Emeritus

A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU EMERITUS FACULTY
Emeritus Faculty News is published intermittently. This issue covers the summer and fall 2018. 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, Mark Kemball, OHSU news releases, electronic newsletters and blogs, printed material and local media reports.
OHSU Selects Danny Jacobs as Next President

In May, the OHSU Board of Directors unanimously approved the selection of Danny Jacobs, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.S., as the next president of OHSU. Jacobs, the executive vice president, provost and dean of the School of Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch, succeeded Joe Robertson, M.D., M.B.A., effective Aug. 1. “I am humbled and honored to join this excellent team,” said Jacobs. “It’s clear to me that OHSU is a special place, deeply woven into the fabric of the community, and by community, I mean all of Oregon’s 96,000 square miles. That’s very exciting to me. My approach has always been about teamwork, collaboration and community. I can’t wait to continue the work of improving the health and well-being of all Oregonians, but I know my first two jobs will be to listen to and learn.” At UTMB, Jacobs was the chief academic officer, responsible for approximately 3,800 employees and trainees for its schools of Medicine, Nursing, Health Professions and Biomedical Sciences. A surgeon by training, Jacobs’ faculty appointments at UTMB included professorships in the Institute for Translational Sciences as well as the departments of Surgery, and Preventive Medicine and Community Health. He also oversaw the institution’s research programs.

New Name for Collaborative Life Science Building

The OHSU Board of Directors adopted a resolution that renamed the Collaborative Life Sciences Building in honor of former president Joe Robertson. The building is renamed the Joseph E. Robertson, Jr. Collaborative Life Sciences Building, or Robertson Life Sciences Building for short.

Convocation 2018

A new generation of health care professionals, educators and researchers graduated from OHSU June 3. A total of 1,218 degrees were awarded to students in the schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing and the OHSU-PSU School of Public. The speaker was Oregon State Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, M.D., who is also an adjunct associate professor of family medicine in the School of Medicine. Ceremonies for the Oregon State University/OHSU College of Pharmacy and the School of Nursing campuses outside Portland took place June 14–16. “Commencement is a special day. One of the reasons many of us choose careers in academic health care is the chance to work with students. Their energy, idealism and enthusiasm is infectious,” said former OHSU President Joe Robertson. “As we release these new graduates into the world as skilled and committed providers, educators and research scientists, I am confident that their experiences at OHSU have well prepared them to impact the health and well-being of Oregonians.”

School of Dentistry
81 degrees

School of Medicine
494 degrees and certificates

School of Nursing
488 degrees and certificates

OHSU-PSU School of Public Health
73 degrees and certificates

OSU/OHSU College of Pharmacy
82 degrees
White Coat Ceremony

A new group of students began their journey toward becoming physicians by symbolically slipping on their white doctor’s coats for the first time at the School of Medicine’s annual White Coat Ceremony on Aug. 10. “This ceremony, which includes faculty leaders assisting our new medical students in donning their white coats for the first time, symbolizes not only their transition into medical school but also our commitment to walk this path with them,” said Sharon Anderson, M.D., dean, School of Medicine. “Especially as medicine evolves, medical school is becoming less about the all-knowing faculty filling students with the facts of medicine and more about shared learning. I’m excited to celebrate our new students on this special day.”

Fast Facts:
Of the 160 medical students matriculating this fall:

- 78 percent are Oregonians or of Oregon heritage
- Nearly 56 percent are women
- 31 percent come from a disadvantaged background or have faced adversity
- Nearly 29 percent come from racial or ethnic backgrounds other than white
- Nearly 16 percent come from a rural background
- 6 percent come from a racial or ethnic group underrepresented in medicine
- Four have completed military service

Federal News

OHSU came out against a move by the Trump administration against the consideration of race in college admissions, rolling back guidance issued under former president Barack Obama that favored consideration of race in college admissions to promote affirmative action. The statement, following one from the AAMC reads in part, “At OHSU, we believe in the value of diversity in the recruitment, admissions, hiring, retention and promotion processes. Having a diverse physician, scientific and health care workforce is necessary in order to catalyze discovery of new treatments, provide the best care for our increasingly diverse patients, reduce disparities in health and health care, and optimize the health of all Oregonians. We strive to admit students and develop future faculty which will help us further those missions. As such, OHSU will continue to support policies, practices and other efforts to build and strengthen diversity, equity and inclusion at our institution.”

Investment in Rural Health

Officials celebrated the beginning of a $50-million project that aims to improve health care in south-central Oregon by encouraging collaboration and innovation between local health care professionals and OHSU students and resident physicians who want to better serve rural Oregonians. The resulting Sky Lakes Collaborative Health Center is expected to be completed in late 2019 and open for business in 2020. The center’s construction is the product of a partnership between OHSU and Sky Lakes Medical Center, a non-profit, community-owned hospital that serves Klamath and Lake counties. “I am very excited by the progress we’re making on this vital collaboration,” said former OHSU president Joe Robertson. “We create partnerships like this to leverage resources. We also partner to learn from each other. This is not something either of us can do alone.”
Robot-assisted Surgery

A 34-year-old Monmouth resident earned distinction as the first patient in Oregon to undergo brain surgery with an assist from a robot. The assist was dished out by the ROSA, or Robotic Stereotactic Assistance, robot, which neurosurgeons used to place electrodes in Black’s brain. The procedure, performed by Ahmed Raslan, M.D., provides precise GPS-like imagery to guide placement of needle-like electrodes inside the brain.

Philanthropy

Two gifts totaling $7.5 million from the late philanthropist John S. Wold and family will help establish a new macular degeneration center at the OHSU Casey Eye Institute. “The Wold family’s generous investment will accelerate and build on Casey’s decades of research in macular degeneration. We are incredibly grateful for their support,” said David Wilson, M.D., former director of the Casey Eye Institute.

Portland Monthly Rankings

Portland Monthly magazine’s recently published list of “Top Nurses” includes 28 OHSU Advanced Practice RNs. The list recognizes 86 professionals in the Portland area overall. Included specialties range from primary care to acute care to certified registered nurse anesthetists to women’s health. The magazine published its annual “Top Doctors” guide in January, featuring physicians and physician assistants. Publishing the nurses list as its own guide gave the magazine an opportunity to explain the essential role that APRNs play as providers in a consumer-friendly way.

