

Emeritus

A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU FACULTY

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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



Leaders and patients marked a transformative expansion of one of Oregon’s largest hospitals with a ribbon-cutting for the new Vista Pavilion at OHSU. The building, entirely dedicated to treating people with cancer, opened for patients on Tuesday, April 7. Vista immediately adds 128 new inpatient beds; once it is fully built out, it will expand OHSU Hospital’s capacity by about one-third. By providing a dedicated area to patients with cancer, the project frees up space in the existing hospital to care for people who need cardiovascular, neurological and other kinds of health care. “Today marks a milestone for OHSU and for Oregon as Vista Pavilion greatly expands the state’s overall inpatient hospital capacity,” said OHSU President **Shereef Elnahal, M.D., M.B.A.** “This expansion will enable people to get their care close to home, instead of traveling to Seattle or the Bay Area for complex specialty care.” The 14-story pavilion will apply a new model of wraparound care to ensure patients and families can focus on their treatment within a single building, which was designed with their input and their specific needs in mind.

As of fall term 2025, the total number of OHSU-registered students, across all OHSU campuses, increased more than 3% compared to last year. This achievement is a 10-year record high, according to data provided by OHSU’s Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness. “Growth of more than 100 students

compared with fall term 2024 was driven by increases in nursing and public health, as part of OHSU 30-30-30 initiative,” said OHSU Provost and Executive Vice President **Marie Chisholm-Burns, Pharm.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A.** “This exceptional accomplishment demonstrates the incredible effort by many OHSU staff and faculty to educate Oregon’s future workforce.” With this record enrollment, OHSU is progressing toward the 30-30-30 goal of preparing more graduates to serve communities across the state. The 30-30-30 initiative, with funding from the Oregon Legislature, supports OHSU’s goal of graduating more students to increase the number of health professionals providing care in our communities. Of note, an additional 1,290 students are registered at partner universities and are in joint academic programs with OHSU, through Oregon State University, Portland State University and Oregon Institute of Technology. Total fall 2025 enrollment including these students is 4,337.

OHSU has received a grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust to purchase a state-of-the-art mass spectrometer, the Thermo Fisher Orbitrap Astral. The new technology, led by **Andrew Emili, Ph.D.**, professor in oncological sciences, School of Medicine, and a leader in cancer systems biology at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, will boost OHSU’s ability to study proteins for early disease detection and precision medicine.



Students in the Tilikum Summer Health Experience program create simulated injuries to practice dressing the wounds.

For college students in the new Tilikum Summer Health Experience program, the message from **Shandee Dixon, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of public health, School of Public Health, (Apache) is clear: “Once you are part of this program, you become part of the NNACoE community — you have a place at OHSU.” Dixon, assistant professor in the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health and director of didactic learning with the Northwest Native American Center of Excellence, or NNACoE, serves as faculty lead of the five-week summer enrichment program designed for American Indian and Alaska Native, or AI/AN, first- and second-year college students who are interested in pursuing careers in health professions. The new program, launched this year, fosters tight-knit connections and a support system that provides a sense of belonging. The inaugural cohort of 15 students from tribal nations across the country completed the Tilikum program in August. Along with building collaborations across institutions, the experience also built close-knit friendships among the first cohort — what organizers hope will be a lifelong network of support for the students. The students traveled to Portland from around the country to complete the last two weeks of the program in-person at PSU and OHSU. For their final project, students designed culturally responsive health care models for their communities. The posters were filled with innovative ideas, artwork, creativity, emotion and excitement, Dixon said. “We wanted them to voice their dreams,” she said. “Their final projects showed what they envisioned for the future of health care — accessibility, no barriers and what matters to their communities. Empowerment is the foundation of their journey.”

Doernbecher Children’s Hospital has earned the 2025 Gold Level ELSO Award for Excellence in Life Support, recognizing it as a Designated Gold Level Center of Excellence. It has received this distinction consecutively since 2013. This award honors life support programs around the world that stand out for having strong systems that help provide excellent care for patients who need life support. At Doernbecher, this includes using ECMO and ECLS, which are treatments for patients whose heart or lungs are not working well, including babies, children and adults. ECMO and ECLS use a special machine that takes over the work of the heart and lungs to add oxygen to the blood and help the organs recover when they suddenly stop working. This gives the patient’s heart or lungs time to heal by moving and adding oxygen to the blood outside the body. Doernbecher’s ECMO program is a team effort, with many different specialists, nurses, therapists, coordinators, assistants, the rehab team, advanced care providers and doctors all working together to care for ECMO patients.

A center dedicated to improving research and care for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias at OHSU has earned \$22.8 million in continued federal funding over the next five years. The Oregon Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at OHSU is one of 35 centers of excellence designated and funded by the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health. The OHSU center received its initial award in 1990, marking 35 years of receiving competitive renewals. **Lisa Silbert, M.D.**, and **Miranda Lim, Ph.D., M.D.**, both professors of neurology, School of Medicine, became the center’s co-directors in 2023, following the three-decade tenure of founding director **Jeffrey Kaye, M.D.**, professor of neurology, School of Medicine, who continues at OHSU in an adjunct research capacity as the Layton Endowed Professor of Neurology.



Miranda Lim, M.D., Ph.D., Kevin Duff, Ph.D., Lisa Silbert, M.D., and Allison Lindauer, Ph.D., NP. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

Research teams at OHSU will use two \$1 million awards to improve detection and treatment of colorectal cancer and to develop a better approach to treat an aggressive form of brain cancer. Melissa Wong, Ph.D., professor of cell, developmental and cancer biology, School of Medicine, and Summer Gibbs, Ph.D., professor of Biomedical Engineering, School of Medicine, were awarded \$1,050,000 for a project titled “Noninvasive circulating hybrid cell biomarker: Early detection and monitoring of colorectal cancer.” Ramon Barajas, Jr., M.D., professor of diagnostic Radiology, School of Medicine, and Domenico Tupone, Ph.D., research assistant professor of neurological surgery, School of Medicine, were awarded \$1,050,000 for their project, “Leveraging hibernation to advance a cure for Glioblastoma.”

The National Institutes of Health has awarded OHSU \$2.8 million to lead the Advancing Geriatrics Infrastructure & Network Growth, or AGING, Initiative. The AGING Initiative, started in 2014 at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School transitioned to OHSU June 1, 2025. **Ana Quiñones, Ph.D.**, professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, is co-director, along with C. Barrett Bowling, M.D., of Duke University. “OHSU’s leadership of the AGING Initiative is a proud milestone for our department and a reflection of our commitment to the health of older adults,” said **Jennifer DeVoe, M.D.**, chair and professor of family medicine, School of Medicine. “With Dr. Quiñones’ national expertise and our strong foundation in primary care and aging research, we are well-positioned to lead collaborative, impactful work that improves care for older people with multiple chronic conditions — not only in Oregon, but across the country.”



OHSU’s Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center plans to establish the center as a national leader in diabetes research, diabetes care and faculty excellence at OHSU and throughout the state. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

An OHSU center dedicated to the treatment and prevention of diabetes has received a \$2.1 million commitment to address America’s most prevalent chronic disease. Portland area real estate developer and philanthropist Jordan Schnitzer made the commitment from the Harold & Arlene Schnitzer CARE Foundation to OHSU’s Harold Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center. Diabetes affects an estimated 41 million people in the U.S., or 12% of the population. The new contribution from the Schnitzer family will also enhance the ability to recruit exceptional early-career clinician-scientists, grow educational initiatives, and enhance patient and community engagement. In 2007, Harold and Arlene Schnitzer donated \$5.5 million to establish the first diabetes center of its kind in the region.

