctions for engineers. He is believed to be the first OHSU representative to become an elected National Academy of Engineering member. Huang co-invented optical coherence tomography, or OCT, which is used in about 30 million imaging procedures annually. The technology is used to diagnose macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma, and also helps physicians decide how to best treat patients with blindness-causing disease. It is also increasingly used to evaluate treatments for neurological diseases, such as multiple sclerosis.

Barbara Enos, M.N., instructor of nursing, School of Nursing, has a new role as the RNBS Program Director at the School of Nursing. Previously, she instructed students in the RNBS program and prior to that on the Klamath Falls campus. When asked what her immediate goals are for the RNBS program she said, "Through expanding statewide partnerships and pursuing innovations in the online learning experience, I aim to grow the RNBS program and extend our reach deeper into the rural and geographically isolated areas of our 186,000-mile campus to better serve the health of all Oregonians." Barbara brings a collaborative approach to program development and her experience in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing forward to promote the advancement of person-centered and population-focused care as well as building adaptive action capacity for students, faculty, staff, and the School of Nursing. Ms. Enos believes that challenging nurses to recognize and advance their leadership capabilities will directly improve both healthcare environments and quality

of care. She shares in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's vision of building a Culture of Health at home, at work and in our communities.

Patricia Barfield, Ph.D., assistant professor of nursing, School of Nursing, has been named as Regional Associate Dean – La Grande, as part of the Campus for Rural Health. Barfield already serves as the Campus Associate Dean in the School of Nursing in La Grande, and will continue to do so concurrently with her duties as the Regional Associate Dean - La Grande. In her role as Regional Associate Dean, Barfield will be responsible for the education, research and outreach activities associated with the La Grande clinical and education Campus for Rural Health. This includes close collaboration with leaders and administrative staff from OHSU's School of Dentistry, School of Medicine, School of Nursing, College of Pharmacy, Dietetics, and Physician's Assistant Programs. She will work closely with educational partners at Eastern Oregon University, the OHSU Nursing Campus, and Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education, and connect to the Eastern Oregon Workforce Board, as well as regional clinic and hospital administrative leaders and preceptors, and other key members of this community. As Regional Associate Dean - La Grande, Barfield will work collaboratively with the other Regional Associate Deans (Klamath Falls; Coos Bay/South Coast) to ensure the adoption of best practices and consistent policies and procedures across all Clinical Hubs. In addition, she will work with the OHSU Office of Learner Placement and Housing and the Campus for Rural Health Education and Operations Manager for the operations of the site. Recruitment and retention of clinical placement sites, recruitment of clinical preceptors and preceptor relations and development will be priorities for this role. La Grande is the home of NE Oregon AHEC, which has been a well-respected rural educational program connected to OHSU's Oregon AHEC Program for 30 years. Barfield will work closely with the director of the NE Oregon AHEC to ensure continuity of training among key affiliate clinical sites and newly developed preceptor relationships. The Regional Associate Dean serves as the initial point of contact for students while they are rotating through their site and is responsible for ensuring their safety and well-being and quality of their academic and community project experience. She is a board certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) specializing in pediatric mental health. A fourth-generation resident of Eastern Oregon, she has a deep understanding of rural life and a strong commitment to improving the health and well-being of rural communities.

Alice Cuprill-Comas, J.D., has accepted the position of executive vice president of Institutional Affairs, in addition to her role as general counsel. Ms. Cuprill-Comas is an integral part of the university's strategic leadership team. In this expanded role, she will coordinate strategic initiatives that have institution-wide impact, helping to ensure that mission activities align with the university's vision, values, goals and objectives. She now oversees the Public Safety department, the claims management functions of the Risk Management department and the integrity (including Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity) and internal audit functions. This appointment also reflects one of several changes Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity, or AAEO, has undergone, a direct result of the work completed by the Implementation and Oversight committees in response to the Covington Report recommendations. For starters, it has a new name, Office of Civil Rights Investigations and Compliance, or OCIC.

