What happens when healing, teaching and discovery come together with the communities we serve?

A boy’s heart heals  A woman beats cancer  A town keeps its doctor  And a young mind learns the art of scientific inquiry

It’s the OHSU Effect
Experience the OHSU Effect

The OHSU Effect — it draws together a radiation oncologist in Coos Bay with a high-achieving teen studying cancer cells in Portland and an eastern Oregon woman working toward her nursing degree in La Grande.

Each of these people is part of a vital network of partnerships between OHSU and community organizations throughout Oregon. As the state’s only health and research center, OHSU partners in more than 200 community service programs, working to improve the well-being of people across Oregon, the Northwest and around the world. The OHSU Effect happens when healing, teaching, discovery and community service come together: Through partnerships and innovation, Oregonians receive better health and improved access to health care and education. It also leads to new jobs and businesses in more than 200 community service programs, working to improve the well-being of people across Oregon, the Northwest and around the world.

The OHSU Effect: treating patients where they live.

Deborah Hansen of Salem learned she had liver cancer in fall 2009. Fortunately, she had access to the expertise of an academic medical center close to home. Hansen’s primary oncologist, John Strother, M.D., at this powerful combination leads to new cures, better health and improved access to health care and education. It also makes life better for Oregonians overall. Read on to see the OHSU Effect in action, through stories that we hope will engage you, and a few statistics.

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Carl Jensen, M.D., is the only radiation cancer specialist in Coos Bay. He’s considered lucky for a larger, more advanced practice, but that would leave the 30 patients he sees per day facing a hard, long drive to get their treatments. Enter Charlie Holzer, M.D., chairman of radiation medicine at OHSU. He worked out an innovative swap — for one week every quarter Jenson practices at OHSU while an OHSU radiation oncologist stays in Coos Bay to see his patients. The exchange is a win-win for patients, clinicians, students and the coastal community. Jensen says he appreciates the opportunity to participate in the academic medicine environment in Portland. And, OHSU’s radiation oncologists pick up new insights in Coos Bay to pass along to their students, who are encouraged to consider practicing in rural communities. Most important, Coos Bay patients can access the services they need in their own community.

Celine Bivouart, M.D., a resident in radiation oncology at OHSU, and Carl Jensen, M.D., a radiation oncologist from Coos Bay, collaborate during one of Jensen’s rotations in Portland.

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About a third of Oregon’s practicing physicians did all or part of their training at OHSU. More than half of OHSU’s students graduating with an M.D. continue to practice in Oregon.

The Oregon Rural Practice-Based Research Network is a statewide clinical research network that extends medical research opportunities to rural communities. Members include 171 clinicians who provide care to more than 240,000 patients in rural Oregon practices.

The Oregon Poison Center in Longview, Wash.; and Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria.

The OHSU Effect: treating patients where they live.
Recently graduated OHSU medical student Rachel Seltzer grew up in sprawling San Diego and attended college in Philadelphia, yet she wanted to explore rural life. The Oregon Rural Scholars Program gave her the ideal chance — an opportunity to learn family medicine in John Day. “This confirmed that I want to serve a small community,” Seltzer says. “Without the experience, I don’t know if I’d have the confidence to go that route.”

The program aims to offset a looming shortage of physicians and surgeons in communities throughout Oregon. In 2009, Seltzer was one of nine third-year OHSU medical students participating in the program. Attracting medical students is only half the goal; their presence also helps more people living in rural areas to receive care. The experience left Seltzer impressed. “The sense of community is overwhelming, inclusive and encouraging … so that few neighbors fall through the cracks,” she says.

The Rural Scholars Program is a cooperative effort between the OHSU Department of Family Medicine, the OHSU School of Medicine and the Oregon Area Health Education Centers. It included student rotations in Baker City, Bandon, Burns, Coos Bay, Coquille, Gold Beach, Grants Pass, Heppner, John Day, Madras and Reedsport in 2010.

