Four Greats in Cardiology
Honored at Annual Event

Four outstanding Cleveland Clinic physicians were recipients of Emeritus Professorship Awards at the second annual Sones/Favaloro Scientific Program and Awards Presentation, held in November in Cleveland: William L. Proudfit, MD, Edwin G. Beven, MD, Paul Taylor, MD, and Mehdi Razavi, MD.

“Their work helped to propel Cleveland Clinic to international status for heart care,” said Lars G. Svensson, MD, PhD (CARD’S’87), Chair of the Sydell and Arnold Miller Family Heart & Vascular Institute, which hosted the event.

The Sones/Favaloro program is named after two legendary Cleveland Clinic doctors: F. Mason Sones, MD, and René Favaloro, MD. Dr. Sones and Dr. Favaloro were pioneers in coronary artery angiography and coronary artery bypass surgery, respectively.

PROFILES OF HONOREES

Mehdi Razavi, MD (CARD’67) has played a central role in the life of Cleveland Clinic for almost 50 years. For medical excellence.

A graduate of the Isfahan Medical School in Iran, Dr. Razavi completed his internship at the Maltland Medical Center in New Jersey and went on to a residency at Akron City Hospital.

He then came to Cleveland Clinic in 1963 for a special fellowship with F. Mason Sones.

Dr. Razavi also worked alongside such pioneering physicians as Irvine Page, Harriet Dunstan, Donald Effler, William Proudfit, and Rene Favaloro. In July 1967, he became a full staff member in the

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department of Cardiovascular Disease and Cardiac Laboratory. He specialized in cardiac catheterization and angiography. Over the course of his career, he participated in seminal research and performed more than 25,000 cardiac catheterizations – including Cleveland Clinic’s 50,000th.

In 1972, Crown Prince Khalid of Saudi Arabia came to Cleveland Clinic with 100 associates. Dr. Razavi was asked to coordinate the prince’s care, and he was highly successful with this effort. Thus began a long relationship with the Saudi royal family. The Crown Prince returned to Cleveland Clinic as King Khalid in 1978 and made gifts to establish a new International Center at Cleveland Clinic. It was the first of its kind in the country to welcome international medical students for study and observation.

Dr. William Sheldon was the first Chairman of the International Center. Dr. Razavi succeeded him in 1987. Over the next 20 years, he greatly expanded its scope and influence.

Dr. Razavi became the de facto international ambassador of Cleveland Clinic. He was instrumental in establishing Cleveland Clinic’s reputation in the Middle East and paving the way for Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. Dr. Razavi is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and the Society of Cardiac Angiography.

Working at Cleveland Clinic, he says, “has been nothing short of a privilege.”

Edwin G. Beven, MD (S’62, VS’63) was among what has been called “the greatest generation of vascular surgeons.” He served as head of Cleveland Clinic’s Department of Vascular Surgery from 1972 to 1988.

Dr. Beven was born in Chile and graduated from McGill University in Montreal. He earned his medical degree from McGill Faculty of Medicine in 1956, completed his internship and residency at Montreal General Hospital, and went on to fellowships in general surgery and vascular surgery at Cleveland Clinic from 1958 to 1963.

In 1964, he was the second person to join the staff of the newly formed Department of Vascular Surgery. In 1972, he was named head of the department, serving until 1988. He was head of the Section of Cerebrovascular Surgery from 1989 until his retirement in 1999. From 2002 to 2014, he was Specialty Director for Vascular Surgery for the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association. He now is an Emeritus in the Department of Vascular Surgery.

Dr. Beven, whose work took him around the world, trained more than 100 vascular surgery fellows, many from Chile. He was close friends with Dr. Sones and Dr. Favaloro, with whom he worked and traveled.

He published nearly 100 scientific papers spanning the full range of vascular disease and treatments. He was President of the Cleveland Vascular Society and the Society for Spanish-Speaking Vascular Surgeons. In 1996, he was awarded the Cleveland Clinic Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Dr. Beven credits the “unique nature” of the Cleveland Clinic practice – where doctors act as a unit to serve the patient – for the organization’s success.

Paul Taylor, MD (S’70, TCS’72) was a pioneering cardiac surgeon who helped establish Cleveland Clinic’s worldwide reputation for cardiac surgical excellence. He graduated from Miami University of Ohio and earned his medical degree at the George Washington University School of Medicine. He completed internships at Cleveland Clinic, a fellowship in general surgery at St. Vincent Charity Hospital and Cleveland Clinic, and a thoracic-cardiovascular fellowship at Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Taylor’s association with Cleveland Clinic began in high school, when surgeon Donald Effler, MD, the father of a friend, invited him to observe surgery because he was impressed with young Dr. Taylor’s skills as a ping-pong player. Dr. Taylor went on to spend three summers working in operating rooms with Dr. Effler as his mentor and monitor.

He was promoted to associate staff in 1972 and joined the full staff in 1973. A member of several scientific societies, including the Chilean Society of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery, Dr. Taylor sat on 34 committees at Cleveland Clinic.
Throughout his career, Dr. Taylor performed more than 15,000 operations, advancing the art and science of cardiac and thoracic surgery. He published 60 scientific papers and book chapters, contributing essential knowledge to the techniques of coronary artery revascularization.

Dr. Taylor was a master practitioner who trained many of the world’s current leaders in cardiac surgery. He was renowned for his rapport with patients and families.

“It was truly exciting to work at Cleveland Clinic alongside so many talented and dedicated people,” Dr. Taylor said at November’s commemoration.

William L. Proudfit, MD (IM’43) is one of the most accomplished and respected cardiologists of his generation. He worked closely with F. Mason Sones, MD, Rene Favaloro, MD, and others to pioneer cardiovascular care in the mid-20th century. Dr. Proudfit graduated from Washington & Jefferson College in 1935 and earned his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1939. He became Cleveland Clinic’s second-ever cardiology fellow in 1940.

He stayed on until he joined the United States Army Air Force in 1943, where he served as an internal medicine specialist. Dr. Proudfit returned to Cleveland Clinic as head of the Section of Electrocardiology.

Dr. Proudfit revolutionized the field of cardiology by defining the link between angina pectoris and coronary artery disease. He also helped establish the natural history of coronary artery disease and correlated symptoms with coronary arteriograms.

His careful record-keeping laid the groundwork for the Cardiovascular Information Registry. Along the way, he earned the respect of colleagues and patients for the quality of his research and his reluctance to take credit for his accomplishments.

Dr. Proudfit served as head of Clinical Cardiology from 1966 to 1974, helping to establish Cleveland Clinic’s first coronary intensive care unit in 1970. He excelled in every role he held, from internist, to cardiologist, to teacher.

At the November 2016 event, Dr. Proudfit, now 103 years old, said he was humbled to be mentioned in connection with men as distinguished as Drs. Sones and Favaloro, with whom he worked. “They were extraordinarily talented and unique individuals – and most unlike me,” Dr. Proudfit said with characteristic understatement.

The first Cleveland Clinic regional hospital built in Northeast Ohio welcomed its first patients on Nov. 15. The innovative, five-story facility was built on the north side of the Richard E. Jacobs Health Center in Avon, Ohio.

The hospital has 126 private hospital rooms, an intensive care unit, operating rooms, and a cardiac cath lab, pharmacy and laboratory. The Richard E. Jacobs Health Center’s existing emergency and radiology departments also were expanded.

The new Avon hospital blends function with efficiency, innovation and beauty to create a healing environment. The hospital was designed to provide for future approaches to patient care that, after being tested at Avon hospital, could be used throughout Cleveland Clinic.

At a ceremony in November, the building name — The Roseann Park Family Tower — was unveiled as a surprise by Ray Park in honor of his wife, Roseann. The Parks are longtime Cleveland Clinic board members and philanthropic supporters of Cleveland Clinic and Northeast Ohio.
We thank our alumni for contributing annually to both the Education Institute in support of eligible residents and fellows in graduate medical education and to the eligible Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute post-doctorate fellows. Funds are used for travel to medical meetings, forums and seminars in support of their vocations.

