How Dr. Lee Adler Supports Cleveland Clinic

Lee M. Adler, DO (IM’75), believes in giving back. He believes in paying it forward, too.

His has been a long and distinguished career in both academic and community medicine. Throughout it all, however, Dr. Adler has always credited his early years at Cleveland Clinic with establishing his career’s foundation, sparking his dedication and leading to his professional growth.

Now in an “active retirement,” full of volunteerism and consultancy, his goal is to see Cleveland Clinic continue as a world-class resource for treatment, research and education.

“If I can help to pay back an organization to which I owe so much, I want to do that,” he says. “And in these times where an institution’s sources of income don’t always cover expenses, I want my philanthropic contributions – however modest – to help assure Cleveland Clinic’s future, as well,” he says.

In reality, his contributions over time have been significant.

Dr. Adler’s first gift honored mentor John D. Clough, MD (IM’71), with whom he published his first paper, and Sumit Parikh, MD, who cares for his grandson. Since then, he has given to help establish a library on the main campus, to the Centennial Legacy Society of Cleveland Clinic’s Alumni Association, and to other Cleveland Clinic projects.

Dr. Adler was on a workshop voyage 700 miles from the North Pole, well above the Arctic Circle. The captain maneuvered the ship into this fjord, then the crew sent a ladder over the side onto the ice. He called it “an unbelievable experience.”
Toby Cosgrove, MD

The Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association extends its gratitude to Dr. Delos “Toby” Cosgrove for his long-term leadership of Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Cosgrove recently announced that he would begin a succession process that will allow him to transition out of his current role later this year. He also said that he would continue in an advisory role.

During his 13-year tenure as President and CEO, Cleveland Clinic grew into an $8 billion health system with locations in Ohio, Florida, Nevada, Canada, Abu Dhabi, and, in 2020, London.

“For the past 13 years, Dr. Cosgrove has upheld our institution’s founding principles: to provide better care of the sick, investigate their problems, and further educate those who serve,” says Conrad H. Simpfendorfer, MD, FACS (S’04, MIS’05, S/HEP’06), President of the Alumni Association. “We are pleased that he will continue to serve in an advisory role once his successor is named.”

Dr. Cosgrove presided over Cleveland Clinic’s expansion locally, nationally and internationally and has positioned the institution for a strong future as its revenues have grown from $3.7 billion in 2004 to $8.5 billion in 2016. It has become Ohio’s largest employer, with over 50,000 caregivers, and a global leader in clinical outcomes, patient experience, innovation and wellness. It was ranked the No. 2 hospital in the nation last year by U.S. News & World Report.

“It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of an extraordinary and forward-thinking organization whose people put patients at the center of everything they do,” Dr. Cosgrove said. “Cleveland Clinic’s world-class reputation of clinical excellence, innovation, medical education and research was created and will be maintained by the truly dedicated caregivers who work tirelessly to provide the best care to our patients.”

Dr. Cosgrove made leadership development a top priority at Cleveland Clinic, and during his tenure, a talented pool of physician-leaders has emerged to take on executive roles, including as hospital presidents, executive administrators and heads of major initiatives across the enterprise.

“The goal of any leader is to leave an institution better than they found it. Without a doubt, Toby has done that,” said Cleveland Clinic Board of Directors Chair Bob Rich when the announcement was made. “Our reputation has only grown over the past 13 years, as he has led Cleveland Clinic through a period of dramatic growth and worldwide expansion.”

How Dr. Adler supports Cleveland Clinic

What’s behind his emotional and real support of Cleveland Clinic?

“I go back to the days when you couldn’t find too many DOs within the ranks of the more traditional, allopathic hospital staffs,” he says. “After my graduation from Rutgers and receiving my Doctorate from Philadelphia’s College of Osteopathic-Medicine, I searched for training in a high-quality, academic facility. Cleveland Clinic, having had good experiences with DOs before me, welcomed me with open arms in 1975. My mentors and colleagues became my ‘other family.’ ”

The names from that time came readily to mind: John Clough, Martin McHenry, Ray Van Ommen, William Mitchener, Gene Kopan, Harriet Dustan, John Eversman, Victor Fazio, Phil Hall, Marc Pohl and Mason Sones, among others.

Dr. Adler says he felt he owed Cleveland Clinic his best shot and worked hard “in the trenches” of an internal medicine residency. He was named Chief Medical Resident in 1975 and was supported by CCF leaders in developing a Daily AM Resident Report and a visiting Professor program.

Next, Dr. Adler went to Yale to study infectious disease, then accepted an Assistant Professorship at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (now Mid-Western U) with collaboration in white cell research at the University of Chicago and finally to Florida in 1982. He was in private practice and from 1998 until recently worked for Florida Hospital – a major healthcare system. There, he rose to Vice President for Quality, Safety & Innovation. Dr. Adler is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Quality Assessment and Utilization Review Physicians. He is an Associate Professor, University of Central Florida, Department of Medicine, Faculty, Institute of Healthcare Improvement, and Physician Lead, Research Studies, Office of Inspector General, HHS.

In 2002, he joined the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association’s Board of Directors, a position in which he served for many years. He has also served his community through his involvement with the State of Florida Department of Corrections, the Area Health Education Center, a hospice program and Shepard’s Hope, a volunteer organization that provides acute episodic health care to those who are within two times of the poverty level.

Dr. Adler is a world traveler with his wife of 51 years, Marlene, and an avid portrait, culture, nature, wildlife and scenic photographer. “I’m always awed by the beauty and finding the details of nature and people,” he says. Never one to rest, he’s now busily planning his next photographic adventures and hopes soon to visit Nepal and Namibia.
A Harvard Business Review Report

A LOOK AT WHY THE BEST HOSPITALS ARE RUN BY DOCTORS

Healthcare has become extraordinarily complex—the balance of quality against cost, and of technology against humanity, are placing ever-increasing demands on clinicians. These challenges require extraordinary leaders. Doctors were once viewed as ill-prepared for leadership roles because their selection and training led them to become “heroic lone healers.” But this is changing. The emphasis on patient-centered care and efficiency in the delivery of clinical outcomes means that physicians are now being prepared for leadership.

The Best Hospitals

The Mayo Clinic is America’s best hospital, according to the 2016 U.S. News & World Report ranking. Cleveland Clinic comes in second. The CEOs of both—John Noseworthy and Delos “Toby” Cosgrove—are highly skilled physicians. In fact, both institutions have been physician-led since their inception around a century ago. Might there be a general message here?

A study published in 2011 examined CEOs in the top-100 best hospitals in USNWR in three key medical specialties: cancer, digestive disorders, and cardiovascular care. A simple question was asked: Are hospitals ranked more highly when they are led by medically trained doctors or non-MD professional managers? The analysis showed that hospital quality scores are approximately 25% higher in physician-run hospitals than in manager-run hospitals.

The findings, of course, do not prove that doctors make better leaders, though the results are surely consistent with that claim. Other studies also find this correlation. Research by Nick Bloom, Raffaella Sadun, and John Van Reenen revealed how important good management practices are to hospital performance. But they also found that it is the proportion of managers with a clinical degree that had the largest positive effect; in other words, the separation of clinical and managerial knowledge inside hospitals was associated with worse management.

Support for the idea that physician-leaders are advantaged in healthcare is consistent with observations from multiple other sectors. Domain experts—“expert leaders” (like physicians in hospitals)—have been linked with better organizational performance in settings as diverse as universities, where scholar-leaders enhance the research output of their organizations, to basketball teams, where former All Star players turned coaches are disproportionately linked to NBA success, and in Formula One racing where former drivers excel as team leaders.

Why Doctors Make Good Managers

What are the attributes of physician-leaders that might account for this association with enhanced organizational performance? As leaders, do physicians create a more sympathetic and productive work environment for other clinicians, because they are “one of them”? Does being a physician inform leadership through a shared understanding about the motivations and incentives of other clinicians? When asked this question, Dr. Toby Cosgrove, CEO of Cleveland Clinic, responded without hesitation, “credibility … peer-to-peer credibility.” In other words, when an outstanding physician heads a major hospital, it signals that they have “walked the walk,” and thus have earned credibility and insights into the needs of their fellow physicians. But we would argue that credibility may also be signaled to important external stakeholders—future employees, patients, the pharmaceutical industry, donors, and so on.