OHSU played a pivotal role in the Oregon Trauma System’s inception and is designated as one of two Level 1 Trauma Centers in the state. The system ensures that the most critically injured patients are sent to a medical center best equipped to meet their needs.

OHSU’s free translation services help limited- or non-English speaking patients and their families. Interpreter services in 70 different languages were provided more than 67,000 times in 2010.

OHSU has more than 200 programs to respond to community health care needs. These activities provide more than $253 million of value each year to Oregon.

OHSU’s science education programs annually help 154,000 young adults become interested in, and gain access to, careers in health and science.

Inspiring and creating young scientists

Elena de Jesus Hernandez entered school for the first time in the fifth grade, when her family moved from Mexico to Hillsboro. At age 18, she finished a summer internship in an OHSU biomedical lab where she researched cancer cells and the correlation between illness and fatigue. Her work — which she done after her mother died of cancer in 2006 — is possible through the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation’s Allen Institute for Brain Science. The bonds forged between mentors and students in the program are long-lasting and include everything from help with the college application process to securing work-study positions. “It increased my knowledge and understanding,” Hernandez says. “We have a responsibility to create the next generation of scientists and health care workers,” says Leslie Garcia, M.P.A., OHSU vice provost for diversity. “We hope to inspire students to use their new knowledge and training to serve their communities.” The CURE Project relies on philanthropic support and the commitment of staff members from the OHSU Center for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute.

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Giving kids something to smile about

When dental students at OHSU offer their free Give Kids a Smile Day, they get hundreds of takers. That’s because their top-notch planning has made the program a national model. Beginning as much as a year before clinic day, the Oregon program works with elementary school nurses to prescreen children and identify their needs. X-rays and parent approvals are obtained in advance. That way, the 200 or so OHSU dental students who provide care — supervised by practicing dentists with the help of the sponsoring Multnomah Dental Society — can spend as much time as possible with children. They can also treat more of them.

The program stresses the importance of regular dental care, which is something recently graduated Vishal Panchmatia, D.M.D., understands firsthand. He’s seen children as young as 14 who already need dentures. “Abscesses, inflammation, we’ve seen it all,” he says. “Give Kids a Smile allows students to see a broad-based effect on society in a short period of time,” says John Engle, D.D.S., a pediatric dentistry faculty member. “At the end of the day, our dental students had the biggest smiles.”

Give Kids a Smile Day is one of three free clinics offered annually by the OHSU School of Dentistry.

The OHSU Effect: creating models to effectively deliver free care.

As she considered nursing schools, Karina Squire knew she wanted an education that best matched her goals. She was pleased to find that education in La Grande, her husband’s hometown. Squire could attend Eastern Oregon University and get the same bachelor’s curriculum that OHSU offers in Portland, 200 miles away. The reason? The Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education. OHSU partners with colleges around the state to teach nursing students near the community in which they live or want to practice.

Developed in response to a nursing shortage, the program has become a national model.

The OHSU Effect: preparing the health care providers we need for the future.

As the Oregon Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Needs helps build the capacity of families, providers and communities to care for children with special needs through training programs, multidisciplinary clinics, public health agencies and community planning activities.

Vishal Panchmatia, D.M.D., a recently graduated pediatric dental student at OHSU, organized the 2011 Give Kids a Smile Day, now in its eighth year.

Karina Squire, a recent graduate of the OHSU School of Nursing in La Grande, with faculty mentor Nancy Pridel, Ph.D., R.N.

The Office of Rural Health at OHSU helps rural communities recruit and retain primary care providers and administers several tax credit programs to help rural health care systems get established and remain viable.

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The Area Health Education Centers consists of five regional programs covering the state, each of which provides education, training and workforce assessment for current and future health professionals and encourages health care practice in rural and underserved areas.

The OHSU Physician Consult and Referral Service provides physicians statewide 24-hour, toll-free access to OHSU health care providers throughout Oregon. More than 32,000 calls are received each year.