U.S. News & World Report Rankings

OHSU was ranked the number one hospital in Oregon along with having seven specialties ranked among the top 50 nationwide by U.S. News & World Report. “Our U.S. News Best Hospitals rankings further demonstrate OHSU’s longstanding commitment to excellence and to ensuring all Oregonians have access to world-class health care,” said John Hunter, M.D., F.A.C.S., executive vice president and chief executive officer, OHSU Health System. “I’m extremely proud of our faculty and staff, whose dedication to our patients, every day, is unwavering.” Additionally, OHSU Doernbecher Children’s Hospital was named among the best children’s hospitals in the U.S., according to U.S. News & World Report’s 2018-2019 Best Children’s Hospitals rankings. Earlier this year, Doernbecher became Oregon’s first children’s hospital to be verified by the American College of Surgeons as both a Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center and as a Level 1 Site for Children’s Surgery.

Research Week 2018

In early May, hundreds of people attended the opening reception and all-OHSU poster session of Research Week, and roughly 600 people attended oral sessions, keynote lectures and workshops. This year’s celebration included more than 160 poster presenters, 80 oral presenters, two keynote speakers and two science communications.

Recognition

At the 47th annual meeting of the American Association for Dental Research, Carmen Pfeifer, D.D.S., Ph.D., was elected to the Board of the Association as a member-at-large for a three-year term beginning immediately. There are three members-at-large in the association, which numbers more than 3,400 members, including students.
Research

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the use of gene therapy Kymriah for the most common form of lymphoma: diffuse large B-cell lymphoma, or DLBCL. DLBCL is an aggressive disease that affects B-lymph cells that make antibodies to fight infections and are an important part of the body’s lymphatic system. The occurrence of DLBCL generally increases with age; most patients are older than 60 when diagnosed. The Knight Cancer Institute is one of a handful of certified treatment centers in the nation to offer this therapy to patients with DLBCL. “The potential for this therapy is huge,” says Richard Maziarz, M.D., medical director of the adult blood and marrow stem cell transplant and cellular therapy program in the Knight Cancer Institute. “Whether it will be realized, that’s to be determined. But having the opportunity to offer this therapy to our patients, this early in the process, is critical. This therapy has the potential to be applied to many other diseases, including solid organ cancers.”

Faculty Development

The School of Medicine and the Provost’s Office have launched a collaborative effort to assemble, organize, and improve the range and navigability of faculty development offerings and better support advancement, career satisfaction and wellness in the school and across OHSU. The effort includes integrated faculty development websites, new workshops and administrative restructuring to improve faculty support. The work is led by Constance Tucker, Ph.D., vice provost for educational improvement and innovation; Atif Zaman, M.D., senior associate dean for clinical and faculty affairs in the School of Medicine; and the school’s Faculty Advancement and Development Committee chaired by Niki Steckler, Ph.D., associate professor in the Division of Management, School of Medicine. “We’ve heard repeatedly from faculty that we need more and better calibrated faculty development offerings, which led to the creation of our faculty committee to organize and curate these offerings,” said School of Medicine Dean Sharon Anderson M.D., “Now we have integrated websites showcasing a menu of offerings in the school and at the provost level as just a first step to improve and focus our support for faculty growth and advancement.”

Interprofessional Care Access Network

Residents of the Portland-area neighborhood of Rockwood are able to better access health care and other services through a program in which OHSU students work with underrepresented communities. OHSU and its local partners celebrated OHSU’s Interprofessional Care Access Network, also known as I-CAN, in opening its sixth location at a July 17 event in Rockwood. At each of its six sites, I-CAN seeks to help local residents overcome health challenges that are exacerbated by low incomes, homelessness, cultural misunderstandings and other hurdles. Residents of Rockwood, which straddles the border of northeast Portland at the west end of Gresham, experience high rates of poverty and often receive government support for food and health care. “OHSU faculty and students have been collaborating with community partners in Gresham for some time, and we’re very excited to make the I-CAN partnership official,” said Peggy Wros, Ph.D., R.N., a professor in the School of Nursing and I-CAN director. “By working together, we hope to address barriers to health and health care for people living in the Rockwood neighborhood, adding value to existing resources and services.”
Studies, Trials and Grants

The Oregon and Southwest Washington Chapter of the Komen Foundation launched an initiative to collect data about health disparities in the black community. The project is funded in part by an OHSU Knight Cancer Institute Community Partnership Program grant.

At a Climate and Health Solutions for Our Future conference, David Pollack, M.D., said health professionals have a “duty to warn” the public of the health risks associated with climate change. He said, framed in this way, the public is more likely to heed the warning.

The School of Nursing has been awarded $2.44 million over four years from the Health Services and Resources Administration for Oregon Primary Care Transformation: Expanding Roles for Nurses on Primary Care Teams. Carla Hagen, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., campus associate dean, La Grande Campus, is the principal investigator, and Peggy Wros, Ph.D., R.N., senior associate dean for student affairs and diversity, is the senior program adviser on this grant. The OPACT team will develop, implement and test an academic-practice model for effectively integrating registered nurses into primary care teams in Oregon.

A new clinical trial at OHSU seeks to revolutionize treatment for concussions and traumatic brain injuries. Laurie King, Ph.D., an associate professor of neurology, is trying to design a more effective course of treatment for the roughly 1.5 million people who suffer concussions each year, more than 20 percent of whom continue to have symptoms months or even years after the injury. The clinical trial, which is funded by a $6.6 million grant from the Department of Defense, challenges the idea that patients need a set amount of rest before getting back to physical activity and aims to get people back on their feet and back to their normal lives more quickly.

