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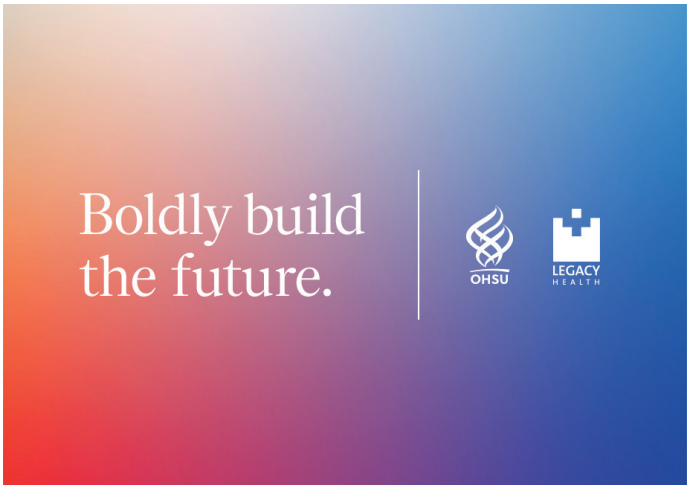
OHSU

Emeritus

A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU EMERITUS FACULTY

NEWS



OHSU and Legacy Health announced they have signed a nonbinding letter of intent to combine and create a comprehensive, integrated health system that will offer high-quality, essential health care services to patients throughout Oregon, the Pacific Northwest and beyond. The letter of intent, which is the first step in a transaction process by which Legacy will become part of OHSU, was unanimously approved by the boards of directors of both OHSU and Legacy. OHSU is part of the State of Oregon, established in Oregon law as a public corporation with a deeply rooted public mission of teaching, healing and discovery. Legacy is a local, nonprofit health system driven by its mission to improve the health of those in its communities.

OHSU and Legacy's complementary expertise will create a high-impact health care system driven by a mission of public service. OHSU brings experience serving complex patient needs, administering statewide health care training and education programs, and conducting leading-edge research. Legacy brings deep roots in providing high-quality, community-based care through its comprehensive system of hospitals, primary and specialty clinics, and outpatient facilities.

The combined system—with more than 32,000 employees and 100-plus locations, including 10 hospitals, and more than 3 million patient visits a year—will be the largest employer in the Portland metro area, and will focus on amplifying the region's leadership in patient- and community-focused health care, education, research and innovation.

Leadership from both organizations will participate in the strategy development of the combined system. We will be committed to serving our communities as we do today, as we focus on accelerating high-quality care, expanding our community-based and digital care offerings, and training and educating future scientists, advanced practice providers, physicians, nurses and other health care professionals, and creating a work and learning environment where every member feels safe and valued.

By joining forces, OHSU and Legacy are committed to attracting, engaging and supporting the region's best health care workforce through investments in the tools, technologies, and education and development initiatives that are essential for the growth of our team members. We will continue to support our valued employees and learners, all of whom play an important role in delivering exceptional care and service.

"Our mission is to provide good health for our people, our patients, our communities, and our world. By combining with OHSU, we will expand our ability to deliver on our mission," said Kathryn Correia, president and chief executive officer of Legacy Health. "In addition to ensuring access to high-quality essential health care for patients, the combined system will continue to be the region's most exceptional place to work and learn, while supporting research and education for the next generation of health care professionals."

As part of the agreement, OHSU intends to make a capital commitment of approximately $1 billion over 10 years, financed mostly through bond offerings, to support primary- and community-based services that will be part of the combined system. This commitment will better enable the combined organization to expand services, including clinical programs, sites of care, technology solutions, and new care models, while maintaining and growing essential services, including preventive medicine, population and public health.

"OHSU has enjoyed a decades-long relationship with Legacy Health, united by a shared commitment to improving the health and well-being of people in Oregon and beyond," said **Danny Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H.**, president of OHSU. "Now, we have an opportunity to join together and take a decisive next step that will help deliver on our promise to ensure the best access and care for all who need us, today and in the future. We look forward to our next chapter with Legacy and the exciting potential of our combined strengths and vision."

To address critical community health care needs and disparities, Legacy will direct its net cash on hand and investments (above outstanding debt) at closing to a new independent foundation. The new foundation will promote physical and mental well-being and address inequity in health care, including social determinants of health and behavioral health.

The organizations are working toward reaching a definitive agreement in the coming months. The transaction is expected to close in 2024 and is subject to regulatory review and customary closing conditions.

OHSU held its first in-person convocation in two years on Sunday, June 5, 2022. After the COVID-19 pandemic forced the annual tradition to go virtual, the university offered both an in-person and a remote participation option in 2022. Shown here are graduates celebrating during the 2022 convocation ceremony. (OHSU/EdComm)

A new generation of health care professionals, researchers and educators graduated from OHSU in June. A total of 1,142 degrees and certificates were awarded. The keynote speaker was Roselyn Tso, director of the Indian Health Service, an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

- The OHSU School of Dentistry awarded 85 degrees.
- The OHSU School of Medicine awarded 444 degrees and certificates.
- The OHSU School of Nursing awarded 423 degrees.
- The OSU/OHSU Doctor of Pharmacy Program awarded 74 degrees.
- The OHSU-PSU School of Public Health awarded 116 degrees and certificates.

Each year at the end of the first week of medical school, M.D. students from across the country are "cloaked" with their first white coats, symbolizing the beginning of their journeys in medicine. The White Coat Ceremony asks student-physicians to dedicate themselves to the care of their patients and the obligations inherent in the practice of medicine: to be an excellent scientist, to be compassionate, and to lead upright and honorable lives. On Friday, Aug. 11, 150 OHSU medical students made that commitment and donned their white coats for the first time. Led by **Robert Cloutier, M.D.**, professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine, students from the OHSU M.D. Class of 2027 processed across a stage, white coats draped smartly across their arms. Of the 150 M.D. students who are starting this fall:

- **81%** are Oregonians or of Oregon heritage
- **57%** identify as female
- **43%** come from a disadvantaged background
- **55%** come from racial or ethnic backgrounds other than white
- **18%** come from a rural background
- **23%** come from a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in medicine
- **Seven** have completed military service

OHSU is partnering with Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls to offer a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, training the next generation of physical therapists who will be uniquely prepared to practice in all settings, particularly rural and underserved

communities that often face a shortage of specialized health care professionals. Access to high-quality physical therapy providers will create a healthier Oregon with more equitable care across the state.

"OHSU is proud to partner with Oregon Tech on this important degree program, which will expand access to physical therapists across the state of Oregon," said OHSU Executive Vice President and Provost **Marie Chisholm-Burns, Pharm.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., FCCP, FASHP, FAST, FACHE.** "We look forward to the successes of our students and the beneficial health outcomes for the communities we serve. The program highlights our commitment to address the shortage of physical therapists in Oregon, emphasizing service to the community, particularly for the state's rural and underserved populations."