2016 Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association LRI Award Recipients

Qiang Wang, PhD  
Cancer Biology  
MENTOR: Qing Yi, MD, PhD  
CONFERENCE: American Society of Hematology 2016 Annual Meeting  
ABSTRACT TITLE: Targeting Myeloma-Associated Macrophage Inhibits Multiple Myeloma Progression by Enhancing Anti-Tumor Cytotoxic CD4+ T-Cell Response

Sudipta Biswas, PhD  
Molecular Cardiology  
MENTOR: Eugene Podrez, PhD  
CONFERENCE: ATVB|PVD Scientific Sessions 2016  
ABSTRACT TITLE: Prothromxsbotic Role of Platelet Tlr2 in Hyperlipidemia

Michael Bukys, PhD  
Stem Cell Biology  
MENTOR: Jan Jensen, PhD  
CONFERENCE: International Society for Stem Cell Research, 2016 Annual Meeting  
ABSTRACT TITLE: Modeling Pancreatic Fate Decisions using a Design of Experiment (DoE) Method for the Directed Differentiation of Pluripotent Cells

Sheela Rani Karunanithi, PhD  
Cellular & Molecular Medicine  
MENTOR: Noa Noy, PhD  
CONFERENCE: FASEB Conference on Retinoids, 2016  
ABSTRACT TITLE: The Stra6-Rbp4 Pathway in Maintenance of Colon Cancer Stem Cells

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Alumni Association Provides Travel Awards to 10 Post-Doctoral Fellows At Lerner

The Lerner Research Institute used its $10,000 contribution from the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association to sponsor travel awards for 10 post-doctoral fellows in 2016. Often, these fellows would like to attend national meetings to learn about new scientific discoveries and meet with colleagues. Such meetings also provide opportunities for them to deliver presentations of their own and further their careers.

“Earning the 2016 Cleveland Clinic Alumni Travel Award allowed me to attend my first conference at Cold Spring Harbor, where I was selected for a platform presentation,” says Jacqueline Ward, PhD, of the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine. At the conference, she says, she networked with pioneers in the field of transposable elements and made contacts that will help her in her career. She also benefited from presenting her research.

Qiang Wang, PhD, also of the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, says that the American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting is the world’s premier event in malignant and non-malignant hematology. “With the support of the Alumni Association Postdoctoral Fellow Professional Development Award, I gave an oral presentation at the 58th ASH Annual Meeting & Exposition (Dec. 3–6) in San Diego, and was honored to get the ‘Abstract Achievement Award’ from the ASH Program Committee.”

“I gained invaluable education and the opportunity to review thousands of scientific abstracts highlighting updates in the hottest hematology topics,” he says. “I also networked with top minds in the field and a larger, global community of more than 20,000 hematology professionals from every subspecialty. My study at Cleveland Clinic is now known by other myeloma professionals all over the world.”
THIS OLD HOUSE HAS QUITE A HISTORY

While Kandice Kottke-Marchant, MD, PhD (ACLPTH ’90), was house-hunting last year, she had no idea that she’d be taking a step back in time.

A previous owner of the home in Cleveland Heights had left a note on the mantle explaining efforts made to place the home on a historical society registry. It mentioned that the home once belonged to Dr. Henry J. John, one of the original 13 doctors who established Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. John, an internal medicine specialist, was an early advocate of the use of insulin to fight diabetes and went on to become the first head of laboratories at Cleveland Clinic. He also was a witness to, and survivor of, the great Cleveland Clinic Fire of 1929. (See Alumni Connection profile on Dr. John, Issue 2, 2015, pages 16-18.) His wife, Betty, was a laboratory technician at Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Kottke-Marchant stopped in her tracks. “Unbelievable,” she said to herself. “Almost 100 years ago, this man who once owned this home held the same job at Cleveland Clinic that I do. He was the first to hold the post.”

Dr. Kottke-Marchant, who chaired the Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Institute for 10 years, today is the Laboratory Director for the main campus.

She fell in love with the 1920s-era home for reasons other than its lineage. The two-story stucco home with a Mediterranean tiled roof also features ornate wood carvings, fine paneling and impressive plaster work that decorate the home’s interior. Dr. John also added a medieval-style library with carved bookcases and a tiled fireplace.

Dr. Kottke-Marchant learned that Dr. John developed a penchant for wood carving and had a woodworking shop built behind the home’s garage. He went on to carve the wooden totem poles at the camp he founded in Geauga County for children with diabetes, Camp Ho Mita Koda.

Things remain a bit messy at the Kottke-Marchant home right now as the kitchen undergoes a renovation. “There’s dust everywhere, but we’re on the right track and ready to begin the next chapter here,” Dr. Kottke-Marchant says.

Heavily paneled doorways and walls are a feature of the home.

Plenty of bookshelves received decorative treatment when the home was originally constructed.

Kandice Kottke-Marchant, MD, PhD, Laboratory Director, main campus, purchased a home with an amazing connection to Cleveland Clinic.
During the “VeloSano Bash: Revealing the Cash” event presented by the Lerner Foundation last November, it was announced that VeloSano 3 was the most successful of the bike events held thus far.

VeloSano 3 raised more than $3.3 million for cancer research at Cleveland Clinic. In addition to thanking the event partners for making VeloSano possible, several individuals were recognized for their contributions, including the top 20 fundraising riders, virtual riders and teams. One of the most coveted honors, the “All-In VeloSano Award,” was presented to John Anderson, morning show anchor at WKYC Channel 3, in recognition of his efforts to support VeloSano both on-air and off.

This past July, nearly 1,600 riders — including more than 249 caregivers, along with many family members and friends — pedaled over 81,000 miles to help support the cause. An additional 310 caregivers volunteered their time staffing rest areas and cheer stations and 126 caregivers participated as virtual riders.

In three years, the event has raised more than $8 million. Every dollar raised is allocated across the health system to support the emerging research areas of genomics, immunotherapy and clinical trials. In 2015, 3,261 patients participated in more than 440 cancer-related clinical trials conducted at Cleveland Clinic, thanks in part to VeloSano.

The 2017 VeloSano 4 weekend is scheduled for July 21–23. Registration opened in January at velosano.org.

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Sail 10 relaxing days in locales including Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau and Skagway before returning to British Columbia with visits to Prince Rupert and Victoria. Take in breathtaking scenery, participate in outdoor activities, and shop in quaint boutiques on this Pacific Northwest adventure.

The cruise will be the perfect antidote to your hectic daily life, blending sightseeing, learning and leisure. Call today!

For more information, or to book your stateroom, please call 800-530-0770 and mention priority code 042603.
Kevin El-Hayek, MD, FACS (GS’11, S/ ALB’12, S/HEP’13), is a man on the go, and he has been ever since joining Cleveland Clinic in 2006 after graduating from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

He’s done medical mission work; served as President of Cleveland Clinic’s House Staff Association; completed a general surgery residency and two fellowships; spent two-and-a-half years with Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi; and now is a valued staff member of the Section of Surgical Endoscopy. Here, he will continue his practice of advanced laparoscopy, endoscopy and hepatopancreato-biliary surgery.

Recently, Dr. El-Hayek slowed down long enough to answer some questions about his personal life, professional experience and what keeps him going.

**How would you describe your background?**

Well, after high school I had a five-year wrestling career at Harvard (1997-2002). I studied abroad in Paris, where I got to train with both the American and French wrestling teams, then entered medical school in 2002. I met my wife, Raechel, in 2003, when I was a first-year medical student and she was studying law at Case. She graduated in 2005, and I followed in 2006. I’ve been working with Cleveland Clinic ever since.

**Tell us about your experiences serving as President of the House Staff Association.**

In 2009-2010, I served as the HSA President. That year, I worked very closely with the newly formed Education Institute to strengthen the relationship between Cleveland Clinic administration and the house staff. We held a number of networking events that encouraged house staff to feel more connected with the overall mission of the hospital. Dr. Cosgrove held several town halls with house staff the prior year, and then decided to include them at regular meetings.