The Mayo website notes that it is physician-led because, “This helps ensure a continued focus on our primary value, the needs of the patient come first.” Having spent their careers looking through a patient-focused lens, physicians moving into executive positions might be expected to bring a patient-focused strategy.

About the authors

James K. Stoller, MD, MS (CCF’86) is a pulmonary/critical care physician at Cleveland Clinic, where he also serves as Chair of the Education Institute.

Amanda Goodall, PhD, is a senior lecturer in management at Cass Business School, London.

Agnes Baker is an assistant professor at the University of Zurich.

In a recent study that matched random samples of U.S. and UK employees with employers, we found that having a boss who is an expert in the core business is associated with high levels of employee job satisfaction and low intentions of quitting. Similarly, physician-leaders may know how to raise the job satisfaction of other clinicians, thereby contributing to enhanced organizational performance.

Our research suggests that if a manager understands, through their own experience, what is needed to complete a job to the highest standard, then they may be more likely to create the right work environment, set appropriate goals and accurately evaluate others’ contributions. Having an expert leader at the helm, such as an exemplary physician, may also send a signal to external stakeholders, such as new hires or patients, about organizational priorities. These factors are revealed in new work soon to be released.

Finally, we might expect a highly talented physician to know what “good” looks like when hiring other physicians. Dr. Cosgrove suggests that physician-leaders are also more likely to “tolerate crazy ideas” (innovative ideas like the first coronary artery bypass, performed by René Favaloro at the Cleveland Clinic in the late ’60s). Cosgrove believes that the Cleveland Clinic unlocks talent by giving safe space to people.
cynicism or inefficiency caused by a variety of drivers, most often attributed to excessive psychological and emotional demands, Dr. Rehm says, citing numerous related studies. Some of the telltale signs of burnout include a loss of enthusiasm for work, feeling detached from patients and having a sense that work is no longer meaningful.

The resulting effects can include decreased quality of care, diminished patient satisfaction and decreased productivity. On the personal side, burnout can evidence itself through broken relationships, alcohol and substance abuse, depression, even suicide, Dr. Rehm says.

“Burnout attacks practitioners in all fields of medicine, Dr. Rehm pointed out. “A recent survey showed that emergency room doctors are most affected at a 59 percent rate; the specialty with the lowest rate, 42 percent, was psychiatric and mental health.”

Remedial steps are being taken to address physician burnout, says Dr. Rehm. For instance:

- National organizations are looking at the daunting documentation burden on physicians
- Healthcare organizations are introducing periodic assessments of physician engagement and well-being
- Physician-leaders are turning to more participatory management styles to enhance physician engagement, and
- Individual physicians help themselves combat burnout by paying attention to their own well-being, which includes identifying professional and personal priorities, managing stress and just being self-aware

Dr. Rehm advises physicians who feel they may be suffering from burnout to start by talking to a colleague, friend, family member or their PCP. Cleveland Clinic staff members can avail themselves of services offered through the Office of Professional Staff Affairs.

Conor P. Delaney, MD

The newly renamed Digestive Disease & Surgery Institute and its services were detailed by institute Chair Conor P. Delaney, MCh, PhD, FACS, FRCSI, FASCRS (Hon) (CRS/A’00). The institute provides acute care and trauma surgery, breast surgery, and metabolic and pediatric surgery. Some of the best practitioners in the world are among the institute’s ranks, Dr. Delaney said. The institute, whose goal is to be the international leader in its field, is characterized by mentoring leadership, good communication, teamwork, professionalism, a shared vision and a focus on people, high quality, value-based care and performance metrics, he said. The institute has ranked as No. 2 in U.S. News & World Report for GI and GI surgery for many years, among numerous other distinctions. The institute has 24 multidisciplinary centers, 200 staff and 850 other caregivers. There also are 140 fellows and residents. Annual activity now reaches 125,000 patient visits, 11,000 inpatient cases, 28,000 outpatient cases and 90,000 endoscopic procedures.

The Langston Hughes Community Center in Cleveland

Government and Community Relations

Vickie Johnson and Carlos Jackson

Cleveland Clinic makes a difference in the community, said Vickie Johnson, Senior Director, Government and Community Relations. “We recognize that we must use our economic power and human capital to partner with our communities for mutual benefit,” she said. “We are reorganizing to manage our talent to meet these responsibilities.” Ms. Johnson centered on progress of the past 10 years through the Langston Hughes Community Center in Cleveland, where local residents receive wellness services.

In 2016, some 1,147 community members received services including free mammograms, smoking cessation education, cancer screenings, self-defense instruction and fitness training. Additionally, Cleveland Clinic has combined three local school-based and two Cleveland Clinic-based learning programs that touch the lives of thousands of students every year. Often, classes are conducted through interactive videoconference presentations. In the larger picture, Cleveland Clinic can use its hiring, purchasing and investment power for the benefit of all.

(For a review of all presentations made before the board in April, please visit the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association’s website, clevelandclinic.org/alumni. Look under Alumni Newsletter.)
A popular social media network channel has been found to be helpful to the medical profession, too.

We know it as Twitter.

And not only does it continue to serve millions of people worldwide on a daily basis, it also has become a revolutionary way to disseminate news and provide users with an opportunity to connect with groups of friends and colleagues near and far—in the present with a sense of immediacy and togetherness.

In recent years, Cleveland Clinic has discovered a variety of professional benefits through Twitter. In 2015, Twitter’s virtues were being extolled by Navneet S. Majhail, MD (IM’04), who suggested that it could help physicians to:

- Keep up-to-date on health news
- Connect with peers at meetings and conferences
- Share professional highlights and accomplishments

He offered one of his many experiences with Twitter as an example.

Dr. Majhail attended the American Society of Hematology (ASH)’s annual meeting and documented his ‘live-tweeting’ experience in a monthly Taussig Cancer Institute e-newsletter. Like many annual conferences, ASH designated a hashtag for both attendees and non-attendees to allow them to follow the meeting in real time. “I could ‘virtually’ attend several sessions simultaneously,” he said. “Since the tweets are short, I could get the gist of other presentations literally in a few seconds.”

At times, the discussion was more robust and spirited than the questions that were being posed to speakers, he observed. “There were many patient advocacy organizations present and tweeting at the conference. I could get their perspective on what really mattered to them,” Dr. Majhail said.

The benefits of Twitter have not faded since it was introduced in 2006. Take the word of Dale R. Shepard, MD, PhD, FACP (IM’06, H/O’09), Director of Taussig Cancer Institute Phase I and Sarcoma Programs. He began using Twitter in 2013.

“Our media and marketing departments saw Twitter as an important way to get some increased exposure for Cleveland Clinic physicians, things that are happening here, and our perspective on new research or health policies,” Dr. Shepard says. “It’s very simple to learn and use. Pretty intuitive. I had a short tutorial to get some tips on how to use it, and I was set.

“I just started putting out some tweets and found that I’ve had interactions with patient advocacy or research foundations, fellow physicians and pharma as a result.”

The use of Twitter at the Taussig Cancer Institute has grown, Dr. Shepard says.

“We have a number of physicians who are prominent on Twitter,” Dr. Shepard says. “We have designated Tweeters at national meetings, which, we think, has led to an increase in our national reputation. We recently had a number of physicians who used Twitter to help clarify Cleveland Clinic’s position on vaccination after a local blog post put that position into question in social and traditional media around the world.”

He notes that Twitter allows for immediate discussion with colleagues about their perspectives on new studies or policies. “Using Twitter at clinical conferences permits those unable to attend immediate updates on the highlights of those meetings. Twitter has helped me to get the important information from a number of conferences I was unable to attend. Most conferences now have designated hashtags to follow the Tweets from the meeting.”

For more information on Twitter and how to sign up, go to Twitter.com.
MEET THE LERNER COLLEGE
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2017

The 29 students of the Lerner College of Medicine graduating class of 2017, their families and friends gathered in May to celebrate their hard work and their many accomplishments over the past five years.