Breakthrough T1D, formerly JDRF, the leading global type 1 diabetes (T1D) research and advocacy organization, has awarded more than \$2.8 million over three years for the Breakthrough T1D Center of Excellence at the University of Michigan and at OHSU, creating the Breakthrough T1D U-M-OHSU Cardioresenal Center of Excellence. This funding will expand the existing University of Michigan Center of Excellence to include OHSU and create a joint Center of Excellence that will build on the work completed over the last five years at U-M. It will be led by **Matthias Kretzler, M.D.**, with the University of Michigan and **Rodica Pop-Busui, Ph.D., M.D.**, professor of medicine, School of Medicine, with OHSU.



(left) Ana Quiñones, Ph.D., professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, Advancing Geriatrics Infrastructure & Network Growth (OHSU News)

(Rodica Pop-Busui, Ph.D., M.D., Breakthrough T1D Center of Excellence at the University of Michigan and OHSU. (OHSU News)

Research teams at OHSU will use two \$1 million awards to improve detection and treatment of colorectal cancer and to develop a better approach to treat an aggressive form of brain cancer. Melissa Wong, Ph.D., professor of cell, developmental and cancer biology, School of Medicine, and Summer Gibbs, Ph.D., professor of Biomedical Engineering, School of Medicine, were awarded \$1,050,000 for a project titled “Noninvasive circulating hybrid cell biomarker: Early detection and monitoring of colorectal cancer.” Ramon Barajas, Jr., M.D., professor of diagnostic Radiology, School of Medicine, and Domenico Tupone, Ph.D., research assistant professor of neurological surgery, School of Medicine, were awarded \$1,050,000 for their project, “Leveraging hibernation to advance a cure for Glioblastoma.”

The National Institutes of Health is taking a new step in addressing the critical issue of stillbirth in the United States by launching the Stillbirth Research Consortium. This initiative aims to reduce the nearly 24,000 stillbirth cases reported annually, over 60% of which remain unexplained despite thorough investigations. **Karen Gibbins, M.D., M.S.C.I.**, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, School of Medicine, and **Leslie Myatt, Ph.D.**, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, School of Medicine, and the director of perinatal research at the NOURISH Research Center at OHSU, are leading a significant initiative aimed at preventing stillbirth. Their center is one of four research facilities involved in the project, which will investigate the impacts of nutrition, chronic stress, cardiometabolic health, and placental dysfunction to develop innovative interventions.



OHSU STATEMENT

OHSU is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of people in Oregon and beyond. Biomedical research conducted in relevant animal models at OHSU has led to new ways to identify, prevent and treat disease, and improve human and animal health. OHSU understands the profound responsibility that comes with using animals, including nonhuman primates, in biomedical research. As such, the Oregon National Primate Research Center at OHSU employs hundreds of dedicated veterinary and animal care staff committed to providing humane, respectful care and the best possible veterinary medicine for nearly 5,000 nonhuman primates.

When there is a serious event involving any animal in our care, it is immediately reported to the university’s Research Integrity Office, who investigates and reports it to OHSU’s Institutional Official and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, who then ensures appropriate measures are taken to prevent a recurrence.

OHSU also proactively reports any serious event to the United States Department of Agriculture and the NIH’s Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare, whose highly trained veterinary staff thoroughly review OHSU’s mitigation response to determine whether it is complete and appropriate, thereby ensuring that OHSU has done everything possible to minimize the possibility of it happening again. OHSU posts all USDA inspection reports on our public website as soon as they are available: West Campus; Marquam Hill and South Waterfront campuses.

OHSU Family Medicine clinics in East Portland, Gabriel Park, Scappoose and the South Waterfront have achieved Tier 5 status with the Oregon Health Authority’s Patient-Centered Primary Care Home program. Tier 5 is the highest level a primary clinic can attain and recognizes excellence in a primary care facility through comprehensive, coordinated, equitable, quality health care that also integrates behavioral health.

AWARDS

The OHSU Center for Women's Health Circle of Giving, a group of philanthropists who give to support innovative women's health research at OHSU, have selected two projects to receive grants of \$125,000 each. The Circle of Giving awards will enable researchers to further study brain function during menopause, including the effects of hormone replacement therapy, and explore the impact of a specific gene in women with Alzheimer's disease, the fifth-leading cause of death in the U.S., and potential therapies. The 2025 awardees are:

- **Alison Weiss, Ph.D.**, assistant professor, OHSU's Oregon National Primate Research Center, and her collaborator, a neuroscience professor at Texas A&M University, to fund their project, "Evaluating changes in brain functional networks during menopause."
- **Ursula Sandau, Ph.D.**, instructor in anesthesiology and perioperative medicine, and Randy Woltjer, Ph.D., M.D., professor of pathology and laboratory medicine, both in the School of Medicine, to fund their project, "Establishing the impact of APOE-4 on brain extracellular vesicles in females with Alzheimer's Disease."

Nikolaos Soldatos, Ph.D., D.D.S., M.S.D., associate professor of periodontology, School of Dentistry, has been inducted as a fellow into the Academy of Osseointegration during its 2025 meeting. "This marks a significant achievement in my career and reflects my dedication to advancing the field of dental implantology, from ridge augmentation to successful osseointegration of dental implants," he said. "This recognition inspires me to strive for excellence in research, patient care and education of our graduate residents in the Advanced Education Program in Periodontics and Implant Dentistry. I am deeply grateful for the support of my mentors and colleagues throughout this journey."

David A Lieberman, M.D., emeritus professor of medicine and former head of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in the OHSU School of Medicine and the Portland VA Health Care System, has earned the American Gastroenterological Association's Julius Friedenwald Medal. Since 1941, the Julius Friedenwald Medal has honored physicians for their lifelong contributions to gastroenterology.



Zachary Lee, 13 months old, receives a vaccine at an OHSU Doernbecher vaccine clinic. "The health and well-being of children and families in Oregon have always been OHSU's top priority and guiding principle," said Dawn Nolt, M.D., M.P.H., division head of pediatric infectious diseases at OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital. (Christina Hicks)

Through the work of **Dawn Nolt, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of pediatrics (infectious diseases) in the OHSU School of Medicine, OHSU has been designated by the Infectious Diseases Society of America as an Antimicrobial Stewardship Center of Excellence (CoE). The CoE program promotes excellence in antimicrobial use and combating antimicrobial resistance by recognizing hospitals that effectively demonstrate excellence in this work. A CoE designation signifies a hospital has the policies and processes to deliver high-quality stewardship services consistently, execute novel stewardship principles, and demonstrate a high-level commitment to improving antimicrobial use and reducing resistance.

Michelle Hribar, Ph.D., M.S., associate professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine and OHSU Casey Eye Institute, and team have received a National Eye Institute award for a project titled, "Data Coordinating Center in the OHDSI Ophthalmic Network." Their project was selected to receive a cash prize of \$250,000 as part of the Expand Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics Initiative for the Eye Care and Ocular Imaging Challenge. This competition recognizes innovative contributions, rather than serving as a traditional research grant for ongoing research. The award aims to enhance the OHDSI network for vision research. The challenge invites researchers to submit innovative ideas for utilizing the network to improve eye care and advance vision science.

Eric Gouaux, Ph.D., professor of chemical physiology and biochemistry, School of Medicine, with an exceptional record of accomplishment at OHSU, has earned a rare distinction as a two-time recipient of the Javits Neuroscience Investigator Award. Since the award's inception in 1984, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, of the National Institutes of Health, has granted the award about 600 times to the leading neuroscientists in the United States. Now, Gouaux has earned it twice — the first was in 2008. Gouaux will receive \$5.4 million over the next seven years to extend the groundbreaking work of his lab to advance molecular understanding about how the brain processes information. Gouaux and collaborators will harness state-of-the-art cryogenic electron microscopy in a national center that he helped to establish in 2018. "This award will enable us to understand how receptors are organized and distributed in the junctions, or synapses, between nerve cells," he said. "We're taking advantage of new technology to visualize synapses in this incredibly important part of the nervous system in ways that have been previously unattainable." Cryo-electron microscopy reveals molecules at the near-atomic scale, enabling scientists to unlock life-science quandaries running the gamut from Alzheimer's disease to the Zika virus.

