Family Medicine Battles COVID-19 On All Fronts

As the world has grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Family Medicine has risen to the challenge. In all areas of patient care, research and education, family physicians are leading transitions at Michigan Medicine (MM) and the U-M Medical School. The Department’s response to COVID-19 has been broad, thoughtful and rapid. The following is a brief summary of the many efforts faculty and staff have undertaken.

William E. Chavey II, M.D., M.S., associate professor and department service chief, oversaw the internal and external deployment efforts system-wide. In anticipation of the surge, this included reconfiguring inpatient services, which doubled staffing levels and department services at University Hospital and St. Joseph Mercy – Chelsea, to increase physician capacity. Additionally, Dr. Chavey served on MM’s Scarce Resource Allocation Committee, which creates policies on how to allocate resources such as ventilators, blood products and masks in an emergency. And, he appeared on the New England Journal of Medicine’s Journal Watch Podcast 263 where he discussed Michigan Medicine and the department’s response to COVID-19.

Steven M. Wampler, M.D., assistant professor and service director of Chelsea Family Medicine, Anita K. Hernandez, M.D., assistant professor and service director of Family-Mother-Baby (FMB), and Masahito Jimbo, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., professor and service director of University Family Medicine (UFM), led their respective services through vast and rapid transitions. Dr. Wampler expanded Chelsea’s service to accommodate transfers from MM to match patients with the level of care needed. Dr. Jimbo led the expansion of UFM, which provides care for patients, including those with COVID-19, that were not family medicine patients to assist University Hospital in the management of the patient surge. Dr. Hernandez changed the format of FMB to reduce the number of faculty needed to allow for increased staffing elsewhere.

Michael M. McKee, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor, created a video explaining the coronavirus in American Sign Language (ASL). Reliable information from health experts is often difficult to identify and interpret for persons with hearing loss. Getting informed is even more challenging for individuals whose first language is not English, including Deaf individuals who primarily learn and communicate using ASL. Dr. McKee also was part of a coalition of deaf and hard of hearing consumer advocacy organizations, deaf doctors, and other experts who worked together to provide special guidelines for deaf, hard of hearing, and DeafBlind people and medical personnel to use during the coronavirus pandemic. And, he authored “Cut Off and Isolated: COVID-19’s Impact on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Patients,” which will appear in JAMA-Otolaryngology.

David C. Serlin, M.D., assistant professor and ambulatory care clinical chief, led a major transition of our outpatient clinics to maximize patient, clinician and staff safety. In sum, four family medicine clinics consolidated into two hubs, while two sites maintained operations on alternate days. This restructuring ensured the Department

Continued on page 3
We did many other COVID-related activities over the past 3-4 months and it is amazing to reflect on these: We cared for COVID-19 patients in our hospitals and doubled the faculty and residents on our inpatient services to help Michigan Medicine care for them. We helped plan for a second Emergency Room to care for the huge number of COVID-19 patients, though, thankfully, our success in “flattening the curve” resulted in us not needing to open that site. We were involved in planning for a potential “field hospital” in which patients recovering enough to leave the ICU, but still needing hospitalization, could be cared for. We staffed, and continue to staff, the hotline and respiratory clinics. We shifted to conduct all meetings (clinical, research presentations, teaching sessions, grand rounds, department meetings) virtually. The fact that all Institutional specialties and administrative entities wanted family medicine involved in Michigan’s response to COVID-19 care validated they saw the value family physicians bring. The article in this newsletter highlights all of these areas, and more. I am so proud, honored, and privileged to work with such incredible people.

It will be interesting to see what permanent changes are wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic and its financial and clinical sequelae. In addition to virtual visits becoming a major staple of our care for patients, virtual meetings also will likely be more common; both can increase the convenience (and decrease the cost) for faculty, staff and patients. Moreover, virtual reality may actually enhance and support our face-to-face care of patients in unique ways. For instance, several of our faculty are studying the use of patients in unique ways. For instance, several of our faculty are studying the use of a computer innovation called MPathic to improve physicians’ (and students’) skills with face-to-face communication.

In the last couple of weeks, I have heard from our faculty, residents and staff about how much they miss being together. Zoom fatigue is real. People really need those personal connections, the face-to-face discussions and interactions with each other and with patients. I have heard this sentiment from people in all our missions. After all, we are human beings, and the human race is at heart a gregarious one. That hands-on approach has been shown to make a positive difference for many patients, and the physical exam remains a key part of evaluating certain patients — at least in 2020. On the education front, students and residents benefit from face-to-face mentoring, often remembering years later a faculty member who made the difference for them. The bonding of residency classes, common to all residencies, needs that shared time together. Much of the research we do in family medicine involves human subjects; that too requires face-to-face communication in many instances. And, the value of walking down the hall and talking with a colleague about a research idea, or just saying “hi,” is priceless, and less common when communication is virtual. Somehow, someway, all of us, wherever we are, need to find the right balance between the new virtual and the old “personal” connections. I am convinced we will.

Yes, it has been quite a year, unprecedented across the country. We survived COVID-19’s first punch, and are using what we learned to develop the family medicine paradigm of the future. The challenge is great, but interesting, and we have some exciting plans to do just this. I believe that when we look ahead through the COVID-19 fog, the future is bright. We look forward to sharing our successes and failures with all of you, so that everyone can benefit.

Go Blue!

~ Philip
COVID-19 ...continued from page 1

had the capacity to provide clinicians on hospital services. The faculty transitioned to various types of virtual care to allow patients to receive necessary care. Dr. Serlin’s expertise and guidance, and daily updates, directed a rapid and effective response.

Kathryn M. Harmes, M.D., assistant professor and associate clinical officer for primary care, oversaw the COVID-19 response of all of MM’s primary care locations – Family Medicine, General Medicine, General Pediatrics, Geriatrics, and Medicine-Pediatrics. As the primary care physician lead in MM’s COVID-19 command center, she worked to create programs and develop policies for the major initiatives of outpatient clinics’ ramp down, the establishment of respiratory clinics for patients with COVID-19 and the establishment of the COVID-19 hotline.

Oluwaferanmi O. Okanlami, M.D., M.S., assistant professor, is the physician lead for MM’s “COVID-19 hotline.” The hotline was created to streamline a process for MM patients to access testing. Dr. Okanlami leads a team of nurses, advanced practice providers and physicians who staff the hotline for 16 hours a day, 7 days a week, while closely monitoring changes in testing criteria, supply chain issues and workflow. This hotline team also has started “Michigan Patient Outreach Texting Application” to track patients who have been asked to monitor their symptoms at home. On April 7, 2020, Dr. Okanlami appeared on Your World with Neil Cavuto discussing COVID-19 and his work with the hotline. Robert J. Heizelman, M.D., instructor and director of medical informatics, is a member of the hotline team as well.