Maria Eva Jaime Ramos (right) practices performing a physical exam with Brittany Verigan (left, on table). Both graduated from the OHSU School of Nursing's Family Nurse Practitioner graduate education program in 2023, after being distance learning students living in La Grande, Oregon. (OHSU)

To help fill a significant health care void that disproportionately affects underserved communities, OHSU is bolstering nurse-led primary health care by offering new scholarships for graduate students seeking to become nurse practitioners. Supported by a $2.6-million, four-year award from the U.S. Health Resource and Services Administration, or HRSA, the School of Nursing will soon provide scholarships that cover at least 20% of tuition for students who are enrolled the school's graduate education programs for family nurse practitioner, psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner and nurse midwifery.

The program has funding for 21 students annually to receive a $21,700 scholarship toward tuition costs, with the potential total of $65,100 for each recipient participating in the three-year educational programs.

"Nurse practitioners serve as primary health care providers for many people in the United States—and that's particularly the case in rural, tribal and urban underserved communities where there aren't enough health professionals to meet demand," said **Rebecca Martinez, D.N.P., M.P.H.**, assistant professor of nursing, School of Nursing who is leading the new scholarship program's efforts. "The nation's health care workforce shortage grew during the pandemic, making it more important than ever to help more registered nurses continue their education and become nurse practitioners."

Nurse practitioners are nurses who have received advanced education and training in order to diagnose and treat diseases, prescribe medications and more. Nurse practitioners can specialize in health care fields like gastroenterology or cardiology, or they can serve as primary care providers who manage physical and mental health conditions and prevent health emergencies.

The new scholarships will help increase both the number and diversity of OHSU's nurse practitioner students, and also better prepare future nurse practitioners to care for patients in Oregon's rural, urban and tribal underserved communities. Research has shown that patients fare better when they receive care from diverse teams of health professionals.

The Oregon Employment Department also estimates that the state will need about 60% more nurse practitioners by 2031 due to due to increasing health care demand and aging nurses' expected retirement. OHSU's new scholarship program builds upon an earlier, HRSA-funded effort to recruit and support students in the OHSU School of Nursing's family nurse

practitioner and psychiatric and mental health nurse practitioner programs. The previous effort resulted in 102 scholarships being awarded to students between 2019 and 2023.

Joanne Noone, Ph.D. and **Paula Gubrud, D.N.S.**, professors of nursing, School of Nursing, have published a new book of essays, *Best Practices in Teaching Nursing*, on NLN Press. The collection explores ways to maximize teaching and learning outcomes in diverse classroom and clinical settings, among other topics. Noone said, "This book provides up-to-date information on learning science and best practices in teaching. It will be a valuable resource for graduate students in nursing education, expert nurses transitioning to an academic career, and experienced nurse educators needing an update on best practices. It was a wonderful experience working with experts nurse educators within OHSU and nationally to create this book."

Ashok Muralidaran, M.D., an Associate Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics in the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery in the OHSU School of Medicine, talks about comprehensive health care for kids with Lars Grosse-Wortmann, M.D., in a courtyard at Doernbecher Children's Hospital. A comprehensive new suite on the eighth floor of Doernbecher will be essential in caring for patients across the region who are experiencing high-level trauma and the rarest types of disease. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

Credit Unions for Kids—a nonprofit collaboration of credit unions and business partners from across the country—has pledged $5 million to create a new hybrid operating suite at OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital. The expansion supports Doernbecher's delivery of the most innovative, life-saving pediatric cardiac care in the region. The hybrid operating suite will merge two services currently located on opposite sides of Doernbecher and OHSU: the pediatric operating room and the cardiac catheterization lab, where heart diagnostics and treatment are performed. By uniting these services, surgeons and interventional cardiologists can perform multiple or complex procedures together, in one setting, without adding risk and spending precious minutes in transport. The comprehensive new suite on the eighth floor of Doernbecher will be essential in caring for patients across the region who are experiencing high-level trauma and the rarest types of disease.

OHSU patient Thomas Proctor, who recently received an implantable shock absorber, is glad to still be an active 49-year-old. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

OHSU has achieved a landmark in orthopaedic medicine by undertaking the nation's first commercial application of a leading-edge surgical technique to treat osteoarthritis in the knee, a common condition that affects millions of people. The case involved an implantable shock absorber that enabled the patient to resume normal activities without assistance—all in just three weeks after the procedure. **Dennis Crawford, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor of orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, School of Medicine, who conducted the procedure, says he believes there may be many more to come. "This procedure is the result of more

than a decade of clinical trials demonstrating that it's scientifically sound and clinically effective," said Crawford, professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation in the School of Medicine. "I think it's going to help hundreds of thousands of people." The procedure is useful for patients with early to moderate osteoarthritis of the medial knee, causing pain to the point that it limits their daily activity.

OHSU and GRU bargaining teams announced that a ratified agreement has been made for a new four-year contract on Thursday, Aug. 31. The highlights from the new agreement include:

- Increases to stipends over the life of the contract for School of Medicine, School of Nursing, and School of Public Health: $37,593 effective two full pay periods following ratification, $40,000 in July 2024, $40,700 in July 2025, and $41,100 in July 2026.
- A lump sum payment upon ratification.
- An increase to OHSU's contribution to dependent insurance coverage.
- A reduction to out-of-pocket deductibles for healthcare benefits.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion protections and definitions in the contract.

Despoina Bompolaki, D.D.S., professor oral rehabilitation and biosciences, School of Dentistry, and **Saulo Sousa Melo, Ph.D.**, professor of oral & craniofacial sciences, School of Dentistry, recently completed the American Dental Education Association Leadership Institute Experience, a year-long program designed to develop the most promising individuals at academic dental institutions to become future leaders in dental and higher education. Out of the 516 alumni, 27 are acting deans across the country. "Before this program, I always pictured leaders as extroverted people always engaging and talking to everyone," said Dr. Sousa Melo. "But I realized that a lot of deans are actually introverts who are very successful. It's a matter of identifying your leadership style and being comfortable with it. You have to recognize when the impostor syndrome is happening. I think that things have changed. Leadership is more diverse, and it's about teams collaborating. Being able to inspire others is important."

RESEARCH

As more people suffer from heat domes, wildfires, floods and other extreme climate events, a team of OHSU physicians are urging their colleagues to use data to address climate change's many health impacts. "Climate change is the biggest threat to our health—now, and in the future," said **Jennifer E. DeVoe, M.D.**, professor of family medicine, School of Medicine and first author of a commentary published in the *Journal of Primary Care & Community Health* that describes the new approach. "Physicians have a responsibility to help our patients manage and prevent climate-related health issues." DeVoe and colleagues are advocating for primary care teams to use a data-driven approach to help prevent and mitigate the adverse health impacts of climate change, which they've dubbed "precision ecologic medicine."