Wassana Yantasee, Ph.D., M.B.A., professor of biomedical engineering, and Laura Heiser, Ph.D., associate professor and vice chair of biomedical engineering, both in the OHSU School of Medicine, were inducted into the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering's College of Fellows. Election to the AIMBE College of Fellows is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to medical and biological engineers, comprising the top 2% of engineers in these fields.

John A. Kaufman, M.D., M.S., professor of interventional radiology, School of Medicine, is the recipient of the 2025 Leaders in Innovation Award for his decade-long efforts in transforming the Interventional Radiology fellowship into an IR residency. The innovative work not only navigated resistance from stakeholders and secured acceptance by peer specialties and the American Board of Medical Specialties but also established IR as a primary specialty providing unique patient care. Kaufman played a pivotal role in crafting the IR residency curriculum, ensuring its immediate success as one of the most competitive specialties for medical students. This achievement has profoundly impacted IR's past, present and future, solidifying its position as a desirable and essential specialty.



Manideep Chavali, Ph.D., assistant professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine, was named the inaugural holder of the First Tech Federal Credit Union Distinguished Scholar in Pediatrics Innovation. This appointment recognizes Chavali's accomplishments in pediatric neuroscience and brain development research, and his continued contributions to the OHSU community. First Tech Federal Credit Union has been a generous partner and Doernbecher supporter since 1989, raising more than \$7 million to support Doernbecher initiatives.

Shivaani Kummar, M.D., professor of medicine, School of Medicine, OHSU Knight Cancer Institute interim chief executive, has been honored with the prestigious 2024 National Cancer Institute Director's Award.

Jane Zhu, M.D., associate professor of medicine, School of Medicine, has been chosen as part of the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) 2025 class of Emerging Leaders in Health and Medicine Scholars.

Thomas S. Scanlan, Ph.D., professor of chemical physiology and biochemistry, School of Medicine, received the Sidney H. Ingbar Distinguished Lectureship Award from the American Thyroid Association. This award honors outstanding academic achievements in thyroidology. It reflects the innovation and vision of Ingbar's career. The award is given to an established researcher who has made major contributions to thyroid research over many years.

Julia Maxson, Ph.D., associate professor of oncological sciences, School of Medicine, is among four cancer researchers nationwide to receive a four-year grant from Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting children with cancer. Maxson's project seeks to identify epigenetic vulnerabilities in difficult-to-treat forms of juvenile myelomonocytic leukemia, a rare childhood blood cancer.

David Dorr, M.D., M.S., professor of medical informatics and clinical epidemiology, School of Medicine, has received a \$500,000 contract from Chickasaw Federal Health, LLC, to evaluate the interoperability of behavioral health data elements.

The OHSU Faculty Excellence and Innovation Awards, distributed over three years, funded by the Silver Family Innovation Fund, supports promising early- and middle-stage research. The 2026 recipients are **Alireza Karimi, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, and **Elizabeth Moss, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of anesthesiology and perioperative medicine, both in the School of Medicine,

OHSU's Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, or UCEDD, has been awarded \$775,000 in supplemental funding from the Administration on Disabilities to advance a national peer support system for individuals who use augmentative and alternative communication, known as AAC. This award also honors the contributions of **Melanie Fried-Oken, Ph.D.**, professor emeritus of neurology, School of Medicine, and former principal investigator for the project, whose 45-year career was dedicated to assistive technology research.

An OHSU professor with deep expertise in the field of biomedical informatics has earned distinction as a member of the National Academy of Medicine. **William Hersh, M.D.**, professor of biomedical informatics, School of Medicine, is among 100 newly elected members this year. Election to the academy is considered one of the highest honors a scientist or health care professional can receive and, according to the academy, "recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service." OHSU now has 14 faculty members who have been elected to the National Academy of Medicine.



Brian Duty, M.D., M.B.A., professor of urology, School of Medicine, was installed as the 150th president of the Oregon Medical Association at its annual meeting in October. The ceremony was attended by medical professionals from across the state. Former Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber, M.D., administered the oath of office and delivered the keynote address.

Ana R. Quiñones, Ph.D., professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, and Allison Lindauer, Ph.D., associate professor of neurology, School of Medicine, have been awarded GSA Fellow status by the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). At the 19th International Pituitary Congress meeting in July, the Pituitary Society presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Maria Fleseriu, M.D., professor of neurological surgery, School of Medicine, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field. The award is the society's highest accolade and recognizes excellence in scholarship, research, mentorship and clinical expertise in rare pituitary disorders.

Tanaya Shree, Ph.D., M.D., assistant professor in medicine, School of Medicine, has earned the 2025 Damon Runyon Clinical Investigator Award. This prestigious award recognizes outstanding early-career physician-scientists who actively conduct patient-oriented cancer research at major research institutions, guided by the nation's top scientists and clinicians.

Nikolaos Soldatos, Ph.D., D.D.S., M.S.D., associate professor of periodontics, School of Dentistry, received the Distinction in Regenerative Excellence Award from Geistlich at the American Academy of Periodontology 111th Annual Meeting in October in Toronto, Canada.

Willi Horner Johnson, Ph.D., professor of public health, School of Public Health, and in OHSU's Institute on Development and Disability, has earned the Margaret "Peg" Nosek award from the disability section of the American Public Health Association.

William R. Hersh, M.D., professor of medical informatics and clinical, School of Medicine, was honored with the inaugural Academic Forum Health Informatics Educator of the Year Award by The American Medical Informatics Association

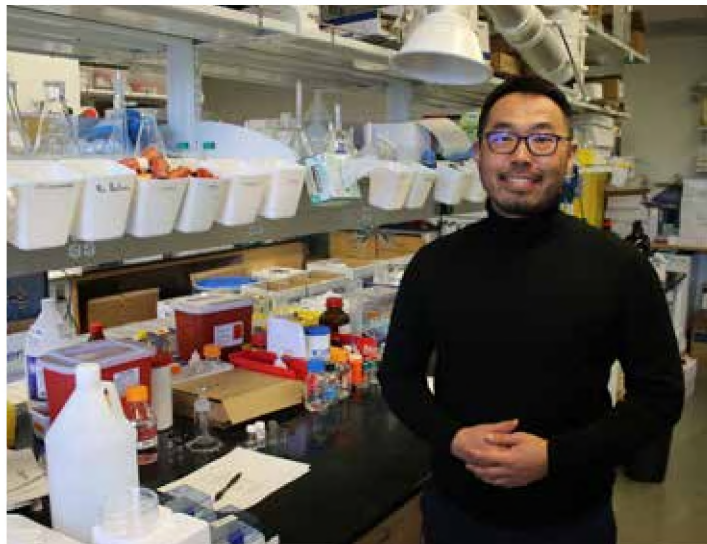
RESEARCH

Emily Voigt, Ph.D., associate professor in the Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute, was published recently in the journal *Nature Communications*. It demonstrates the success of a nasally delivered pandemic influenza RNA vaccine, representing a major advance in respiratory virus prevention.

Scientists at OHSU have uncovered a previously unknown system of internal "trade winds" that help cells rapidly move essential proteins to the front of the cell, reshaping how researchers understand cell migration, cancer spread and wound healing. The discovery, published in *Nature Communications*, reshapes what researchers thought they knew about how cells direct proteins to the right place at the right time. For decades, biology textbooks have taught that free floating proteins inside cells move mainly by diffusion, drifting randomly until they happen to reach their destination. But the new study shows that cells don't leave this to chance. Instead, they create targeted streams of fluid that push essential proteins toward the cell's leading edge, where movement and repair begin. The study's co-corresponding authors **Catherine Galbraith, Ph.D.**, and **James (Jim) Galbraith, Ph.D.**, both associate professors of biomedical engineering, School of Medicine, trace the discovery to an unexpected observation years ago during the neurobiology course at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Massachusetts.