Anna R. Laurie, M.D., assistant professor and director of population medicine, coordinated the Department’s rapid expansion of telemedicine services. Dr. Laurie and project manager, Devon Kinney, served as Virtual Care Champions. As a primary care leader in virtual care, the Department progressed from 13 video visits in February 2020 to 585 in March, 2,670 in April, and 3,496 in May — a testament to the commitment and expertise of both staff and faculty members in serving the patients. Overseeing and implementing this major transition at each site are the medical directors; Keri L. Denay, M.D., assistant professor; Jill N. Fenske, M.D., assistant professor; Manasi Ramakrishnan, M.D., lecturer; Pamela G. Rockwell, D.O., associate professor; Christine J. Medaugh, M.D., lecturer; and Ebony C. Parker-Featherstone, M.D., assistant professor.

As the virtual care services across the institution have expanded, Laura Heinrich, M.D., lecturer, in her appointment with the Virtual Care Department worked with a team to develop the roll-
out of COVID-19 self-triage, e-visits, and planning for the patient self-schedule COVID-19 video visits. She, along with Drs. Laurie and Heizelman and Devon Kinney, are now serving together as a virtual care task force to scale this technology for even more widespread and continued use in the future.

Joel J. Heidelbaugh, M.D., professor and director of medical student education, is coordinating with U-M medical students to implement ways for them to stay involved, utilize their skills and help the effort in caring for patients throughout the pandemic. Currently, he has arranged students to volunteer at the Ypsilanti Health Center to assist patients in enrolling in MM’s online patient portal. This leads to greater communication between physicians and patients. And, it allows patients to participate in video visits so they can receive health care, while also practicing social distancing.

Dr. Ramakrishnan, medical director of the Dexter Health Center, oversees the temporary family medicine space at West Ann Arbor Health Center. She coordinated and led this consolidation of the department’s clinics through their closure and reallocation of faculty to provide face-to-face visits to appropriate patients.

Dr. Fenske, led a medical team in the development of Guidance for Outpatient Management of COVID-19, a living document available to the public. The document, regularly updated, has been shared nationally and provides family physicians and others basic, straightforward information and best practices. Additional contributors include: Jenna B. Greenberg, M.D., assistant professor; Elizabeth K. Jones, M.D., assistant professor; Neil B. Kirst, M.D., assistant professor; Dr. Okanlami, assistant professor; Daniel S. Oram, M.D., fellow; Jacob Wasag, M.D., house officer I, and Wendy Furst. The document is accessible online at: https://bit.ly/OutpatientCOVID19.

James E. Aikens, Ph.D., professor, Thomas W. Bishop, Psy.D., M.A., assistant professor, Golfo K. Tzilos Wernette, Ph.D., assistant professor, Jill R. Schneiderhan, M.D., assistant professor and co-director of Integrative Family Medicine, Katherine J. Gold, M.D., M.S.W., M.S., associate professor, Suzanna M. Zick, N.D., M.P.H., associate professor and co-director of Integrative Family Medicine, and Angela L. Kuznia, M.D., M.P.H., assistant professor, each developed programs to provide psychological and wellness support to faculty and staff members. They have offered one-on-one tele-support, virtual drop-in sessions focused on work-life balance and burnout, guided group mindfulness meditation and relaxation sessions and managed the coordination of gift baskets for service teams.

Dr. Hernandez, along with Drs. Gold and Kuznia, are participating in a program with obstetricians and midwives to develop prenatal support groups. The providers work closely with medical students who help provide education, psychosocial support and social work services to pregnant patients during the pandemic.

The co-chief residents, Kristen A. McElreath, M.D., Garret T Roe, M.D., and Olivia Yost, M.D., have been an invaluable resource in crisis management during the COVID-19 pandemic. They have been stalwarts, supporting and advocating for their fellow residents through unprecedented changes. Dr. Yost led the group and Jean H.C. Wong, M.D., assistant professor and residency program director, noted, “Dr. Yost spent untold hours digging through spreadsheets and debriefing with me, the service chiefs, and her fellow residents, assessing the latest updates across all our sites, integrating that information, processing all the changes, and troubleshooting new solutions on a daily, and sometimes hourly, basis. She handled the organizational and emotional toll with real grace and true fortitude.”

The Annals of Family Medicine, led by editor-in-chief Caroline R. Richardson, M.D., the Dr. Max and Buena Lichter Research Professor of Family Medicine, has mounted a rapid response to fulfill the need for information sharing during the coronavirus. The Annals has created a COVID-19 collection of original research, open data sets, and other timely information relevant to the primary care pandemic response. A call for papers is active. The journal also is partnering with leaders at the Association of Departments of Family Medicine and the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine to host a blog that is open to the primary care community called Family Medicine Case Notes from the COVID-19 Frontlines. It publishes personal reflections from family physicians and primary care teams, best practices, and community resources.


Tammy Chang, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., assistant professor, penned a March 25, 2020 essay in The Conversation titled “I’m a family doctor fighting against fear and struggling with distancing while trying to keep my patients healthy.” Dr. Chang has utilized MyVoice to survey youth about their experience with COVID-19, social distancing, impact on learning/work, and impact on substance use. She and her team are working in direct collaboration with the Washtenaw County Health Department to guide
Mobile Antenatal Testing Program Targets At-Risk Moms-to-Be in Detroit

Together, with Brad Garrison, executive director of the Luke Project 52 Clinic, and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM), Katherine J. Gold, M.D., M.S.W., M.S., associate professor of family medicine and obstetrics and gynecology, has launched a mobile prenatal care program providing free clinical services at the Detroit homes of at-risk moms-to-be and their newborns.

The program reaches right where care is needed most. Across the board, Detroit and Wayne County have among the worst health outcomes for mothers and babies in the state and nation. Rates of infant death, low birth weight, and preterm birth are significantly higher than state and national averages. Mothers in poverty, particularly in Detroit, have the lowest rates of utilization of prenatal care, sometimes even showing up in labor at the hospital having never seen a doctor. Lack of transportation, insurance, and childcare are the most frequently cited reasons.

The new mobile care program targets this problem directly, requiring no insurance and providing services at pregnant women’s homes. With a physician in person or on video, two nurses and sonographer travel in an ambulance once a week to provide care to moms identified as high-risk. Patients seen typically have complex medical and social situations, unstable housing, and difficulty getting to clinic appointments. The team provides ultrasounds, tests, medications, prenatal and postpartum care, and infant care, and also provides education and emotional and safety assessments.

Each visit can be different, and the care team often encounters unexpected situations. When a patient reported having no food to eat, for example, the staff on board shared whatever food they had in the vehicle. And, when another patient spoke limited English, the team used a phone interpreter to ensure full communication. Between visits, care continues via phone, texting, and video, and patients report that the care provides a sense of safety and stability when they need it most.

Dr. Gold is medical director of the Luke Project 52 Clinic in Detroit, which provides free prenatal and infant care, as well as lactation, doula, pharmacy, childcare, and other social services, to the uninsured and underinsured in Detroit at a local church and via the mobile clinic. The mobile outreach program is an important extension of the clinic’s services, particularly during the COVID-19 crisis, reaching women who would otherwise not obtain care.