"Precision medicine is becoming increasingly common as genomic data is used by medical specialists to treat cancer and other diseases," explained the commentary's senior author, **Leah Werner, M.D.**, assistant professor of family medicine, School of Medicine. "Such individualized health care should also extend to primary care, and be applied to something that threatens everyone's health—climate change." This new commentary builds on their 2016 proposal to inform care with "community vital signs," or localized data that's related to nonmedical factors that affect health, which are also known as social determinants of health.

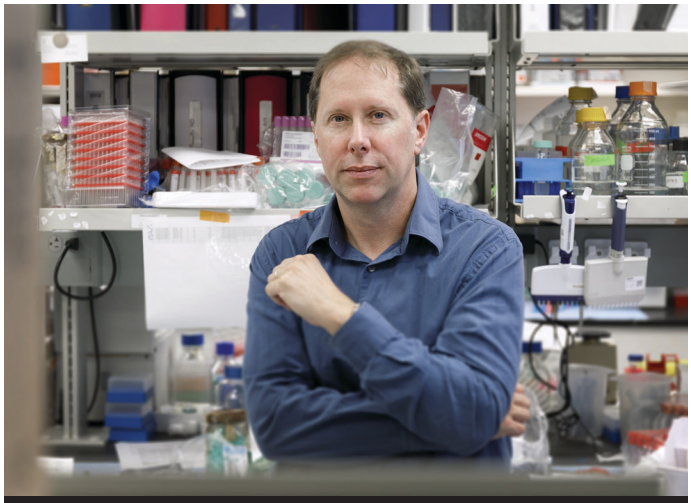
They are now applying that concept to climate-related health issues by adding actionable data about climate risks. Public health leaders have traditionally used nonmedical data as part of their efforts to understand how climate change endangers health from a community-wide perspective. Now DeVoe, Werner and colleagues say data should inform individual patient care and be used by primary care teams, whom patients often trust because they have built relationships with them over time. To put precision ecologic medicine into actual medical practice, OHSU's Department of Family Medicine has established a program focused on climate

change and health. Many OHSU faculty are collaborating with earth scientists, state health leaders and other academic institutions to explore how to make their concept actionable for clinicians. They're also exploring funding options to support these efforts.

Researchers have discovered a new avenue of cell death in Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia. A new study, led by scientists at OHSU and published online in the journal *Annals of Neurology* on Aug. 21, reveals for the first time that a form of cell death known as ferroptosis—caused by a build-up of iron in cells—destroys microglia cells, a type of cell involved in the brain's immune response, in cases of Alzheimer's and vascular dementia. The researchers conducted the study examining post-mortem human brain tissue of patients with dementia. "This is a major finding," said senior author **Stephen Back, Ph.D., M.D.**, professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine. Back has long studied myelin, the insulation-like protective sheath covering nerve fibers in the brain, including delays in forming myelin in premature infants.

The new research extends that line of work by uncovering a cascading form of neurodegeneration triggered by deterioration of myelin. Microglia are resident cells in the brain normally involved in clearing cellular debris as part of the body's immune system. When myelin is damaged, microglia swarm in to clear the debris. In the new study, researchers found that microglia themselves are destroyed by the act of clearing iron-rich myelin—a form of cell death known as ferroptosis. Given the intense scientific focus on the underlying cause of dementia in older adults, Back called it amazing that researchers hadn't made the connection to ferroptosis until now. The study finds that the cascading effect of degenerating microglia appears to be a mechanism in advancing cognitive decline in Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia, Back said.

He expects pharmaceutical companies will use this new finding to develop compounds focused on reducing microglial degeneration in the brain. "That's where the field will go next," he said. "A discovery like ours will stimulate a lot of excitement in the pharmaceutical industry to develop therapeutically important compounds."



Mark Slifka, Ph.D., is a professor of molecular microbiology and immunology in OHSU's School of Medicine and a senior scientist in the neuroscience division of OHSU's Oregon National Primate Research Center. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

A vaccine originally developed to prevent bacteria-caused diarrhea has now also been found to help infant nonhuman primates grow faster, according to a new study published in *Nature Communications*. "The 160 million people worldwide who get sick every year from Campylobacter bacteria is far too many," said the study's lead researcher, **Mark Slifka, Ph.D.**, professor in the Oregon National Primate Center. "We need a new tool to prevent bacterial diarrhea in babies and to enable more children to grow into healthy adults, and this vaccine approach looks very promising." The study evaluated a vaccine that uses a hydrogen peroxide-based technology called HydroVax, which Slifka developed at OHSU.

The university licensed the technology to Najít Technologies, Inc., where Slifka serves as the company's president and chief scientific officer. The technology is also helping develop vaccines against other diseases like yellow fever, West Nile and the flu. Importantly, the study also found that none of the vaccinated infants contracted a lethal Campylobacter infection, and that the vaccine reduced diarrhea-associated deaths for all causes—including bacteria other than Campylobacter—by 76%. This finding suggests that vaccination against this one common intestinal bacteria may also help reduce overall diarrhea-associated deaths.

To build on the study's findings, Slifka would like to explore further improving the vaccine's effectiveness by creating a multivalent shot that fights against more than one strain of Campylobacter. Additionally, he would like to test the use of improved nutritional supplements alongside vaccination to determine if the combination further improves infant growth trajectories.

New research from OHSU is helping explain why at least five people have become HIV-free after receiving a stem cell transplant. The study's insights may bring scientists closer to developing what they hope will become a widespread cure for the virus that causes AIDS, which has infected about 38 million people worldwide. Published today in the journal *Immunity*, the OHSU-led study describes how two nonhuman primates were cured of the monkey form of HIV after receiving a stem cell transplant. It also reveals that two circumstances must co-exist for a cure to occur and documents the order in which HIV is cleared from the body—details that can inform efforts to make this cure applicable to more people.

"Five patients have already demonstrated that HIV can be cured," said the study's lead researcher, **Jonah Sacha, Ph.D.**, professor in the Oregon National Primate Research Center. "This study is helping us home in on the mechanisms involved in making that cure happen," Sacha continued. "We hope our discoveries will help to make this cure work for anyone, and ideally through a single injection instead of a stem cell transplant." Sacha and colleagues continue to study the two nonhuman primates cured of HIV. Next, they plan to dig deeper into their immune responses, including identifying all of the specific immune cells involved and which specific cells or molecules were targeted by the immune system.