Losing health insurance can quickly worsen health for people with diabetes as patients struggle to control the disease after coverage is interrupted, according to new research from OHSU. The study, published in *JAMA Health Forum*, found that low-income adults with diabetes who experienced insurance "churn" — defined as losing coverage for multiple medical visits — had poorer blood sugar control and needed more intensive medications than similar patients who stayed insured. "Our goal was to understand what happens after people with diabetes lose insurance," said lead author **Nathalie Hugué, Ph.D.**, associate professor of family medicine, School of Medicine. "We already know they are more likely to churn out of coverage. This study shows that once they do, their health often gets worse." The study found increases in insulin use and other high-intensity diabetes treatments among patients who lost insurance. Serious complications were less common during the study period, but Hugué said that may reflect limited follow-up time.

New research led by OHSU confirms the frustration of many people trying to get a primary care medical appointment in Portland: Wait times are measured in months, if they can get an appointment at all. In a manuscript accepted for publication in the journal *Health Affairs Scholar*, researchers acting as “secret shoppers” set out to compare access to primary care in four large U.S. cities: New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Portland. Researchers called 444 clinics posing as people covered by Medicare seeking an initial primary care appointment. They found 77.5% of clinics accepted new Medicare patients overall. However, the figures varied dramatically between cities. In Los Angeles, almost 97% of clinics accepted new patients; in Portland, only 35% did. Among those clinics that did accept patients, the median wait times ranged from eight days in New York to 61 days in Portland. The situation is not only frustrating for patients, but also likely leads to poorer health, said the senior author from OHSU. **Jane Zhu, M.D.**, associate professor of, School of Medicine, said researchers set out to sample first-hand the difficulty people experience in getting a primary care appointment. “Primary care is the front door to the health care system, connecting patients to chronic disease management, preventative health and long-term coordinated care to avoid costly hospitalizations and emergency room visits,” Zhu said. “Yet one in five Americans report no usual source of care. When access is limited, conditions go unmanaged, diagnoses are delayed, and emergency departments become a default solution. “The opposite is also true: Consistent access to primary care is associated with better health outcomes and lower overall costs.”



OHSU scientist Lei Wang, Ph.D., is part of a new federally funded initiative to develop an eye scan to detect early screening for Alzheimer's disease. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

The human eye may literally become a window revealing the earliest signals of Alzheimer's disease, thanks to a new federally funded research initiative at OHSU. The new five-year, \$3.3 million award will enable OHSU scientists to develop an eye drop specially designed to detect the fluorescent signal of a protein associated with Alzheimer's. Combined with the use of a noninvasive scanner, the research project could result in a low-cost, widely accessible screening tool to catch the earliest stage of the disease. “We're looking for early-stage patients who don't have symptoms,” said project leader **Lei Wang, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, School of Medicine. Wang is also part of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute and leads the Molecular Imaging and Probe Development Laboratory. “The goal is to develop population-level screening involving a simple eye drop and a quick scan.” If it works, it could greatly improve outcomes in new treatments for Alzheimer's that are most beneficial in the earliest stages of the disease's progression.

A new study on glaucoma, a leading cause of irreversible blindness, offers fresh understanding of how the disease progresses and points the way toward new treatments. The study, published in *Cell Press*, examined the behavior of cells in the eye's drainage system. The team, led by **Alireza Karimi, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine, found that changes in the way the cells in the eye's drainage system respond to physical forces could be connected to the higher eye pressure seen in patients with glaucoma.



OHSU researchers in the Alireza Karimi lab, including Mini Aga, Ph.D., found that changes in the way the cells in the eye's drainage system respond to physical forces could be connected to the higher eye pressure seen in patients with glaucoma. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

For cancer survivors older than 65, exercise is essential during treatment, throughout recovery and beyond, according to a consensus statement recently published in the journal *Cancer*. The work, led by OHSU physicians and professors, was part of a multidisciplinary panel of 16 experts from across North America. The panel, called ACES, or Advancing Capacity to Integrate Exercise Into the Care of Older Cancer Survivors, included exercise scientists, geriatricians, medical oncologists, physical therapists and a patient advocate and exercise professional. Their year-long effort culminated in a series of recommendations for older cancer survivors that dispel the myth that it's too risky for them to exercise and fill a gap in guidance for the largest demographic of cancer survivors in the United States.

Kerri Winters-Stone, Ph.D., professor of oncological sciences, School of Medicine, said there can be misconceptions around what older patients with cancer are capable of, and what is safe for them to do. "We want to put that myth to bed, that older people can't tolerate exercise during cancer treatment," Winters-Stone said. "We know that if anything, it's the opposite. From a clinical perspective, if exercise helps older patients tolerate more treatment, they have better clinical outcomes and maintain their quality of life. It's a win-win."

Despite national guidelines recommending routine screening for anxiety and intimate partner violence in women and adolescent girls, a new study from OHSU finds these screenings are rarely implemented in primary care settings, largely due to lack of awareness, workflow challenges and provider discomfort. The research involved interviews with 27 clinicians and staff across 12 clinics in Oregon. The findings, published in the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine* suggest that even though providers support the idea of screening, many are unaware that these services are recommended and fully covered under the preventive services mandate of the Affordable Care Act. "This was really about taking the temperature of what's happening in primary care by understanding current screening practices," said the study's senior author **Amy Cantor, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of medicine, School of Medicine. "We found widespread support, but limited uptake. Most clinicians didn't know these are covered preventive services. Some confused anxiety screening with depression screening, which are two separate recommendations with different tools."



Kerri Winters-Stone, Ph.D., with the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, was one of three OHSU experts that created exercise recommendations for cancer survivors over 65. (OHSU News)

Screening, diagnosing and curing cancer at its earliest, most treatable stages has become a welcome and regular occurrence for Nima Nabavizadeh, M.D., associate professor of radiation medicine, School of Medicine. This has been made possible by a simple blood test that can not only detect more than 50 types of cancer, but also pinpoint where it's coming from with striking accuracy. Chief medical officer for the Knight Cancer Institute's Cancer Early Detection Advanced Research Center, or CEDAR, Nabavizadeh is the principal investigator for the PATHFINDER 2 study. PATHFINDER 2 is the largest interventional multi-cancer early detection, or MCED, trial in North America. It is examining the safety and efficacy of Grail's Galleri MCED blood test in an intended-use population. OHSU was the top-enrolling site for the ongoing PATHFINDER 2 study's initial phase. The team enrolled 6,125 of the 35,000 participants — all adults older than 50 with no suspicion of cancer — making it the highest-enrolling interventional study in the history of the Knight Cancer Institute.

Meghna Gupta, Ph.D., assistant professor of chemical physiology and biochemistry, School of Medicine, is the lead author of a new study in *The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* that mapped the 3D structure of the human protein ABCD3. Using cryo-electron microscopy, the team captured the protein alone and bound to a natural cargo, revealing how substrate binding triggers a shape change that activates its energy-using form to drive transport into peroxisomes. Because ABCD3 defects cause rare bile acid disorders, these insights may help guide future treatments.