James B. Young, MD, Executive Dean, addressed the students, remarking that their achievements were made possible because of their grit and that of those close to them.

Dr. Young paid tribute to Toby Cosgrove, MD, CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic, who is transitioning from his role at the end of the year. He noted that it was Dr. Cosgrove who awarded full tuition scholarships to students so that they may pursue their dream without worrying about education debt.

Dr. Cosgrove emphasized the importance of teamwork and collaboration in medicine. “Collaboration is the cardinal virtue,” he said. He closed by thanking the students for “inspiring us to hope for the future.”

Each student received a scroll featuring the original Cleveland Clinic building along with its mission: to provide better care of the sick, investigation into their problems, and further education of those who serve. As each student was recognized, alumni Bradley Gill, MD, MS ('12) and Daniel Urcuyo ('15) welcomed them into the Alumni Association.

Graduates file into the InterContinental Hotel auditorium for a recognition event.

Taylor Aiken, MD  
**Education:** BS, Duke University, 2012  
**Residency:** General Surgery/Academic, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, WI

Chinedu Anyaeji, MD  
**Education:** BS, University of Texas at Austin, 2011  
**Residency:** Psychiatry, Brigham & Women’s Hospital, MA

Lauren Banaszak, MD  
**Education:** BS, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2012  
**Residency:** Internal Medicine, University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, WI

Matthew Blum, MD  
**Education:** BA, Washington University in St. Louis, 2012  
**Residency:** Internal Medicine, Johns Hopkins Hospital, MD

Ruth Davis, MD  
**Education:** BS, University of Rochester, 2012  
**Residency:** Otolaryngology, Johns Hopkins Hospital, MD

Julian deBacker, MD  
**Education:** BS, Queen’s University at Kingston, 2010  
MS, Queen’s University at Kingston, 2012  
**Residency:** Anesthesia, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
A Match Made in Medicine

On Match Day, held recently, 55 percent of all graduating students received their first-choice program, and 86 percent are heading for one of their top-two choices.

Matt Blum and Ruth Davis matched to Johns Hopkins, where Matt will train in internal medicine and Ruth in otolaryngology. “We’re feeling awesome, excited and speechless,” Ruth said. When asked how they were going to celebrate, Matt said, “By taking a few deep breaths.”

Students top choice for a residency program was internal medicine, followed by pediatrics. Of the program’s 29 students, four are staying in Ohio. Three will train at Cleveland Clinic, one in radiation oncology and two in family medicine at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital.

In addition to Cleveland Clinic, destinations for the 2017 graduates include such prestigious organizations as Brigham & Women’s Hospital, Duke University, Johns Hopkins Hospital, New York-Presbyterian, Stanford Health Care, University of California, Los Angeles, and Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Calvin Lee, who is going to Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center to train in internal medicine, was amazed after opening his envelope.

“I don’t even know what to say! I’m really, really thankful,” he said. To celebrate? “Finally get some sleep, maybe,” he replied.
GRADUATING CLASS

Continued from page 7

Jessica Jones, MD
Education: BA, Stanford University, 2010
Residency: Pediatrics, Stanford University, CA

Calvin Lee, MD
Education: BS, Duke University, 2011
Residency: Internal Medicine, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, MA

Jacob Miller, MD
Education: BS, Case Western Reserve University, 2012
Residency: Medicine-Preliminary, Kaiser Permanente-SF, CA
Radiation Oncology, Stanford University, CA

Motunrayo Mobolaji-Lawal, MD
Education: BS, State University of New York – Stony Brook, 2011
Residency: Emergency Medicine, Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT

Damilola Phillips, MD
Education: BS, Carnegie Mellon University, 2010
Residency: Internal Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, TN

Yilu Qin, MD
Education: BA, Northwestern University - Evanston, 2010
Residency: Medicine-Primary/HIV, Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT

Anne Runkle, MD
Education: BS, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2012
Residency: Emergency Medicine, Maine Medical Center, ME

Samantha Simpson, MD
Education: BS, Cedarville University, 2012
Residency: Pediatrics, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, OH

Alicia Stallings, MD
Education: BA, Washington University in St. Louis, 2010
Residency: Medicine-Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, TN

Dannefer Family Establishes Award

This year, the Dannefer family established the Elaine F. Dannefer Award, designed to recognize a faculty member who exemplifies and advances the ideals of mentoring and reflective practice at the Lerner College of Medicine. The award went to Betul Hatipoglu, MD (CCF’08).

Other awards included:
• Outstanding Teaching and Contributions Award: the late Elaine Dannefer, PhD (CCF’03) (accepted by her husband, Dale Dannefer, PhD, and daughter, Rachel Dannefer)
• Excellence in Research Education Award: Johanna Goldfarb, MD (CCF’92)
• Kaiser Award for Excellence in Pre-clerkship (Basic Science) Education: Vidyasagar Kalahasti, MD (AN’99, IM’02, CARD’05, CARD/I’10)
• Kaiser Award for Excellence in Clinical Education: Robert Wilson, DO
Nicholas Szoko, MD  
**Education:** BA, Johns Hopkins University, 2012  
**Residency:** Pediatrics, UPMC Medical Education, PA

Andrew Tarr, MD  
**Education:** BS, Brown University, 2011  
**Residency:** Neurology, NYP Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center, NY

Hannah Wang, MD  
**Education:** BS, University of California – San Diego, 2012  
**Residency:** Pathology, Stanford University, CA

Kailin Yang, MD, PhD  
**Education:** BS, Tsinghua University, 2005  
**PhD:** Harvard University, 2012  
**Residency:** Medicine-Preliminary, University of Colorado SOM-Denver, CO  
**Radiation Oncology:** Cleveland Clinic, OH

Yuanjia Zhu, MD  
**Education:** BS, Northwestern University – Evanston, 2012  
**Residency:** Thoracic Surgery, Stanford University, CA

Julie Urcuyo, MD  
**Education:** BS, University of Michigan, 2011  
**Residency:** Family Medicine, Cleveland Clinic – Fairview Hospital, OH
Cleveland Clinic’s new Taussig Cancer Center, which opened March 6, offers a unique collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to patient care, says Brian J. Bolwell, MD, FACP, Chair of Cleveland Clinic’s Taussig Cancer Institute.

“Our design priorities of reduced waiting, improved patient flow, multidisciplinary clinics and a healing environment, combined with a commitment to cancer research, will deliver the best possible care and support for our patients.”

The building was designed with patients in mind, drawing on the opinions and experiences of a panel of former cancer patients who outlined what could make the new center as welcoming and healing as possible.

In the past, patients traveled to multiple locations among various Cleveland Clinic buildings to see specialists, undergo tests and receive medical and social services. Sometimes, those appointments were spread over more than one day.

No more. The 385,000-square-foot building features consolidated offices and clinical facilities, as well as advanced scheduling. Travel and wait times are minimized.

“All services are in one place that’s tailored to patients’ needs, and their caregivers, including medical and radiation oncologists, surgeons, nurses, genetic counselors and social workers, come to them,” says Nathan Pennell, MD, PhD, Director of the Thoracic Malignancies Program.

A 350-foot-long canopy at the building’s entrance provides a convenient and welcoming arrival process. The building provides expansive spaces and abundant natural light. On the first floor are the patient reception area and a spacious hematology laboratory with multiple stations for blood tests. Lab results are available much faster than before. Also available are a retail pharmacy and services including a café, meditation room, the Margaret Rose Giltinan and The Rose Foundation Studio – providing patients with wigs and makeup tips – and the Gross Family Art Therapy Suite, which provides art and music therapy and hosts yoga sessions.