A form of gene therapy currently used to treat Parkinson's disease may dramatically reduce alcohol use among chronic heavy drinkers, researchers at OHSU and institutions across the country have found. The study in nonhuman primates showed that implanting a specific type of molecule that induces cell growth effectively resets the brain's dopamine reward pathway in animals predisposed to heavy drinking. The gene therapy procedure involves brain surgery, and may be useful in the most severe cases of alcohol use disorder. "This was incredibly effective," said co-senior author **Kathleen Grant, Ph.D.**, professor in the Oregon Primate National Research Center. The study was published in the journal *Nature Medicine*.

The implanted virus is not harmful and carries a gene that codes for the protein known as glial-derived neurotrophic factor, or GDNF. It was injected in a specific area of the brain of a group of rhesus macaque monkeys that voluntarily and heavily drink ethanol diluted in water. After four macaques underwent the procedure, researchers found their consumption dropped by more than 90% compared with a control group. Alcohol use disorder and deaths related to alcohol remains a significant problem in the United States and around the world, with an estimated 140,000 deaths annually from alcohol-related causes, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism of the National Institutes of Health.

The estimated worldwide annual death toll is estimated at 2.4 million. The new study describes a form of treatment that permanently alters the brain through surgery, so the therapy would be limited to those with the most severe forms of alcohol use disorder, Grant said.

Amid heightened demand for mental health care, a new study finds that nearly two-thirds of Medicare Advantage psychiatrist networks contain less than 25% of all psychiatrists in a given service area. "This means that many people who have coverage through Medicare Advantage plans may not actually have access to psychiatrists, given how few are considered in-network," said lead author **Jane Zhu, M.D.**, assistant professor of medicine, School of Medicine. The research was published in the July issue of the journal *Health Affairs*.

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people who are 65 or older. Medicare Advantage, which covers 28 million Americans through private insurance plans backed by Medicare, has an even narrower network of psychiatrists available to patients than those covered by Medicaid managed care or by insurance plans in the Affordable Care Act. Insurance plans

often contract with sets of providers—considered "in-network"—to deliver services to their enrollees.

The researchers built a nationwide data set of health plan networks, their service areas and their participating providers in 2019. The new study is the latest in a series of findings highlighting a lack of coverage and access to mental health care nationwide. Provider networks are one important lever of access, and Zhu noted that the new study likely understates the problem. "It's likely a rosier picture than reality," Zhu said. "We know the actual number of psychiatrists available to see patients is much lower." That's because even if a psychiatrist is technically in-network, Zhu said an overall national shortage of psychiatrists means that many are fully booked already and aren't accepting new patients. She said this may translate to higher out-of-pocket costs, delays in care or foregone treatment.

For Zhu, these findings suggest that it's necessary for insurers to incentivize more psychiatrists and mental health professionals to accept health insurance, or to expand coverage of services delivered by other health care professionals such as psychologists, counselors or primary care physicians who provide mental health care.

Luiz Bertassoni, D.D.S., Ph.D., and his cancer research team stand outside the OHSU Knight Cancer Research Building. Bertassoni will lead a newly formed Knight Cancer Precision Biofabrication Hub that will allow cancer researchers to dissect the complexities of cancers through lab-grown tissues. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

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 OHSU'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.** associate professor oral rehabilitation and biosciences, School of Dentistry. "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."

New research reveals that only one in four adolescent residential treatment centers across the country provides a medication used to treat opioid use disorder, despite an ever-rising number of overdose deaths among young people nationwide resulting from a surge of illicit fentanyl. The study, led by researchers at OHSU, published today in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Researchers say the lack of buprenorphine in adolescent residential treatment centers undercuts the United States' efforts to alleviate an overdose epidemic that claimed more than 109,000 lives in 2022, according to predicted provisional statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC. Recognizing the particular vulnerability of young people, especially as fentanyl now contaminates other illicit substances, OHSU researchers set out to determine how many adolescent treatment centers in the U.S. were providing buprenorphine to treat addiction. "It's the one medication that's approved for use in adolescents, and it's underused in facilities taking care of kids with the most severe opioid use disorder," said co-author **Todd**

Korthuis, M.D., M.P.H., professor of medicine, School of Medicine. "It's hard to imagine getting adolescents with opioid use disorder off fentanyl without buprenorphine."

Effective, compassionate communication from health care professionals can improve patient outcomes and help address health inequities, and should be a requirement for students and medical residents, OHSU staff argue in a new viewpoint. (Getty Images)

Unclear communication deepens health inequities and continues the systemic racism upon which American health systems have been built, according to a trio of OHSU staff in a viewpoint published this week in J*AMA Internal Medicine*. Their viewpoint notes failing "to communicate health information in its simplest and easiest-to-understand form unjustly favors people who have more education and higher health literacy"—and disadvantages historically underserved communities, including Native American, Black and Latino/a/x people. Further, the authors write, not training clinicians to improve communications with patients and not holding health systems accountable for clear communications "promotes injustice."

To address this, the authors recommend medical and other health professional schools require students and medical residents to demonstrate clear communication skills in order to graduate, and that accrediting bodies require health literacy practices be a part of their hospital accreditation process. "Studies have shown it's hard for health professionals to change the way they communicate with patients," said the viewpoint's corresponding author, **Cliff Coleman, M.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor of family medicine, School of Medicine and the Doris and Mark Storms Chair in Compassionate Communication with the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care. "Even when doctors are trained in health literacy and clear communication, it can be a struggle to put those lessons into practice during a hectic day in the clinic or hospital," Coleman continues. "We need creative incentives like graduation and accreditation requirements, as well as the strong support of senior leaders, to make clear, effective communications a reality in health care."

A new form of therapy targeting a debilitating autoimmune neurological disease shows promising results in a clinical trial involving 14 participants, including three at OHSU. The study published today in *The Lancet Neurology*. Cartesian Therapeutics, a clinical-stage biotechnology company based in Gaithersburg, Maryland, organized the multisite clinical trial using a form of chimeric antigen receptor, or CAR-T therapy, to treat generalized myasthenia gravis, or MG, an autoimmune disease that can cause weakness, double vision and problems speaking, chewing, swallowing and breathing. "I really believe this is going to be a breakthrough treatment in myasthenia gravis, which affects tens of thousands of people worldwide," said co-author **Nizar Chahin, M.D.**, assistant professor of neurology, School of Medicine and director of neuromuscular treatment for OHSU Health. "We treat hundreds of people with this condition at OHSU. Most respond to existing treatments, but in 10% to 20% of cases—those known as refractory—this new treatment may offer profound relief."

New research reveals a type of monoclonal antibody already tested in certain forms of cancer may be a promising treatment in stopping the progression of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, a fatal neurodegenerative disease. The study, led by scientists at OHSU, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The study, involving a mouse model and confirmed in the tissue of human brains affected by ALS and donated after death, revealed for the first time that modulating immune cells can slow the progression of the disease.