**Who were your mentors during training?**

My fellowship mentors were Bipan Chand, MD, FACS, FASGE, FASMBS, in advanced laparoscopy, endoscopy, and bariatric surgery, Matthew Kroh, MD, FACS, FASMBS, and R. Matthew Walsh, MD, in hepatopancreato-biliary surgery. I am so grateful to these surgeons for their positive impact on my understanding of the treatment of patients with complex upper gastrointestinal disorders. I was drawn to this specialty because of the complexity of the diseases and the gratification I experienced in treating these patients.

**How did you become interested in an assignment to Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi?**

I actually first heard about the CCAD project when I was a resident in 2006 and thought, “That might be a great opportunity!” I was at Cleveland Clinic for eight years (2006-2014) before my assignment to CCAD, and I stayed there for two-and-a-half years (August 2014–Jan 2017). I was also inspired by the vision and mission of CCAD as laid out to me by Maher Abbas (MD, colorectal surgery, Abu Dhabi).

**Why did you want to go there?**

Overseas medicine has been an interest of mine ever since I started my medical training. As a medical student, I was exposed to this work first in Mexico (2003) and then Gabon (2004) through the Christian Medical and Dental Association (CMDA). Since then, I’ve been back to Gabon twice (in 2012 and 2014) to teach surgical residents new laparoscopic techniques. The trips also gave my family members – my wife, Raechel, and our daughters, Keira and Alison, ages 6 and 4 – an opportunity to expand their horizons. It was actually Raechel, who was born and raised in Cleveland, who really pushed for us to go. She was ready for the adventure and felt it offered a unique opportunity to our kids, as well.

**What were your first impressions of CCAD when you arrived?**

The hospital building wasn’t even open when we arrived in August 2014. As staff,
our group also was the first to occupy the hospital in September. Initially, I was struck by the complexity of the operation, both at the staffing level as well as the physical plant level. Figuring out the “who” and “what” we needed to get started was extremely challenging. We all started working furiously to meet our commitment to the public and open by March 2015. There were some tense moments as we approached that deadline, but amazingly, everyone was able to pull together, and the hospital opened on time.

What was your first day there like?
That first day was overwhelming. I was recovering from a knee operation, and I had a brace for the first three weeks there! The heat was intense and reached 120 degrees Fahrenheit some days. I initially thought the Gulf had “dry heat,” but this was as humid as you could imagine. The entire family was exhausted while we were trying to navigate the city, get the kids settled in school and find a home. I remember about three weeks in, my 6-year-old got sick and needed to go the hospital for IV hydration. The next week, Raechel got sick, as well, also needing hydration at a local ER (the hospital wasn’t opened yet). I was calling into staff meetings from their emergency rooms to keep up with what was going on with the preparations.

The hospital is massive and the technology unbelievable. Thankfully, many of the systems – such as the electronic medical record – are the same as at Cleveland Clinic, so I was ahead of the game there.

What are the differences between the practice of medicine in the Middle East and America?
I’m not even sure where to start. The cultures are so vastly different. One book Tom Mihaljevic (CEO at CCAD) gave us during our ramp-up period, “The Culture Map,” by Erin Meyers, was very enlightening. It helped us navigate some of the ways different cultures interact.

What are your favorite memories of the country (UAE) and CCAD?
It’s funny; I initially mentioned how hard it was for us to make the decision for the four of us to leave the comforts of Northeast Ohio (excluding the horrendous winters, of course) for a new adventure at CCAD in 2014. I can honestly say it was much harder to make the decision to return. We were blessed to welcome a healthy baby boy (Cameron Glen El-Hayek) in September 2016 in Abu Dhabi. So, while I made the decision for four of us to leave Cleveland, it was a decision for five on the way home. (Oh, and we also added an Arabian cat named Tahli to the mix.)

I do think being a part of a start-up like CCAD presented itself as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me and the family. At times, it was chaotic, frenetic and stressful – but in the end, it was totally worthwhile.

Alison and Keira played in the sands of the UAE and very much enjoyed their stay overseas. The decision to return home was harder than they realized. (Lacey Sexson Photography)
On September 29, 2016, Cleveland Clinic performed its 6,000th Gamma Knife® procedure. The non-invasive, targeted therapy delivers radiation to a specific area of the brain without harming surrounding healthy tissue.

In a single treatment, 192 beams of gamma rays are focused on multiple points to deliver radiation that matches the shape of the tumor. Because of this precise focus, aggressive, high-dose gamma radiation can be delivered to stabilize, shrink or destroy some lesions – even those deep in the cerebral hemispheres or brain stem, practitioners say.

Most patients don’t feel anything during the treatment or recovery. And being able to treat some brain tumors without making any cuts is a huge step forward for patients, say treatment specialists.

Cleveland Clinic recently performed its 6,000th Gamma Knife procedure, which delivers radiation brain therapy in a non-invasive fashion.

Lara A. Kalafatis has been named Chair of Cleveland Clinic’s Philanthropy Institute and is responsible for The Power of Every One centennial campaign.

Lara A. Kalafatis was named Chair of Cleveland Clinic’s Philanthropy Institute on January 9 and is responsible for all Cleveland Clinic philanthropic initiatives and capital campaigns, including The Power of Every One centennial campaign, launched in 2014 with a goal of raising $2 billion.

Ms. Kalafatis is a member of Cleveland Clinic’s Executive Team.

Previously, she served as Vice President for University Relations and Development at Case Western Reserve University. She managed the university’s $1.5 billion campaign, Forward Thinking. While at CWRU, she strengthened internal and external relations with alumni and communications by leading re-branding efforts that included a new logo and a new magazine, Think.

In 2004, Ms. Kalafatis served as senior liaison between the university and the Commission on Presidential Debates. She was responsible for attracting the presidential debate to CWRU and also led the communitywide effort that created the Race at Case.

Other accomplishments include being inducted into Leadership Cleveland in 2007 and recognition in 2006 by Crain’s Cleveland Business as one of the “40 under 40” for her leadership and community involvement.

Ms. Kalafatis lives with her family in Rocky River.
Alvaro Alvarado, PhD, a recent graduate of the Cleveland Clinic Molecular Medicine PhD program, has authored an important publication in *Stem Cell* that uncovers how brain tumors are able to resist treatment.

Together with his mentor, Justin Lathia, PhD, Dr. Alvarado found that glioblastoma stem cells express a lower level of toll-like immune receptor 4 (TLR4), an important protein that interacts with the immune system to inhibit cancer growth. With lower levels of TLR4, the cancer stem cells are not marked for destruction by the immune system. Instead, they continue to proliferate unchecked, even in the presence of anti-cancer drugs.

With this new understanding, Dr. Lathia’s laboratory will screen various drugs in an attempt to sensitize glioblastoma stem cells to their environment and make them easier to kill. Since glioblastoma is the most aggressive and lethal type of brain cancer, these discoveries could lead to prolonged lives for patients with the condition.

Lerner Research Institute’s Molecular Medicine program is a unique biomedical graduate program that integrates traditional research training with clinical knowledge and experiences. Since graduation, Dr. Alvarado has enrolled in the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA, where he is pursuing postdoctoral training.

This groundbreaking project was funded entirely through philanthropic support—Sontag Foundation, Blast Glioblastoma and Cleveland Clinic’s VeloSano Bike to Cure program.

Real estate values have increased steadily recently, which is good news after the sharp decline that occurred a few years ago.

If your home’s value has increased and you would like to support Cleveland Clinic, you might consider a retained life estate gift. This option would relieve your family of the burden of inheriting your home and arranging for the sale; would remove the residence from your taxable estate; and, ultimately, would provide support to Cleveland Clinic and its patients.

Additionally, your immediate federal income tax charitable deduction may be larger due to the increased value of your property.

A retained life estate is a gift plan that allows you to give your home (or farm or vacation home) to Cleveland Clinic now while retaining the right to use it for the rest of your life. You would deed the property to Cleveland Clinic, but continue to be responsible for all routine expenses—maintenance fees, insurance, property taxes, repairs, etc. The immediate benefit to you is a federal income tax deduction.