Other amenities on the first floor are:

- The Helen Myers McLoraine Patient & Family Resource Center, where patients and families will find medical information in print and online
- Reflections Wellness Program, offering an array of services to reduce stress and promote healing, including massage, guided imagery, facials and other aesthetic services
- A private prosthetics fitting room
- The 4th Angel Mentoring Program, an initiative begun by figure skating champion and Cleveland Clinic cancer patient Scott Hamilton to provide patients with free, confidential, one-on-one advice and support from a trained volunteer and cancer survivor

Among the building’s clinical features are:

- 126 exam rooms and 98 treatment rooms
- Private chemotherapy infusion suites with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the tree-lined lawn
- Genetics and genomics testing
- A centralized home for existing high-level treatment technology, including six linear accelerators and a Gamma Knife® suite
- On-site diagnostic imaging
- Dedicated area for phase 1, 2 and 3 clinical trials, with a special emphasis on supporting phase 1 trials

The seven-story Taussig Cancer Center is located on the north side of Carnegie Avenue between East 102nd and 105th Streets.
The Board of Governors has approved the appointment of A. Marc Gillinov, MD (CCF’97), as Chair of the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery. Dr. Gillinov leads a team of cardiac and general thoracic surgeons who perform more than 6,500 procedures a year.

Dr. Gillinov told Alumni Connection that he is “thrilled to lead the world’s number one cardiac surgery team,” and he will “embrace innovation to meet new challenges.”

Lars Svensson, MD (CARD/S’87), Chair of the Sydell and Arnold Miller Family Heart & Vascular Institute, offered high praise for Dr. Gillinov.

“There is no doubt the cardiothoracic team he will lead will continue to make major contributions in heart care, not only in Cleveland, but in Ohio and nationally, and keep the program as the leading heart center in the U.S.,” he said. “Marc is an innovative surgeon who grew up in Cleveland, showed an interest in heart surgery while a high school student, and has gone on to become a nationally and internationally recognized leader in mitral valve surgery. The robotic surgery team he has led has achieved the unequalled result of an operative risk of less than one-tenth of 1 percent, out of more than 1,500 robotic mitral valve robot surgeries on patients from all over the world.”

A native Cleveland, Dr. Gillinov spent summers at Cleveland Clinic as a research assistant to previous innovators in cardiac surgery. He graduated from Yale University and earned his medical degree at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He completed training in general surgery and cardiac and thoracic surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he was Chief Resident for both cardiac and thoracic surgery. He returned to Cleveland to join the Cardiothoracic Surgery staff in 1997.

Dr. Gillinov has one of the world’s largest practices in robotic and minimally invasive mitral valve repair surgery. In addition to his clinical responsibilities, he serves as the Chief Experience Officer of the Miller Family Heart & Vascular Institute and holds The Judith Dion Pyle Chair in Heart Valve Research.

He succeeds Joseph Sabik, MD (TS’96), who served as Chair for eight years.

Your Digital Identity: How to Develop and Maintain It

How do savvy medical professionals develop and maintain an appropriate digital identity?

That’s an important question because patients often rely on internet searches to find physicians who can address their health concerns. In 2015, of those actively seeking health information, 72 percent did so online, and 20 percent of them checked out website reviews of physicians and treatments.

The search can be tricky because one may land on third-party sites that create their own profiles of physicians through algorithms. Some even permit anonymous and possibly incorrect postings that may require the affected individual’s response or rebuttal.

What a medical professional should strive for is a digital identity that conveys truthful, professional and impartial information.

Three Cleveland Clinic staff members – Bradley C. Gill, MD, MS (CCLCM’12), Anna M. Zampini, MD, MBA, and Neil R. Mehta, MD (IM’95, GIM/A’97) – have taken on the issue of digital identities. They detail their research and conclusions in a paper, “Digital Identity: Develop One Before You’re Given One,” published in the medical journal, Urology.

They explore such questions as:

• What type of digital presence do you want?
• How should you present yourself?
• What content should be included?

And much more.

For the complete research paper, go to the Urology website using this link: http://bit.ly/2tUfOsd.
It was more than 61 years ago, Feb. 17, 1956, when a new era of heart surgery began at Cleveland Clinic. Donald B. Effler, MD, and Laurence K. Groves, MD, led a team that performed a series of stopped-heart operations – all on children – between February and April. During their surgeries, the patients were connected to a heart-lung machine designed by Willem Kolff, MD, also on the staff of Cleveland Clinic.

Once the machine took over pumping blood and maintaining oxygen levels throughout the patient’s body, doctors injected a dose of potassium citrate to temporarily paralyze the heart.

The heart-lung machine had proven itself in previous operations, but the use of potassium citrate was new. Previously, the heart continued beating while surgeons repaired it. Stopping the heart gave surgeons extra time for more intricate and extensive repairs.

The Feb. 17 operation, though not the first ever performed, was the first in a series of eight at Cleveland Clinic. It made national news and was hailed by Time Magazine as a major advance in heart surgery.

The first of those eight was on a 17-month-old infant who had a hole in his septum, between the right and left ventricles. After surgery, he was “up and about” in just 14 days, according to news accounts.

In 1983, Cleveland Clinic caught up with that patient, Kevin F. Beason. He was doing well and worked as a jewelry store manager in Daytona Beach, Florida. He said, “My surgeons must have done a pretty good job because I haven’t needed any other heart operations and have never had any other heart problems since.”

Following the eight surgeries, in April 1956, Dr. Effler, Dr. Groves, Dr. Kolff, and Cleveland Clinic cardiologist F. Mason Sones, MD, published their results in the Cleveland Clinic Quarterly. At that time, The Cleveland News hailed the findings as “a historic step,” while Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton praised the new technique as part of Cleveland Clinic’s tradition of pioneering medical research.

Today, physicians worldwide routinely stop the heart during surgery.

Leonard O. Calabrese, DO
(IM’78, RH’80)
Chair, History Project

Looking Back
Alumni Connection’s “Looking Back” series highlights important or interesting moments in Cleveland Clinic’s history, serving as a retrospective of the institution’s storied past as its 100th birthday approaches in 2021. You are invited to submit your own topics for us to consider for this series. Please contact Mindy Stroh, Director, Alumni Relations, at strohm@ccf.org.

The cardiac team that prepared and carried out the first nonexperimental, successful, stopped-heart operation at Cleveland Clinic in 1956.
THE GREAT DEPRESSION HITS CLEVELAND CLINIC HARD

The Great Depression of the 1930s was among the bleakest times for the economy, not only in the United States but across the world.

It began with the American stock market crash of Oct. 29, 1929, “Black Tuesday,” and ended 10 years later with the outbreak of hostilities in Europe that ignited World War II. During those years was a dramatic, worldwide economic downturn marked by massive unemployment, bank runs and closures, bread lines and soup kitchens.

Only four months before the stock market crashed, a devastating fire broke out at Cleveland Clinic, claiming the lives of 123 people and injuring another 92. Huge settlement costs had to be paid to survivors and families. For Cleveland Clinic, the Great Depression could not have come at a worse time.

Cleveland Clinic’s Worst Financial Era

Against a backdrop of Depression-era social and economic despair, Cleveland Clinic slogged through some of its darkest hours.

Many people delayed medical treatment, more concerned about putting food on their tables than their healthcare. And many who had no choice but to seek treatment failed to pay their bills, leaving the hospital in financial distress.

Nonetheless, even during the depths of the Depression in 1932, Cleveland Clinic’s reputation attracted the wealthy and famous. Among them that year was sensationalist newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst, who came for an esophagus operation and was charged a fee of $10,000, a significant amount at the time.

Another important income source for Cleveland Clinic was thyroid-goiter surgery, performed by George Crile, MD, one of the original four Cleveland Clinic founders. He performed his 25,000th such operation in the 1930s. However, as the public increasingly used iodized salt, newly introduced to the market, the number of goiter cases dropped – along with Cleveland Clinic’s earnings.

Cleveland Clinic remained afloat, but overall, revenue continued to sink.

Continued on page 14
In 1932, Cleveland Clinic began slashing salaries, starting with a 10 percent cut in September. Cash receipts were in free-fall throughout the year, bottoming out at a negative 32 percent in March, June and August. One individual who saw the annual financial graphic said, “It looked as if the entire financial chart had been turned upside down.” (See chart on page 13.)