Previous research suggested a role for immune cells in ALS, but researchers this time used a high-throughput screening technique to identify a particular type of protein expressed on immune cells in the brain and spinal cord in people with ALS. Researchers implicated the protein, known as alpha-5 integrin. “When we blocked its expression in mice, we were able to slow down the disease,” said senior author **Bahareh Ajami, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of molecular microbiology and immunology, School of Medicine. “We hope that it will get to the clinic very soon.”

A new OHSU-led study reveals gaps in health insurance coverage for older Americans, who typically have more health issues than the rest of the population. Published in the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*, the study found about a quarter of low-income patients receiving care at community health centers remain uninsured when they turn 65, the age at which most Americans become eligible for Medicare federal health insurance. “It’s particularly concerning to think of older adults not having health insurance, given that the prevalence of disease and related complications increase with age,” said the study’s corresponding author, **Nathalie Huguet, Ph.D.**, associate professor of family medicine, School of Medicine. “It’s more challenging to manage health conditions in the United States without insurance. This can lead to costly hospital stays and avoidable illnesses that require expensive health care services.”

Huguet and her colleagues hope their findings will encourage policymakers to better support aging Americans by improving their access to health care overall, as well as specifically to improve preventive care access. They also hope it will inspire community health centers to integrate more geriatric-focused care in their operations.

Researchers have created the largest atlas of genome mutations after fertilization in healthy human tissue ever assembled—a scientific advancement that could unlock new avenues for diagnosing and treating genetic disease. It is the largest ever in terms of the combined number of tissues and number of donors sampled. The study, led by researchers at OHSU, published in the journal *Science*.

The development points the way toward understanding the genetic underpinnings of disease associated with cancer, as well as innumerable conditions caused by cellular malfunction, including aging.

The atlas could be useful in diagnosing medical conditions and potentially useful in reversing genetic mutations that cause disease. “If you’re talking about genetic changes being the basis of disease, there are a wide variety of technologies now that allow us to make changes to the genome,” said senior author **Don Conrad, Ph.D.**, associate professor in the Oregon National Primate Research Center. “It may be possible to change those mutations we’ve acquired due to bad luck or bad habits, and change them back to what they were before.”

Until now, genetic research investigating mutations that occur after fertilization has generally been conducted in biopsies of cancerous tissue, such as skin melanomas and lung tumors, or in easily accessible tissues such as blood. The new atlas opens a field of inquiry into mutations that occur over the course of a lifetime.

Kristen L. Mackiewicz Seghete, Ph.D., PMH-C is the lead principal investigator of OHSU’s SCAN Lab, a research group aiming to better understand how trauma affects the brain and women’s mental health. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

Stress and trauma in childhood and adolescence can have a lasting impact on the brain, including affecting an individual’s decision-making abilities and emotion

regulation. Researchers at OHSU are working to understand these neurobiological risk factors, and use their findings to develop and implement interventions that could help prevent long-term mental health impacts. At the forefront of these efforts is **Kristen L. Mackiewicz Seghete, Ph.D.**, associate professor of psychiatry, School of Medicine, who serves as lead principal investigator of the SCAN Lab, which stands for Stress, Cognition, Affect and Neuroimaging.

The SCAN Lab aims to better understand how cognitive and emotional brain processes are affected in individuals who have experienced stressful events, such as physical, emotional and sexual abuse or neglect. With an emphasis on early life trauma, neurodevelopment and women's mental health, the lab takes a translational approach, meaning it bridges basic science with psychotherapeutic interventions that can be shared and applied across the continuum of health care.

The ultimate goal of the lab's work is to use basic neuroscience to identify core processes in the brain that can be targeted in preventive interventions for individuals at heighted risk of mental health challenges. Seghete and her team understand this process through neuroimaging, a method that leverages MRI technology to capture neurological structure and function. Seghete calls it "a window in to the brain," allowing them to see when the brain activates and how the different parts are working together. "We look at what areas of the brain are activated and how much they're activated," Seghete explains. "We can use the images captured to compare individuals with certain experiences and clinical diagnoses against those without such indicators. This helps us understand how brains react differently to certain information." Looking forward, Seghete and her colleagues' priority is spreading awareness about the value of preventative interventions and expanding implementation within OHSU's relevant points of care, such as family medicine, midwifery and obstetrics and gynecology.

OHSU researchers have established a framework to predict the severity and symptoms of a rare and deadly genetic disease that affects about 40 children worldwide, including Raiden Pham, a patient receiving care at OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital. The study, a collaboration with Baylor College of Medicine, was published in the journal *eLife*. UBA5 disease—also known as developmental and epileptic encephalopathy 44, or DEE44—is produced by genetically inherited mutations of the UBA5 gene.

While the exact mechanisms and biological significance of the gene are still unclear, scientists know it is fundamental to many of the body's signaling processes, including the response to certain types of cellular stress. DEE44 is associated with a number of severe health outcomes, such as motor control issues, cognitive challenges, growth impairments and other medical complications.

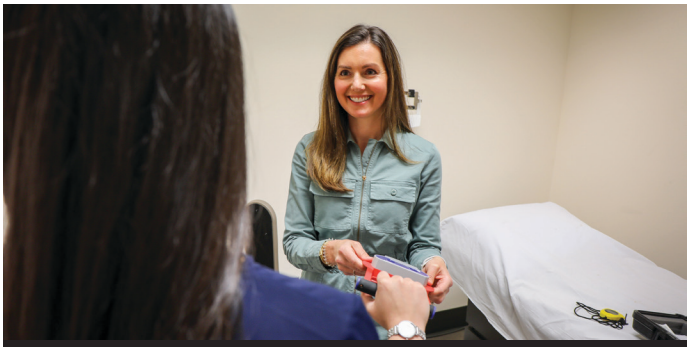
The disease ultimately progresses into chronic seizures and early death, typically within the first few years of life. "While you can discover through genetic testing that the UBA5 mutation is present, you don't necessarily know how severe that mutation will be," said study author **Jonathan Pruneda, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of molecular microbiology and immunology, School of Medicine. "This study is a huge step toward bridging that gap in knowledge. We now have a mechanism to understand severity of mutations and predict a child's clinical outcome with some degree of confidence."

Pancreatic cancer is on course to become the No. 2 cancer killer in the United States. To save more lives, researchers at OHSU have set out to reach the most vulnerable people; work with them to develop a reliable blood test to reveal early signs of the cancer; and validate new scanning techniques to locate and classify suspicious lesions for timely treatment.