In its first six weeks, the program has cared for more than 30 patients. As the program matures, medical students and residents will also be part of administering services. BCBSM has provided a grant of $75,000 to support the mobile care program in its first year, and Huron Valley Ambulance is also a partner.
Scholarships Awarded Remotely

The Department of Family Medicine is thrilled to honor the members of the U-M Medical School Class of 2020 who have matched into family medicine residencies across the country. Due to COVID-19, the annual ceremony for our generous donors and the grateful recipients and families was cancelled. However, the Department extends congratulations to each of these young family physicians. Below we share the recipients’ thoughts and aspirations in their own words.

Kathryn Holt: Recipient of the AEI Sorority Family Medicine Scholarship; Jill and Thomas R. Berglund, M.D. Family Medicine Scholarship; Department of Family Medicine Scholarship; and the Michael Papo, M.D. Family Medicine Scholarship

Fun Fact: Kathryn was a Leadership Team Member and responsible for coordinating with the start-up Osmosis Med Development team to deliver feedback and concerns from her medical school class and help design future features for incoming students to assist with transition to medical school. She also enjoys spending time outside, hiking, kayaking and skiing.

Kathryn completed her undergraduate training at the University of Colorado – Boulder and received her degree in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, Neuroscience.

Kathryn noted, “It wasn’t until I was midway through my clinical clerkships that it began to dawn on me that I would be happiest in primary care; I loved my Family Medicine rotation and looked forward to going to clinic each day. I enjoyed connecting with patients and wanted the kind of longitudinal relationships that my preceptors had formed. I saw how they got to know all aspects of a patient’s life: their family, occupation, future plans, health history, and how they took all of these things into account when trying to design plans to improve their health.”

“One of my favorite parts of medical school has been in my continuity clinic, where I’ve had the opportunity to see patients across multiple visits and develop strong relationships by learning more about their family, interests, and goals. Friends and coworkers have joked that something about my demeanor encourages people to open up and share details of their lives with me — a trait I am proud to possess. In addition to working together with my patients, I look forward to coordinating with my colleagues in other specialties to develop a personalized plan for each person that walks through my door.”

Kathryn’s residency is at Oregon Health and Science University.

Christina L. Ceci: Recipient of the Kenneth and Judy Betz Family Medicine Scholarship; Harold Kessler, M.D. Family Medicine Scholarship; and Dale L. Williams, M.D. Family Medicine Scholarship

Fun Fact: During her longitudinal experience, she was the principal investigator on a research project to increase adolescent awareness on contacting their doctor’s office. She enjoys historical sight-seeing and sampling new cuisines.

Christina completed her undergraduate training at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry with a Minor in Business Management and Psychology.

“The ability to listen to a patient’s life story and build a trusting, long-term relationship is exactly what I will strive for in my own family medicine practice. On my Family Medicine rotation, I eagerly approached the wide-breadth of patients and problems that entered the clinic, while appreciating that the patient-physician relationship was at the forefront of each successful encounter.”

“I also treasured the opportunity to provide education when possible, from simple recommendations for mobile phone apps to guided meditation to decrease anxiety, to serious discussions about reducing stroke risk. Providing patients with knowledge empowers them and strengthens the shared decision-making partnership between the patient and provider; a partnership I grew to cherish throughout my rotations. From a broader lens, my interest in population health inspired me to spend six months in Detroit, working in an urban underserved health system. Through both my inpatient and outpatient experiences, I was privileged to care for a diverse patient population, further opening my eyes to the effects of poverty on the health and wellness of a community.

Each of my prior experiences have been a stepping-stone on my journey to becoming a family physician, and I could not be more excited to join such a noble profession.”

Christina remains at the University of Michigan for residency.
Kate Kollars: Recipient of the Vincent P. and Genevieve L. Burns Family Medicine Scholarship; Robert J. Fisher, M.D. Family Medicine Scholarship; Paddy and Donald N. Fitch, M.D. Family Medicine Scholarship; Gazella-Brandle Memorial Scholarship; and Harold Kessler, M.D. Family Medicine Scholarship

Fun Fact: Kate was president of the Family Medicine Interest Group for over three years. She loves art and natural history museums, as well as Nebraska football.

Kate completed her undergraduate training at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a B.S. in Biological Sciences and Anthropology. During medical school, she also completed a Master of Public Health degree at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston.

“My father taught me we have an obligation to improve the world. I am lucky to have grown up with his example of hard work, political engagement, and service to others, which continues to guide my life today. He encouraged me to explore the world, build relationships, and search for my own way to benefit others. Because of his influence, during college, I spent summers studying biology and anthropology in Western Nebraska and Guatemala, and I quickly appreciated the impact of environmental, social, and political factors on health.”

“After graduation, I moved to Washington, D.C. for a health policy internship with the U.S. Senate and then to Colorado where I worked with low-income, high-school students through AmeriCorps. These experiences fostered my passion for public health and primary care and deepened my desire to gain clinical skills and become a physician. My varied experiences in service and social justice drew me to family medicine even before medical school, and I dedicated myself to primary care at the University of Michigan.”

“I am excited to become a physician who not only provides clinical care, but who challenges larger systems to improve the health and resources of underserved and vulnerable communities. My exploration of other fields and my personal experiences have provided me with a breadth of scientific, social, political, and emotional understanding that will help me become a physician leader who improves the field and continues to serve patients and communities.”

Kate’s residency is at the University of New Mexico.

Aisling Zhao: Recipient of the Chelsea Community Family Medicine Scholarship

Fun Fact: Aisling took an additional year to pursue and complete a Master of Public Health dual degree at U-M. She can also solve a Rubik’s cube in under one minute.

Aisling completed her undergraduate training at the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

“I spent a long time believing that the facts I learned in medical school were the only knowledge I needed to care for patients. However, as I learned about dialogic education in public health school, which assumes that there are multiple valid ways of looking at the world, and that transmission of facts should never be a one-way street, I began to rediscover my commitment to primary care and to family medicine. Dialogic education taught me that people can be the experts of their own lives. Their goals, priorities, and barriers are valuable knowledge that only they can convey.”

“Medical knowledge is useful, just as the knowledge of our friends, family, and community is useful. Both need to work together to improve health equity. Taking responsibility for building trust in communities overlooked or overused by medicine is how we make this happen. Staying and working with people even when it’s not easy or convenient for us is how we make this happen.”

Aisling’s residency is at Swedish Cherry Hill, Seattle.
The Department is pleased to announce that Laura G. Kruger is the recipient of the 33rd annual Terence C. Davies, M.D. Award.

Laura graduated from the University of Michigan with an undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering. A pivotal moment in medical school came during the summer of 2017 when Laura was a student in the Kenneth and Judy Betz Summer Preceptorship program in Holland, Mich. “My experience during my preceptorship not only emphasized the importance of building relationships in family medicine, but, was also incredibly influential in my future career choice,” shared Laura. It was through her work at the free clinic that helped her realize her passion for patient education and clinical teaching, as well as her commitment to social justice.