David Jacoby, M.D., professor of medicine, School of Medicine, has been appointed dean of the School of Medicine. Dr. Jacoby brings extensive leadership experience and significant contributions to our clinical, education and research missions over his 20-year tenure at OHSU. His deep knowledge of, and relationships across, OHSU and the School of Medicine will serve us at a time of great complexity and promise. Dr. Jacoby joined OHSU as chief of pulmonary and critical care in 2003, and led the expansion of that division in patient care, research, and education. He became interim chair of the department of medicine in 2017 and permanent chair in 2018. He is professor of medicine, and chemical physiology and biochemistry, in the OHSU School of Medicine, and has served as interim dean of the school since October 2021. Since 2008, he has directed the M.D./Ph.D. program, training the next generation of physician-scientists who advance medicine from the

bench to the bedside. He has led the expansion of this program and established our NIH Medical Scientist Training Program grant in 2016, renewing this last year. Dr. Jacoby has won multiple house staff and graduate student teaching awards at OHSU and fostered a scientific culture in the Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship Program, establishing that program's NIH T32 training grant in 2008 (this grant has now been renewed twice). Dr. Jacoby maintains an active research program that has been continuously funded by the NIH since 1990. His research focuses on airway pharmacology and abnormalities of airway nerves in asthma, as well as the role of eosinophils in airway disease. He has trained 21 students and fellows in his lab, many of whom remain in research positions in academia and industry around the country. As a pulmonologist and intensivist, Dr. Jacoby attends in the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU). During the pandemic, he said seeing the efforts of the broad multidisciplinary team in taking care of desperately ill COVID-19 patients filled him with pride in our organization. Dr. Jacoby received his bachelor's degree from Princeton University, his medical degree from New York Medical College, and was a resident and chief resident in internal medicine at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia. He then did a pulmonary fellowship at University of California, San Francisco, and a research fellowship with Dr. Jay Nadel in the UCSF Cardiovascular Research Institute. Subsequently, Dr. Jacoby spent 13 years at Johns Hopkins, where he served as research director for the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care, and was Firm Faculty, a designation reserved for faculty most involved in house staff education. He was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation in 2000 and was promoted to full professor with tenure at Johns Hopkins in 2002. Dr. Jacoby asked me to share this message with you: "I am very grateful for this opportunity and for the confidence that Dr. Jacobs has placed in me. I very much look forward to continuing to work with him and with the OHSU executive leadership team. I thank everyone in the School of Medicine for your support over the past year, and I hope and plan to justify this support going forward. In particular, I want to thank the Department Chairs and the Dean's Office team. I have relied on your guidance and wisdom. And I have never been disappointed."

TRANSITIONS

University Librarian **Kris Alpi, Ph.D., M.S.**, associate professor in the library, left OHSU on June 30, 2022, with **Robin Champieux, M.L.I.S.**, associate professor in the library, appointed as Interim University Librarian. Dr. Alpi was named OHSU's University Librarian in December 2018, and led throughout the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, as the OHSU Library navigated major changes to support a largely remote audience for almost two years, while providing critical on-site services. In May 2022, she completed a term as President of the Medical Library Association during which the OHSU Library was recognized with the MLA Research Advancement in Health Sciences Librarianship Award. Champieux received her B.A. degree in anthropology from Wayne State University in Michigan in 2000, and her Master of Library and Information Science and Certificate in Archival Administration from the same institution in 2004. In 2014, she completed the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians, and was a National Library of Medicine and Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries leadership fellow. Champieux joined OHSU in 2011 as a Scholarly Communication Librarian. She has served in a number of roles at OHSU Library, including Research Engagement and Open Science Librarian from October 2017 to January 2019, and Director of Digital Scholarship and Research Engagement from January 2019 to May 2020. Since January 2019, she has served as Director of Education, Research and Clinical Outreach, initially commencing in an interim capacity. In terms of research and scholarly interest, Champieux is passionate about understanding and advancing the inclusive creation, reproducibility, accessibility, and impact of knowledge, especially through library and librarian expertise and contributions. "I would like to thank Interim Provost Robinson for this opportunity, and for his support," Champieux said. "I look forward to guiding the OHSU Library through this period of transition, nurturing the relationships and high standards established by Dr. Alpi since 2018, and supporting OHSU Library's incredible faculty and staff."

