Dear OHSU School of Medicine Community:

Kofi Annan, a Ghanaian diplomat who served as the seventh secretary-general of the UN, once said "Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress. In every society, in every family." Whether you are the first person in your family to attend university or part of a multigenerational physician family, the sum of small efforts took you to where you are today. Welcome you to a new academic year.

In the school we strive to create an environment of belonging and inclusion. Building community is central to our success.

There are many cultural and health observances in October and religious observances take place year round. As you plan your events and whether you are a learner, faculty or staff please review the links at the bottom of the newsletter to learn about dates and accommodation requests coordinated by the Office of Civil Rights Investigations and Compliance (OCIC).

Lastly, applications for mentors and mentees for the School of Medicine M.D. Diversity Mentorship Program are open through October 15th. We invite you to apply.

Sincerely,

Leslie Garcia, M.P.A., Ed.D.
Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
OHSU School of Medicine
The SoM Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Office needs your feedback

OHSU School of Medicine is becoming a more diverse and inclusive academic community thanks to your efforts. Your feedback provides us with valuable insights. Please, respond by Oct. 15.

Feedback

October Health Observances

**National Disability Employment Awareness Month**

Celebrate the contributions of workers with disabilities and support inclusive employment policies and practices. This year's theme is "Advancing Access and Equity." We also honor the 50th anniversary of the passage of the [Rehabilitation Act of 1973](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-1973-PUBL-139/pdf/PLAW-1973-PUBL-139.pdf).

**Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Breast cancer affects one in eight women in the U.S. Breast cancer affects men too. About 2,700 men are expected to be diagnosed with breast cancer in the U.S. The lack of awareness and stigma can be barriers to detection and care. Some men, trans men, and non-binary people choose to call their cancer chest cancer.

**ADHD Awareness Month**

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a brain-based medical disorder that affects people of every age and gender. Other mental health conditions often occur along with ADHD. Treatment is multi-faceted.

**Depression Awareness Month**

Depression is a common mental health issue that negatively impacts how a person feels, thinks and acts, causing disruption to school, work and personal interests. Increase understanding, decrease stereotypes and help educate on how depression and other mental health issues impact people.
October is a month to celebrate and increase awareness about the diversity of cultures and ethnicities as well as the positive impact diversity has on society. Other October observances include:

- LGBTQ+ History Month
- National Coming Out Day: Oct. 11
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- Filipino Heritage Month
- Polish National Heritage Month

**National Latino Physician Day**

Students and faculty active with the OHSU Latino Medical Student Association celebrated their strength in numbers and raised awareness on National Latino Physician Day about the need for more Latino(a) doctors to serve an increasingly diverse state and country.

National Latino Physician Day was established this year, designating October 1st as a day to celebrate Latino(a) physicians in the U.S., representing 6% of the physician workforce. We also recognize the critical shortage of Latino physicians when compared to the U.S. Latino population (19%). Let's celebrate and bring awareness to the need for increasing Latino representation in medicine.

Watch this interview by Elemento Latino.
Enrichment

All events are listed in Pacific Time, even those hosted in other time zones.

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 12:30 p.m. | Reimagining Technical Standards for Inclusive Medical Education

At the conclusion of this webinar, participants will have acquired the knowledge and tools necessary to recognize and address domain-specific concerns within technical standards that may impact learners with disabilities. Participants will also be able to effectively revise their institution's technical standards to remove potentially discriminatory language and emphasize equitable standards that promote a diverse and accessible educational experience.

Friday, Oct. 6, 7:30 a.m. | Socio-endemic Diseases, Hatred, Health and Peace

This talk is presented by Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish, professor of Global Health and Clinical Public Health Division, Peace and Conflict Studies Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Manitoba. Hatred is a complex self or community or group destructive, chronic/acute contagious disease and a result of exposure (harm/threat/violence) occurs in clusters. In-person at MAC Hall Auditorium room 1162, with virtual option on Webex.

Friday, Oct. 6, 11:30 a.m. | M.D. Program Information Day for Prospective College Students

This in-person event will be hosted by OHSU School of Medicine's Outreach, Advising, Support and Identity formation for Students (OASIS) Program. It will take place in the Robertson Life Science Building, room 2S060, followed by a campus tour at 3 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 6, noon | Recognizing the Achievements of Hispanics in Academic Medicine and Science

As part of Faculty Development Fridays, join us for a discussion focused on the achievements and contributions of Hispanics in academic health and sciences. The discussion will be moderated by Leslie Garcia, MPA, Ed.D., associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion, OHSU School of Medicine. Panelists include: Juan Amador, FASAE, Estaban Garza, M.D., Tatiana Hoyos-Gomez, M.D., and Lillya Roldan, M.D. Candidate, Class of 2024.