**Benefits include:**

- You qualify for an immediate federal income tax charitable deduction. Deductions for gifts of long-term appreciated property, such as a home, will be limited to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income. If necessary, you may take unused deductions over the next five years.
- You retain the right to use your home, farm or vacation property for the rest of your life.
- Your estate may enjoy reduced probate costs and estate taxes.
- You will have peace of mind knowing that your gift will support future patients of Cleveland Clinic.

If the idea of using your property as a charitable gift is of interest to you, but a retained life estate is not feasible, there are other options. If you have questions and would like to learn more about how your property can be used to benefit Cleveland Clinic and its patients, please contact Mindy Strohm at 216.444.6534 or strohm@ccf.org.
This past December 7 marked the 75th anniversary of the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, which launched America into the most destructive war the world had ever known.

More than 60 million combatants and civilians were killed, including 407,000 American military members. More than 671,000 American soldiers, sailors and Marines were wounded. Countless lives the world over were changed forever.

Among them were those of Cleveland Clinic doctors who rallied to their nation’s call, even as the damage by the attack on Pearl Harbor was still being measured.

These brave medical professionals served all over the world – many in relatively safe surroundings, and others in dangerous combat zones. Some even had to perform surgery while on their knees to avoid enemy gunfire.

They all were eyewitnesses to history.

One of the doctors who enlisted in the military was Dr. George “Barney” Crile, the prominent son of Dr. George Washington Crile, one of the four founders of Cleveland Clinic.

During his four years in the Navy (1942-1946), Dr. Crile sometimes researched ruptured appendixes and discovered they were not as life-threatening as commonly thought. He contended that emergency appendectomies performed aboard submarines were risky and often unnecessary and decided that a safer course was to first administer penicillin and then move the patient to an appropriate hospital.

By 1942, Cleveland Clinic was reporting as many as 89 members of its staff, fellows and former fellows had enlisted in the military – and the actual number could be much higher. In fact, so many doctors left Cleveland Clinic to join military medical units that there was a critical shortage of physicians at the institution. This led to an unusual circumstance: Hospital systems in Cleveland started helping each other by spreading out their already thin staffs to assist with patient care.

It was determined that Cleveland Clinic would form its own military medical unit, in neurosurgery, and conversations with the U.S. Surgeon General helped make that happen.

On March 1, 1942, the new unit, led by Dr. James W. Gardner, set out for the South Pacific. Members included seven Cleveland Clinic permanent staff surgeons, several former fellows, clinicians from outside the institution, and numerous medical corpsmen. The group became known as Navy Mobile Base Hospital No. 4, built in Auckland, New Zealand.
Robert Brubaker, MD

When you think of a doctor in the military medical services during wartimes past, do you picture someone safe, behind the lines? If so, you would be wrong.

The truth is that while many in the medical corps practiced in relative safety – with some even complaining about the boredom – others were dodging enemy fire while trying to save the wounded and dying.

In letters to their families at home and to colleagues still at Cleveland Clinic, alumni wrote about the tedium and the terror of war.

"Things are quiet now. Aren’t many extracurriculars other than tearing around the islands in barges and visiting native sing-sings. A lot of food, including bananas, pineapples, limes, etc. We are almost at the point of shining our shoes."

Robert Brubaker, MD
Captain, 29th Evac. Hosp.
April 14, 1944

"I went ashore on D+3. Tarawa."

H. L. Hartley, MD
Cmdr., USNR
July 24, 1944

(Editor’s note: Tarawa, a tiny atoll in the Gilbert Islands, was the site of one of the fiercest battles of the war. Some 1,796 U.S. servicemen – mostly Marines – were lost, and 2,101 more wounded in the first 72 hours of combat. Enemy dead and wounded were vastly greater. It took 37 cemeteries to bury the dead. What Cmdr. Hartley walked into that day must surely have seemed like the end of the world.)

"You asked me where I was. No doubt in my mind where I am. I’m in Iceland, for Christ’s sake. ICELAND! Doesn’t that slay you? It’s a cozy little place, all right. Come before dark so you can see it. That’ll give you about five months yet."

David D. Dunn, MD
1st Lt., Co. A, 5th Medical Battalion
May 4, 1942

It was Dr. Bunts’ pleasure, he said, to tell all Cleveland Clinic fellows in uniform that their positions would be waiting for them back home once hostilities ended.

But Dr. Bunts also was a man of great national pride. When a fellow wrote to him that America must never again allow itself to be plunged into another world war, Dr. Bunts penned a poignant reply.

In an emotional response, Dr. Bunts wrote:

“I can understand your hatred of war because I served on the front with a field artillery regiment in France during the last one. Nevertheless, this war was not manufactured by the United States. It was clear for a long time that we would be obliged to prevent these gangsters from winning. So, I would rather modify your statement and say: ‘Let us do all in our power to prevent war in any part of the world. But if we are attacked, let us fight like hell.’"

Acknowledgement: Alumni Connection wishes to thank Fred Lautzenheiser and John Bowen of Cleveland Clinic’s Archives Department for their research assistance with these stories.
W.H. Pennington, MD
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“I am the medical officer for a destroyer division in the North Atlantic. I treated the first American casualties (after Pearl Harbor). I enclose the abstract of one of my cases which might be of interest to you. He is a seaman suffering the effects from a torpedo explosion.”

R. W. Rommel, MD, USNR
Lieutenant (jg),
At Sea, S.S. Monssen. DD 436
January 15, 1942


(Editor’s note: The SS Monssen, later transferred to the Pacific Theater, was sunk in battle off the coast of Guadalcanal with heavy loss of life.)

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“Our camp is located amid coconut trees, a stone’s throw from a nice ocean beach with tall mountains nearby. At first, the heat was terrific, but it cools off at night so that a blanket would feel good toward morning. We’ve had some rain, but mostly it’s been delightfully cool. The engineers and medics deserve a lot of credit for cleaning up the place. I’ve seen about all there is to see in this neck of the island. Continuing to explore.

We’ve got a standard short-wave radio which keeps us in touch with the States, also Tokyo. The propaganda from the latter is choice. Last night a (Japanese) commentator spoke about schizophrenia, which, he said, is one of the worst diseases one could have. He said it was sad that most people in America had schizophrenia, especially Roosevelt and his gang. He said FDR spent his days dreaming happy dreams, which include world conquest, and that he and his gang forced the American people into the war. I suppose Pearl Harbor had nothing to do with it?”

John D. Summers, MD
Captain, 196th Sta. Hosp.
New Guinea
Feb. 4, 1942

**

“After we set up our field hospital, snipers began firing. We dropped flat as bullets kicked up dust all around us.

“Then some American soldiers who had been patrolling the town came advancing across the field with their tommy guns. More firing by both sides. One of the soldiers got down beside the truck I was lying under and began picking off snipers in the hills. I was afraid to move and afraid to stay. I thought every minute might be my last one.

“The shooting stopped and we went back to work. But every 15 minutes the gunfire would start again and we’d dive for cover. We began stacking mattresses around so that we might have some protection.

“Everybody very jittery as the firing continues. Two German planes overhead just now, strafing the beach. Our guns brought one of them down.”

W. H. Pennington, MD
Major, Army Medical Unit
North Africa
December 1942
Cleveland Clinic’s Critical Care Transport (CCT) program recently received international accreditation status from the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems. The program has been fully accredited in all modes of transport, which include helicopters, ambulances, jets and mobile stroke units.

The CCT team has 150 members, including physicians, nurse practitioners, flight nurses, flight medics, pilots and mechanics. It responds to more than 5,600 medical transport calls a year across Northeast Ohio, as well as emergencies in 46 states and 28 countries. China, Egypt and Kuwait are among the most distant places the team has traveled.

Available 24/7, 365 days a year, these caregivers transport critically ill and injured patients of all ages, sometimes using a combination of transport modes to speed patients to Cleveland Clinic for treatment.