Jacob Estes, Ph.D., professor in the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute, has become the new director of the Institute. Estes has been highly successful since coming to OHSU, establishing a large, well-funded research program. At the VGTI, his research uses an array of histopathological and high-dimensional spatial biology approaches to characterize mechanisms of infectious diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis, as well as studying immunopathogenesis and tissue pathology, pathogen persistence, and vaccine efficacy. The central goal of his research is to understand how dynamic host cellular immune-pathogen interactions lead to the establishment and persistence of pathogens–and how those pathogens affect the immune system more broadly. The Estes lab also uses non-human primate models of global infectious diseases, including HIV infection and disease, to decode the drivers of local and systemic inflammation and to test therapeutics that help to restore immune function and reduce viral reservoirs. Dr. Estes has established collaborations with scholarly, government, and industry partners around the world, on a wide range of projects from bacterial imbalances in the gut to SARS-CoV-2. Dr. Estes will replace founding director, **Jay Nelson, Ph.D.**, professor in the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute, who is retiring from his leadership position–and whose leadership shaped the institute into the internationally renowned research force that it is today. The originating goal of the VGTI was to assemble a multidisciplinary team of scientists to respond to increasingly serious viral disease threats, including AIDS, chronic viral infection-associated diseases, newly emerging viral diseases, and infectious diseases of the elderly. The institute's researchers, who work in close partnership with ONPRC, span the continuum from basic to clinical science. Under Dr. Nelson's leadership, they have become a highly successful group whose papers are cited at more than twice the global average and whose contributions to immunology are having real-world effects for patients.

George Mejicano, M.D., M.S., senior associate dean for education, School of Medicine, left OHSU to become the associate dean for academic affairs at Carle Illinois College of Medicine, the new engineering-based medical school at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Mejicano was born in Guatemala, leaving a large extended family in Central America to come with his parents and siblings to the U.S. at the age of 3. Fully bilingual since childhood and a beneficiary of Head Start and other programs for low-income children, he and his family climbed the ladder while interweaving his respect and understanding of all strata of society into his career in medicine. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in Ceramic Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, his M.D. at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a master's degree in Continuing and Vocational Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He did his residency and fellowship in internal medicine and a fellowship in infectious disease at Madison and stayed on as faculty, rising to full professor and caring for infectious disease patients while taking on administrative leadership and teaching roles in the medical school, continuing education and the affiliated veterans hospital. Dr. Mejicano said that returning to his alma mater to help lead a new program that combines his knowledge and passion for engineering and medicine to steward the next generation of physician innovators was the right opportunity at the right time. He has negotiated a hybrid work arrangement that will allow him to maintain dual residence in Oregon and Illinois, near his mother in Chicago who was widowed in the last year when Dr. Mejicano's father died. "It has been an honor and privilege to lead the education mission of the School of Medicine over the past decade," Dr. Mejicano said. "I owe a debt of gratitude to the hundreds of faculty and staff members whose contributions have resulted in our position as a preeminent educational institution."

Skip Bohm, D.V.M., has been named director of the Oregon National Primate Research Center, he will take on his new role in August. Bohm currently serves as associate director and chief veterinary medical officer at the Tulane University National Primate Research Center in Covington, Louisiana, after previously serving with the Emory National Primate Research Center in Atlanta. **Nancy Haigwood, Ph.D.**, professor in the Oregon National Primate Research Center retired as director in October after 15 years, and remains a part-time faculty member pursuing her own research program focused on HIV and AIDS. **Jon Hennebold, Ph.D.**, professor in the Oregon National Primate Research Center, is serving

as interim director. “The ONPRC has a long history of outstanding leadership, a strong research program, and an exemplary animal care and use program,” Bohm said. “I am excited about the opportunity to join OHSU and the strong team at the ONPRC, and look forward to establishing new relationships and collaborations.” Bohm is already familiar with the center, having served on its national scientific advisory board. “The Oregon research program is very diverse,” Bohm said. “Research using nonhuman primates is critical because of their close similarities to people, and the Oregon center has already established areas of research where nonhuman primates can be useful in advancing human health.” Bohm, a veterinarian with deep background in the care of nonhuman primates, calls the veterinary staff at the Oregon center extraordinarily committed to animal welfare. As director, he said he is committed to ensuring exemplary animal care with OHSU’s support as the center’s host institution.

Skip Bohm will lead the Oregon National Primate Research Center in August 2023

Christopher Swide, M.D., M.S., professor of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine, School of Medicine, stepped down as associate dean of Graduate Medical Education after five years of service. Under Dr. Swide’s leadership, Graduate Medical Education at OHSU grew from 85 ACGME-accredited residency and fellowship programs with 842 trainees in 2017 to 93 programs training more than 920 residents and fellows, among the largest GME operations in the country. New residency programs have included in family medicine, internal medicine and a transition year program at Hillsboro Medical Center and a family medicine program with St. Charles in Madras with additional St. Charles programs in the works and additional expansion through the COMPADRE grant with UC Davis. Dr. Swide began his involvement in GME as residency program director in anesthesiology and perioperative medicine. To support the growth of GME and as an outcome of the OHSU 2025 strategic planning process in 2019, Dr. Swide restructured GME into three branches: operations, accreditation and strategic alignment and integration. He expanded the administrative team to better support program directors and programs, and restructured the Graduate Medical Education Committee and its subcommittees. His efforts included elevating the work of the GME Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee and championing funding to support the recruitment of diverse residents and fellows. “I have been deeply proud to lead OHSU’s Graduate Medical Education program these past years,” Dr. Swide said. “We endured some uniquely stressful times. Yet, for me, working with an outstanding professional staff and having the opportunity to feel constantly inspired by the caliber, talent and dedication of our residents, fellows and program directors was always uplifting for me. I look forward to all that GME will do to serve OHSU, our state and beyond in the future.”