Cancer researchers at OHSU have been awarded $1 million to test the idea that adjusting the diversity of bacteria inhabiting the intestines could make aggressive prostate cancers more responsive to treatment with immune therapy drugs called PD-1 inhibitors. “There are some compelling hints that the gastrointestinal microbiome plays a big part in who responds and who doesn’t,” said co-principal investigator Julie Graff, M.D., an associate professor of hematology and medical oncology in the School of Medicine and section chief of hematology and oncology at the VA Portland Health Care System. Graff’s team includes co-PIs Amy Moran, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the Department of Cell, Developmental and Cancer Biology, School of Medicine, and Karen Sfanos, Ph.D., associate professor of pathology, oncology and urology at Johns Hopkins University. Co-investigators at the Portland VA include Nancy Ho, M.D., and Reid Thompson, M.D., Ph.D.

The School of Dentistry and its Russell Street Dental Clinic, under the direction of Beverlee Cutler, D.M.D., received a grant from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to continue providing training to oral health professionals. The $280,000 grant supports training provided through a partnership with the Multnomah County Health Department, Cascade AIDS Project and area dental hygiene training programs. Eli Schwarz, D.D.S., M.P.H., Ph.D., chair of Community Dentistry, serves as the lead on the grant.

MinKyoung Song, Ph.D., assistant professor in the School of Nursing, received the GKNF-USA 2018 Duck-Hee Kang Research Award at the International Korean Nursing Conference.
Dr. Danny Jacobs Begins Work as OHSU’s Fifth President

Danny Jacobs, M.D., began his tenure Aug. 1 as the fifth president of OHSU, Oregon’s only academic health center. We asked him to share some thoughts about the challenges and opportunities ahead for academic medicine and OHSU’s future.

**OHSU NEWS:** First, welcome to OHSU. What will your first six months look like?

**DR. JACOBS:** I am looking forward to getting started and believe my first tasks will be to listen and learn as much as I can, as quickly as I can.

I am honored to be following Dr. Robertson. During his tenure, OHSU has moved forward dramatically. OHSU’s growth and success during this period was made possible by a strategic plan that guided decision-making. I agree with this approach and we will quickly move forward with additional strategic planning.

In my view, the first step is to define the current “reality”—a careful and deliberate assessment of where we are and where we want to go. To help with that analysis, I will be asking members across the institution and at every level, “What’s good? What’s great? And what can be better?” All of this occurs from the perspective of asking ourselves what we want to achieve by 2030 and how we want to be perceived.

So that’s what I intend to do, spend the first several months listening and learning, asking these questions and paying attention to the answers.

**OHSU NEWS:** What are the greatest challenges facing academic health centers across the country?

**DR. JACOBS:** The answer to this question is a part of assessing our current reality. As an academic health center, OHSU is facing challenges that other institutions are also confronting. We can join with colleagues at other academic health centers to confront these challenges, learn from each other and advocate on behalf of those we serve.

As Dr. Robertson has said, academic health care exists at the intersection of highly regulated and volatile sectors—higher education, patient care and research. This intersection historically has had some level of turbulence, but today, the turbulence is unrelenting.

**OHSU NEWS:** How can OHSU mitigate this turbulence?

**DR. JACOBS:** OHSU has already taken some important steps to ensure its future as a health and science university. In fact, OHSU has historically been very good about identifying and adapting to the inevitable challenges affecting patient care, research and education.
But we won’t be able to rest on that history. Turbulence and complexity are likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Addressing these complexities will be a key part of our strategic planning process—it will take a team and a high level of engagement across campus to continue to be successful. It will also require us to identify additional ways to facilitate multi-directional, “dense” communication among members of the OHSU community.

**OHSU NEWS:** Can you be more specific about the turbulence academic health centers are facing?

**DR. JACOBS:** Some of the problems include the explosion of technology in health care, changes in delivery models, health care access, the quality imperative and its cost, how we address health disparities and more.

A significant challenge that I find most worrisome is burnout and how to build resiliency, for all of the members of our academic health center. Everything else fails if we don’t address this issue successfully and the solution will be a local one. For us to face all of this turbulence, we must create a culture that allows our members to preserve and promote the joy we feel serving others. We need to create an environment that allows us to take care of ourselves and to find tranquility and stability in the midst of chaos so we can best take care of others.

**OHSU NEWS:** The first goal of OHSU’s most recent strategic plan is to be a place diverse in people and ideas. Why is diversity important to an academic health center and what does it mean to you personally?

**DR. JACOBS:** I think that diversity, equity and inclusion are important pillars that should be evident in an organization’s culture and all of its activities.

I learned during the interviewing process and in subsequent conversations that diversity and inclusion are important at OHSU. They certainly are to me.

The business case for diversity and inclusion is sound. If you talk about creating an innovative environment—a place where it is safe for folks to learn, a place that is forward-looking in finding new approaches to old problems—then you must have a diverse and inclusive environment that is welcoming.

Inclusion is also critically important and is fundamental to OHSU’s mission of improving the health and well-being of Oregonians—all Oregonians.

Not only is the business case there, but for me, personally, it is also the human thing to do, the right thing to do. I will be a very strong advocate for diversity—diversity of thought, diversity of words and deeds, diversity of race, gender, ethnicity.

**OHSU NEWS:** What does it mean to you to be the next leader of Oregon’s only academic health center?

**DR. JACOBS:** I am honored to have been chosen as the next president. My wife, Nancy, and I are delighted to be joining what we feel is a wonderful community.

The challenges we face are great, but we will be working together to help realize OHSU’s mission of improving the health and well-being of Oregonians while creating an environment and culture where all of our members thrive.

**OHSU NEWS:** Thank you Dr. Jacobs, any final thoughts?

**DR. JACOBS:** I look forward to building on Dr. Robertson’s wonderful legacy and the tremendous work OHSU has done in collaboration with stakeholders across Oregon to advance innovation in health care from education to new discoveries. I’m honored to be a part of OHSU’s future.
RECENT APPOINTMENTS

Justin Denny, M.D., M.P.H., director, OHSU Global, Southeast Asia, was appointed as the inaugural recipient of the Kathryn Robertson Professorship in Global Health. The endowed professorship was made in memory of former OHSU president Joe Robertson’s daughter, Kathryn Robertson, and reflects the family’s ongoing dedication to advancing global health and enhancing cross-cultural exchange.