Some overseas patients request Cleveland Clinic because of its reputation, while others have been treated at Cleveland Clinic before and return because of the high-quality care they received. Some patients are referred by other hospitals because of the many specialty practitioners at Cleveland Clinic. Visit alumni.clevelandclinic.org/services-benefits for more information on an alumni discount for this program.

As a Cleveland Clinic cardiologist who specializes in heart failure and heart transplantation, Mazen A. Hanna, MD (C/HFT’06), knows caregivers and patients can form an indestructible bond.

“Caregivers care. When our patients heal, we are relieved,” Dr. Hanna says. “When our patients’ health declines, we are concerned. Caring for others can be an emotional journey. But the human connection helps guide us through.”

At 31 years old, Kenneth Williams was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. For 12 years, he took heart failure medication. Unfortunately, in 2011, he needed a left ventricle assist device (LVAD). For the first three years, he did well, but he now is on the heart transplant list.

Recently, Mr. Williams visited Cleveland Clinic for a routine checkup and was surprised by a visit from his care team, who brought a cake to help him celebrate his fifth LVAD anniversary. Functioning on the LVAD for that long and never needing to be readmitted to the hospital in that time is quite a milestone, Dr. Hanna says.

“Over time, we as physicians develop a relationship with our patients,” he says. Dr. Hanna has taken care of Mr. Williams for seven years. “We talk about fears and aspirations. We have developed a personal bond, and I truly care about Mr. Williams’ wellbeing.”

The strong bond develops from both ends.

“I’m comfortable with all my caregivers,” Mr. Williams says. “It’s like seeing old friends. I can tell them what I’m feeling when I can’t even tell my wife. I don’t want her to be more worried, or see me as weak.”

For the past five years, Mr. Williams has volunteered to speak with more than 100 patients who are considering, or are using, an LVAD.

“People I speak with are terrified,” he says. “But they feel better after seeing and talking to someone who survived the surgery and is living a full life with the LVAD.”

Mr. Williams doesn’t let his health concerns keep him from enjoying life. A full-time barber and father of five, he plans to travel soon to Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, as well as Miami, Florida, and Punta Cana in the Dominican Republic.
Cleveland Clinic: In the News

Cleveland Clinic’s agreement with IBM seeks to enhance patient care using new computer technologies.

Cleveland Clinic, IBM Announce Five-Year Agreement

Cleveland Clinic has entered into a five-year agreement with IBM to expand its health information technology capabilities to better capture the value of data and enhance patient care.

The goal is to establish a model for the health system’s transition to value-based care and population health, and to uncover potential standards that could be replicated by providers nationwide.

The agreement builds on a decades-long relationship between the two organizations and expands Cleveland Clinic’s use of IBM’s secured cloud, social, mobile and Watson cognitive computing technologies across clinical and administrative operations.

The initiative with IBM will significantly advance Cleveland Clinic’s IT capabilities, which are increasingly important as healthcare becomes more technology dependent.

Cleveland Clinic Recognized For Culture of Learning

Cleveland Clinic has been named one of eight participants in the first phase of a new initiative by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The program aims to support and encourage innovation, promote transformative improvement in clinical learning environments and ultimately enhance patient care.

As part of the four-year program, Pursuing Excellence in Clinical Learning Environments, the eight institutions will serve as Pathway Innovators. Organizations were selected for their capacity to engage in transformational change and willingness to fully integrate a culture of learning into the clinical environment. Elias I. Traboulsi, MD, Med (CCF’97), Director of the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Department, and Toby Cosgrove, MD, CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic, are co-principal investigators of the grant proposal to the ACGME. A number of Cleveland Clinic physicians, administrators and GME staff contributed significantly to the crafting of the winning proposal that aims to use interprofessional, resident-led teams to enhance transfers within and between hospitals.

After an extensive review process by the selection committee, comprising representatives of 21 partnering organizations in healthcare and education, the ACGME chose eight institutions — out of 47 applicants — to participate in this first phase. Each participant will receive funding of up to $75,000 per year over four years with the expectation that each will match the funds. This is the first time that the ACGME has awarded grants.

Dr. Traboulsi notes that, in addition to the value of the proposal, ACGME recognized Cleveland Clinic for having the infrastructure that can explore and change processes.

He notes that Cleveland Clinic’s existing Solutions for Value Enhancement (SolVE) program addresses quality and patient safety issues.

“ACGME realized how serious the administration is about this proposal and the importance they place on education and the quality of patient care.”

The immediate healthcare benefits will arise from the project’s execution, he says. “We will examine the transitions of care at Cleveland Clinic, reexamine and keep going until they are the best they can be,” he says. “But also key is that young physicians training in this environment will have a different state of mind; not learning just to treat a disease but to work in teams within systems and to focus on the quality of patient care.”

Andre Machado, MD, PhD, implanting electrodes in the cerebellum.

Cleveland Clinic Performs World’s First DBS Surgery for Stroke Recovery

Cleveland Clinic has performed the first deep brain stimulation (DBS) surgery in a patient for the purpose of restoring motor function following ischemic stroke.
During a six-hour procedure on Dec. 19, a team led by Andre Machado, MD, PhD (NS/FS'06), implanted DBS electrodes in the cerebellum of the patient who has severe post-stroke residual hemiparesis despite previous physical therapy. The patient has been discharged home feeling well and in stable condition.

Over the next few weeks, following adequate healing and recovery from the surgery, the patient will have physical therapy. After a few weeks of rehabilitation, the DBS device connected to the implanted electrodes will be turned on as the patient continues physical therapy. The patient then will be monitored and evaluated regularly to determine whether and how DBS can enhance the effects of physical therapy.

This first-in-human operation is the initial case in an NIH-supported Cleveland Clinic trial of DBS for stroke recovery.

“If this research succeeds, it is a new hope for patients who have remained paralyzed after a stroke,” says Dr. Machado, Chair of Cleveland Clinic’s Neurological Institute and a specialist in neuromodulation. “It is an opportunity to allow our patients to rehabilitate and gain function and independence. Our knowledge to date shows that deep brain stimulation can help the brain reorganize and adapt beyond what physical therapy alone can do. Our study’s goal is to boost rehabilitation outcomes beyond what physical therapy alone could achieve.”

The role of nutrition in pre-and post-operative surgery is the subject of a new book by alumnus Gregory A. Buford, MD

Alumnus Gregory A. Buford, MD, FACS (S'99, PL/RS'01), has released a comprehensive new book about how nutrition can help patients prepare for and recover from surgery. The book is written for physicians and patients alike, as it offers valuable, actionable insights for both parties.

Eat Drink Heal: The Art and Science of Surgical Nutrition, takes an in-depth look at how to choose the right macronutrients, micronutrients and supplements to support bodily systems both before and after surgery.

“As a surgeon and a strong believer in the power of food, I have always been surprised about the lack of education within the medical profession about how food can both help as well as hurt the healing process,” Dr. Buford says. “By recognizing and explaining the value of good nutrition—both before and after surgery—we can provide better overall care to our patients.”

Other doctors who have read the book call it an important work that should be read by both doctors and patients who will come to understand complex topics presented in an understandable way.

“Dr. Buford addresses a subject which has largely gone ignored in western medicine,” says John P. Fezza, MD, an oculoplastic surgeon in Sarasota, Florida. “Educating patients about nutrition is integral to both general health and post-operative healing. In our ‘quick fix’ society, the public is often misled into believing surgery is a fast way to improve health or appearance. In reality, health starts with knowledge, healthy diet and exercise. Dr. Buford explains why.”

Many physicians now are saying that smart nutritional decisions can make the difference between healing and healing well.

“Instead of feeling like everything is out of their control when it comes to surgery, readers will come away from this book knowing they have the power to maximize the benefits of medical procedures,” Dr. Buford says.

“In addition to all the plans and recipes found in my book, I list specific labs that should be drawn before surgery—essential information for any patient,” Dr. Buford says. “In short, this book should be helpful to anyone scheduled for, or considering, a surgical procedure.”

A leading plastic surgeon – named one of “America’s Top Surgeons” – Dr. Buford is the founder and Medical Director of Beauty by Buford in Denver, Colorado.