By 1933, American unemployment reached 15 million, and 50 percent of all U.S. banks had failed. That same year, Cleveland Clinic salaries across the board were cut again. A letter, dated Jan. 19 and signed by the Board of Trustees, was sent to all employees to explain this second salary slice:

“During the past year, the Clinic has suffered a progressive loss of income. Rigid economies in all departments have been put into effect during the year. These economies have been carried as far as efficient service will allow, but have not offset the great decrease in income due to the continued progressive decrease in the ability of the patients to meet their bills. It is with deep regret that the Board of Trustees finds it necessary to reduce the salaries in the amount of 10 percent to take effect with the January 31, 1933, payroll.”

Later in 1933, salaries were cut again, by 25 percent. This meant that a senior Cleveland Clinic nurse who had made $150 a month just two years earlier now received only $82 a month.

Another low point in 1933 was reached when only 8,321 new patients registered at Cleveland Clinic, compared to a pre-Depression high, in 1926, of 15,898.

The hospital recorded 36,948 days of care in 1933, compared to 63,191 just three years earlier.

But few stories from the Depression rival that of a man so desperate that he wrote to Dr. Crile in 1931 offering to sell himself for medical experimentation. He said he had “lost” his wife and child, had no job and felt like a failure. So, he reasoned, why not let Cleveland Clinic have what was left of him? “You can have a human body to work on instead of a guinea pig,” he wrote. His offer was declined.

Then the Sun Came Out

Nationally, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s efforts to stabilize the economy began working in the late 1930s. He pushed through legislation supporting public works projects, bank stabilization, and stock market regulation geared to avoid the recklessness of the past. Altogether, these steps helped restore public confidence in the economy. Investors returned, factories started hiring and overall unemployment figures declined.

Salaries began rising at Cleveland Clinic once again around 1936, as did the number of patient admissions. By the late 1930s, all financial indicators were heading in a positive direction.

Among the bright spots, however, is that not a single Cleveland Clinic employee was laid off during the Depression. Staff shortages occurred organically, from attrition and resignations. Employees and staff who continued in their positions despite the pay cuts did so believing that it was better to have a job that paid less than no job at all.
New Treatments for Complex Diseases

CLEVELAND CLINIC RESEARCHERS RECEIVE OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

Two Cleveland Clinic researchers have been awarded multiyear, multimillion dollar federal grants that support exceptional scientists with a track record of achievement.

Bruce Trapp, PhD (CCF’94), Chair of the Department of Neurosciences at the Lerner Research Institute and a specialist in multiple sclerosis (MS) and myelin biology, and Jaroslaw Maciejewski, MD, PhD (CCF’01), Chair of the Department of Translational Hematology and Oncology Research at the Taussig Cancer Institute and an expert in blood and bone diseases, each received an Outstanding Investigator Award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The awards are designed to provide long-term support and flexibility to scientists whose work holds promise for achieving medical breakthroughs, allowing them to focus on their research rather than using their time to apply for grants.

Cleveland Clinic now has three researchers who have been named outstanding investigators since the NIH introduced the award strategy in 2015.

Jeremy Rich, MD, Chair of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at the Lerner Research Institute, was the first at Cleveland Clinic to receive an Outstanding Investigator Award – $6.7 million in 2015.

Dr. Trapp becomes the first Cleveland Clinic researcher to be named an Outstanding Investigator by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke of the NIH. He will receive nearly $7 million over the next eight years to examine the biology of MS and seek treatments that could slow or reverse the disease.

Dr. Maciejewski will receive more than $5.5 million over the next seven years from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the NIH. The award will support his work translating scientific advances in bone marrow failure syndromes into improved patient care.

Serpil C. Erzurum, MD, Chair of the Lerner Research Institute, said the grants will help high-achieving researchers find better treatments for people with complex diseases.

“These awards not only honor the remarkable work of these outstanding researchers but will be a tremendous help in advancing discoveries that will ultimately benefit patients,” she said.

Estate gifts have become an integral part of our philanthropic tradition, made easier by tax laws that encourage charitable support. By planning now, you can provide for the future of Cleveland Clinic through your will or other testamentary designations.

There are many reasons for making a charitable testamentary gift, even while you’re still working and supporting a family. Between the ages of 40 and 60, you may be saving for retirement and/or supporting college education for children or grandchildren. These obligations may make you hesitant about committing to a large gift using assets that you may need in the future. Similarly, if you are between ages 60 and 75, you might be newly retired or planning for retirement and just beginning to make financial and charitable plans.

No matter your age and stage of life, it’s still wise to plan for your and your family’s future. By including a charitable gift to Cleveland Clinic in your will, or designating Cleveland Clinic as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy or a retirement plan, you can establish your gift now while enjoying your assets during your lifetime.

Share Your Plans

Estate gifts that are revealed after individuals have passed on show that they were caring, but at Cleveland Clinic, we always are saddened when we do not have the opportunity to express our gratitude directly to the givers, and to learn how they would like their gift to be used. By informing Cleveland Clinic today of your plans, you can be sure we will carry out your wishes. To learn more, please contact Mindy Stroh at 216.444.6534 or strohm@ccf.org.
Plans Proceed for a London Hospital

Cleveland Clinic has received permission from the Westminster City Council to begin planning for a hospital in London. The building at 33 Grosvenor Place will be converted into an advanced healthcare facility.

“Constructing our first facility in London builds on our established international reputation as one of the most trusted and respected providers of healthcare,” says Toby Cosgrove, MD, Cleveland Clinic CEO and President. “This is a terrific opportunity to provide our unique model of care to patients in London, one of the world’s great cities.”

Plans include a 205-bed hospital with eight operating theaters, retaining the majority of the existing structure and external face of the building and reinstating the building’s original entrances.

Cleveland Clinic is committed to continuing to listen closely to the views of local residents, planning officers and members of the local authority to ensure that the development and its plans are appropriate to the local area and community.

Projects Begin at the Center for Transformative Nanomedicine

The first two projects arising from the Center for Transformative Nanomedicine, a collaboration between Cleveland Clinic and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, are poised to begin with philanthropic grants of $600,000 each. A team led by Stephen Grohmyer, MD (CCF’12), and Charis Eng, MD, PhD (CCF’05), who holds the Sondra J. and Stephen R. Hardis Endowed Chair of Cancer Genomic Medicine, and a team from Hebrew University will investigate whether antibiotic-loaded nanoparticles can alter the breast microbiome to improve patient outcomes. Another project, led by Jeremy Rich, MD (CCF’08) and a Hebrew University team, will combine nanotechnology and stem cell therapies to treat glioblastoma, the most common and aggressive form of brain cancer.

Ground Broken for Lakewood Family Health Center

Cleveland Clinic broke ground in April for the new Lakewood Family Health Center. The 62,000-square-foot, $34 million facility is expected to be completed in summer 2018. Located at 14601 Detroit Ave., the Lakewood Family Health Center will offer specialty care, family medicine, imaging, chronic disease management, and a center for LGBT care. The facility also features a new leading-edge emergency department.

With multiple services to be provided, the facility will serve as a hub for innovative programs in population health. It will offer group education and shared medical appointment rooms, patient-centered exam rooms designed to foster more engaged interactions between patients and providers, care coordination and population management specialists, and patient navigators. The space will incorporate the latest technology to improve the patient and caregiver experience. Cleveland Clinic, the City of Lakewood and Lakewood Hospital Association have teamed up to establish a $32 million nonprofit foundation that will address community health and wellness needs.

Surgeon Examines Health Disparities

Charles Modlin, MD, MBA (U/RT’96), a kidney transplant surgeon, has dedicated himself to studying health disparities that disproportionately affect minority and underserved patients.

The annual Minority Men’s Health Fair, established at Cleveland Clinic 15 years ago by Dr. Modlin, has led to diagnosis of serious illnesses in numerous Health Fair participants, including prostate cancer, hypertension, diabetes, hepatitis C, chronic kidney disease, heart disease and colorectal cancer.
Cleveland Clinic: In the News

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The health fair provides information, more than 35 kinds of medical screenings and opportunities to consult with physicians and other healthcare professionals. Without the health fair, many men would not seek the help they need.

“It’s important that we develop ways to reach these evolving, diverse demographics of the communities we serve,” says Dr. Modlin, Director of the Minority Men’s Health Center and Executive Director of Minority Health.

The Minority Men’s Health Fair, which took place in April on Cleveland Clinic’s main campus, has grown from 35 participants in its first year to more than 1,500 annually.