Laura remains at the University of Michigan Department of Family Medicine for her residency. “As I look forward to family medicine residency, I am excited to develop longitudinal relationships with my patients, care for patients of all ages, provide comprehensive women’s health care and gender affirming care, and continue to be involved in clinical education.”

This award was established in honor of the founding Chair of the Department of Family Medicine, Terence C. Davies, M.D. The award is presented to a graduating senior who exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding family physician: dedication to patient needs, intellectual curiosity, personal integrity, community service and leadership.

Congratulations Laura! □

http://medicine.umich.edu/dept/family-medicine

Terence C. Davies, M.D. Award Winner

―One of my most rewarding experiences in medical school has been volunteering at the U-M Student Run Free Clinic. We help uninsured/underinsured patients in our community receive needed healthcare while working on a multidisciplinary team with dental students, nurse practitioners and dieticians. I love teaching patients about their health so they can feel more empowered to make lifestyle changes,” said Laura. It was through her work at the free clinic that helped her realize her passion for patient education and clinical teaching, as well as her commitment to social justice.

Laura remains at the University of Michigan Department of Family Medicine for her residency. “As I look forward to family medicine residency, I am excited to develop longitudinal relationships with my patients, care for patients of all ages, provide comprehensive women’s health care and gender affirming care, and continue to be involved in clinical education.”

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Congratulations Laura! □

COVIND-19 …continued from page 5 adverse events (including thrombotic events) compared to patients who were not taking aspirin.

Dr. Gold, in collaboration with Drs. Harmes and Laurie, and Devon Kinney, is evaluating the impact of video visits on physician wellness. Lisa M. Meeks, Ph.D., M.A., assistant professor, will investigate overall self-reports of impairment of interns relative to mental health functioning pre- and post-COVID-19. This will be done in partnership with the Sen Lab.

Department faculty also were extensively involved in the planning and implementation of multiple endeavors that have not yet been needed due to the success of social distancing in the area. • Dr. Chavey developed a plan for deployment of family physicians throughout MM to augment other services.

• Dr. Chavey, along with Eric P. Skye, M.D., professor, participated in the leadership team to plan and execute a field hospital.

• Dr. Richardson was on the planning team in anticipation of the creation of a temporary emergency department at the East Ann Arbor Health Center to handle overflow of urgent patients.

The value of the specialty of family medicine and the competence and commitment of these professionals, and the staff that support them, never has been more evident than in this crisis. The above is just a sampling of how the Department has responded and we wanted you to be aware. If you would like to support any of the Department’s work related to the pandemic, please contact Amy St. Amour at astamour@umich.edu or 734-645-0423. □
A much-needed victory for the field of disability health will be realized this fall with the addition of a new disability health elective offering for University of Michigan Medical School (UMMS) students. Spearheaded by Michael M. McKee, MD, M.P.H., associate professor and director of MDisability, and Oluwaferanmi O. Okanlami, M.D., M.S., assistant professor of family medicine and physical medicine & rehabilitation and director of Adaptive Sports and MDisability Community Engagement; this two-week disability health course will be available for third and fourth-year medical students entering the “branches,” a unique element of the UMMS curriculum where students explore focused areas of interest that provide an opportunity to broaden their awareness of the medical profession in a specific domain.

The new course will be added to the Patients and Populations branch and will be offered starting with the fall September 2020 course electives. This new disability health elective will provide meaningful clinical experience through rotations among clinics specializing in disability-based care for specific populations (e.g., Deaf Health, Adaptive Sports Medicine, Spinal Cord Injury, Cerebral Palsy and Low Vision). Students will be introduced to elements of disability theory, clinical practice, disability law, health care policy and disability culture. The course includes small group discussions and online training with the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) program, and will connect students to the local disability community and available resources. The overarching goal of the course is to reduce health care disparities and improve health outcomes for patients with disabilities by preparing medical students to provide informed, person-centered care.
New Reproductive Health Care and Advocacy Fellowship

In collaboration with the Reproductive Health Access Project, the Department is launching a fellowship in reproductive health care and advocacy. This one-year fellowship aims to develop leaders who will promote and teach full-spectrum women’s reproductive health care within primary care, specifically to underserved populations. The fellowship is open to recent graduates and mid-career physicians.

“Abortion and contraception care belong within family medicine where each person can have their reproductive health needs met in a way that is patient-centered, evidence-based and non-judgmental. Our fellowship will help reduce barriers and train physician-advocates and teachers who will promote and protect access to family planning in the communities they serve,” noted Razel Remen, M.D., lecturer and co-fellowship director.

The fellowship curriculum entails:

- One year as a “trainer in training,” learning to perform full-spectrum reproductive health procedures, integrate them into primary care settings and teach these procedures to others.
- Four sessions a week providing continuity care for their own primary care panel.
- Develop teaching and feedback skills by precepting family medicine residents and through longitudinal faculty development via senior faculty mentorship and coaching.
- Develop teaching and leadership skills by giving core resident didactic presentations and presenting at regional and national family medicine meetings. The fellow will participate in advocacy projects that promote access to reproductive health care in the primary care setting.
- Apply to the Physician for Reproductive Health’s Leadership Training Academy to develop leadership and advocacy skills. If accepted, this will require three weekend workshops and longitudinal advocacy work over the course of the year.

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“The James F. Peggs, M.D. Medical Student Enrichment Endowment Fund supported Kevin McCawley on a remarkable clinical experience in Alaska between his M1 and M2 year last summer.

Thanks to unexpected support from the Peggs’ Fund, Kevin was able to spend five weeks in the Northwestern Arctic Borough of Alaska in the town of Kotzebue. Working with a local family physician, Kevin spent the weekdays flying out to rural villages to see patients and families.

“In Michigan, I had been struggling with this economics’ principle known as ‘the law of diminishing returns’ that for whatever reason has stuck in my head. Essentially, it states: the more you have of something, the less value you give to the individual components of the amassment. With that line of thought, I was having a hard time seeing the value I would be adding to the field of medicine… there are already so many doctors out there, and I felt like I wouldn’t be making much of an impact in joining the medical workforce. In the three weeks that I have been up in the Arctic, my entire perception on medicine has changed,” shared Kevin in his letter to Dr. Peggs.

He went on, “Here, planes delay their departure so the doctor doesn’t miss the flight. Here, family doctors run ERs, long-term care facilities, and organize massive public health initiatives. Here, I’ve realized what a vital role I can play in a community. The path I’m on has been validated in the most important ways, and my curiosity sparking wildfire after synapse-consuming wildfire through my head as a fulfilling, meaningful, and truly inspiring future unfolds before me.”
Reducing Hospital Readmission in Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia
Elham Mahmoudi, Ph.D, M.B.A., Assistant Professor
$150,000
Alzheimer’s Association

Over the next three years, Dr. Mahmoudi will develop an at-risk assessment tool for predicting readmissions to the hospital for people with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia (ADRD). Her research also aims to tailor the care coordination and discharge processes according to specific risks of readmission for this vulnerable patient population.