Michael Dienberg, D.D.S., joins the School of Dentistry Hospital Dental Services team as an assistant professor in the General Practice Residency/Adult Hospital Dentistry program. He comes to OHSU from Arkansas Children’s Hospital where he was appointed in the Children’s Hospital and the CDE Center for Dental Education.

David A. Dorr, M.D., M.S., has been appointed chief research information officer. His role will be to grow technology and software systems to support the innovative work done by OHSU researchers, with a focus on clinical and translational informatics, computational techniques, implementation science and clinical research. The goal is to improve OHSU’s ability to generate knowledge from patient care and to apply that knowledge more effectively in the future care of patients. Dorr previously served as professor and vice chair of medical informatics and clinical epidemiology and professor of medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, School of Medicine.

Susan Flocke, Ph.D., a health services scholar active in cancer prevention research, joined OHSU’s Department of Family Medicine as Kaiser Permanente Professor of Evidence-Based Family Medicine. She’ll also serve as a member of the Knight Cancer Institute’s Cancer Prevention and Control Program, and as a senior affiliate investigator with the Kaiser Center for Health Research.

Lisa Hatfield, Ed.D., has been named director of the Teaching and Learning Center. Hatfield will work with the Teaching and Learning Center’s team of faculty and staff to provide the OHSU learning community with expertise and innovation in educator development, learning technologies, curriculum design and assessment.

Susan Hayflick, M.D., professor and chair of molecular and medical genetics, School of Medicine, will also serve as interim chair of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Carlos Jurado, D.D.S., M.S.D., joins the School of Dentistry team as an assistant professor in Restorative Dentistry. He received his D.D.S. from the Michoacan University of Saint Nicholas of Hildalgo in Mexico in 2008, Certificates in Restorative and Operative Dentistry from the University of Southern California and a Certificate in Prosthodontics and Master of Sciences in Dentistry from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He serves as a Diplomate with the ACP, ABOD and FRCD(C).

Andreas Lauer, M.D., Kenneth C. Swan Professor of Ophthalmology, School of Medicine, has been appointed chair in the Department of Ophthalmology. At the same time, Michael Chiang, M.D., Knowles Professor of Ophthalmology, will fill a new role as associate director of Casey Eye Institute.

Mark Leid, Ph.D., associate dean for research, assumed the role of interim dean of the OSU/OHSU College of Pharmacy effective July 1. A faculty member in the college since 1992, Leid has also worked as a pharmacist in a variety of practice settings, including hospital and community pharmacy after graduating from the Washington State University College of Pharmacy in 1983.
Daniel Marks, M.D., Ph.D., has been appointed senior associate dean for research in the School of Medicine.

Xiaquan Rao, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences as an assistant professor. Xiaquan completed her doctoral training in the area of vascular biology in both China and the U.S. The experience living in China convinced her to pursue a career to study environmentally related disease. Rao was awarded a NIH K99/R00 grant to study the mechanism underlying air pollution-associated cardiovascular diseases.

Stephen T. Robinson, M.D., has been appointed as interim chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and perioperative medicine.

Jackilen Shannon, Ph.D., professor in the School of Public Health, and associate director, Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Center, has been appointed associate director of community outreach and engagement in the Knight Cancer Institute. Shannon will oversee and unify community outreach and engagement initiatives and advance the institute’s efforts throughout Oregon.

Bryan Tervo, D.D.S., has joined the School of Dentistry as general practice residency program director. Over the past 19 years, Tervo has had various practice and teaching opportunities including Harvard University, Tufts University, the University of Cincinnati and owning his own private practice in southwest Ohio. For the past five years, he has served as the associate director of the general practice residency program at the Ohio State University.

Saurabh Thosar, Ph.D., has joined the Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences as an associate professor. Saurabh received a professional bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy from Maharashtra University of Health Science in India, a master’s degree in movement sciences from the University of Illinois Chicago and a doctorate in human performance from Indiana University Bloomington.
OHSU scientists have discovered a naturally occurring disease in monkeys that mimics a deadly childhood neurodegenerative disorder in people—a finding that holds promise for developing new gene therapies to treat Batten disease. The study published online this week in the journal *Neurobiology of Disease*. A multidisciplinary team of veterinarians and scientists at the Oregon National Primate Research Center made the discovery, and confirmed through genetic analysis that a small population of Japanese macaque monkeys carry a mutation in the CLN7 gene that causes one form of the disease. It’s the only known model for the disease among non-human primates in the world. “This has truly been a collaborative effort, bringing together the expertise of clinical veterinarians and pathologists, as well as scientists with collective expertise in primate behavior, genetics as well as brain and retinal degeneration,” said Anne Lewis, D.V.M., Ph.D., head of pathology at the primate center and senior author on the publication. Batten disease is the common name for a broad class of rare, fatal and inherited disorders of the nervous system known as neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis, or NCLs, according to the National Institutes of Health. NCLs are responsible for the majority of neurodegenerative brain diseases that affect children, afflicting an estimated 2 to 4 of every 100,000 children in the United States.

Stephen Back, M.D., and Larry Sherman, Ph.D., have identified a new molecule within the brain’s white matter that blocks the organ’s ability to repair itself following injury. Back says, “By preventing the production of this molecule, we can create an effective pathway to allow the brain to continue its regenerative process. This may help to limit long-term physical and mental disability associated with devastating neurological conditions.” The results of the study were published in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. 

"The national opioid epidemic can turn around if we embrace opioid use disorder as a chronic medical condition that needs treatment instead of a moral issue or the result of poor willpower," says Dr. Todd Korthuis. (Getty Images)
More older Americans on Medicare are spending their final days receiving care at home or in a community setting such as an assisted living facility—not in a hospital—according to a report published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). This comes as good news for experts who have defined a “good death” as one outside an intensive care unit and free from avoidable distress and suffering for patients, families and caregivers. The study looked into 1,361,870 Medicare fee-for-service patients and 871,845 Medicare Advantage enrollees who died between 2000 and 2015 to better understand the level and quality of end-of-life care. “This tells me we’re on the right path. We’re listening to people who tell us they don’t want to die in a hospital setting as we’re expanding access to hospice and palliative care teams,” said the study’s lead author, Joan Teno, M.D., a professor of medicine, School of Medicine.