Northern Ohio Trauma System Expands Network

University Hospitals has joined Cleveland Clinic and MetroHealth as a member of the Northern Ohio Trauma System (NOTS). Adding University Hospitals’ expertise expands NOTS’ ability to provide coordinated trauma care to patients throughout Cuyahoga County and the seven-county Northeast Ohio region, Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson said.

The NOTS network was formed in 2010 between MetroHealth and Cleveland Clinic to assist the City of Cleveland’s public safety forces in transporting the right patient to the right place at the right time.

Across the country, coordinated regional trauma networks have become important in improving patient outcomes. NOTS members work with public safety forces and network hospitals to ensure that patients are rapidly triaged and taken to the appropriate level of care within the network. The NOTS network now includes three regional Level I Adult Trauma Centers – Cleveland Clinic Akron General Hospital, MetroHealth main campus Emergency Department and University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center.

Best Hospitals

Continued from page 3

with extraordinary ideas and importantly, that leadership tolerates appropriate failure, which is a natural part of scientific endeavor and progress.

The Benefits of Training

Physician-leaders appear to be the most effective leaders precisely because they are physicians. Yet, great leadership also takes social skills. Medical care is one of the few sectors where lack of teamwork might actually cost lives, yet physicians are not trained to be team players. Nor is there evidence that it is the team players who select into medicine. Indeed, the favored nature of physician leadership of hospitals is even more remarkable for the leadership and followership handicaps that physicians must overcome in becoming doctors. In view of this handicap, Dr. Victor Dzau, President of the National Academy of Medicine, considers those successful physician-leaders (who largely lack formal leadership training) as “accidental leaders.”

Physicians have traditionally been trained in “command and control” environments as “heroic lone healers” who are collaboratively challenged. In the context of this paradox, that medical training on the whole conspires against great leadership, there is a clear need to train physicians more systematically.

One model has been pioneered by Paul Taheri, CEO of Yale Medicine, who has been engaging doctors in management training for some time. He has focused on a two-tier approach: the first introduces physicians to the fundamental principles of business in the delivery of healthcare, and personal leadership development, through a day a month program spread over a year. Taheri sends around 40 medical faculty annually. For those physicians who stand out as emergent leaders, the next step is an MBA. Taheri insists that in the executive programs physicians are always trained with other physicians, but by design they are taken away from their hospital environment into the safe learning environment of the business school.

Cleveland Clinic has also been training physicians to lead for many years. For example, a cohort-based annual course, “Leading in Health Care,” began in the early 1990s and has invited nominated, high-potential physicians (and, more recently, nurses and administrators) to engage in 10 days of offsite training in leadership competencies which fall outside the domain of traditional medical training. Core to the curriculum is emotional intelligence (with 360-degree feedback and executive coaching), teambuilding, conflict resolution, and situational leadership. The course culminates in a team-based innovation project presented to hospital leadership. 61% of the proposed innovation projects have had a positive institutional impact. Moreover, in 10 years of follow-up after the initial course, 43% of the physician participants have been promoted to leadership positions at Cleveland Clinic.

In-house programs have been developed in many healthcare institutions (including Virginia Mason, Hartford Healthcare, the University of Kentucky, etc.), by medical societies like the American Association of Physician Leadership, and by business schools (including Wharton, Harvard Business School, the Weatherhead School of Management, and soon at Cass Business School in London). There seems to be a widening consensus that training physicians for leadership matters. Such training promises to enhance the pipeline of physician-leaders so that the benefits of physician leadership can be more broadly realized.

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Pauline Kwok, MD, (TRS’95, DR’00, ABI’01), staff radiologist at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital, was appointed Medical Director of Nuclear Medicine at Cleveland Clinic Avon Hospital and Richard E. Jacobs Health Center. Additionally, Dr. Kwok was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), one of the largest regional medical associations in the nation. She would like to thank everyone who was involved in nominating and electing her to the position of Board Representative of AMCNO. The AMCNO supports physicians in being strong advocates for all patients and promotes the highest quality of medical practice. It has been working on behalf of physicians in being strong advocates for AMCNO. The AMCNO supports physicians in being strong advocates for all patients and promotes the highest quality of medical practice.

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.

Paul H. Caldron, DO, PhD, MBA (IM’82, RH’84), has completed a PhD in Governance and Policy Analysis at Maastricht University. He practices clinical rheumatology and conducts research at Arizona Arthritis and Rheumatology, and he anticipates that his new degree will help him transition into the global health field.

Ure Mezu-Chukwu, MD (IM’06), has been named one of the Top 40 physicians under 40 by the Pennsylvania Medical Society. The award was presented in March at the Indiana County Medical Society Gala. After her Cleveland Clinic program, she practiced cardiology at the University of Pittsburgh from 2006-2009 and electrophysiology, with an additional year of research, from 2009-2012. She was in private electrophysiology practice in Georgia for three years but has returned to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where she practices in an underserved part of Pennsylvania. She also is working on a series of children’s books.

Raghav Govindarajan, MD (N’13), has been awarded the Clerkship Director Teaching Award by the American Academy of Neurology. This is an annual award given to a clerkship from candidates across the country. The award recognizes individuals who are dedicated to neurology education both for students in that specific field and for students pursuing other disciplines. “I want to thank my mentors at Cleveland Clinic Florida for their mentorship and teaching,” he said.

Farzanna Sherene Haffizulla, MD, FACP (IM’03), has received the Bertha Van Hoosen Award from the American Medical Women’s Association.

Navnet Majhail, MD (IM’04), has been elected Vice President for the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation. He will serve as President-Elect in 2018 and will be President of the organization in 2019. He is on Cleveland Clinic’s staff and a graduate of its IM residency program.

J. Harold Mohler, MD (IM’77, H/N’79), has retired from the active practice of Internal Medicine and Nephrology as of Oct. 31, 2016. He says he thoroughly enjoyed his five years of training at Cleveland Clinic under Philip Hall, Marc Pohl, Eugene Winkleman, Emanuel Bravo, and so many fine clinicians, teachers, and excellent role models.

Robert Berman, MD (IM’04, N’07, N/T’08), was appointed Director of the Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis Treatment and Research. Dr. Berman has overseen the Mellen Center’s clinical operations as Medical Director since 2013. He joined the staff in 2008 after completing a neurology residency and neuroimmunology fellowship at Cleveland Clinic. Jeffrey Cohen, MD (CCF’94), who has served as the Mellen Center Director since 2014, will focus on the center’s successful...
research program and his own clinical trials. He also will continue to serve as the center’s Director of the Experimental Therapeutics Program and Director of the Clinical Neuroimmunology Fellowship. Dr. Cohen, an internationally known expert in clinical trials in MS, has taken on the prestigious role of President of the Americas Committee on Treatment and Research in MS.

Carlos D. Trotta, MD (VS’74, TCS’77), was reelected President of Doctors Without Borders, Latin American Association.

Daniel Napierkowski, MD (CCF’97), has been named President of Marymount Hospital. Dr. Napierkowski, who most recently served as President of Euclid Hospital, joined Cleveland Clinic as a staff anesthesiologist in 1997 and has held several key leadership positions.

Micah Jacobs, MD (IM’06, ID’08), has been named one of the Top 40 physicians under 40 by the Pennsylvania Medical Society.

Dr. Jacobs, an infectious disease specialist with Romano Pontzer & Associates Ltd., was commended for being at the forefront of developing acute care in the outpatient setting for patients with moderately severe infections. Additionally, he is active in the development and promotion of antibiotic stewardship at a system level in the UPMC health system.

Amy Sullivan, PsyD (PSYCPM’07), passed the American Board of Professional Psychology certification with a specialization in health psychology. This puts her in the top 3 percent in her field nationally and one of only two health psychologists at Cleveland Clinic to receive this credential.

Ruth Farrell, MD (CCF’06), is the new Vice Chair for Clinical Research in the Ob/Gyn & Women’s Health Institute. She holds dual appointments in the Obstetrics, Gynecology & Women’s Health Institute and the Department of Bioethics.