Authors Corner

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WPSA Elects Executive Board Members

The Cleveland Clinic Women’s Professional Staff Association elections were held in September, and the following members now are serving on the WPSA Executive Board, effective as of Jan. 1:

Mary Rensel, MD (N’96, N/T’98), was elected President of the WPSA Executive Board and will serve for two years. Hadley Wood, MD, moves into the Past President role.

Claudia Mason, MD (CCF’08), (OB-GYN, West Palm Beach) will replace Diana Galindo, MD, as the the WPSA Executive Board member from Florida.

Vicki Reed, MD (CCF’03), was re-elected for another two-year term, and Roxanne Sukol, MD (CCF’10), (Preventive Medicine) was elected to her first term. They join Namita Gandhi, MD, and Erika Woodson, MD, who were elected last year.

Alumni Centenarians

Happy Birthday to those Cleveland Clinic alums who have reached – or surpassed – their 100th birthdays! Our congratulations, admiration and best wishes.

The Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association.

Dr. Herschel L. Browns (IM’49): 102 years old on Jan 16.

Dr. William L. Proudfit (IM’43): 103 years old on Feb 16.

William Sharfman, MD (IM’85, HEM/ONC’89), recently became the inaugural recipient of the Mary Jo Rogers Professorship in Cancer Immunology and Melanoma Research at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Sharfman is an associate professor of oncology and dermatology, Director of Cutaneous Oncology, Clinical Co-Director for Oncology of the Johns Hopkins Melanoma Program and a founding member of the Johns Hopkins Melanoma Group. For the past 17 years, he has served as the Medical Director of Oncology at Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center’s Green Spring Station facility. At Cleveland Clinic, he completed his internship and residency in internal medicine from 1982 to 1985 and his hematology/oncology fellowship from 1986 to 1989.

Elias S. Siraj, MD (IM’99, ENDO’01), was named Professor and Chief, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, as well as Director of the Strelitz Diabetes Center at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), in Norfolk, Virginia. He also was awarded The David L. Bernd Distinguished Chair for Cardiovascular and Diabetes Research and leads the research programs at the EVMS Sentara Cardiovascular Diabetes Center.

Samir Kaushik Shah, MD (VS’11, S’14), completed his general surgery residency at Cleveland Clinic in 2014 and recently graduated from the Homans Vascular Fellowship at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, where he is a staff member. After finishing the Program for Clinical Effectiveness at the Harvard School of Public Health, he is continuing coursework for a master of public health degree, with the goal of using these skills to further his research interests in quality and patient satisfaction. He also has an appointment at Harvard Medical School as an instructor of surgery.

Carol A. Burke, MD, FACP (GE’93), Vice Chair, Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, was elected President of the American College of Gastroenterology. She will direct the organization’s programs, including continuing medical education.

Silvia Perez Protto, MD (LRI/OUT’08, AN’13, CC’14), has been appointed Medical Director of the Center for End of Life Care in the Office of Patient Experience. She will lead an enterprise-wide effort to create an approach to end-of-life care that honors patients’ preferences, improves the family experience and fosters healthcare team resilience.

A. Marc Harrison, MD (CCF’05), was named President and Chief Executive Officer of Intermountain Healthcare, a nonprofit health system based in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is the largest healthcare provider in the Intermountain West, with 37,000 employees serving the healthcare needs of individuals in Utah, Southeastern Idaho and surrounding areas. Dr. Harrison brings impressive experience as a successful healthcare leader and a distinguished pediatric critical care physician. Dr. Harrison held leadership positions at Cleveland Clinic prior to joining Intermountain, most recently serving as Chief of International Business Development. He also was CEO of Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, where he oversaw the establishment of 12 Institutes, five centers of excellence, and more than 30 medical and surgical specialties. Earlier roles included Chief Medical Operations Officer, involving oversight of a broad range of clinical operations worldwide for the system.

Dr. Herschel L. Browns

Dr. William L. Proudfit

William Sharfman, MD

Elias S. Siraj, MD

Samir Kaushik Shah, MD

Carol A. Burke, MD

Silvia Perez Protto, MD

A. Marc Harrison, MD

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Leslie Heinberg, PhD, MA (CCF’07), is part of a team that recently received funding for a $3.8 million R01 grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The group will study mechanisms that predict weight trajectory after bariatric surgery.

Tom Abelson, MD (OTO’81), has this take on using the word “just” as reported in The Daily Briefing newsletter. “This week we had a medical assistant (MA) filling in for an ill MA in the office. I asked her name and where she normally worked. She said, ‘I am just a float…’ We’ve all done that. Diminishing ourselves by using the word ‘just.’ Let’s lose the word ‘just’ at the Beachwood Family Health Center. We can describe ourselves without that word and without losing the humility that we hopefully all feel, as well.”

Nagy Mekhail, MD, PhD (AN’91, AN’93), Pain Management, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from the New York Society of Interventional Pain Physicians during the 2016 Pain Medicine Symposium on Nov. 4.

Bruce Trapp, PhD (CCF’94), Chair of the Department of Neurosciences at the Lerner Research Institute, was recently awarded an Outstanding Investigator Award from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the National Institutes of Health. The award is worth $7 million over eight years and will support Dr. Trapp’s laboratory as it examines the biology of multiple sclerosis and seeks treatments that could slow and even reverse the disease.

Michael Spedick MD, FACS, FAAO, FAAP (OPH’85), was elected to the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons and is a member of the chapter of the American College of Surgeons at the Annual Meeting Oct. 19. Dr. Spedick is a former President of the New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Surgeons and is a member of the physician staff at the Ocean Eye Institute in Toms River, NJ. Three new members have been elected to serve on the Board of Governors for a term beginning Jan. 1, 2017, and running through Dec. 31, 2021.

Stanley L. Hazen, MD, PhD (CCF’97), Chair of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Medicine (formerly the Institute of Medicine). Candidates are selected based on major contributions to the advancement of the medical sciences, healthcare and public health. Dr. Hazen has made pioneering discoveries in the field of multiple sclerosis and seeks treatments that could slow and even reverse the disease.

Continued on page 20

CIME Names New Medical Director
Khaldoun Tarakji, MD, MPH (IM’04, CARD’09, CARD/E’11), has been selected as Medical Director in the Center for International Medical Education (CIME) and began his new role on March 1.

CIME is responsible for coordinating and implementing Cleveland Clinic’s international education initiatives. As its Medical Director, Dr. Tarakji will work closely with Global Patient Services leadership and co-chair the International Advisory Board, which has governing responsibility for international medical education programs throughout the Cleveland Clinic health system.

An electrophysiologist in the Sydell and Arnold Miller Family Heart & Vascular Institute, Dr. Tarakji directs Electrophysiology Clinical Research. He also serves as an Assistant Professor of Medicine for the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and as the Specialty Director of Cardiology for the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association. In 2015, he completed the Leading in Health Care course, a 10-month course in leadership.

Dr. Tarakji is the primary investigator of multiple national and international clinical trials and has published more than 40 manuscripts in high-tier medical journals, including JAMA, Circulation and Heart Rhythm. He led the section of electrophysiology to adopt novel outpatient heart rhythm monitors, including smartphone-based monitors, and integrate them into Epic. That work, along with conducting the first virtual visit in Cardiovascular Medicine, earned him the Caregiver Celebrations Excellence Award in 2016. Dr. Tarakji also has received the Irving Dawson Award for clinical excellence and the Cash Memorial Award for clinical research, among others.

Dr. Tarakji earned his medical degree from Damascus University-Faculty of Medicine in Syria and his master of public health degree from Cleveland State University. He completed all his post-graduate training (medicine, cardiology and electrophysiology) at Cleveland Clinic. Since joining Cleveland Clinic, he has been active in the clinical education of residents and fellows and has mentored many of them through their research projects, for which some have received national awards.
in the fields of atherosclerosis and inflammatory disease research that are impacting clinical practice.