In a study published online in Nature Communications, a research team led by Jae W. Lee, Ph.D., has demonstrated that two neurons key to growth and metabolism—GHRH and AgRP—are developmentally interconnected. While many factors, such as the age of the mother, overall health and genetics ultimately play a role, the correlation between a mother’s nutrition habits and metabolism has been proved to directly influence the growth of her child. Findings of this research conducted with a mouse model may take scientists one step closer to knowing why.

New research published in the journal Nature verifies the findings in a groundbreaking study that used genome editing to repair a deadly genetic mutation in human embryos. Much of the research was conducted at OHSU. The findings came in response to a critique raised by a group of stem cell scientists and geneticists who questioned the conclusions of the landmark Nature paper published Aug. 2, 2017. The journal published the verification following a period of rigorous peer review, along with a pair of critiques of the original study. An international team of researchers collaborated on the response. Led by senior author Shoukhrat Mitalipov, Ph.D., director of the Center for Embryonic Cell and Gene Therapy at OHSU, researchers re-tested embryonic samples generated in the initial study and cited additional research that bolsters the study’s central finding: that a precisely targeted break in the mutant DNA is repaired by copying the genetic code of the normal gene from the second parent as a template. By repairing the mutation at the embryonic stage, the technique would not only remove it from the developing embryo but also prevent it from being inherited by succeeding generations. “The additional retesting of the samples confirmed our original conclusion that this repair occurred as we described,” Mitalipov said. He noted that the study’s co-authors and OHSU welcome scientific debate over the findings, and the new paper concludes by noting that the mechanism of DNA repair should be further explored by the scientific community.

To help stem the nationwide opioid epidemic and related increases in HIV, hepatitis C and other infections, health care providers should routinely screen and treat patients for opioid abuse when they come to clinics and hospitals seeking other services. That’s one of five recommendations outlined in a paper published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. The paper supports a newly published document that outlines the proceedings of a March 12, 2018, workshop convened on the topic by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. “Treatment can save lives,” said one of the paper’s authors, Todd Korthuis, M.D., M.P.H. “The national opioid epidemic can turn around if we embrace opioid use disorder as a chronic medical condition that needs treatment instead of a moral issue or the result of poor willpower.” He co-wrote the paper with Sandra A. Springer, M.D., of the Yale School of Medicine and Carlos del Rio, M.D., of the Emory University School of Medicine.
New research, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, shows that it may be possible to freeze cancer cells and kill them where they stand. **Raymond Bergan, M.D.**, division chief of hematology and medical oncology and professor of medicine, School of Medicine, says that the majority of cancer treatment therapies today are directed toward killing cancer. To date, he says, no one has developed a therapy that can stop cancer cells from moving around the body. “For the vast majority of cancer—breast, prostate, lung, colon and others—if it is detected early when it is a little lump in that organ and it has not spread, you will live. And generally, if you find it late, after it has spread throughout your body, you will die,” says Bergan, also the associate director of medical oncology in the Knight Cancer Institute and director of the OHSU Bergan Basic Research Laboratory. “Movement is key: the difference is black and white, night and day. If cancer cells spread throughout your body, they will take your life. We can treat it, but it will take your life.” For that reason, the study of cancer cell movement, or motility, has been the focus of his group’s research for several decades. The team of investigators includes Bergan’s team at OHSU, a chemist from Northwestern University as well as researchers from Xiamen University in China, the University of Chicago and the University of Washington.

A clinical trial led by Cancer Research UK funded researchers at London’s Great Ormond Street Hospital, with contributions from OHSU, has found that administering the drug sodium thiosulphate, or STS, following cisplatin to treat a form of pediatric liver cancer reduces hearing loss by nearly 50 percent without impeding the impact of the chemotherapy. The findings were published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The SIOPEL-6 trial is based on more than 20 years of preclinical research conducted by the study’s senior author **Edward Neuwelt, M.D.**, and colleagues at OHSU.

Last year, more than 800,000 medical research papers were published in peer-reviewed journals,
according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine. While the scientific and clinical evidence presented in these articles is essential to the advancement of medical care and understanding, many health care organizations find it challenging to efficiently review, learn and integrate vast amounts of data into clinical practice. “Patients expect that the care they receive will be based on the best available evidence,” said Jeanne-Marie Guise, M.D., M.P.H., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, medical informatics and clinical epidemiology, and public health and preventive medicine in the School of Medicine. “However, it can take years for a new research finding to move from the pages of a medical journal into a health care provider’s exam room. This needs to change.” Taking the first step to impact such change, Guise and a team of researchers at the University of Michigan Medical School and the Kaiser Permanente Northwest Center for Health Research, have developed a roadmap for redesigning the interface between health care and research. The group’s recommendations—published online in the Journal of General Internal Medicine—put into practice the capabilities of the learning health system. The concept was first proposed by the Institute of Medicine to align science, informatics and culture to continually improve health care delivery.

A substantial proportion of pharmaceutical industry payments to authors of oncology clinical trials published in major scientific journals are not disclosed, new research shows. The publications focused on clinical trials that tested new cancer drugs. The new findings were published as a research letter in the journal JAMA Oncology. Authors of the research letter examined the federal Open Payments Database to determine payments to oncologists who authored studies in high-impact journals. They then cross-checked the information to determine whether the authors properly disclosed the funding when the results of their clinical trials were published in scientific journals. Depending on the journal, almost half of total funding was not disclosed. “It’s the honor system,” said co-author Erick Turner, M.D., associate professor of psychiatry in the School of Medicine and senior scholar with the Center for Ethics in Health Care. “The journals ask the authors to make these disclosures, but there’s no legal force behind it.”