The National Cancer Institute awarded the OHSU team a $3.8 million grant for this work, and they were made a member of the NCI's Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium. "We can move fast as part of this national consortium," said principal investigator **Rosalie Sears, Ph.D.**, professor of molecular and medical genetics, School of Medicine. Over the past decade, the five-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer patients increased from 6% to 12%. Chances of surviving remain low because most patients are diagnosed after tumors have spread. For those diagnosed at the earliest stage, five-year survival rates can exceed 80%. Beyond

the proposed research, OHSU has developed several resources at the Brenden-Colson Center that will be valuable to other institutions in the national consortium, which includes Dana Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard Medical School, Johns Hopkins University, Stanford University, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, among others.

At OHSU, the Oregon Pancreas Tissue Registry has enrolled more than 3,700 patients. The OHSU Pancreatic Cancer Early Detection (PRECEDE) consortium has enrolled more than 100 high-risk individuals, and the OHSU High Risk Pancreatic Cancer Screening clinic has served more than 750 patients who have completed at least one screening test.



OHSU nurse-scientist Quin Denfeld, Ph.D., RN, FAHA, FAAN, FHFSA, researches how to improve health outcomes of heart failure. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

Research led by **Quin Denfeld, Ph.D.**, associate professor of nursing, School of Nursing, involves some of science's lesser-known tools. She uses an instrument called a dynamometer to measure grip strength, and searches for biomarkers in vials of blood samples. Denfeld also employs something more mundane—chairs—to observe how well patients can sit up and down. She studies heart failure, or when heart muscle isn't able to pump enough blood.

While there is no cure for heart failure today, Denfeld hopes her research will help improve health outcomes and quality of life for the more than 6 million adults in the United States who have it. Denfeld's research examines the condition's symptoms and how it can affect women and men differently. She also focuses on diminished strength and energy, also known as frailty, and its impacts on people experiencing heart failure. Today's clinicians are increasingly aware of frailty. For example, OHSU's Heart Failure and Transplant Program evaluates all of its advanced heart failure therapy candidates for frailty. But how it's addressed or measured varies.

Denfeld and colleagues are currently drafting a consensus statement on frailty that aims to create a standard approach to incorporating frailty assessments in clinical practice. "We don't entirely know what to do with frailty," she explains. "We know that it's common and that it can predict outcomes such as hospitalization, poor quality of life and death. But there are still a lot of unanswered questions." Denfeld leads a lab of five people. The team partners with the Habecker lab to run blood assays and other biological tests, and also uses a shared behavioral research space to meet with study participants. One of her larger research efforts today is a National Institutes of Health-supported study that will follow 240 adults after they're hospitalized for heart failure to better understand how symptoms develop and change over time.

If Denfeld is able to identify a biomarker or a certain level of frailty that predicts poor health outcomes, she hopes that knowledge could help clinicians and patients better manage heart failure symptoms. Eligible patients are enrolled in this study after being hospitalized at OHSU or Hillsboro Medical Center.

Robert Eil, M.D. Eil and colleagues discovered that the elevated potassium levels can halt the cancer-fighting activity of T cells. (OHSU)

It's a paradox: The immune system's cancer-fighting T cells target and infiltrate tumors, but often they stop working and let the cancer grow. **Robert Eil, M.D.**, assistant professor of surgery, School of Medicine, had minimal background in immunology. That didn't stop him from making a pivotal observation about the paradox during his research fellowship at the National Cancer Institute.

Eil took note of differences among T cells in the number and type of specialized proteins that transport potassium into and out of the cell. Follow-up experiments revealed that potassium concentrations soar within tumor tissue as dead and dying cancer cells spill their contents.

Eil and colleagues discovered that the elevated potassium levels can halt the cancer-fighting activity of T cells. "If we increased the concentration of potassium in the media enough, it almost completely shut off the cytokine production of T cells," he says. "The T cells are alive, but they don't work, they are not making cytokine."

The findings pointed the way to new strategies for cancer immunotherapy—and earned Eil first authorship of a paper in *Nature*. "I took that ball and ran with it as far as I could. And I'm still running with it." The research is drawing significant attention.

Eil was one of three researchers across the U.S. awarded Transformative Cancer Research Grants from the AACR-MPM Oncology Charitable Foundation. And he was one is one of seven early-career scientists across the nation selected for a career development award from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

Leading a research laboratory while also working as a cancer surgeon is a difficult balancing act. Eil says he couldn't do it without the support of colleagues and family. He's adamant that taking care of patients makes him a better scientist. "I think it focuses what I'm trying to do more on what is truly going to be a therapy that helps the patient and not some exercise in discovery or self-indulgence about what I think is interesting or curious," he says. "Patients are great motivators. They are great teachers. They make our science more goal-directed, more focused."

AWARDS

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, a federal agency within the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that administers the Medicare, recently updated its Hospital Quality Star Ratings for 2023, and OHSU is once again a 5-star hospital. This is a change from OHSU's rating as a 4-star hospital in the previous reporting period. CMS uses 46 quality measures in five categories when calculating a hospital's rating:

- Mortality
- Safety of care
- Readmission rates
- Patient experience
- Timely and effective care

An OHSU neuroscientist has earned a $300,000 research grant over three years to advance his basic science research, seeking to better understand the neural circuits in the brain involved in serious forms of mental illness. **Arpiar Saunders, Ph.D.**, assistant professor in the Vollum Institute, is one of three researchers nationwide named as Rising Stars by One Mind, a nonprofit organization focused on neuropsychiatric brain research.

Saunders received the 2023 One Mind-Ben Langford and Nicholas Hall Rising Star Award and presented his research at a symposium during the 29th annual One Mind Music Festival for Brain Health in Rutherford, California. Saunders said the gathering included an impressive community of mental health researchers, advocates and people with lived experience with schizophrenia. "Right now, we treat all incidences of schizophrenia the same way—and we have been for 70 years. Our long-term vision is really geared toward facilitating personalized therapeutics based on biomarkers and patient-specific gene mutations," Saunders said. "If we can better understand what might be heterogeneous cellular etiology of these disorders, then we can better target therapies in patient-specific ways."

The Donald D. Trunkey Center for Civilian and Combat Casualty Care has announced the winner of their second annual Research and Innovation Award. **Kathleen Carlson, Ph.D.**, professor of public health, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, and her team received the $20,000 award for the proposal "Improving OHSU Trauma Patient Outcomes through Evaluation of Healing Hurt People-Portland: A Photovoice Pilot Project." Dr. Carlson leads the OHSU-PSU Gun Violence as a Public Health Issue Advisory Committee, and directs the newly formed OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center. She also serves as a core investigator in the VA Portland Health Care System's Health Services Research and Development Center of Innovation.