Mary Carneval, DO, FACOS (S’11), has been appointed Division Chief of General Surgery at South Pointe Hospital. She is on faculty at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine and is active in teaching surgery residents and medical students at South Pointe and Euclid hospitals.

Tracy Hull, MD (CRS’93), Colorectal Surgery, has been awarded the Thomas C. and Sandra Sullivan Family Endowed Chair for Inflammatory Bowel Disease.

Marie Fidela Paraiso, MD (GYN’S’95) has been selected by the American Urogynecologic Society’s (AUGS) Board of Governors as the 2017 Raymond A. Lee Lecturer for its Annual Scientific Meeting. AUGS annually honors a person who contributed to the development and surgical advancement of urogynecology. The board said it chose Dr. Paraiso for her work in the subspecialty of female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery. She is the first woman to receive this award from the society.

New Hospital Heads Named

Richard D. Parker, MD (CCF’93), has been named President of Hillcrest Hospital, effective April 17. Dr. Parker served as President of Marymount Hospital since 2015, where he made significant operational and clinical enhancements, including adding a hospitalist program and introducing eHospital service for remote monitoring of ICU patients and bundled payments for total joint replacement surgeries. He joined Cleveland Clinic in 1993, served as Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery from 2008 until 2015, and has been the head team physician for the Cleveland Cavaliers since 2000. Dr. Parker is a national and international expert in orthopaedic surgery with more than 150 publications in peer-reviewed journals, and he also is a professor of surgery at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

Brian J. Harte, MD (CCF’04), who previously served as Hillcrest President, is now President of Cleveland Clinic Akron General.

Margaret McKenzie, MD (CCF’95), an Ob/Gyn in the Ob/Gyn & Women’s Health Institute, has been named President of South Pointe Hospital. Dr. McKenzie joined Cleveland Clinic as a staff member and serves as Section Head of General Obstetrics and Gynecology. In addition to her main campus location, she has practiced at Euclid and Hillcrest hospitals, as well as the Beachwood and Willoughby Hills family health centers. She has extensive clinical, educational, administrative and leadership experience. Dr. McKenzie is a member of the Board of Governors, the Operations Advisory Team and the Women’s Professional Staff Association. She is Co-Chair of the Association of Professors in Gynecology and Obstetrics’ Faculty Development Seminar.

Laura Shoemaker, DO (IM’06, H/OPM’09), has been appointed Director of Palliative Medicine for Cleveland Clinic, overseeing palliative care and hospice programs at the main campus and regional hospitals and in community-based programs. She served as Interim Director for the past seven months.

Michelle Medina, MD (P’99), is the new Chair for the Departments of Community and General Pediatrics at Cleveland Clinic Children’s. She has Continued on page 20
Cleveland Clinic's Southern Region to Expand

Union Hospital, located in Dover, Ohio, has selected Cleveland Clinic to be its strategic partner. Both signed a letter of intent for Union Hospital to join Cleveland Clinic’s health system. Union Hospital will continue improving access to its high-quality, affordable healthcare for patients in Tuscarawas County and the surrounding region. Representatives from both organizations will work toward finalizing a definitive agreement and seek regulatory approvals no later than Jan. 1, 2018.

served as Regional Medical Director for the Quality Alliance as well as Interim Chair of the Departments of Community and General Pediatrics.

Diane Young, MD (CCF’00), Regional Obstetrics and Gynecology, has been named Discipline Leader/Clerkship Director of the Women’s Health Institute. Dr. Young succeeds Margaret McKenzie, MD, who was promoted to President, South Pointe Hospital.

Kerry Levin, MD (CCF’84) has been appointed Chairman of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN). He has served as a director of the ABPN for the last seven years. The ABPN confers certification and maintenance of certification to 60,000 psychiatrists and neurologists in the United States.

David M. Lang, MD (CCF’02), Chair of the Department of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, was elected to serve on the Board of Directors and as Secretary Treasurer of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI). Dr. Lang has been a participant at virtually every AAAAI meeting since 1986. He served on the board from 2011-2015 and has chaired or served on numerous committees and task forces for the organization.

Matthew Kalady, MD (CRS’06), who holds the Krause-Lieberman Chair in Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgery, was appointed Director of the Sanford R. Weiss, MD, Center for Colorectal Neoplasia. Housed in the Cleveland Clinic Department of Colorectal Surgery, the Weiss Center is a multidisciplinary group dedicated to the prevention of cancer and the care of patients with inherited colorectal cancer syndromes. The Weiss Center maintains and cares for the largest registry of inherited colorectal cancer syndrome families in North America. Dr. Kalady takes over the directorship from James Church, MD, who served in the role since the center’s inception eight years ago.

William Stewart, MD (CCF’84), received the American Society of Echocardiography’s (ASE) 2017 Physician Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes a physician who has had a lifetime of outstanding achievements in the field of cardiovascular ultrasound and has served as a role model through service, research and teaching. The award will be presented during ASE’s Annual Scientific Sessions in June.

Amy Merlino, MD (CCF’10), has been named Enterprise Clinical Medical Information Officer in the Information Technology Division. An ob-gyn specializing in maternal-fetal medicine, Dr. Merlino has been a leader in informatics since joining the staff in 2010. Her undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering from Tulane along with a medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine contribute to her deep understanding of how technology impacts clinical care.

Allison T. Vidimos, RPh, MD, FACMS (D’89,DS’91), Chair, Department of Dermatology, has been named President of the American College of Mohs Surgery for 2017-18. She is the first woman to serve as President.

Beri Ridgeway, MD (UG/PS’09), was appointed Chair of Regional Obstetrics and Gynecology by the Cleveland Clinic Board of Governors. Dr. Ridgeway returned to Cleveland Clinic from the University of California (UC) Riverside, where she served as an associate clinical professor in the new medical school. She also directed the outpatient clinic there, overseeing both generalist and subspecialty practices. Dr. Ridgeway graduated from UC San Diego and completed medical school at UC San Francisco. She went back to San Diego for internship and residency in reproductive medicine before pursuing fellowship training in female pelvic medicine, and reconstructive and minimally invasive surgery at Cleveland Clinic.

Serpil Erzurum, MD (CCF’93), Chair of the Lerner Research Institute, was recognized by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) during Women’s History Month.

Jonathan Smith, PhD (CCF’02), has been selected as the Chair of the Department of Molecular Medicine of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. A joint education initiative between Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University, the Molecular Medicine Department also houses the Molecular Medicine PhD program.

Lara Jehi, MD (N’04, NYPH’06) Epilepsy Center, was awarded a National Institutes of Health grant for her project titled “A Nomogram to Predict Seizure Outcomes After Resective Epilepsy Surgery.” The project is a five-year collaboration between the Epilepsy Center and the Quantitative Health Sciences team, headed by Michael Kattan, PhD, who holds the Dr. Keyhan and Dr. Jafar Mobasseri Endowed Chair for Innovations in Cancer Research, along with Mayo Clinic and the University of Campinas. The study, with an estimated budget of $3.4 million, will incorporate clinical, imaging, genetic, electrophysiological and histopathology data into an individualized epilepsy surgery outcome prediction.

Lilian Gonsalves, MD (P’81) Psychiatry and Psychology, has been appointed Chair of the Professional Conduct Committee in the Office of Professional Staff Affairs. The committee supports professional staff by ensuring that Cleveland Clinic provides safe patient care and a collegial work environment for all employees while complying with regulatory requirements.

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Continued on page 21
Jonathan Sears, MD (CCF’98) received a 2016 Cozarelli Prize from the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) for his research “Comparative systems pharmacology of HIF stabilization in the prevention of retinopathy of prematurity.” The annual award acknowledges papers that reflect scientific excellence and originality.

Ayman Hussein, MD (IM’11, CARD/E’16) was one of 10 individuals to receive Young Author Achievement Awards by the American College of Cardiology. The award recognizes outstanding research published in one of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology’s sister journals.

Abell Foundation Announces Grant to Cleveland Clinic Alum

The Abell Foundation recently awarded a $28,000 grant to Mona Kaleem, MD (OPH/GL’14), an investigator in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. The goals of the project are to improve access to vision care in Baltimore City and measure the incidence and prevalence of ophthalmic disease among people experiencing homelessness.