OHSU scientists have for the first time developed a method to quickly and efficiently recognize the subtypes of cells within the body. Led by researchers in the lab of Andrew Adey, Ph.D., the discovery will improve understanding of disease at the molecular level. This new technology ultimately could enable the development of precise treatments of conditions such as cancer, disorders that destroy neurons in the brain and diseases that affect the heart and blood vessels. “It will be incredibly valuable in any environment where there is cell type heterogeneity [diversity],” said Adey, senior author, assistant professor of molecular and medical genetics in the School of Medicine and a member of the Knight Cardiovascular Institute. “The major areas of interest will be cancer and neuroscience, but we are also applying it to cardiovascular disease.” The findings published in the journal Nature Biotechnology.

A new form of immunotherapy offers promise as potentially the first treatment to slow or stop the progression of Parkinson’s disease. Although its effectiveness still must be determined in further clinical trials, new research published today shows that it meets the fundamental principle of medicine: First, to do no harm. The study, published in JAMA Neurology, found that clinical trial participants safely tolerated even high doses of the treatment, an investigational drug called PRX002/RG7935. “This drug has the potential to have the greatest effect for people early in the disease, within two years of diagnosis,” co-author Joseph Quinn, M.D., professor of neurology in the School of Medicine and director of OHSU’s Parkinson Disease and Movement Disorders Program.
Mycobacterium avium complex, or MAC, is a complex disease that causes chronic lung infection in tens of thousands of U.S. residents annually. To treat the condition, patients must take three separate antibiotics daily for up to two years. While effective, this long-term multidrug regimen often causes extreme side effects, including fatigue, abdominal cramps or skin rash, that greatly impact quality of life. To help identify the most effective, tolerable treatment option for MAC, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute awarded researchers at OHSU $6.1 million to compare the impacts of two- and three-drug therapy options. “New medications for MAC are still many years away, therefore, we need to revamp treatment practices currently available to patients to ensure better quality of life. We anticipate that limiting the number of antibiotics will limit side effects, yet still prove efficient in treating the disease,” said the study’s principal investigator Kevin Winthrop, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of medicine and ophthalmology in the School of Medicine and professor of public health and preventive medicine in the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health.

OHSU has established a program for Targeted Muscle Reinnervation—a highly advanced surgical procedure that allows patients to control prosthetic arms with their minds. “There is potential to use this technology to enable these patients to interface with objects in their environment simply by looking at them,” says Albert Chi, M.D., associate professor of surgery, Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Acute Care Surgery. This mind-body interface is achieved through targeted muscle reinnervation, or TMR.
Anonymous Gift to Establish the Carol A. Howe Endowed Professorship in Nurse-Midwifery

Oregon has long enjoyed a reputation as a forward-thinking location for the development of nurse-midwifery. Beginning with the passage of the first laws in the nation to permit independent practice in nurse-midwifery, these laws also mandated third-party reimbursement and prescriptive privileges, allowing the specialty to thrive within the state.

Similarly, forward-thinking leadership at OHSU—from the School of Nursing and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, to the level of the President’s Office—allowed the program to benefit from administrative support that few nurse-midwifery programs have enjoyed. Key to the growth and stature of the program has been the outstanding nurse-midwifery faculty practice, fully integrated into the University Practice Plan.

Now an anonymous bequest to establish the Carol A. Howe Endowed Professorship in Nurse-Midwifery at OHSU is poised to enable the program to scale even greater heights.

The substantial requirements for clinical licensure and maintaining a faculty practice have long impacted the ability of nurse-midwifery faculty to add yet another mission—research—to their faculty load. As a result, evidence-based research into practice and outcomes has been slow to develop. Scholarship through research requires a time commitment and focus that is difficult to attain when other requirements take precedence, a conundrum faced by nurse-midwifery faculty across the nation.

The Professorship bequest, valued at $2 million, is highly significant in that it will allow allocation of substantial protected time to focus upon scholarship in support of the profession.

“This is truly transformative to the profession and to the program at OHSU,” said Carol Howe, C.N.M., D.N.Sc., F.A.C.N.M., immediate-past program director and professor emerita, for whom the scholarship is named. “In solving an eternal dilemma that inhibits the fullest integration of research into the practice and education of nurse-midwifery, this bequest will allow the profession to realize its greatest potential as an essential service to women and children.”

The Carol A. Howe Endowed Professorship will be established by a $2 million estate bequest from an anonymous donor. A further $200,000 from the same donor will supplement an earlier $50,000 gift that endowed the Carol A. Howe Scholarship, founded in 2015 on Dr. Howe’s retirement from active practice.
AWARDS AND HONORS

*Forbes* ranked OHSU the 5th Best Employer for Women nationally. The listing is a first for Forbes. To determine the rankings, Statista (a Forbes research partner) surveyed 40,000 Americans, including 25,000 women, working for businesses with at least 1,000 employees. Respondents first rated organizations on working conditions, diversity and how likely they’d be to recommend their employer. Then, female respondents rated their employers on factors such as parental leave, discrimination and pay equity. You can learn more about the study on Forbes.com. Earlier this year *Forbes* ranked OHSU as one America’s Best Employers (#145).

**Phoebe Lin, M.D., Ph.D.**, assistant professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine, has been selected as the first awardee for the school’s Physician-Scientist Transitional Support award. She will receive $100,000 in School of Medicine support over a two-year period while she works to secure independent research funding. The goal of Lin’s lab is to gain a better understanding of pathogenesis of ocular conditions leading to blindness in order to develop novel therapeutic targets that improve vision or prevent vision loss.

**Bita Moghaddam, Ph.D.**, was awarded a $500,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for her project “Reward Encoding and Anxiety.”

In recognition of his work on the drug Gleevec, **Brian Druker, M.D.**, director of the Knight Cancer Institute, has been awarded the 2018 Tang Prize in Biopharmaceutical Science, along with Tony Hunter Ph.D., professor of biology at the Salk Institute, and John Mendelsohn, M.D., president emeritus at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Each of the three made discoveries that led to successful targeted cancer therapies and will equally share a cash prize of approximately $1.33 million and a grant of up to $333,000. Druker’s research proved it was possible to shut down cancer cell growth without harming healthy ones—a discovery that helped make once-fatal forms of the disease manageable. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)
discovery that helped make once-fatal forms of the
disease manageable. Druker also recently received
the 2018 Wallace H. Coulter Lectureship Award, the
top prize bestowed by the American Association for
Clinical Chemistry. Druker was also named No. 15
on a list of “the most accomplished and influential
Oregonians of all time” ranked by OregonLive in
order of their impact on the world.