Dr. Carlson has been conducting injury and violence prevention research since 2000. She is working with Healing Hurt People (HHP), a hospital-based violence intervention program currently offered at OHSU that treats youth through early adult patients of color who have been victims of shooting and stabbing assaults. This will use Photovoice, a community-based qualitative research methodology often used in public health, to illuminate the perspectives of HHP's intensive case managers on conducting violence prevention work. This project will highlight potential program improvements for HHP, ultimately resulting in better care for trauma patients at OHSU and across Oregon—and addressing a gap in research about hospital-based violence intervention programs, a growing subfield of trauma research.

Joanna Ludzik, M.D., Ph.D., patient Christy Staats, Guinness World Records judge Andrew Glass, and Alexander Witkowski, M.D., Ph.D. Glass awarded each team member a certificate for their newly earned record for detecting the world's smallest skin cancer. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

A tiny spot on Christy Staats's cheek measured just 0.65 millimeters—or 0.025 inches—and was almost invisible to the human eye. But with help from state-of-the-art non-invasive technology, an OHSU dermatologist and a multi-disciplinary team confirmed the spot was indeed a melanoma, the most dangerous type of skin cancer. To identify this micro-skin cancer, **Alexander Witkowski, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor of dermatology, School of Medicine, used a combination of dermoscopy—an examination of skin lesions with a dermatoscope—and Reflectance Confocal Microscopy, which is an imaging tool that helps clinicians monitor and diagnose skin lesions without needing to cut into the skin. His colleagues in the department of dermatology helped confirm the diagnosis by implementing additional staining and molecular testing techniques. Catching this skin cancer early earned the OHSU team the Guinness World Record for the "Smallest Detected Skin Cancer." On May 1, a judge from the Guinness World Records came to OHSU to award each team member a certificate for their newly-earned record. This peer-reviewed and scientifically-validated skin cancer is a micro-melanoma in-situ, a type of cancer that is found exclusively on the top layer of the skin. Witkowski says this is important because "it was found before it had the opportunity to spread to other parts of the body."

Steve Mansoor, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of chemical physiology and biochemistry, School of Medicine, was awarded the American Society for Clinical Investigation's Donald Seldin~Holly Smith Award for Pioneering Research. This award recognizes early-career physician-scientist leaders. Mansoor's research involves using structural biology to address cardiovascular health. His lab focuses on the structure, function, and signaling of ion channels and G-protein coupled receptors of the cardiovascular and central nervous systems. He and his team have resolved the structures of several P2X receptors—these important molecules are expressed in many cells, controlling or modulating processes involved in platelet activation, smooth muscle contraction, nociception, synaptic transmission, and inflammation. Significantly, this receptor family is therefore a promising target for small molecules that can be used for new drugs.

The Interprofessional Initiative selected **Megan Furnari,**

M.D., associate professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine, as the recipient of the first Interprofessional Education Curriculum Development Award. This award was created in an effort to highlight innovative efforts by OHSU faculty in creating IPE curricula involving courses, activities, sessions, or collaborations in the didactic, clinical, simulated or community environment. Furnari was selected from 12 nominees for her efforts in developing and directing the Women's Leadership and Development Program.

The Novel Interventions in Children's Healthcare, or NICH, program was one of three winners nationwide in the American Diabetes Association's first-ever Innovation Challenge. **Michael A. Harris, Ph.D.**, a professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine, pitched a program that helps young people with diabetes who face incredibly challenging social circumstances at the 83rd Scientific Sessions of the American Diabetes Association in San Diego. The first-ever American Diabetes Association Innovation Challenge allowed applicants to pitch judges from three prestigious organizations in hopes of winning one-on-one time with each of them, and ultimately, funding. NICH team members, known as interventionists, are dispatched into the community and lives of these young people to help families navigate the local siloed health care and social services system, and bring resources to the family. In his pitch,

Harris shared a story about a teenage patient who had been admitted to OHSU for Type 1 diabetes complications 22 times in a single year. With help from NICH, her blood sugar levels improved, and she did not require any additional hospitalizations. She's now living independently and enrolled in nursing school. "Through NICH, we're impacting the most vulnerable who, to no fault of their own, are buried under a mound of social challenges," Harris said. "Diabetes, along with other chronic and complex health conditions, is incredibly difficult to manage, even under the best of circumstances. When you add social challenges, it becomes nearly impossible." Harris was one of six finalists from a competitive pool of more than 60 applicants. The audience and judges cast their votes, and NICH was named a winner of the Innovation Award, along with two others.

APPOINTMENTS

David Bearden, Pharm.D. (OHSU)

David Bearden, Pharm.D., has been appointed as Dean, Oregon State University College of Pharmacy. In his role as Dean, Bearden will be the chief administrative officer for the college that includes faculty, staff, and students based both at OSU's main campus in Corvallis, and the OHSU campus in Portland. This position provides overall leadership for the College's academic, research, and outreach programs, stewards its financial resources, and serves as its principal representative with internal and external stakeholders.

Bearden previously served as Interim Dean of the College of Pharmacy from December 2020, and has held key roles at the college over the last two decades, including Associate Dean of Academic Integration and Clinical Advancement based at the college's Portland location, and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Through a long-standing partnership, OSU and OHSU jointly award the Doctor of Pharmacy degree, and the College of Pharmacy is an important partner to OHSU with multiple academic, research, and clinical

connections anchored within the shared collaborative RLSB space. The College of Pharmacy, which is based in both Corvallis and Portland, has approximately 70 faculty and staff, enrolls just over 300 students, and has upward of 5,000 alumni. Last fiscal year, it received more than $8 million in research funding.

As a clinical faculty member, Bearden has been a practicing pharmacist and previously served as an inpatient clinical specialist in infectious diseases pharmacotherapy at OHSU and Portland Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He is a Fellow by the American College of Clinical Pharmacy and the Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists, a recipient of the OHSU Faculty Senate Outstanding Leadership Award, and an awardee of several teaching and precepting honors by multiple Pharmacy classes. Bearden's Doctor of Pharmacy is from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He completed a PGY-1 residency at the University of Utah Hospitals and Clinics, and a fellowship in infectious diseases pharmacotherapy at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Asma Taha, Ph.D., professor of nursing, School of Nursing, was appointed as Individual Commissioner to the American Nurses Association to address racism in nursing. The Commission members and organizations represent a broad continuum of nursing practice, ethnically diverse groups, and regions across the country. The 2023-2024 Commission includes organizational leaders as well as individual subject matter experts.

Nancy Haigwood, Ph.D., professor in the Oregon National Primate Research Center, who has spent the last 42 years in research developing vaccines and antibody-based therapies to prevent or treat human diseases, has been appointed an ex-officio member to the OHSU Foundation Board.

The Society of Neurological Surgeons, known as SNS, has elected **Nathan Selden, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor and chair of neurological surgery, School of Medicine, as president of the society. Selden will serve as president-elect until May 2024, and then as president of the SNS until May 2025. The society, the oldest neurosurgical organization in the world, represents U.S. neurosurgery in the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, or ACGME, and in the Organization of Program Director Societies.