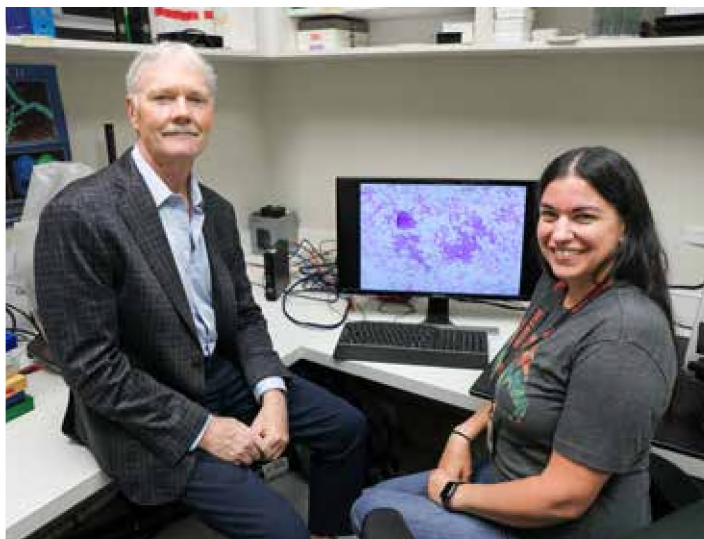
A federally funded research initiative will enable researchers at OHSU and other organizations to assess the safety and effectiveness of state-regulated access to psilocybin, also known as magic mushrooms. The five-year, \$3.3 million award is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse of the National Institutes of Health — a first. In 2023, Oregon became the first state to permit state-regulated access, for people 21 and older, to supervised services involving mind-altering magic mushrooms. This followed a ballot initiative approved by voters in 2020. Colorado subsequently followed suit. “We expect our project will generate evidence to inform other states considering legal frameworks for psychedelic services,” said co-PI **Todd Korthuis, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of medicine, School of Medicine, and co-director of OPEN. “Only about 3,000 people have participated in all psychedelic clinical trials combined since the 1950s. This project is an opportunity to learn from tens of thousands of people who will access psilocybin services in Oregon.” Public interest has been fueled by promising results in recent years from early clinical trials in depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Almost one-third of physicians who are enrolled in Medicaid don’t actually care for a single patient covered by Medicaid insurance, according to new research led by OHSU. The study, published in the journal *Health Affairs*, sheds new light on a program that covers nearly 80 million Americans. Researchers also found that another third of health care providers enrolled in Medicaid see a high volume of patients — more than 150 annually — and may be overburdened. Combined, the findings paint a picture of a situation in which enrollment data alone may obscure the reality that a relatively small number of health care professionals provide care through Medicaid, one of the largest health insurance payors in the country and one that predominantly covers low-income, disabled and young Americans. This lack of access raises the risk of poor health outcomes that ultimately drive up costs, said lead author **Jane Zhu, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine, School of Medicine. “Low physician participation in Medicaid is a commonly cited reason for access gaps and unmet need in Medicaid,” she said. “If patients aren’t able to access the care they need, they may delay or forego care altogether, which is not only bad for patient outcomes, but also bad for the health system overall.” Over the long term, she said, delaying or foregoing care can leave people sicker with more complex conditions that ultimately drive up costs.



OHSU researchers have received the first National Institute on Drug Abuse award to study the impact of legal psychedelic services delivered in community settings. (Getty) (OHSU News)

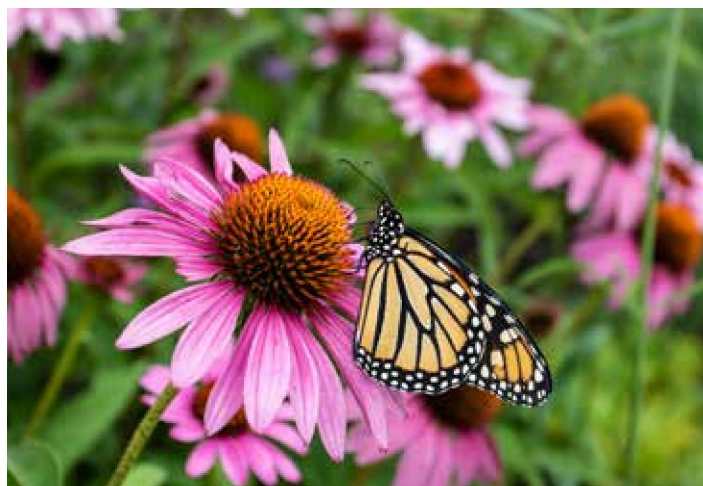
Researchers at OHSU have identified a type of enzyme with a complicated name — cell migration inducing and hyaluronan-binding protein, or CEMIP — is associated with disorders ranging from multiple sclerosis to stroke to neurodegenerative conditions like Alzheimer’s disease. The next step is to develop a way to target the enzyme to heal or slow the progression of disease. In a study published in the journal *ASN Neuro*, researchers describe their path to implicating CEMIP in cell culture, mice and deceased human tissue. Researchers found this specific enzyme is critical in conditions involving the breakdown of myelin, the protective sheath that covers each nerve cell’s axon — the threadlike portion of a cell that transmits electrical signals between cells. Myelin increases the speed of nerve impulses. Damage to myelin is associated with multiple sclerosis, stroke, brain injuries and certain forms of dementia including Alzheimer’s. CEMIP breaks down a molecule called hyaluronic acid, which builds up in the brain after damage. When too much hyaluronic acid accumulates, CEMIP forms small hyaluronic fragments that prevent nervous system repair. “If we could regulate this enzyme, we might have a handle on promoting central nervous system repair,” said senior author **Larry Sherman, Ph.D.**, professor in the Oregon National Primate Research Center. “It gives us a better idea of which molecules are worth going after if we want to promote myelin repair. This will be important for multiple sclerosis, but it also could be useful Alzheimer’s and probably a lot of other conditions such as stroke or traumatic brain injury where myelin becomes disrupted.”



Charles Roberts, Ph.D., left, and Kristin Sauter, Ph.D. New research in nonhuman primates from Oregon Health & Science University suggests long COVID may be more common in people than currently estimated. (Getty) (OHSU News)

Researchers at OHSU’s Center for Women’s Health have identified recent national trends in cesarean births, noting significant racial and ethnic disparities. The study, published in JAMA Network Open, found that despite a slight decrease in the overall rate of cesarean births in the United States, the increased risk of cesarean births for Black individuals has persisted. A concerted effort to decrease the rates of cesarean births in the United States began in 2014, when the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology published obstetric care and labor management guidelines aimed to safely encourage vaginal births. In the decade following this guidance, the overall rate of cesarean births has decreased slightly, but not for everyone: OHSU’s study found that the rate of cesarean births increased for Black individuals, a group that already experiences the highest rate of this procedure of all races and ethnicities. Researchers emphasize that this data is just one element of a much larger story of obstetric inequity. Stark disparities exist across the spectrum of maternal and infant health: Black individuals face significantly higher rates of pregnancy-related death rates, and their infants are much more likely to have certain birth risk factors, such as preterm birth. **Aaron Caughey Ph.D., M.D.**, professor and chair of obstetrics and gynecology, School of Medicine, and senior author of the study, says implicit bias, or the internalized stereotypes that unconsciously affect actions and decisions being made by clinicians, play a big role.

Exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 may lead to chronic health impacts that, in some cases, may become apparent only years later, according to new research in nonhuman primates led by OHSU. The study, published today in the journal PLOS Pathogens, raises the possibility that long-COVID may be far more common than currently estimated. Long COVID is generally defined as a chronic illness with a range of symptoms or conditions that can last weeks, months or even years after the initial illness. Its prevalence can be hard to determine because the symptoms are largely self-reported, but researchers have reported it affects as many as one in 10 people. The new close examination of infected nonhuman primates suggests that figure may be much higher. Researchers examined both tissues and blood biomarkers in a group of rhesus macaques exposed to the delta variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which emerged relatively early in the pandemic at a point when many people had yet to be vaccinated or naturally exposed. Researchers monitored the macaques over six months and found persistent parameters of disease in 60% to 90% of the animals, even though the overt symptoms appeared relatively mild. Researchers say the findings may be validating for many people. “It may give affirmation to a lot of people who experience lingering symptoms that are being dismissed or they try to ignore,” said lead author **Kristin Sauter, Ph.D.**, research assistant professor in the Oregon National Primate Research Center. “This may provide proof that long COVID is affecting a lot more people than we think.” Researchers found evidence for lung pathology, sleep disturbance and changes in blood biomarkers that predict the risk for cardiometabolic conditions such as hypertension, obesity and insulin resistance. The animals were studied for six months, but these findings suggest the potential for diseases to develop months or years after the initial infection. They say the findings should raise awareness among clinicians and patients alike.





Molly Kornfield, M.D. and Samuel Melville, M.D. and research team investigated the health impacts of abortion restrictions on patients who have undergone fertility treatment. (OHSU News)

A good night's sleep is more than a luxury: New research from OHSU suggests that insufficient sleep may shorten your life. The study published in the journal *SLEEP Advances*. Researchers tapped a vast, nationwide database looking for survey trends associated with average life expectancy county by county. They compared county-level data about average life expectancy with comprehensive survey data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention between 2019 and 2025. As a behavioral driver for life expectancy, sleep stood out more than diet, more than exercise, more than loneliness — indeed, more than any other factor except smoking. “I didn’t expect it to be so strongly correlated to life expectancy,” said senior author **Andrew McHill, Ph.D.**, associate professor of nursing, School of Nursing. “We’ve always thought sleep is important, but this research really drives that point home: People really should strive to get seven to nine hours of sleep if at all possible.”

The Food and Drug Administration has approved ferumoxytol, known clinically as FERABRIGHT™, as a contrast agent physicians can use to detect and monitor tumor progression in patients with brain cancer. Ferumoxytol is an iron-based substance that has been primarily used to treat anemia. Research into a novel use of the substance — to improve imaging of tumors — began in an OHSU laboratory nearly 30 years ago, with efforts led by **Edward Neuwelt, M.D.**, professor of Neurology, School of Medicine, and founder of OHSU’s Neuro-Oncology Blood-Brain Barrier Program. Now, the successful completion of the decades-long project means a new tool to battle brain cancer. Physicians can use this new imaging option to see an additional, multidimensional view of the cancerous area in the brain.

Research from OHSU has found that laws restricting access to abortion may disproportionately affect pregnancies conceived through fertility treatment. The study, published in *JAMA Health Forum*, found that states with targeted regulations of abortion providers, also known as TRAP laws, have worse maternal health outcomes for patients using fertility treatment compared with states that don’t have such laws. Patients with infertility diagnoses already carry an increased risk of health complications during pregnancy and childbirth, including hemorrhage, gestational diabetes, growth restriction, hysterectomy, preterm birth and stillbirth. The OHSU study aimed to better understand how a lack of access to full-scope reproductive health care in many states creates additional risk for these patients. “People with highly planned and desired pregnancies may not be who we typically think of when we discuss the impacts of abortion restrictions, but their health and safety are being considerably impacted,” said **Molly Kornfield, M.D.**, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, School of Medicine and the study’s lead author. “These data prove what we already know: Abortion restrictions don’t exist in a vacuum — they affect everyone who needs reproductive healthcare.”

A new three-year research initiative will combine cutting-edge analytical research with direct outreach to the autism community to recommend ways to improve the health of people living with autism. Researchers at OHSU and partnering institutions received a three-year, \$4.25 million federal award as part of a \$50 million Autism Data Science Initiative launched by the National Institutes of Health in September. Autism prevalence in the United States has increased from fewer than 1 in 2,000 children in the 1970s to about 1 in 31 today, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It is a highly variable condition characterized by challenges in social communication and interaction along with restricted or repetitive patterns of behavior and interests. People on the autism spectrum vary widely, but the OHSU-led research expects to leverage new analytic tools, including those powered by artificial intelligence, to discern patterns associated with positive health outcomes. The initiative will focus on measures that make a meaningful difference in quality of life, whether it relates to preventative care, sleep, nutrition or particularly effective community support programs. “We can’t say every kid with autism is going to need the same thing,” said co-principal investigator Katharine Zuckerman, M.D., professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine.

Scientists are exploring leading-edge technologies that could transform how cancer is studied, detected and treated by catching it earlier, when it's more treatable and survival rates are highest. A new review by researchers at OHSU's Knight Cancer Institute and other universities highlights how advances in New Approach Methodologies and tissue engineering are offering powerful new tools to study the earliest stages of cancer development. New Approach Methodologies use human-relevant technologies such as in vitro tests, organoids, organs-on-a-chip and computational modeling to replace, reduce or refine animal testing. These lab-grown models replicate the environment inside the human body and could unlock clues about how cancer begins. Nearly a decade after Luiz Bertassoni and his team earned national recognition for developing a groundbreaking method to 3D print blood vessels — a discovery named one of the year's top scientific breakthroughs by Discover magazine — Bertassoni is leveraging his earlier work to study complex cancers in ways traditional lab models can't. Now at the helm of a new chip-based system that more accurately mimics the human bone-tumor environment, Bertassoni and a cross-disciplinary team are using advanced bioengineering to create more realistic in-vitro models — a key step forward in the Food and Drug Administration's shift away from animal testing toward human-cell-based systems. "Early detection is one of the most important factors in surviving cancer," said senior author **Luiz Bertassoni, Ph.D., D.D.S.**, professor of restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry, and director of the Knight Cancer Precision Biofabrication Hub. "These new technologies give us a window into how cancer forms and progresses, which opens the door to understanding early cancer, paving the way for earlier diagnosis and even predict cancer initiation." The review was published in the journal *Nature Reviews Bioengineering*.

Miranda Lim, Ph.D., M.D., professor of neurology, School of Medicine, is an author of a recently published article in the journal *Nature Communications* that provides the strongest human evidence to date that sleep plays a critical role in clearing toxic proteins from the brain, which is an essential process long believed to protect against neurodegenerative disease. Lim's research brings together a multi-institutional academic team and industry partners in a first-of-its-kind randomized crossover trial.



Luiz Bertassoni, D.D.S., Ph.D., and his cancer research team stand outside the OHSU Knight Cancer Research Building.

Scientists are exploring leading-edge technologies that could transform how cancer is studied, detected and treated by catching it earlier, when it's more treatable and survival rates are highest. A new review by researchers at OHSU's Knight Cancer Institute and other universities highlights how advances in New Approach Methodologies and tissue engineering are offering powerful new tools to study the earliest stages of cancer development. New Approach Methodologies use human-relevant technologies such as in vitro tests, organoids, organs-on-a-chip and computational modeling to replace, reduce or refine animal testing. These lab-grown models replicate the environment inside the human body and could unlock clues about how cancer begins. Nearly a decade after Luiz Bertassoni and his team earned national recognition for developing a groundbreaking method to 3D print blood vessels — a discovery named one of the year's top scientific breakthroughs by Discover magazine — Bertassoni is leveraging his earlier work to study complex cancers in ways traditional lab models can't. Now at the helm of a new chip-based system that more accurately mimics the human bone-tumor environment, Bertassoni and a cross-disciplinary team are using advanced bioengineering to create more realistic in-vitro models — a key step forward in the Food and Drug Administration's shift away from animal testing toward human-cell-based systems. "Early detection is one of the most important factors in surviving cancer," said senior author **Luiz Bertassoni, Ph.D., D.D.S.**, professor of restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry, and director of the Knight Cancer Precision Biofabrication Hub. "These new technologies give us a window into how cancer forms and progresses, which opens the door to understanding early cancer, paving the way for earlier diagnosis and even predict cancer initiation." The review was published in the journal *Nature Reviews Bioengineering*.