“Patients with ADRD are at higher risk of hospitalization and 30-day readmission compared to other older adults,” Dr. Mahmoudi said. “Readmission is expensive and increases the risk of institutionalization and premature death among ADRD patients. This is a critically important area, because the prevalence of ADRD is growing so rapidly it is difficult to find unaffected families.”

The work is funded by the Alzheimer’s Association’s 2020 International Research Grant Program. Dr. Mahmoudi is a “New to the Field” grant awardee.

Young Breast Cancer Survivors and the MiOptions Resource Center
Justine P. Wu, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor
$45,000
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Prior research has raised concerns that women with breast cancer have unmet reproductive health needs. Promising strides have been made in the field of oncofertility to promote awareness and access to fertility preservation options like egg retrieval and freezing. However, there is a paucity of resources available to meet the contraceptive needs of women with breast cancer, including information about their birth control options in context of breast cancer treatment and timely referrals to family planning providers.

Dr. Wu leads an interprofessional team of researchers, health care professionals, and patient advocates that has successfully carried out a multi-pronged stakeholder analysis that included surveys, interviews, and stakeholder meetings. Together, her team will develop and implement a virtual, scalable platform that centralizes and disseminates training opportunities and clinical tools, called the MiOptions Resource Center. Their overall goal of the MiOptions project is to improve the delivery of patient-centered family planning and contraceptive services to young breast cancer survivors and young people with metastatic breast cancer.

Accelerating Collaborative, Cumulative, and Open Intervention Science with an E-Intervention Authoring Platform
Lorraine Buis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor,
Family Medicine and School of Information
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering

Progress in the development and implementation of mobile health interventions has been slowed by factors such as the tremendous time and money needed to develop an intervention; limitations in cross-platform compatibility and interoperability; and lack of a consistent system around which to collaborate. To address these needs, the project’s principal investigator Steven Ondersma, Ph.D., associate professor at Wayne State University, developed the Computerized Intervention Authoring System (CIAS), which facilitates behavioral intervention science by allowing investigators to directly develop sophisticated and interactive mobile applications without programming.

A new grant enables Dr. Ondersma’s team to address the limitations of the existing platform to transform CIAS into a free, open-source, and virtually unique non-commercial research resource that is optimized for large-scale collaborations in behavioral health intervention research.

Dr. Buis serves as a University of Michigan site co-investigator for the project. She will contribute to the redesign of the CIAS, initiating a thorough process of user interviews to design a new and intuitive interface as well as evidence-based user training and support materials.
Recent quotes from family medicine research and researchers:

“[The fact that we can use MyVoice to bring in youth voice—not just experts—in national scientific and policy dialogue is so exciting! It’s an opportunity for youth to say, ‘Hey this is what is really happening. This is what I’m experiencing right now.’]”
Tammy Chang, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., on her research group’s contributions to two National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) national reports on adolescent health, including “The Promise of Adolescence: Realizing Opportunity for All Youth” (2019) and “Promoting Positive Adolescent Health Behaviors and Outcomes: Thriving in the 21st Century” (2020)

“We felt compelled to bring attention and awareness to the barriers to cervical cancer prevention in [low and middle-income countries]. For me there are two issues: one is a history of inequity, both socioeconomic and gender-based; the second is that cervical cancer is both preventable and easily detected in its earliest stages, making this an attractive target for prevention.”

“In what other profession besides medicine would a person with suicidal thoughts, in the depths of despair, feel so much stigma and shame that there was nowhere to go for help but PubMed?”
Katherine J. Gold, M.D., M.S.W., M.S., with Thomas L. Schwenk, M.D. in a March 2020 JAMA Psychiatry editorial “Physician Suicide—A Personal and Community Tragedy”

“One of the more controversial issues, says Katherine Gold, a family physician at the University of Michigan, is whether parents should hold their infants after stillbirth, due to fear it would intensify grief. A 2016 survey conducted by Gold and her colleagues found that of 377 mothers who experienced perinatal loss, 90 percent held their infants after birth. Most of the mothers who did not said they were told they were not allowed; half of them regretted not being able to do so.”
Katherine J. Gold, M.D., M.S.W., M.S. quoted in The Atlantic, for a February 2020 article “How Hospitals Changed Their Approach to Stillbirth.”
The 15th annual William Clippert Gorenflo award was presented to Lauren Groskaufmanis, M.D., a second-year U-M family medicine resident. Lauren grew up in northern Virginia and attended Duke University for medical school, where she was part of the Primary Care Leadership Track. Following graduation, she received a Master of Public Health from Virginia Commonwealth University with the purpose of strengthening her knowledge of statistics, epidemiology and research methods.

Here at U-M, working with Elham Mahmoudi, Ph.D., assistant professor, Lauren’s current research project uses large datasets and predictive modeling to study health disparities and care for patients with disabilities, specifically, pediatric patients with hearing loss.

“Those without insurance also get fewer screenings,” said Dr. Harper. “Additionally, our analysis updates and confirms that screening rates did not increase after the Affordable Care Act required all health plans to cover cervical cancer screening with no-copays when performed by an in-network provider.”

“To us, this suggests we still need to do a much better job at helping women, especially in these more vulnerable populations, understand the importance of screening as they age, and to continue to work to remove ongoing barriers to access.”

The paper was the result of a family medicine collaboration. Additional authors include staff biostatistician Melissa Plegue, Kathryn M. Harmes, M.D., assistant professor, Masahito Jimbo, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., professor of family medicine and urology, and Sherri Sheinfeld Gorin, Ph.D., adjunct professor. Dr. Harper added, “Our study is the result of a superb effort by all team members.” The study was published in the January 2020 issue of the journal Preventive Medicine.
Masco Supports Adaptive Sports

Last year’s inaugural corporate sponsor, Masco Corporation, a global leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of home improvement and building projects, has made a second generous gift in support of the adaptive scholar athlete program, led by Oluwaferanmi O. Okanlami, M.D., M.S., assistant professor and director of adaptive sports.

The ongoing commitment from Masco will help support adaptive student athletes as they train and compete, as well as provide scholarship support for three student athletes who will be attending U-M starting in fall 2020. The gift also provides essential programmatic support for the growing program.

“The impact Masco’s generosity will have on our ability to support our current and prospective student athletes with disabilities is immense. And, while our adaptive sports program may be new, we are well on our way to becoming one of the ‘Leaders and Best’ in this arena,” Dr. Okanlami.

Oluwaferanmi O. Okanlami, M.D., M.S., assistant professor, is creating a top-flight adaptive sports program for U-M students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, which will transform the lives of students with disabilities as well as bring renown to both Michigan Medicine and the University.

This spring, the inaugural endowment to provide essential funds for the program was established by Dr. Olubunmi Okanlami, in honor and memory of her late husband, Olufemi Oyetunji Okanlami, M.D., and in celebration of his life and what would have been his 65th birthday on January 30, 2020. The endowed fund is particularly meaningful because Dr. Olufemi Okanlami is also Dr. Oluwaferanmi Okanlami’s father. Dr. Olufemi Okanlami was passionate about supporting causes that improved the lives of children, and he dedicated both his career and volunteer activities toward this passion.