The SNS is responsible for the curriculum of U.S. neurosurgical training and oversees a nationwide series of standardized "boot camp" courses. Its Committee on the Accreditation of Subspecialty Training is responsible for the accreditation of neurosurgical fellowships. Selden is also a current director of the American Board of Neurological Surgery. At OHSU, he holds the Campagna Chair in pediatric neurological surgery. He has served as chair of the department of neurological surgery for 7 years, and as a faculty member in the School of Medicine for 23 years.

Denise G. Dallmann, N.D., M.S., has been named as Assistant Vice Provost for Workforce Capacity Development. Dallmann earned her doctorate in naturopathic medicine from the National University of Natural Medicine, and her master of science in educational leadership and policy with a concentration in post-secondary, adult and continuing education and graduate certificate in student affairs from Portland State University. She has 20 years of experience in higher education including more than 15 years as a senior administrator.

Dallmann comes to OHSU from her role as Dean, Center for Teaching and Learning for the University of Western States (UWS), where she led the institution's instructional support services, faculty development, instructional design, educational technology, and academic assessment initiatives. Prior to her role at UWS, Dallmann served as Chief Academic Officer for the American College of Healthcare Sciences, where she co-developed and administered the institution's strategic plan, led the development and implementation of new degree programs, and successfully facilitated the institution through accreditation renewal. In her role as Assistant Vice Provost, Dallmann will support the Office of the Provost in guiding and implementing the OHSU 30-30-30 initiatives. Dallman's major responsibilities will be fulfilling the goals of 30-30-30 by working in concert with stakeholders.

TRANSITIONS

Susan W. Tolle, M.D., professor in academic affairs, Central Administration, and the director of OHSU's Center for Ethics in Health Care, has announced her decision to retire at the end of this year. OHSU will conduct a national search to find a director to carry on the critical work of the Center. As Director, Dr. Tolle reports directly to the Provost and holds the Cornelia Hayes Stevens Endowed Chair.

The Center was established in July of 1989 with Dr. Tolle serving as its inaugural director, following her completion of a fellowship at the University of Chicago where she learned skills in clinical ethics, partnered with colleagues to create the Center, and wrote grants that allowed OHSU to open the Center's doors. Under Dr. Tolle's leadership, the Center is primarily supported by private philanthropy with a business model of building innovative programs and sustaining them through endowment income. The Center envisions a health care system that people experience as compassionate, comprehensible, just, and empowering, and its mission is to transform the health care of our communities as leaders in ethics education, professionalism, ethics research, policy, and compassionate communication.

The Center is internationally recognized for innovation in a range of programs. For example, the Portable Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) program was created in 1991 by Dr. Tolle and colleagues to assure that Oregonians with advanced illness and frailty have their wishes to have or to limit medical treatments honored across all settings of care. The program has been replicated across the country and beyond. Six years ago, the Center established a new medical school graduation requirement, with formal testing of each student's serious illness and jargon-free language communication skills, implementing individual tutoring to boost students' skills. "I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with professional colleagues and community members to create, build and sustain the OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care," Dr. Tolle said. "I have seen many changes at OHSU since I was a medical student graduating in the class of 1977. I joined the faculty at OHSU on September 1, 1981 after completing four years of residency in internal medicine at University of California San Diego. It is an honor to have served as a faculty member in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics. I enjoyed providing continuity primary care to patients, and having relationships with patients and families that spanned more than three decades."

After 50 years of service at OHSU, Kent Thornburg, Ph.D., is retiring as leader of the Moore Institute for Nutrition & Wellness, director of the Center for Developmental Health and interim director of the Knight Cardiovascular Institute. (OHSU)

Kent Thornburg, Ph.D., professor of medicine, School of Medicine, has been a stalwart fixture around OHSU since 1973, but he has decided it is time to take—at least a small—step back. At his retirement he is the founding director of the Bob and Charlee Moore Institute for Nutrition & Wellness, director of the Center for Developmental Health and interim director of the Knight Cardiovascular Institute. Thornburg has been integral in the creation of the field of Developmental Origins of Health and Disease and the establishment of OHSU as a world leader in this research. He has also been a principle reason countless faculty have chosen OHSU as their home.

OHSU salutes Thornburg upon his retirement and appointment as professor emeritus. School of Medicine

Dean **David Jacoby, M.D.**, has appointed **Leslie Myatt, Ph.D.**, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, School of Medicine and the Bob and Charlee Moore Endowed professor, to succeed Thornburg as director of the Moore Institute.

Thornburg also appointed Myatt to succeed him as director of the Center for Developmental Health. Jacoby has named **Joaquin Cigarroa, M.D.**, professor of medicine, School of Medicine, as director of the Knight Cardiovascular Institute that Thornburg stewarded as interim director since 2021. "Dr. Thornburg has had a global impact on our understanding of developmental health and chronic cardiovascular disease risk," Jacoby said. "He is a luminary yet also a humble, caring man, and he has brought great leadership and vision to every area of OHSU that he has touched. On a personal note, it was when I met Dr. Thornburg during my recruitment visit to OHSU more than 20 years ago that I decided this was where I wanted to spend the next part of my career. I am grateful to him for his service and many contributions." In 2021, Thornburg agreed to become the interim director for the KCVI. He worked tirelessly to bring together clinicians and researchers stretched thin from the pandemic and leadership changes to reinvigorate the institute. He brought two additional groups into the KCVI, Pediatric Cardiology and VA Cardiology, in order to ensure OHSU could be a leader in cardiovascular disease throughout the life course.

The institute now coordinates research, education and clinical care from risk factors developed during conception to end-of-life. From his initial research interests in fetal heart development, Thornburg build a storied career that has led to fundamental changes in our understanding of chronic disease risk. Along the way he has connected his work directly with the people most affect by it and ensured the next generation of scientists and health care providers are able to follow in his footsteps.

While he has stepped away from day-to-day leadership, Thornburg will remain actively involved in several projects of the Moore Institute, including the Nutrition Oregon Campaign, which has active community-based work across Oregon and a developing DOHaD documentary.

A degree from OHSU opens a vast array of possibilities. So many, in fact, that today's learners need guidance to navigate the multitude of options available. Similarly, new and early career faculty at OHSU are looking for expert mentors to help them make intentional decisions related to their various roles at OHSU. That's where you as emeritus faculty come in.

You're invited to become a mentor through OHSU FERN, an exclusive platform connecting the OHSU community. OHSU FERN's mentoring algorithm matches OHSU learners to trusted mentors with the specific expertise they need to make informed decisions about their careers.

Join OHSU FERN and share your unique perspective with the next generation of scientists, health care professionals, and the faculty who are guiding them.

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