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 1 p.m. | DEI Directed Grant Funding Opportunities

Join in person at the Knight Cancer Research Building, room 1011, or virtually at the link above, to explore funding sources that seek to support diverse candidates, including the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Gilliam Fellowship, the Soros Fellowship for New Americans, and the National Institute of Health F31 Diversity grants. Hosted by the Knight Gender Equity Group and Cell Development and Cancer Biology's Inclusion Series.

Friday, Oct. 13, 6 p.m. | APAMSA Cultural Festival

OHSU's Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association in Medicine (APAMSA) invites you to meet other diversity-related interest groups. Enjoy a fun evening at RLSB Learning Studios 3A001 and 3A002. Open to all OHSU students, faculty and staff. Access to RLSB is required.
Friday, Oct. 20, 6 p.m. | Latino Medical Student Association Celebration

OHSU’s Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) is hosting a social gathering to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The event will include a panel discussion, networking and food. For more information email lmsa@ohsu.edu

Wednesday, Oct. 25, noon | Perspectives on Trans Youth in Foster Care/Child Welfare

Join OHSU’s Transgender Health Program Grand Rounds for their quarterly series on issues generated by and important to the transgender and gender-diverse community.

Wednesday, Oct. 25, noon | Building an Insurer-Driven, Performance-Based LGBTQ+ Provider Directory

Finding providers who are able to treat LGBTQ+ individuals seeking healthcare with dignity and respect is a priority. Close to 10% of LGBTQ+ patients and over 20% of transgender patients report harsh or abusive language when receiving treatment, and nearly as many have been refused care due to sexual orientation or gender identity.

Thursday-Saturday, Oct. 26-28 | SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference

Over the course of the event, college-level through professional attendees are immersed in cutting-edge STEM research, professional development sessions, motivational keynote speakers, as well as multicultural celebrations and traditions and an inclusive community of peers, mentors and role models. Registration is now open. OHSU is a sponsor of the conference and OHSU’s School of Medicine and partners will serve as exhibitors.

Alexis Gibson recognized with $1.5 million Howard Hughes Medical Institute Hanna Gray Fellowship.

The prestigious award recognizes talented early career scientists in the biomedical sciences. Dr. Gibson, a postdoctoral scholar in the lab of Isabella Rauch, Ph.D., assistant professor of microbiology and molecular immunology, OHSU School of Medicine, is among a cohort of 25 researchers from 18 institutions selected for the
2023 award, which is designed to give fellows the freedom to explore new scientific territory while seeking answers to challenging scientific questions.

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**A new leader for the SoM Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Sciences**

Sudarshan Anand, Ph.D.
Director
Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Sudarshan Anand, associate professor of cell, developmental and cancer biology and radiation medicine, brings valuable first-hand experience to the role. The cutting-edge doctoral Program in Biomedical Sciences allows students to flex across basic science fields, curating their training experience to their interests.

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**On the pulse**

- [An update on work from the Covington response committees](#)
- [UME seeks Health Equity, Diversity, Structural Competency Thread Director](#)
- [Antiracist Documentation Practices: Shaping Clinical Encounters and Decision Making](#)

**Funding Opportunities**

- [OHSU 2024 Well Being Grant Program, Apply by Oct. 27](#)
Spotlight: Skylar Stewart-Clark, Ph.D., MSPAS, PA-C

Dr. Skylar Stewart-Clark (front center) on a medical mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

Dr. Stewart-Clark is the division head and program director of the School of Medicine's Physician Assistant Program. She provides leadership, direction, organization and fiscal oversight of the program and ensures ongoing compliance with the accreditation standards for Physician Assistant Education. National Physician Assistant week is celebrated Oct. 6-12.

"Advance Practice Providers (APPs) practice in all areas of primary and specialty care and play an important role in accessing health care. They ensure our communities receive safe, high-quality, evidence-based care and are essential members of multidisciplinary teams," said Dr. Stewart-Clark.

Dr. Stewart-Clark is a native of Charleston, South Carolina. She earned a B.S. and a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from Louisiana Tech University. She spent several years as a postdoctoral research fellow in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine at the Clemson/Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Joint Bioengineering Program, where she worked on various projects with clinician scientists to find solutions for implantable device drug delivery in orthopedic, dental and cardiac applications. After several years in research, she pursued a M.S. in physician assistant studies from MUSC.

"We know that gaps in health care outcomes persist in marginalized and resource-poor communities – these communities are most often communities of color. We also know that studies show that people of color are more likely to provide care in communities of color. It
is, therefore, absolutely critical that women of color be normalized as health care providers," said Stewart-Clark.

Dr. Stewart-Clark advocates for diversity in medicine. She is a fitness instructor and enjoys traveling with her husband and four children.

Recommended Read: Portland City Council honors advanced practice providers during National APP Week