IN MEMORIUM

James J. Cereghino
December 1, 2022

Mary Ann Curry, Ph.D.
November 25, 2022

Mary Ann C. McCammon, MS ’76, PhD ’79 (Posthumous) : 2023 Alumni Humanitarian Service Award

On April 15, **Mary Ann Curry McCammon, Ph.D.**, professor emerita of nursing, School of Nursing, was posthumously awarded the University of California San Francisco Alumni Humanitarian Service Award. This award recognizes an UCSF alum who has made a transformative contribution to their local community, the nation, or the world that has helped make it a better place. Fellow graduates from UCSF’s doctoral program in nursing nominated Mary Ann for her lifelong commitment to advocacy, policy, and organizational development directed toward improving the lives of vulnerable and underserved women. McCammon started at OHSU in 1979 as an assistant professor in the Program Director Women’s Health Care Nurse Practitioner Program, eventually being appointed the Grace Phelps Distinguished Professor in 1997, and finally retiring from OHSU as professor emerita in 2001. But her career encompassed much more than her time at OHSU. For nearly 60 years, Mary Ann worked tirelessly to improve the health and welfare of, and services to, women and girls affected by poverty, pregnancy, abuse, and disability through her practice, teaching, and research. McCammon provided labor, delivery, and postpartum care to women and became interested in understanding the interface between psychosocial stressors and pregnancy outcomes. She established the validity and reliability of the Prenatal Psychosocial Profile now used commonly in research and practice settings. Her subsequent advocacy resulted in inclusion of the 11 PPP stress items and three abuse screening questions in the statewide prenatal record used by clinicians in Oregon. This early work launched an illustrious research career during which Mary Ann contributed substantively to our current understanding of the complex interrelationships among pregnancy, abuse and intimate partner violence, abuse in disabled populations, and the assessment of dangerousness with hundreds of research papers to her name. Mary Ann was one of the founders of Quilts for Empowerment, a nonprofit that improved the health and economic security of fistula repair survivors and girls who survive sexual violence in Kenya. Using her passion for fabric arts, she taught the women to quilt as a way to express themselves and earn money to reestablish their lives. After retiring from OHSU, Mary Ann used her talents as a fabric artist by volunteering to teach quilting to prisoners in the Coffee Creek Women’s Prison as part of a program to build life skills and self-esteem for inmates. While Mary Ann passed away before the award was announced the fellow alumni who nominated her did get to tell her that she was a finalist for the award.

NEW EMERITUS

Karen E. Adams, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Sharon O. Anderson, M.D.
DEAN EMERITUS & PROFESSOR EMERITUS, OFFICE OF THE DEAN AND DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Wyndham Kent Anger, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, OREGON INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES

Peter A. Blasco, M.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PEDIATRICS

Michael F. Bonazzola, M.D.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE

Eric Jackson Dierks, M.D., D.M.D.
CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITUS, ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

William H. Fleming, M.D., Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PEDIATRICS

Annette Garner, M.S.N.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SCHOOL OF NURSING

Martha F. Goetsch, M.D., M.P.H.
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITUS, OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Robert J. Hitzemann, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, BEHAVIORAL NEUROSCIENCE

Kenneth A. Krohn, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

Karen L. Kwong, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SURGERY

Stephen H. LaFranchi, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PEDIATRICS

J. Gordon Marshall, D.M.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS, REGENERATIVE AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SCIENCES, DIVISION OF ENDODONTOLOGY

Lynn M. Marshall, Sc.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jill Mason, M.P.H., M.S.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

George C. Mejicano, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE

John P. Muench, M.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, FAMILY MEDICINE

Philip R. Streeter, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PEDIATRICS

Kent L. Thornburg, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE

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SPRING
2023

Emeritus

A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU EMERITUS FACULTY