At the biannual conference of the Work and Family
Researchers Network in Washington, D.C., Leslie
Hammer, Ph.D., faculty at Oregon Institute of
Occupational Health Sciences, and associate director
of the Oregon Healthy Workforce Center, was
recognized as a preeminent work-family scholar.
In particular, she was on four top 10 lists for her
significant contributions to the field in four areas:
1) Publications—academic metrics, 2) Publication—
reputation among work-family scholars, 3)
Dissemination, and 4) Mentoring future work and
family scholars.

Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences
Director Steven Shea, Ph.D., has been recognized
with the 2018 Faculty Senate Leadership
Award, which was presented during the annual
Distinguished Faculty Awards Ceremony, May 8.
The Leadership Award recognizes an OHSU faculty
member who leads by example and demonstrates
substantial contributions towards achieving the
missions of the university. Shea, who has served
as president of the American Sleep Medicine
Foundation, is well recognized as a leader in sleep
research, particularly on the recognition of sleep as
an important determinant of health.

Melanie Gillingham, Ph.D., R.D., associate
professor of molecular and medical genetics, School
of Medicine, was awarded the 2018 Archibald
Garrod Award by the Society for the Study of Inborn
Errors of Metabolism. The award is given annually
to honor studies that provide a comprehensive,
representative analysis of the clinical features,
treatment and outcome of an inborn error of
metabolism.

Elise Erickson M.A., M.S., assistant professor in
the School of Nursing, was awarded the Building
Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s
Health Award. BIRCWH is a mentored career-
development program. It connects junior faculty,
known as BIRCWH Scholars, to senior faculty with
shared research interest in women’s health and sex-
differences research. Since the program was created
in 2000, 77 grants to 41 institutions supporting
more than 613 junior faculty have been awarded by
Office of Research on Women’s Health and BIRCWH
program co-sponsors.

Jonathan Snowden, Ph.D., assistant professor in
the School of Public Health, received the Rising Star
Award from the Society for Pediatric and Perinatal
Epidemiology Research.

Allison Lindauer, Ph.D., N.P., received an
Interprofessional Hartford Award for Research
and Practice. Allison, principal investigator on
the award, is an assistant professor at the School
of Nursing and the Layton Aging and Alzheimer’s
Disease Center, where she is also the director of
outreach, recruitment and education.

Joanne Noone, Ph.D., R.N., C.N.E., A.N.E.F.,
asociate dean in the School of Nursing’s Ashland
Campus, was awarded the Champion Individual
Award at OHSU’s Diversity and Inclusion awards, for
her work in addressing diversity and health equity
issues in southern Oregon and at the School of
Nursing. Noone is the project manager for HealthE
Steps, a program that seeks to improve health
equity in communities and provides scholarships
to students from underrepresented minority
populations. The program increased the percentage
of under-represented minorities on the Ashland
campus by more than 32 percent. Noone serves as a
board member on the Jackson County Public Health
Advisory Board as well as the Oregon Office of
Equity and Inclusion Community Advisory Council.
She is a founding member of the Southern Oregon
Health Equity Coalition.
Gordon Mills, M.D., Ph.D., holds the newly established Wayne and Julie Drinkward Endowed Chair in Precision Oncology at the Knight Cancer Institute. The $2.5 million endowment funds the development of new ideas in cancer treatment and the mentorship of up-and-coming cancer scientists and physicians.

Knight Cancer Institute member Kerri Winters-Stone, Ph.D., has been awarded a $2.5 million grant from the National Cancer Institute for a five-year study to evaluate the benefits of a partnered exercise program for couples coping with cancer. Winters-Stone is co-leader of the Knight Cancer Institute’s Cancer Prevention and Control Program and holds the Elnora E. Thompson Distinguished Professorship in the School of Nursing.

A project to develop a liquid biopsy to assess patterns of DNA methylation in lymphoma, co-led by Alexey Danilov, M.D., Ph.D., hematologist-oncologist in the Knight Cancer Institute and associate professor in the School of Medicine, has been awarded $99,948 in pilot funding made possible by unique alliance between Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, The Jackson Laboratory and the SWOG clinical trials cooperative group.

Benjamin Schultze, Ph.D., A.R.N.P., assistant professor in the School of Nursing was recently selected as the Air Force Reserve Air Crew Officer of the Year. He was one of 800 fliers eligible for this award. He is a major with the United States Air Force where he serves as a flight nurse with the 446th aeromedical evacuation squadron at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington. He was specifically chosen for this award due to his work developing a new simulation-based curriculum to train air force nurses and technicians the skills to deliver care in direct combat situations.

Proposals by two Knight Cancer scientists are among the 10 selected for the new collaborative seed grants offered by OHSU and the University of Oregon: Kimberly Beatty, Ph.D., associate professor of biomedical engineering in the School of Medicine,
teamed up with UO chemistry professor Michael Pluth, Ph.D., on a proposal to help move advances in chemistry more quickly into translational research applications for people with cancer. Xiaolin Nan, Ph.D., assistant professor of biomedical engineering in the School of Medicine, and Ramesh Jasti, Ph.D., at UO are developing a new class of carbon-based molecules as tools for visualizing a multitude of biomarkers simultaneously in cells and tissues.

Three drug discovery projects have been named recipients of the 2018 Biomedical Innovation Program Awards. The awards program is a collaboration of the Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute and Technology Transfer and Business Development.