Cleveland Clinic Doctors Earn Master’s Degrees from MEHPE Program

Two Cleveland Clinic alumni and staff members took part in the 2015-2017 Master of Education in Health Professions Education Program (MEHPE): Ali Mehdi, MD (IM’14), and Carlos Trombeta, MB, B.CH (AN’09, ACTA’10).

The program is designed for health professionals who have current roles and/or responsibilities in health professions education to help them apply what they learn to their professional activities while also taking their real-world experience into the educational setting. The program includes physicians, nurses and other clinical educators and/or education leaders in the medical and health professions.

Physicians Appointed to Endowed Chairs

Three physicians in the Digestive Disease and Surgery Institute and one in Quantitative Health Sciences have been appointed to endowed chairs:

Conor Delaney, MD, PhD (CRS/A’00), was named the Victor W. Fazio, MD, Chair in Colorectal Surgery.

Tracy Hull, MD (CRS’93), was named the Thomas C. and Sandra S. Sullivan Family Endowed Chair.

Scott Steele, MD, was named the Rupert B. Tumbull, MD, Chair in Colorectal Surgery.

Michael Kattan, PhD (CCF’04), Chair of Quantitative Health Sciences, was named the holder of the Dr. Keyhan and Dr. Jafar Mobasseri Endowed Chair for Innovations in Cancer Research. Dr. Kattan is a pioneer in developing nomograms (cancer risk calculators), used to predict patients’ individual risk of developing cancer.

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.

Recently Retired Staff and Alumni

Patricio Aycinena, MD (CCF’00), Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism (Lorain)

John Costin, MD (OPH’78), Ophthalmology

Joe Hollyfield, PhD (CCF’95), Ophthalmic Research

Bruce Long, MD (IM’81, RH’86), Rheumatologic & Immunologic Disease

David Reynolds MD (CCF’98), Community Internal Medicine

Allen Segal, DO (RH’81), Rheumatologic & Immunologic Disease

Mary Walborn, MD (IM’80, CARD’82), Community Internal Medicine

Luke Cheriyan, MD (CCF’98), Regional Anesthesiology

Irving Franco, MD (CARD’74), Cardiovascular Medicine

Anne Singer, MD (ABI’90), Diagnostic Radiology

Marcia Jarrett, PhD (CCF’02), Research Institute Office

Robert Cecil, PhD (CCF’95), Cardiovascular Medicine

Alumni Connection :: Issue 2, 2017
Thomas Gretter, MD (CCF’66), died in April shortly after his 50th year in service to the Neurology department at Cleveland Clinic. He was 81. He was appointed to the professional staff in 1966 and was still an active member at the time of his death.

But longevity alone doesn’t begin to tell the story of Dr. Gretter. Over the course of his career, he helped launch Cleveland Clinic’s first quality assurance and utilization review initiatives, chaired key committees, and most of all cared for patients with knowledge, skill and commitment.

A talented diagnostician, he was highly regarded for his technical and treatment planning skills. He readily embraced new technology and evolving practices, and recently joined a team of six neurologists performing tele-neurology visits from his office.

“He played a singular role in the history of the Department of Neurology and the life of the Cleveland Clinic,” says Andre Machado, MD, Chair of the Neurological Institute.

“He was beloved by his patients and admired by our trainees. He inspired us all with his energy and intelligence. He will be greatly missed.”

Among his appointments, Dr. Gretter was chair of the Utilization Review Committee and served on the Hospital Committee, the Audit Committee, and the Records and Statistics Committee, along with many other committee appointments.

Outside the Cleveland Clinic, his work was no less remarkable. He served on the Peer Review Committee of the Academy of Medicine and the Executive Committee of the Physicians’ Peer Review Organization. He also served on the Ohio State Medical Board for 10 years and was a member of the American Association of Ambulatory Health Care for 20 years, where he was a board member and a surveyor. Dr. Gretter was a member of numerous other professional societies, as well.

He attended the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Pearlman School of Medicine. He completed his residency at the University of Iowa. He came to Cleveland Clinic from the University of West Virginia Medical Center.

Dr. Gretter’s community service included serving as a committee chair for United Way, various positions in Pepper Pike city affairs, and was on the Board of Trustees for the Judson Retirement Community. He enjoyed leisure time with his sons and friends fishing, playing tennis, and hunting.

He is survived by his wife, Joan, a former social worker at Cleveland Clinic; three sons, Craig, Brock and Gavin, and six grandchildren. His son Brock is a member of Cleveland Clinic’s professional staff.

**Breno da Rocha Lima** died in May following a lengthy illness. He stopped treating patients last December to focus on his own health. He had been with the Bowden Eye Clinic since August 2013. Born in Brazil, where he attended medical school, he went on to become a visiting student at the University of Miami in his senior year. He next completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. Dr. Lima left Florida for an internal medicine residency at the University of Pittsburgh and then moved to Ohio for an ophthalmology residency at Cleveland Clinic.

He received a fellowship at the National Eye Institute/National Institutes of Health to advance his skills in uveitis and medical retina. He was the author of several peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters and numerous posters and papers presented at medical meetings.

**Abraham Brickner, PhD (CCF’78)**, age 92, died in December. He is remembered as a humanitarian who served on numerous community boards, and was inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. He also received a Special Citation for Distinguished Service from the Michigan Heart Association, along with dozens of awards for achievement and giving. During World War II, he participated in the capture of the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany, a famous battle of that war. He later served as an MP at the Nuremberg war crimes trials.

**Mario J. Feola, MD (VS’68)**, was born in Campora (Salerno), Italy, on March 20, 1927, to Giosue and Alfonsina Feola. He died in December in Lubbock, Texas. Dr. Feola led a distinguished medical career, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a medical degree from Naples University, Naples, Italy, in 1950. He came to the United States in 1956 for a residency in general surgery in Cleveland, where he met and married Arleen Sabo in 1961. He became a U.S citizen in 1965.

Dr. Feola left private practice in Cleveland for a cardiovascular/thoracic residency with Dr. DeBakey and Dr. Cooley in 1967 in Houston. He practiced in Chicago at Michael Reese Hospital, then began an academic career in surgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia. Next, he was at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Amarillo, Texas. He also was Chief of Surgery for the VA Hospital system in Amarillo. He was a Fellow in the American College of Surgeons, American Board of Surgery, American College of Cardiologists and the American Board of Thoracic Surgeons. He received many awards, particularly for research.

Dr. Feola was known worldwide for his pioneering work in blood substitutes. He participated in numerous scientific conferences and meetings, as well as authoring more than 100 papers, books chapters, and research abstracts not only on blood substitutes, but also in his field of cardiovascular thoracic surgery and research.

*Continued on page 23*
John M. Corbett, MD (S'68, ORS'71), of Aiken, South Carolina died in July 2016. He was born in Pittsburgh, PA and graduated from Baldwin High School. He attended Brown University graduating in 1958. He then attended the University of Pittsburgh working on a master degree. Then on the Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia. Dr. Corbett did his internship at York Hospital in York, PA. He then served two years in the army. Part of it in Korea. He came to Cleveland Clinic in 1968 and completed his training in 1971 in Orthopedics. He then practiced for the next thirty-five years in New Castle, PA where he was considered a pioneer in total joint replacements. He and his wife Nancy were married for 55 years and had two children — one a daughter whom they adopted in Korea. He was an avid golfer and played especially in Scotland and Ireland. He is survived by his wife, two children, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Cleveland Clinic’s founders were visionaries who set out to develop an integrated group practice in which diverse specialists would be able to think and act as one. Their commitment to their work and willingness to invest their own resources guaranteed the success of the new institution.

In anticipation of Cleveland Clinic’s 100th anniversary in 2021, the Centennial Legacy Society is recognizing alumni who continue the tradition of excellence by making a pledge of $5,000 or more to an alumni fund supporting the Power of Every One Centennial Campaign. We welcome you to join the Society and encourage colleagues and friends of the Alumni Association to do likewise. Your generous gifts enable Cleveland Clinic to better serve patients and increase the quality of training for students, residents and fellows.
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