Anthony Fernandez, MD, PhD (DMP’11), and Courtenay K. Moore, MD (UFPMRS’06), have been selected as Associate Medical Directors in the Center for Continuing Education (CME), under the leadership of Medical Director Alexander Rae-Grant, MD (CCF’07). Dr. Fernandez began his new role Oct. 1, and Courtney began her new role on Jan. 1.

Charles Miller, MD (CCF’04), Section Head of General Surgery, has been appointed Medical Director of Cleveland Clinic Medical Services Inc. (Allogen Laboratories). The laboratories perform a wide variety of diagnostic development and high-complexity diagnostic and transplant testing.

Jeffrey Cohen, MD (CCF’94), Director, Mellen Center, was inducted into the National Multiple Sclerosis Society’s Volunteer Hall of Fame for Scientific Researchers during the Leadership Conference in November. He was recognized for advancing research and providing leadership that has impacted the society’s global research investment.

Eric A. Klein, MD (U’86), Chair of the Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute, has been selected as the Kidney Foundation of Ohio’s 2017 Person of the Year. The award, officially presented during the foundation’s 25th annual Gala in February, recognizes Dr. Klein’s commitment to the field of urology and nephrology and his dedication to the mission of the Kidney Foundation of Ohio.

Ashish Khanna, MD, FCCP (AN’14, CC’15), General Anesthesiology, has been awarded the prestigious Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) Presidential Citation for 2017. This award was established to honor those who give extraordinary contributions of time and energy to the mission of SCCM and the growth of the specialty. This is the second consecutive year he received this citation.

Shaheen Lakhan, MD, PhD, Med, MS (IM’11, N’14), has been appointed Chair of Neurology and Assistant Dean of Clerkship Curriculum at California University of Science and Medicine.

Jacobo Kirsch, MD (S’02, DR’06), has been appointed Center Director of Hospital Specialties at Cleveland Clinic Florida. Dr. Kirsch graduated from the Universidad de Monterrey School of Medicine in Monterrey, Mexico. He completed his residency training in Diagnostic Radiology at Cleveland Clinic’s main campus, and his Cardiac Imaging fellowship at Mayo Clinic. He

CCLCM Alumnus Updates Staff During Recent Visit

Michael G. Knight, MD (CCLCM’12) delighted staff when he dropped by on a recent visit. He is working at the University of Pennsylvania’s Crescenz, Virginia, Medical Center as a Clinical Scholar through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation researching patient safety and quality. Dr. Knight shared that he is in charge of an intervention designed to improve patient and provider communication in the hospital setting and a research study on the effect of conflicting mammography screening guidelines on patient behavior. Dr. Knight, who finished his internal medicine residency at New York Presbyterian Hospital – Weill Cornell Medical Center in 2015, also is active in the National Medical Association and various community service projects.

Dr. Nika Bagheri Edits Trusted Guide to Eye Disorders

Nika Bagheri, MD (CCLCM’12) is a retina fellow at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute of the University of Miami. She was one of the editors of the 7th Edition of the Wills Eye Manual, published earlier this year. For more than 25 years, the Wills Eye Manual has been a best-selling source of authoritative guidance on treating ocular disorders in an office, emergency room or hospital setting.

Other News

The Office of Professional Staff Affairs has announced the recipients of three Chief of Staff Awards, which support professional development. These coveted awards are named after former chiefs of staff: Ralph Straffon, MD; Robert Kay, MD; and Joseph Hahn, MD, and can be applied to tuition or related expenses associated with a professional staff development opportunity that furthers Cleveland Clinic’s mission of caring for the sick, investigating their problems, and educating those who serve. The selection committee, comprising staff members representing institutes and specialties across the enterprise, chose: Kendalle Cobb, MD (CCF’04), Family Medicine; Eric Mayer, MD (SSF’09), Center for Spine Health and Associate Director of Clinical Transformation; Robert Bolash, MD (PNMD’13), Pain Management.

Three new members have been elected to serve on the Board of Governors for a term beginning Jan. 1, 2017 and running through Dec. 31, 2021. New members are: Seth Podolsky, MD, Vice Chair of the Emergency Services Institute; Alice Rim, MD (CCF’99), Section Head, Breast Imaging; and Nicholas Smedira, MD (TS’95), Department of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery.

Continued from page 19
joined the staff at Cleveland Clinic Florida in 2007 and is the Vice Chair and Quality Officer of the Imaging Department.

Juan C. Parodi, MD (VS’76), will receive the 2017 ASA Medallion for the Advancement of Surgical Care from The American Surgical Association. This honor is given by the Association on rare occasions to recognize seminal contributions in clinical surgery or surgical education that truly established new benchmarks or paradigms.

Lara Jehi, MD (N’04, NPHY’06), has been named Chair of the Annual Course for the American Epilepsy Society for a three-year term, which includes a mixture of educational lectures, clinical vignettes and panel discussions by authorities in the field. It is the prime educational offering of the society’s annual meeting, typically attended by an international audience of 4,000 to 5,000 physicians and other healthcare providers.

Richard Becker, MD (IM’85, H’O’86), recently became Chief of Cardiology at the University of Cincinnati. He oversees the health system’s cardiovascular services, including those at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and the Cincinnati Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Please Keep in Contact

Cleveland Clinic Alumni Relations wants to stay on top of significant changes in your life. Have you moved? Taken on a teaching position? Received an academic promotion or professional recognition of some sort? Decided to retire? Have an interesting hobby or avocation you’d like to share? Your former Cleveland Clinic colleagues are interested in hearing your news. Please drop us a line at ClevelandClinic.org/Alumni or e-mail alumni@ccf.org.
Francis J. Owens, Sr., MD (CCF’54), of Pepper Pike, Ohio, died in November. Father of F. Joseph (Christie) Owens Jr., Stephen P. Owens, Kathleen M. Owens and Gregory M. (Jillann) Owens, Dr. Owens was born in Kalida, Ohio, in 1921. He was a member of the American Legion Buckeye Boys State of Ohio, and an Eagle Boy Scout during his youth. He graduated from Ohio State University (BA, summa cum laude with distinction) in 1941. He began his medical career at Ohio State University College of Medicine, earning his medical degree in 1944. He interned at Ancier Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota, and completed his residency in internal medicine and gastroenterology at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He was in the United States Army (lieutenant) from 1944 to 1948. He joined Cleveland Clinic in 1954, spending the rest of his career there until retiring in 1987. Dr. Owens remained active as an emeritus staff doctor. He was a Fellow in the American College of Physicians and a member of the American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Owens was active at Plymouth Church, serving as an usher and deacon for many years. He was a man of science but also a lover of great literature and poetry, which he studied and shared with eloquence, and sometimes humor. Travel, music, sports and games, including ballroom dancing, were interests he pursued with joy.

James D. Gay, MD (DMP’96), died recently at age 64 in Denver, Colorado. After graduating from Michigan State University, he studied medicine at the University of Michigan, from which he obtained an MD. He specialized in pathology and earned several board certifications. Dr. Gay practiced medicine in Michigan, Ohio, Florida, and Colorado. He married Linda Sievert in 1978, they divorced in 1990. Dr. Gay enjoyed skiing, hiking, cycling, and running; he competed in the Boston Marathon and other running events around the country. He is survived by his stepmother, Evelyn Gay, brothers David Gay (Tanner) of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and James Longhurst of Marshall, Michigan; and sister Elizabeth Longhurst (Kim Alan) of St. Paul, Minnesota.

Frank O. Horton III, MD (IM’76), 69, of Toledo, passed away in October. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Morehead State University in 1969 and graduated from the Medical College of Ohio in 1973. He served his internship at Hurley Hospital in Flint, Michigan, and completed his residencies at Denver General Hospital and Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Horton served both his pre- and post-doctoral pulmonary fellowships at the University of Oklahoma. On starting his pulmonary practice at The Toledo Hospital in 1979, he added another dimension to his practice: sleep medicine. Dr. Horton was one of the first doctors to practice sleep medicine in the United States and the first to bring sleep disorder treatment to Northwest Ohio in the early 1980s, which led to sleep medicine accreditation for The Toledo Hospital. Dr. Horton was a member of numerous professional societies and medical associations, including service as the President of the American Lung Association of Northwest Ohio. He enjoyed traveling, especially to Napa Valley, and exploring the Western United States. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Susan (Madden) Horton; children Frank IV and Nicholas; a sister and two grandchildren.