Dr. Olufemi Okanlami was born in Ibadan, Nigeria, and he graduated from the University of Ibadan College of Medicine in 1980. He did his internship at Ife University Teaching Hospital and began his training in pediatrics and neonatology at Lagos University Teaching Hospital prior to relocating to the U.S. for further training at Howard University and Georgetown University Hospital, both in Washington, D.C. He later practiced in Indiana as an attending neonatologist at Memorial Children’s Hospital in South Bend, St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka, and Elkhart General Hospital in Elkhart.

This Fund is Dr. Olufemi Okanlami’s legacy to his family, to all children who need an advocate, and to the U-M adaptive sports program.

For more information on the emerging adaptive sports program, visit https://bit.ly/AdaptiveSportsUmich
Development

Dale L. Williams, M.D. — a long-time member of our Development Advisory Committee, colleague, and friend — passed away on February 20, 2020.

Dr. Williams graduated from Wayne State University Medical School in 1964 and was a family physician in practice in Muskegon, Michigan. In the mid-1970s, he was asked to join a group of colleagues who presented a proposal to the U-M Board of Regents and the U-M Medical School to develop a department of family medicine. This department would encourage comprehensive, compassionate care for the entire family, as well as train future leaders in this specialty. Although the proposal met with some resistance, the group persevered, and in 1978 the Department of Family Medicine was created.

Prior to this, in 1973, Dr. Williams established the Koinonia Medical Clinic, now known as the Muskegon Family Care Center, where medical care was provided without regard to patient income. Dr. Williams’ generosity was boundless, as he was also committed to missionary work all over the world. This included spending a year at Pingtung Children’s Hospital in Taiwan, as well as conducting mission work in China, Haiti, Nicaragua, Ethiopia, the Congo and Rwanda. In his later years of mission work, he supplied hundreds of K-Lights, a reliable solar lantern which Dr. Williams designed and manufactured, to areas without access to electricity. His final passion and vision in life focused on a product that provides safe drinking water to those in need, particularly those in Africa. His vision continues through the work of his two partners who carry his legacy of hope for safe drinking water for everyone.

Dr. Williams retired from family practice in Muskegon after 30 years, and he and his wife, Christel, split their time between Grand Rapids and Florida. In 2009, Dr. Williams established the Dale L. Williams, M.D., Family Medicine Scholarship that has been awarded annually to senior medical students who match into the family medicine program at U-M.

The Legacy of Dr. Margaret Davies

A new fund supports work in behavioral sciences within family medicine. Margaret Davies, M.D., and her husband, Terence C. Davies, M.D., the inaugural Chair of the Department of Family Medicine, are regarded as the “Founding Couple” of the Department. Therefore, it is deeply meaningful that her legacy in the Department will continue in perpetuity.

As a teacher, Margaret was renowned for her emphasis on the behavioral aspects of clinical care and the value of family genograms.

Many years prior to her passing in 2018, Margaret generously documented a bequest to establish the Margaret Davies, M.D. Endowment Fund to provide inspiration for and support a Department faculty member’s work in the behavioral sciences field.

Thomas W. Bishop, Psy.D., M.A., assistant professor and assistant residency director will be the first recipient of the Margaret Davies, M.D. Endowment Fund award.

“This award really honors the behavioral training and treatment that we can continue to develop and provide,” noted Dr. Bishop. He plans to use the annual funds to strengthen the teaching methods of behavioral skills and increase the competency of residents using these skills in patient care.
When addressing a new patient complaint, clinicians intuitively understand the value of the patient’s history or narrative, and the value of the laboratory results, the numbers. The astute clinician integrates these different elements to reach a working diagnosis and solve the clinical problem.

Mixed methods research emerged three decades ago as a new paradigm that similarly integrates qualitative and quantitative data for investigating some of the most complex problems of our times. Established in 2015, the Mixed Methods Program (MMP) is based in the Department of Family Medicine, and serves as the world’s first think tank of mixed methods research methodologists.

Using state-of-the-art methodological procedures, Michael D. Fetters, M.D., M.P.H., M.A., professor and director of MMP, and John W. Creswell, Ph.D., adjunct professor, provide the overall leadership for the research consultation services designed to assist the Department, Michigan Medicine, the wider U-M community, and researchers from around the world, in mixed methods research.

Program faculty, Timothy Guetterman, Ph.D., assistant professor and associate program director; Melissa De Jongeheere, Ph.D., assistant professor, and Paul Chandanabhuma, Ph.D., M.P.H., postdoctoral fellow, apply mixed methods research in their own work, and illustrate how to merge together “stories” from qualitative data collection and “numbers” from quantitative data collection. The MMP is hosting Dr. Chihiro Tajima from Gakushuin University in Japan as a visiting scholar in residence.

Qualitative procedures may include individual or focus group interviews, observations, or archival data documents, in any form, such as the medical record prose or diaries. Quantitative procedures include surveys, clinical trials and quasi-experimental designs. What distinguishes mixed methods research from just the collection of both types of data, is the merging together or integration of the two types of findings. In a recent editorial in the Journal of Mixed Methods Research (JMMR), Dr. Fetters and José Francisco Molina Azorín, co-editors, emphasize a new type of randomized control trial, the mixed methods interventional evaluation, that integrates qualitative and quantitative data collection throughout the study. This trial helps optimize recruitment strategies, refine interventions, assess fidelity to the intervention, and provides better understanding after the trial about benefits or downsides of the intervention. An integrated mixed methods trial delivers greater efficiency.

The complexity of the COVID-19 pandemic truly accentuates the need for researchers to use a mixed methods approach. JMMR has issued a call for papers, “COVID-19 and Novel Mixed Methods Methodological Approaches During Catastrophic Social Changes” that will be online and open access. The editors are dedicating the special issue to novel mixed methods methodological approaches underway during the pandemic, or that have been conducted in the past that could accelerate investigations during the pandemic.

The MMP also provides mixed methods and use of software workshops and has trained more than 400 participants through 12 mixed methods research workshops with learners from across the United States and internationally including, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark, Guyana, India, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Malaysia, Nigeria, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, and the United Kingdom. The MMP has hosted 10 international mixed methods leaders through the visiting scholars program over the last three years.

MMP’s fall workshop, “Designing Your Mixed Methods Research Project,” will be held November 11–13, 2020. The workshop will be preceded by a 1-day qualitative workshop on November 10, 2020.

Inquiries about consultations or participation in MMP workshops can be directed to program administrator, Satoko Motohara at smotohar@umich.edu.

Attendees at a workshop develop their mixed methods projects.
A Great Loss

“Dr. Sheets was an icon in Family Medicine, not just locally but nationally. His contributions to the discipline over the decades have been recognized everywhere. We already greatly miss his insights, wry sense of humor, and ability to discuss topics of any nature (especially sports!),” noted Philip Zazove, M.D., the George A. Dean Chair of Family Medicine.