A new molecule developed by researchers at OHSU offers a promising avenue to treat intractable cases of triple-negative breast cancer — a form of cancer that is notoriously aggressive and lacks effective treatments. In a study published in the journal *Cell Reports Medicine*, researchers describe the effect of a molecule known as SU212 to inhibit an enzyme that is critical to cancer progression. The research was conducted in a humanized mouse model. “It’s an important step forward to treat triple-negative breast cancer,” said senior author Sanjay V. Malhotra, Ph.D., professor of cell, developmental and cancer biology, School of Medicine, and co-director of the Center for Experimental Therapeutics in the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. “Triple-negative breast cancer is an aggressive form of cancer and there are no effective drugs available right now.” The next step in developing a treatment involves advancing the molecule toward a clinical trial for people, a process that requires a substantial investment of resources to garner Food and Drug Administration approval and to initiate clinical trials. Malhotra said the molecule could also have a similar role in targeting other forms of cancer in addition to triple-negative breast cancer.

Miranda Lim, Ph.D., M.D., professor of neurology, School of Medicine, is an author of a recently published article in the journal *Nature Communications* that provides the strongest human evidence to date that sleep plays a critical role in clearing toxic proteins from the brain, which is an essential process long believed to protect against neurodegenerative disease. Lim’s research brings together a multi-institutional academic team and industry partners in a first-of-its-kind randomized crossover trial.

A new bibliometric analysis has identified **Eric Simpson, M.D., M.C.R.**, professor of dermatology, School of Medicine, as one of the world’s leading researchers on janus kinase, or JAK, inhibitors for atopic dermatitis, commonly known as eczema. The study, which reviewed global research published between 2014 and 2024, ranked OHSU tied for first worldwide in institutional research output and named Simpson the second most prolific author globally on the topic.



A state-funded program aimed at improving services for people with behavioral health challenges is showing promising early results, according to an independent evaluation by the Center for Health Systems Effectiveness at OHSU. Researchers found that the initial launch of the Improving People’s Access to Community-based Treatment, Supports and Services, or IMPACTS, program was associated with fewer criminal convictions and lower recidivism, or fewer people released from prison committing additional crimes, along with increased initiation and engagement in substance use treatment. Commissioned by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, the evaluation focused on the program’s first two-year grant cycle (July 2020 – June 2022). The Oregon Legislature created IMPACTS in 2019 to help counties and tribes provide more responsive, community-based behavioral health services — particularly for people with a history of cycling through the justice or emergency health care systems. “Oregon continues to have some of the highest rates of mental illness and substance use in the country, and services haven’t been able to keep up with the need,” said **John McConnell, Ph.D.**, professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine, and director of the center. “Programs like IMPACTS represent a new approach — meeting people where they are and focusing on community-based solutions.”

Hui Wu, Ph.D., M.S., professor and associate dean of research, School of Dentistry, and his postdoctoral fellow and in collaboration with their colleagues from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, published a paper in *Science Signaling* on a discovery linking oral bacteria to brain chemistry. They found that *Fusobacterium nucleatum*, commonly associated with gum disease, can amplify the brain’s response to amphetamines by enhancing dopamine signaling.



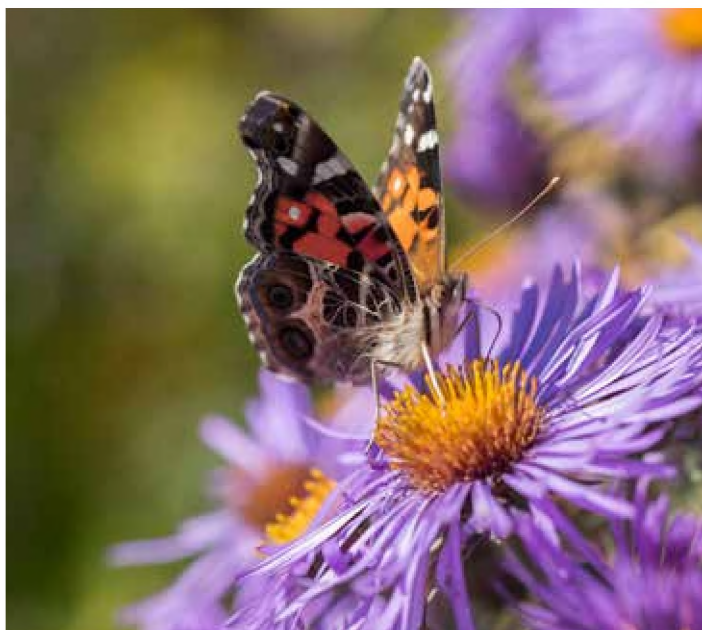
Zachary Working, M.D., associate professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, School of Medicine, is the lead author on a new study published in PLOS Medicine that has identified a potential early biomarker for long bone fracture healing, offering a powerful new avenue to track recovery and personalize care.

In a significant advancement for childhood cancer care, **Jennifer Raybin, Ph.D.**, professor of pediatrics, and **Kelly Anderson, M.S.N.**, assistant professor of pediatrics, both School of Medicine, and part of the Doernbecher Survivorship Program, published a study on post-treatment support for survivors in the Journal of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nursing, “A Sustainable Virtual Model for Comprehensive Childhood Cancer Survivorship Care.”

APPOINTMENTS

OHSU’s board of directors on Friday passed resolutions naming a new chair and vice chair. **Susan King, M.S.**, is the new chair of the OHSU Board of Directors, and **Justin Hurley Braswell, M.B.A.**, is vice chair.

SAVE THE DATE
EMERITUS LUNCHEON
OCTOBER 1, 2026



ENDOWMENTS

Aiyin Chen, M.D., associate professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine, is the recipient of the Fred P. and Joan Thompson Family Endowed Professorship, which was established in 2015 by Fred Thompson, a generous donor and longstanding member of the Casey Eye Advisory Council.

Alison Edelman, M.D., M.P.H., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, School of Medicine, has earned the Leon Speroff, M.D., Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology endowment, which was established in 2003 by Leon Speroff, M.D.

Fabrice Jotterand, Ph.D., M.A., professor of academic affairs, Central Administration, and director of the Center for Ethics in Care at OHSU, has earned the Cornelia Hayes Stevens Endowed Chair in the Center for Ethics in Health Care.

Erika Finanger, M.D., M.S., professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine, and program director of OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital’s neuromuscular disorders program, has been named the Ramberg Ford Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neuromuscular Disorders.

Richard Stutzman, M.D., associate professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine, has been named the Margaret Thiele Petti and August Petti Professorship in Corneal Service.

Laurie King, Ph.D., M.C.R., professor of neurology, School of Medicine, and co-director of the Balance Disorders Laboratory at OHSU, has earned the Jay Nutt, M.D., Professorship of Clinical Research of Movement Disorders, which was established in 2020 through a generous gift from an anonymous donor.

Laura K. Tom, M.D., FACS, associate professor of surgery, School of Medicine, and a nationally recognized leader in microvascular and lymphatic surgery, has earned the Traci A. Parker Endowed Professorship of Lymphedema.

Mark Joseph, M.D., associate professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine, has dedicated over 25 years to caring for children with kidney disease, bringing both expertise and compassion to his work. He has earned the Dr. YB Talwalkar Professorship in Pediatric Nephrology.

Tamara Phillips, Ph.D., professor of behavioral neuroscience, School of Medicine, has earned the Ruth G. Matarazzo Professorship in Behavioral Neuroscience.

Christopher Austin, M.D., FACS, FAAP, professor of urology, School of Medicine, has earned the Joseph and Geneva DePaola Endowed Professorship in Pediatrics.