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Offering a virtual view

Six-year-old Ivan Bugarin was in good hands at his local hospital. But he developed complications and Ivan’s doctors felt he needed specialized care beyond what was available near his home in Central Point. Fortunately for Ivan and his family, he was being cared for at Rogue Valley Medical Center, a hospital in the OHSU Telemedicine Network.

The network uses cutting-edge videoconferencing technology to provide critical care consultations to hospitals around the state.

“Ivan developed serious complications and needed specialized care, so I called my colleague at Doernbecher Children’s Hospital, Dr. Miles Ellenby, ” said Ahan Newman, M.D., of Rogue Valley Medical Center.

A mobile telemedicine videoconferencing unit was wheeled to Ivan’s bedside and Ellenby joined them online through a secure internet connection. He could see the patient, the doctor and answer the family’s questions as if he had been there. “We handled the emergency together, like we were right in the same room,” says Ellenby, medical director of the OHSU Telemedicine Network.

The network provides patients specialized medical services close to home and limits costly transfers, sparing families the time and expense of traveling to an out-of-town medical center. It also eases physician shortages by providing specialist care where it is needed most. There are currently 12 sites in the network that have access to pediatric intensive care specialists, neonatologists, stroke neurologists, neurosurgeons, trauma surgeons, psychiatrists and other specialists.

Together, OHSU and St. John Medical Center provide specialist heart care with cardiologists from OHSU and immediate Life Flight activation for transport to OHSU’s catheterization lab. Their combined forces ensure that Longview residents have the best heart care available close to home.

In cooperation with Columbia Memorial Hospital, OHSU experts enhance cardiology and cancer care for patients in Astoria, and also provide a virtual link through the OHSU Telemedicine Network. The partnership allows both care providers to share expertise and resources, while avoiding duplicative services.

The Toxicology Information Center responds to inquiries from the public and employers about the potential hazards from exposure to chemicals and other agents. The service is provided as a part of the OHSU Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Research.

Together, OHSU and Mid-Columbia Medical Center partner to provide specialty care to people living in, and near, The Dalles. Together they offer cardiology, cardiothoracic surgery, dermatology, neurological surgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedics and neurology services. The medical center is also a part of the OHSU Telemedicine Network.

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A parking garage in downtown Portland was transformed for a day to provide free health screenings and services to homeless men, women and children. “What little we could do was greatly appreciated, but the magnitude of the need was still so large,” said Eric Fox, an OHSU medical student volunteer. The one-day clinic is an annual and anticipated event celebrated during Cover the Uninsured Week. The clinic provided check-ups, referrals and information for the underserved and uninsured — some who hadn’t seen a doctor in decades.

The clinic staff was made up of 140 students from OHSU and Portland State University with OHSU physicians present to provide oversight. Professional interpreters and students with advanced language skills stood by to help out in 11 languages.

The clinic’s purpose is twofold: to find a regular source of care for those with significant health problems and to give students a better understanding of the needs that aren’t addressed by our current health system.

The OHSU Effect: encouraging students to think about how to improve the provision of care to the most vulnerable among us.

The School of Dentistry’s Baby Day brings third-year dental students to the Multnomah County dental clinics once a week to provide early oral care to 9- to 36-month-old children in low-income families. Babies receive free care and students learn the skill of providing dental care for very young patients.

OHSU offers screenings to detect diseases in their early stages, helping to increase survival rates and decrease the cost of care. OHSU offers free health screenings for particular conditions, such as diabetes, eye diseases and cervical, prostate and skin cancers, as well as general screenings for the uninsured.

Through lectures, seminars, workshops, classes and conferences, OHSU brings public health education to the community. For example, OHSU participates in Portland’s Brain Awareness Season, reaching nearly 10,000 Oregonians each year.

Right: Jimala Lenox, M.D., a recent OHSU graduate (center) from L.A., and Al Chen, a third-year medical student (far right) prepared patients for the 2010 Cover the Uninsured Week event held in a garage in downtown Portland.