In addition to his contributions to medical student education, Kent enjoyed the title of “Unofficial Department Historian.” In this role, he authored a book entitled “Not Just Any Department of Family Medicine: Telling the Story of the First 40 Years of the University of Michigan Department of Family Medicine,” to celebrate the Department’s 40th anniversary in 2018.

Dr. Sheets was instrumental in the development and administration of the required family medicine clerkship within the University of Michigan Medical School. Students consistently rank this clerkship #1 in the medical school. Beloved by medical students over the years, they made him an honorary member of both AOA and Galen’s. Countless family physicians across the country considered him a mentor and friend. It is unquestionable that he left his mark in our Department and on the generations of physicians that he supported over the decades.

In memory of this staunch supporter of family medicine education, the Department of Family Medicine has established the Kent J. Sheets, Ph.D. Family Medicine Education Fund. This new fund will honor his life’s work and his passion and dedication for teaching. It will support initiatives and programs related to medical student, resident, fellow and faculty education in the Department of Family Medicine.

To make a gift in memory of Dr. Sheets, visit https://victors.us/kentsheets.

A Friend’s Reflections

I joined the Department of Family Practice (then) in 1978 as a “non-physician” faculty member. So, in 1982, when I learned there was the opportunity to recruit another “non-physician” faculty member, I rejoiced at the prospect. And, when it turned out to be Kent J. Sheets, Ph.D., with a similar MSU heritage, I was even more elated and knew we had invited someone to join us who would be an instant colleague. I did not know at that time, that 38 years later, I would lose a close friend and be writing these words.

In the early days, Kent and I worked very closely writing federal training grants (literally writing with Black Warrior pencils and yellow pads) for funds to support predoctoral education, residency education, faculty development and even the infrastructure for our educational programs in general. We were a great team and had the satisfaction of knowing we were helping a young department grow and prosper in its education initiatives. It was clear from the start Kent was an educator and his passion was students (and dogs).

Although I began as the Director of Educational Development, it was evident this role and title fit Kent much better. I was a manager and planner, while Kent was an educator by virtue of both his education and heart for students. The students became aware of his affection for them early on and later made him an honorary member of both Galen’s and AOA. And, you frequently would find a student in his office discussing their residency education plans and potential careers. He was a “safe” place to go where they would hear the sound of listening and feel the warmth of acceptance. There was nothing bureaucratic about him. He was a “real” person and they knew he was there for them.

Continued on page 18
A Friends Reflections

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About 25 years ago, Kent shared with me the idea of initiating a faculty development institute for our senior residents, fellows, young faculty members and those in other family medicine programs in the State and northern Ohio. I supported his initiative and taught (administrative principles) under his leadership since then. Our most recent session was this past March, which is a stark reminder of this incredible and sudden loss.

We at the U-M, and in family medicine, were not Kent’s only colleagues and fans. He was a leader in predoctoral educational nationally, a frequent caller to Sports Talk Radio 1050 radio WTKA (known as “Kent from Ann Arbor”) and a friend at local culinary “hot spots” such as Dimo’s Deli and Donuts, the Fleetwood Diner and Tio’s Mexican Restaurant. However, it was never the food; it was the fellowship. He knew them and they knew him as a friend and not as a tenured faculty member at the U-M.

I cannot count the number of hours I spent with Kent over the last 38 years, but I know how I will remember them. I had the privilege of knowing and being the friend of a person who loved students, life and every opportunity he had to serve others.

Thanks Kent,

Your friend and “non-physician” colleague, Dale

R. Dale Lefever, Ph.D., emeritus faculty

Memories of Dr. Sheets

Kent inspired many of us in Family Medicine. He set a high bar for the FM clerkship. My regret was that my time at Michigan predated FM and his work. I admired his work from afar and at STFM meetings. He set a lasting foundation. For this I’ll always be grateful, for as an alum, I’m proud of the place the DFM has at UM. May his spirit live on!

~ Elizabeth A. Burns, M.D., M.A. (MED 1976)

Kent’s death is certainly a great loss for the Department and for all of us, even if separated by a number of decades. He, like many of the leaders of the Department, was able to mix great humor and great leadership. I will certainly remember his love for his work and for all of us as a residents in lectures, softball games, and informal gatherings. It was a privilege to have him as a teacher and a friend.

~ Bob Vermaire, M.D. (RES 1986) and Marcia

Dr. Sheets was a remarkable human. He was one of the first people I encountered in the Family Medicine Department when I got involved in the Family Medicine Interest Group as a medical student. He was influential in my decision to pursue Family Medicine. He will be greatly missed.

~ Suzanne Ross, M.D. (RES 2011)

He was one of a kind. Kent often joked he was “nationally known; locally worthless.” The first was true, but not the second. His impact has been immense and will carry us forward even in his absence. I must admit to being irritated and envious of his remarkable memory; he could recall an embarrassing anecdote from your life at a moment’s notice. Let’s all conduct ourselves as though he is evaluating us (1-5) from above!

~ Jim Peggs, M.D. emeritus professor

To read more memories of Dr. Sheets and share your own, please visit: https://bit.ly/drsheets.


Faculty Activity

Faculty Publications

- Bouldin ED, Aikens JE, Piette JD, Trivedi RB. Relationship and communication characteristics associated with agreement between heart failure patients and their Caregivers on patient depressive symptoms. Aging Ment Health. 2019 Sep;23(9):1122-1129.


Faculty Accolades

James E. Aikens, Ph.D., professor, and Diane M. Harper, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., professor, were listed in the top 100,000 scientists in the world for their cumulative research work over the past 20 years. PLOS Biology published the database at https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3000384.

Tammy Chang, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., assistant professor, was appointed to serve on the National Academy of Science Engineering and Medicine Board on Children Youth and Families. This board advances the health, learning, development, resilience, and well-being of all children, youth, and families by mobilizing expertise from multiple disciplines to analyze the best available evidence on critical issues. Dr. Chang’s expertise with the MyVoice project will be instrumental to this group.

William E. Chavey II, M.D., M.S., associate professor and department service chief, a longtime chair of Michigan Medicine’s Credentials Committee, has been named Associate Chief of Staff of the Office of Clinical Affairs.

Melissa Dejonckheere, Ph.D., assistant professor, was awarded the U-M Faculty Award for Research with Children and Adolescents through the University of Michigan Center for Human Growth & Development’s Research Symposium on Children and Adolescents. Her project is titled “Results of a National Text Message Poll of Youth: Perspectives on Primary Care.”

Michael D. Fetters, M.D., M.P.H., M.A., professor, continued service as the program president of the 4th Japan Society of Mixed Methods Research meeting held in September in Hamamatsu. He published the Mixed Methods Research Workbook—Activities for Designing, Implementing, and Publishing Projects (Sage, Inc). He served as chairman for the Japan America Society of Michigan and Southwestern Detroit. He gave the keynote presentation at the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the Shizuoka Family Medicine (SFM) Residency Program in Shizuoka, Japan in February. The past decade has been marked by active U-M and SFM exchanges, including teaching by many Department faculty members. Dr. Fetters is instrumental in this partnership.