- **Martin Kelly, Ph.D.**, professor of physiology and pharmacology, School of Medicine
  *Novel Alzheimer’s Disease Drugs and their Target*

- **Stephen Lloyd, Ph.D.**, professor, Oregon Institute of Occupational Health Sciences, Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics, School of Medicine
  *Development of Agonists for the Prevention of Obesity and Obesity-related Diseases*

- **Arthur Vandenbark, Ph.D.**, professor of neurology and molecular microbiology and immunology, School of Medicine, senior research scientist, VA Portland Health Care System
  *Novel CD74 Decoy Peptides for Treatment of Progressive Multiple Sclerosis*

Shannon McWeeney, Ph.D., professor of biostatistics and bioinformatics, head of the Division of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology and vice chair in the Department of Medical Informatics and Clinical Epidemiology, was honored by the Medical Research Foundation with its 2018 Mentor Award. The Mentor Award is presented to an Oregonian who has provided outstanding leadership and support of health research, education or the advancement of health care.

Luiz Bertassoni, D.D.S., Ph.D., assistant professor of restorative dentistry, School of Dentistry, is one of three winners of the International Association for Dental Research 2018 Innovation in Oral Care Awards, presented during the association’s 96th general session. Each winner received a $50,000 research grant from IADR through an unrestricted grant from GlaxoSmithKline. Bertassoni was recognized for his study titled “Intraoral delivery of mRNA-nanoparticles for the genetic treatment of dentin hypersensitivity,” which he conducted with co-investigator Gaurav Sahay of Oregon State University.

Kent L. Thornburg, Ph.D., professor of medicine, School of Medicine, and the M. Lowell Edwards Chair of Cardiovascular Research, Knight Cardiovascular Institute, is the 2018 recipient of the March of Dimes Agnes Higgins Award.

Andrew Adey, Ph.D., is the recipient of the 2018 Early-Career Award from the American Society of Human Genetics. Adey, assistant professor, Department of Molecular and Medical Genetics, School of Medicine, focuses on the next technical frontier of genomic and epigenetic profiling on a massive scale. He was recognized for making an impressive impact, in a short time, on the scientific understanding of cancer development, progression and response to treatment.

Carsten Schultz, Ph.D., professor and chair of physiology and pharmacology, School of Medicine, was appointed as the inaugural recipient of Helen Jo Whitsell Dean’s Leadership Professorship.

Julie Graff, M.D., was named section chief of hematology/oncology in the Division of Hospital and Specialty Medicine at the VA Portland Health Care System. Graff is an oncologist with the Knight Cancer Institute and an associate professor in the School of Medicine’s Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology.
Directline

It’s Not Goodbye, It’s See You Soon

Joseph E. Robertson, Jr., M.D., M.B.A.
OHSU President

This is my final Directline. As I pack up my office in Baird Hall, the feeling is bittersweet, but I’m enormously grateful for the opportunities I’ve had at OHSU, and I remain tremendously excited about the future. I believe the next decade at OHSU will be the best ever.

For the occasion, I went back and revisited what I wrote for my first Directline on Sept. 15, 2006. I can report that the honor I felt at being named President and the excitement of those early days carried throughout my tenure in the President’s Office. Leading OHSU has been the privilege of a lifetime—one I could never have imagined when I arrived on campus in 1979 for my ophthalmology residency.

Over the past 12 years, OHSU has enjoyed a great deal of success. I want to be clear, though: I don’t claim credit. I get asked a lot about my legacy, but I’d rather talk about all of you. Success at OHSU is directly attributable to our people and the collective effort, collaborative spirit and commitment of the OHSU community. Rather than an individual legacy, what would make me most proud is if others feel as I do that we have collectively made progress in strengthening our culture of collaboration and in building an inclusive campus in which all are welcome, and all are valued contributors, colleagues and friends.

Though the current national climate presents challenges, OHSU’s future is brighter than ever. Our mission is clear. Our core values remain unchanged. And our strategic plan has been very successful. Most importantly, our people are the best and brightest and most committed I’ve ever had the privilege to know. One of the real joys of being President is the opportunity to meet with so many different people, from every corner of campus, to learn what they’re working on, and see their passion for the mission. That is the thing I will miss most: The interaction with all of you. I leave OHSU in very capable hands: Yours.

I’m very much looking forward to all of you getting to know our next President, Danny Jacobs, as well as I have. He is an exceptional clinician-scientist and leader and brings more experience at the senior executive level than I did when I became President. His recruitment reflects OHSU’s ability to compete successfully for talent against the very best institutions in the U.S. He is also, quite simply, a great person.

This is not goodbye. After a sabbatical, I will return to a part-time faculty position and pursue my passions in ophthalmology and global health. I feel very fortunate to be able to maintain my connection to the OHSU community and the inspiration all of you provide. If you see me in the hall, feel free to say hello, and tell me what you’re working on. I may have a little more time to chat.

As always, thank you for everything you do for OHSU—and thank you for everything you’ve done for me.
TRANSITIONS

Juliana Cartwright, Ph.D., associate professor, School of Nursing, retired in June. Cartwright’s service to the School of Nursing began in 1985 with a faculty appointment on the Ashland campus. Appointed as the first associate dean on the Ashland campus when the nursing program transitioned to a regional campus of the School of Nursing, she was instrumental in re-establishing faculty cohesion and effectiveness while facilitating integration of Ashland faculty with new colleagues in Portland, La Grande and Klamath Falls.

Michael Chapman, Ph.D., professor and interim chair of the department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, left to join the University of Missouri as professor and chair of the Department of Biochemistry.

Nicole Deiorio, M.D., assistant dean for M.D. student affairs and professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine, accepted a position as associate dean for student affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

After almost 62 years of service at OHSU, Mary Ann Lockwood, B.A., associate professor in the Office of Student Affairs, Central Administration, has retired. For many years Mary Ann organized the publication of Emeritus, and her dedication to the magazine has made it what it is today.

Mitch Wasden, executive vice president and chief executive officer of OHSU Healthcare, resigned his position for personal and family reasons.

David Wilson, M.D., stepped down as chair of ophthalmology and will remain director of Casey Eye Institute. He has served as the Margaret Thiele Petti and August Petti Chair of Ophthalmology and director of Casey since 2005.

IN MEMORIAM

Harold Boverman, M.D.
SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

Kenneth Burry, M.D.
JANUARY 26, 2018

Jo Anne Horsley, Ph.D.
MAY 8, 2018

William Morton, M.D.
MARCH 7, 2018