Melissa Wong, Ph.D., professor and vice chair of cell, developmental and cancer biology, School of Medicine, and serves as associate director of basic science at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, has earned the Rood Family Endowed Professorship in Cancer Research.

Howard K. Song, Ph.D., M.D., professor of surgery, School of Medicine, is the inaugural recipient of the Dr. Albert Starr Endowed Professorship in Structural Heart Disease, which will provide essential support to expand his research and advance the next generation of heart-valve technologies.

The OHSU Foundation has awarded **Ella Bowman, Ph.D., M.D.**, professor of medicine, School of Medicine, medical director of inpatient geriatric medicine in the OHSU School of Medicine, the William A. Whitsell Endowed Professorship in Geriatric Medicine. Her extensive experience in practice and teaching focuses on complex care transitions, addressing unmet palliative needs, evaluating cognitive issues, and training interprofessional teams in the complex care of vulnerable older adults.

Shelley Tworoger, Ph.D., division head and professor of oncological sciences, School of Medicine, has earned the Brian J. Druker, M.D., Professor of Cancer Research award.

Erin C. Maynard, M.D., FACS, professor of surgery, School of Medicine, has earned the Boris and Dorothy Rabkin Professorship in Transplantation and Hepatobiliary surgery. Maynard specializes in abdominal organ transplants, the treatment of liver and pancreas cancers, and the management of complex bile duct diseases.

Sima Desai, M.D., professor of medicine, School of Medicine, and program director for the internal medicine residency program in the OHSU School of Medicine, has earned the Harry W. Masenhimer Jr., M.D. Term Professorship in Internal Medicine.

Vijayshree Yadav, M.D., M.C.R., professor of neurology, School of Medicine, has earned the Anne Middleton Foster Endowed Professorship in Neurology. Yadav is an independent clinician-investigator with OHSU and the VA Portland Health Care System.

Jeffrey W. Tyner, Ph.D., professor of medicine, School of Medicine, and co-leader of the Translational Oncology Program in the OHSU School of Medicine's Knight Cancer Institute, has earned the George Ettelson Endowed Professor in Acute Myeloid Leukemia Research. Tyner's research focuses on identifying cancer-causing genes and creating patient-tailored therapies.

Susan Hayflick, Ph.D., M.D., chair and professor of molecular and medical genetics, School of Medicine, has earned the William A. Whitsell Dean's Leadership Professorship, an endowment that aims to highlight the importance of healthy aging.



EMERITUS FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



Joseph V. Califano D.D.S.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
DIVISION OF PERIODONTOLOGY



Frank J. Kratochvil III, D.D.S.

CHAIR EMERITUS
PATHOLOGY AND RADIOLOGY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Andrew J. Ahmann, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
MEDICINE



Amira Y. Al-Uzri, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
PEDIATRICS



David I. Buckley, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
MEDICINE



Tracy N. Bumsted, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
PEDIATRICS



Kristen Dunaway, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
PSYCHIATRY



Robert M. Duvoisin, Ph.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
CHEMICAL PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY



Melanie Fried-Oken, Ph.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
NEUROLOGY



James S. Hicks, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
ANESTHESIOLOGY AND PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE



Brian Johnstone, Ph.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
ORTHOPAEDICS AND REHABILITATION



Leslie Kahl, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
MEDICINE



Martin J. Kelly, Ph.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
CHEMICAL PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY



Joel T. Nigg, Ph.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
PSYCHIATRY



Rita Panoscha, M.D.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS
PEDIATRICS



Berklee Robins, M.D., M.A.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
ANESTHESIOLOGY AND PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE



David L. Rutlen, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS,
MEDICINE



David M. Sibell, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
ANESTHESIOLOGY AND PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE



Gary Michael Silberbach, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
PEDIATRICS



Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, M.D.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS
FAMILY MEDICINE



Christopher E. Swide, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
ANESTHESIOLOGY AND PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE



Glenn E. Woodworth, M.D.

PROFESSOR EMERITUS
ANESTHESIOLOGY AND PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE

SCHOOL OF NURSING



Linda M. Brown, M.S., R.N
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITUS



Lissi Hansen, Ph.D., R.N.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS



Sally R. Hersh, D.N.P., C.N.M., FACNM
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS



Glenise L. McKenzie, D.N.P., M.S.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS



**Margaret A. Scharf, D.N.P.
P.M.H.N.P., CNS-BC**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION



Danny O. Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H., FACS
PROFESSOR EMERITUS
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT



David W. Robinson, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS
OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

RESEARCH CENTERS & INSTITUTES



Nancy L. Haigwood, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS
OREGON NATIONAL PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER



Ann J. Hessel, Ph.D.
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Amanda K. McCullough, Ph.D.
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Charles T. Roberts, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS
OREGON NATIONAL PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER



Mary B. Zelinski, Ph.D.
PROFESSOR EMERITUS
OREGON NATIONAL PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTER



IN MEMORIAM

John A. Benson Jr.
09/16/25

Per-Olof Jarnberg
08/18/25

Donald B. McConnell
07/31/24

Donald E. Girard
09/1/25

Leslie Kahl
07/07/25

Alfred L. Nuttall
01/02/26

John Hunt
09/07/25

Joseph D. Matarazzo
01/23/25

Susan L. Orloff
01/29/26

OHSU MOURNS THE PASSING OF PAST PRESIDENT JOE ROBERTSON

OHSU mourns the passing of Joe Robertson, M.D., M.B.A., who spent more than four decades serving the people of Oregon as a retinal surgeon, and led OHSU as president for more than a decade of dramatic growth and change, until retiring in 2018.

Robertson became president of OHSU in September 2006 and stepped down as president following his multiple sclerosis diagnosis in 2017. In recognition of his impact, the OHSU Board of Directors in 2018 renamed the Collaborative Life Sciences Building at the foot of the Tilikum Crossing to the Robertson Life Sciences Building in Robertson's honor.

"Joe Robertson was an exemplary leader and his vision for ensuring OHSU's reach extends far beyond the Portland-metro area to every corner of the state remains our steadfast commitment today," said OHSU President Shereef Elnahal, M.D., M.B.A. "Our hearts go out to his family, and the extensive circle of friends, supporters and admirers around the state and well beyond."

Robertson first joined OHSU as a resident in ophthalmology in 1979 and became a member of the OHSU faculty in 1985. He treasured the three-part mission of OHSU -- serving patients, educating the next generation of students and trainees, and advancing the frontiers of knowledge. Early in his career, he became part of an international research project that ultimately developed a treatment for retinopathy of prematurity. At the time, the condition meant blindness for premature infants but today is rare and can be successfully treated.

He was increasingly recognized for his leadership abilities, serving as director of the Casey Eye Institute and dean of the School of Medicine before being appointed president. He never gave up his clinical role at the Casey Eye Institute, reading ultrasounds on evenings and weekends to remain connected to patient care.

As president of the university, Robertson focused on the needs of all Oregonians and ensured the state's academic health center served the entirety of Oregon's 98,000 square miles. He set the tone by spending his first day as president in John Day, and championed OHSU's collaboration with hospitals throughout the state.

Robertson embodied the ideals of servant leadership, learning by listening and connecting with people to understand and address problems impacting individuals and communities. As a leader, he empowered his teams to be creative and innovative in pursuit of practical solutions and meaningful change. "Today, Oregon mourns the passing of a visionary leader, a healer, and a tireless advocate for health equity across our state," Gov. Tina Kotek said. "Dr. Joe Robertson dedicated nearly four decades to OHSU, shaping the future of medicine, research, and education in Oregon and beyond. Oregon honors his legacy, not only in the institutions he helped build, but in the countless lives he touched. May we continue his mission with the same courage, vision, and heart that defined his life."



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A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU FACULTY

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SPRING 2026