Neal E. Krupp, MD (IM’57), died in Naples, Florida, last October. A graduate of St. Louis Medical School, he was on staff at the Mayo Clinic where he was in charge of the residency program. He later joined Cleveland Clinic where he was Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry from 1982 to 1993. After his retirement, he worked at the David Lawrence Center in Naples, Florida. He also served seven years in the U.S. Navy as a medical officer. He leaves his wife, Elisabeth J. Krupp, many children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews.

Abraham Caplivski, MD (CVM’73), died recently. He was a self-made man and an accomplished cardiologist in the Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, area. He was born in Trujillo, Peru, to Jewish immigrants from Bessarabia. He lost his father at age 9 and was raised by his mother, Blima, who peddled merchandise from door-to-door and ran back home to feed him. Blima was poor while growing up and lacked a formal education, but he was savvy and resourceful. With her broken Spanish, his mother was able to give him the means to become the valedictorian of his high school and recipient of his graduating class “gold medal,” awarded to the top student. He later met and married Dr. Gertrudis Lamas, an accomplished pathologist. They both trained at Cleveland Clinic and finally settled in Florida, where he became the first invasive cardiologist in Ft. Lauderdale. His career flourished, and the couple raised their three children. Dr. Caplivski enjoyed playing and watching soccer, listened to all kinds of music, occasionally played the violin, was an accomplished dancer and enjoyed good food and wine. He loved traveling the world, and Lima was one of his main destinations. He loved the local scene and visiting with old friends.

Walter E. H. Laude, MD (AN’57), recently died at his home in Babson Park, Florida. He was born in Heiligenbeil, East Prussia, in 1924. After studying medicine at the University of Hamburg, he worked in neurosurgery. When he came to the United States, he received additional training in anesthesiology while interning at Riverside Hospital in Newport News, Virginia. Dr. Laude then trained at Cleveland Clinic, where he became chief resident in anesthesiology and published papers on anesthesia and hypnosis. He was on the anesthesia team for the first open-heart surgery performed at Cleveland Clinic and was a Fellow of the American College of Anesthesiology. In Cleveland, he met and married Isabella Chaubey. They moved to Richmond, Virginia. There, Dr. Laude helped organize the Anesthesia Department for the new Richmond Memorial Hospital, pioneered epidural block anesthesia for deliveries, and served as chief of the department. He also served on the medical staff of Grace and Retreat Hospitals and was founding medical staff member of St. Mary’s Hospital. He is an Honorary Life Member of the Richmond Academy of Medicine and Medical Society of Virginia. His wife, Isabella Mary Laude, PhD (CCF’50), died in June 2016. Throughout her career, she filled multiple roles as a nurse educator and administrator, director of a professional association, and owner of various commercial interests. She was a volunteer leader in numerous nonprofit organizations and author of several books, including A Procedure Manual for Recovery Rooms and Intensive Care Units and was cited in Cleveland Clinic’s history of nursing, Without Whose Aid, as one of its nurse pioneers.
Memorial Giving

Giving to medical education at Cleveland Clinic in memory of a fellow alum is a meaningful way to express sympathy. Please be assured that your gift will help preserve the highest standards of education and training of future generations of physicians and scientists. For more information, please call Mindy Stroh, Director of Alumni Relations, at 216.444.2487.

John P. Papp Sr. MD (GL-1’65), 78, of East Grand Rapids, Michigan, died in January. He was born in Cleveland, where he graduated from Lakewood High School in 1956 and was the quarterback of the school’s football team. He later established a scholarship fund at the school. Dr. Papp earned his bachelor’s degree from The College of Wooster in 1960 and was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award by the college in 1993. He continued his love of football at the college level and was the quarterback for the football team. He also contributed in track and basketball. Dr. Papp established another scholarship, to the chemistry department at the College of Wooster, where he also was a trustee. The football stadium is named after him, as well. He earned his medical degree at Ohio State University in 1964 and was drafted into the military while interning at Cleveland Clinic. After fulfilling his duties in the Navy, he completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Michigan Medical Center, followed by a fellowship in gastroenterology. He served on numerous medical committees and as a member of many medical societies. He also earned many honors and awards and wrote three books. He was President of the Michigan Society of Internal Medicine, the Kent County Medical Society and the Michigan Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. Dr. Papp is survived by his wife, Kelly, and children Cameron and Lydia, as well as grandchildren, a niece and nephews. He enjoyed collecting coins, playing basketball with friends, watching football, and traveling. He cared deeply for his patients and was passionate about his profession.

Harold Wendell Rushton, MD, FACS (GS’55, N’56), died on Jan.11 at the age of 90 at his home in Haddonfield, New Jersey. He was born in Haddon Heights, New Jersey, and graduated from Camden Catholic High School and St. Francis College in Pennsylvania. He served in the Army during World War II, then graduated from Jefferson Medical College in 1953. After an internship at Cooper Hospital and residencies at Cleveland Clinic and The Graduate Hospital of The University of Pennsylvania, he became the first neurosurgeon to have his practice and office in Southern New Jersey. His surgical career spanned five decades and included serving as Chief of Neurosurgery at Cooper, Our Lady of Lourdes, Underwood and Burlington Memorial Hospitals. He later established Neurosurgical Consultants of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, eventually partnering with other neurosurgeons. He was the first to introduce laser surgery at Cooper Hospital and retired an Honorary Member at all four hospitals. He and his wife, Frances, were married 63 years and had seven children. He loved gardening, boating, fishing, skiing and golfing. Dr. Rushton is survived by his wife, his brother, John, children David (Debra), Mark (Alla), Christopher (Andrea), Daniel (Sharon), Leslie (Barry), Nan, and son-in-law George. There are 11 grandchildren, one great-grandchild and seven nieces.

Harry W. O’Dell, MD (ORS’50), 96, passed away on January 20. Dr. O’Dell was an accomplished orthopedic physician and surgeon; an innovator of medical devices and procedures, a passionate educator, and a caring person who lived life to the fullest. Born in Indiana, Dr. O’Dell earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Indiana University, a Master of Medical Science Degree from University of Pennsylvania and a Doctor of Medicine Degree from Indiana University. He completed his orthopedic residency at the Medical Center of New Jersey, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School and Cleveland Clinic. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps as Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Camp Lee, Virginia. Much of Dr. O’Dell’s life was dedicated to his orthopedic medical practice, research and education and the development of innovative medical devices and procedures. He was Chief of Staff at Akron Children’s Medical Center (1972-1973) and Chief of Orthopedic Surgery at Akron General Medical Center (1962-1974) where he was instrumental in elevating the division of orthopedic service to a full-fledged department. He was Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at Northeastern Ohio College of Medicine and was on the teaching staff at Akron, Barberton and Lodi hospitals. Dr. O’Dell was a founding member of the Arthroscopy Association of North America and he was inducted into Distinguished Physicians Society of Akron General Medical Center. Dr. O’Dell pioneered many procedures that advanced the field and practice of orthopedics. These included a new method of repair for recurrent shoulder dislocation that was first performed at Cleveland Clinic in 1950. Many honors and awards were bestowed upon Dr. O’Dell including the Distinguished Educator Award from Akron General Orthopedic Residents (1976), Akron General Residents Teaching Award (1982-1983), Akron City Hospital and Akron General Research Award (1989), Handicap Action Humanitarian Award (1986) and The Harry O’Dell Education Resource Center, dedicated by Akron Children’s Medical Center Department of Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery (1998). He is survived by his daughters, Ann of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and Dr. Nancy of Akron.
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216.444.2487 | 800.444.3664 (24/7 voice mail) | fax 216.445.2730
e-mail alumni@ccf.org |  website: clevelandclinic.org/alumni

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