Katherine E. Hughey, M.D., assistant professor, was selected for the Association of American Medical Colleges Early Career Women Faculty Leadership Development Seminar. Through this seminar, She will further develop her leadership skills in health equity education.

Ayano Kiyota, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor, earned recognition as a Fellow of American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. In her work she involves educational activities of Palliative Care Program teaching medical students, residents, and fellows.

Michael S. Klinkman, M.D., M.S., professor, began a new role with the Michigan Health Information Network (MiHIN) to co-lead work to develop state standards for social determinants of health screening and diagnosis that will support data exchange and interoperability between the community and health care sectors. The work will be closely aligned with national collaborative efforts such as the Gravity Project and tailored to recently published empirical articles, which are relevant to family physicians, methodologically rigorous and potentially practice changing, and then to support learning through an assessment and expert commentary.

Joel J. Heidelbaugh, M.D., professor, was chosen to serve on the American Board of Family Medicine National Journal Club Committee (NJCC). The goal of the NJCC is to identify the most important
Faculty Accolades  ...continued from page 21

support the increased cross-sector care coordination needs anticipated in the COVID-19 pandemic.

Oluwaferanmi O. Okanlami, M.D., M.S., assistant professor, was featured on a Good Morning America segment called Thriver Thursday with Robin Roberts in November 2019. Thriver Thursday spotlights “thrivers” — people who persevere, achieve their goals and even surpass them despite life altering circumstances. Additionally, Dr. Okanlami joined the board of the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, hosted the 2nd annual Diversity in Medicine Conference with the Doctors of Tomorrow Student Group, and was quoted in an Associated Press article about the Paralympics and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amal Othman, M.D., lecturer, was named a member of the Obesity Medical Association’s Outreach Committee. This committee aims to increase awareness and recognition in the field of obesity medicine and to implement projects that promote the practice of obesity medicine to medical professionals.

Pamela G. Rockwell, D.O., associate professor, a member of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), updated recommended vaccine schedules for 2020, including changes for recommended practices related to the Hepatitis A, HPV, PCV13, and TdAP vaccines.

Razel Remen, M.D., lecturer, was selected to develop updates to the TEACH abortion workbook which is produced by the University of California, San Francisco’s Bixby Center. Her expertise is leading to a new section on self-managed abortion and implicit bias in reproductive health.

David C. Serlin, M.D., assistant professor, leads the statewide Physician Organization of Michigan Accountable Care Organization, LLC (POM ACO), which improved care for more than 77,500 Medicare participants across the state, while making a positive difference in the cost of that care, according to data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The Medicare system saved $43.1 million on the care of those Michiganders in 2018. At the same time, that care met high quality standards. POM ACO is one of the few ACOs to have such a long track record of both savings and high quality of care every year under the Medicare Shared Savings Program created under the Affordable Care Act.

Philip Zazove, M.D., the George A. Dean, M.D. Chair of Family Medicine, discusses his journey to becoming a physician despite profound hearing loss, the need for diverse physicians and his efforts to change the culture of disability at the U-M Medical School and Michigan Medicine in a thoughtful and personal piece in Hour Detroit. The piece was published in the February edition of the magazine.

The Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research awarded two $100,000 Synergy grants awarded to Department faculty. Michael M. McKee, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor, will develop clinical research on individuals with sensory disabilities. The second award went to a group including Sherri Sheinfeld Gorin, Ph.D., professor, Masahito Jimbo, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., professor, Michael D. Fetters, M.D., M.P.H., M.A., professor, Diane M. Harper, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., professor, and Ananda Sen, Ph.D., professor. Their grant will focus on cancer prevention in rural areas.
Faculty Activity

Department Faculty

Professor and Chair
Philip Zarove, M.D.

Professor
James E. Aikens, Ph.D.
Zora Djuric, Ph.D.
Michael D. Fetters, M.D., M.P.H., M.A.
Diane M. Harper, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Joel J. Heidelbaugh, M.D.
Masahito Jimbo, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Michael S. Klinkman, M.D., M.S.
Caroline R. Richardson, M.D.
Ananda Sen, Ph.D.
Eric P. Skye, M.D.

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William E. Chavey II, M.D., M.S.
Christine T. Cigolle, M.D., M.P.H.
James M. Cooke, M.D.
Katherine J. Gold, M.D., M.S.W., M.S.
Robert B. Kiningham, M.D., M.A.
Michael M. McKee, M.D., M.P.H.
Karl T. Rew, M.D.
Pamela G. Rockwell, D.O.

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Aleksandr Belakovskiy, M.D.
Catherine M. Betcher, M.D.
Thomas W. Bishop, Psy.D., M.A.
Lorraine R. Buis, Ph.D.
Juana Nicoll Capizzano, M.D.
Marcelo Castillo MacKenzie, M.D.
Tammy Chang, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Melissa J. Dejonckheere, Ph.D.
Keri L. Denay, M.D.
Margaret L. Dobson, M.D.
Jill N. Fenske, M.D.
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Timothy C. Guetterman, Ph.D.
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Erin Hendriks, M.D.
Anita K. Hernandez, M.D.
Katherine L. Hughey, M.D.
Elizabeth K. Jones, M.D.
Scott A. Kelley, M.D.
Nell B. Kirsch, M.D.
Anne L. Kittendorf, M.D.
Ayan Kiyota, M.D., Ph.D.
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Lisa M. Meeks, Ph.D.
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Leigh M. Morrison, M.D.
Karen L. Musolf, M.D.
Oluwaferanmi O. Okanlami, M.D., M.S.
Carissa A. Orizondo, M.D.
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Jill R. Schneiderhan, M.D.
David C. Serlin, M.D.
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Amul Othman, M.D.
Julie K. Prussack, M.D.
Manasi Ramakrishnan, M.D.
Razel Remen, M.D.
Keturah P. Schacht, M.D.
Monica C. Schaffer, M.D.
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Galens Medical Society Grant

Maggie’s Marketplace was the recipient of a generous grant from the Galens Medical Society, which will support the program’s ongoing mission of providing healthy food and basic necessities to the Ypsilanti community. Specifically, the grant will fund the purchase of light bulbs, diapers, feminine hygiene products and a new freezer for the Marketplace.

The first of its kind at Michigan Medicine, Maggie’s Marketplace opened in 2017 to initially serve the Ypsilanti Health Center’s patients and their families, but quickly expanded to serve anyone in the Ypsilanti community facing food insecurities.

Founded in 1919 by a group of medical students and faculty, the Galens Medical Society is now comprised of approximately 120 medical students and 13 faculty Honoraries making it the largest and most diverse service and social organization at the Medical School. The organization raises more than $80,000 in its annual Tag Days fundraiser and distributes the money to organizations within Mott Children’s Hospital, as well as non-profit organizations that benefit the children of Washtenaw County.