The School of Nursing and the Beaverton School District are partners in offering the Merlo Station High School Health Center. Based in Merlo Station High School, the center provides comprehensive health services for students and their children.

Diagnosed at age 2 with congenital heart disease, Dylan Smith — now 18 — is a veteran of numerous procedures and countless appointments with specialists. Thanks to traveling outreach clinics sponsored by OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital, Smith has been able to see specialized pediatric cardiologists while staying close to his rural Jackson County home. “It is huge benefit,” says his mother, Brenda. For Dylan, it means more time to spend hunting and hiking in the falls with his dog, stop the three heart surgeries and ongoing follow-up care.

While the surgical procedures occur in Portland, Smith sees pediatric cardiologists every few months at Rogue Valley Medical Center in nearby Medford. The cardiologists continue as part of traveling outreach clinics throughout Oregon, sponsored by Doernbecher, so that children can see specialized heart doctors while still living in rural areas.

The OHSU Effect: bringing specialists to rural communities to enhance care.

Traveling specialists tackle kids’ heart disease

Dylan Smith was able to see specialist cardiologists while staying close to home, thanks to Doernbecher Children’s Hospital’s traveling outreach clinics. The OHSU Effect: encouraging students to think about how to improve the provision of care to the most vulnerable among us.

Free clinic demonstrates big need

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Net community benefit: $252.5 million

- OHSU’s contribution to the unpaid cost of education: $135 million
- OHSU’s contribution to the unpaid cost of research: $32.5 million
- Charity care and unreimbursed cost of public programs to OHSU: $81.4 million
- Other community services: $3.5 million
  - Community health improvement services: $2.5 million
  - Community education/outreach: $796.7 thousand
  - Assistance to rural hospitals: $183.6 thousand
  - Tracking and reporting: $70 thousand

Served: 461,930 patients

Data collected for fiscal year (July 2008 through June 2009).

OHSU was able to serve more charity care and public service program patients in 2010 than previous years by bringing extra federal dollars into the state to help reimburse for the cost of care.

Net community benefit: $253.2 million

- OHSU’s contribution to the unpaid cost of education: $151.8 million
- OHSU’s contribution to the unpaid cost of research: $33.5 million
- Charity care and unreimbursed cost of public programs to OHSU: $104.3 million
- Other community services: $3.6 million
  - Community health improvement services: $2.7 million
  - Community education/outreach: $648.2 thousand
  - Assistance to rural hospitals: $183.6 thousand
  - Tracking and reporting: $70 thousand

Served: 650,480 patients

Data collected for fiscal year (July 2009 through June 2010).
Serving the region

OHSU offers primary and specialty care throughout the region. We share our knowledge with other physicians and hospitals, and bring traveling clinics to rural areas so patients don’t have to travel far from their homes when they need specialty care.

More information about OHSU’s patient care and community collaborations around the state is available at www.ohsuhealth.com/statewidecare.

Please check the site to see if the services you need are provided closer to your home, then ask your doctor if you’re interested in being referred to one of these sites for care.

1 Albany
2 Astoria
3 Beaverton
4 Bend
5 Boise, Idaho
6 Coos Bay
7 Cornelius
8 Eugene
9 Gresham
10 Grants Pass
11 Hillsboro
12 Hood River
13 Klamath Falls
14 La Grande
15 Lake Oswego
16 Longview, Wash.
17 McMinnville
18 Medford
19 Ontario
20 Pendleton
21 Portland
22 Roseburg
23 Salem
24 Scappoose
25 Seaside
26 Silverton
27 Springfield
28 The Dalles
29 Tualatin
30 Vancouver, Wash.
31 Walla Walla, Wash.

Get Connected

Learn more about OHSU’s involvement in Oregon communities year-round by subscribing to OHSU’s Community Connections e-newsletter at www.ohsu.edu/community.

Tune in on the radio, Saturdays at 8 a.m. on KXL 101.1 FM for The OHSU Effect: Inside Health & Science.

Share with us online at www.ohsu.edu/socialmedia.