Family Honors Dr. Roscoe J. Kennedy Through Longstanding Lecture Series

Larry and Maryann Kennedy have a history of giving to organizations that have played significant roles in their lives, and Cleveland Clinic has been one of those beneficiaries.

Larry’s father, Roscoe J. Kennedy, MD (Staff ’37), died in 1986 at the age of 82. He was head of Ophthalmology for 22 years, from 1947 to 1969, during his 50 years at Cleveland Clinic. He is described in Cleveland Clinic literature as a respected physician who served with distinction.

An unassuming man, Dr. Kennedy once recalled that the highlight of his career was not personal recognition but helping others.

“Not too many years ago, patients with cataracts were not as ready to accept surgery as they are today,” he said. “But with modern techniques, many now have their vision restored to virtually normal.

Continued on page 2

Dr. Eng Awarded American Cancer Society Medal of Honor

At a special ceremony in Washington, D.C., in fall 2018, Charis Eng, MD, PhD, (Staff ’05) was presented with the American Cancer Society’s Medal of Honor, its highest level of recognition. She holds numerous titles, including founding Chair of Cleveland Clinic’s Genomic Medicine Institute, founding Director of the Center for Personalized Genetic Healthcare and holder of the Sondra J. and Stephen R. Hardis Endowed

Continued on page 13

Alumni Association Honors Top Physicians

The achievements and long-time contributions of three outstanding Cleveland Clinic physicians were recognized by the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association during its recent Awards Night.

Receiving the Alumnus, Special Achievement and Service Awards, respectively, were Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD, Toby Cosgrove, MD, and Philip Bailin, MD.

Conrad Simpfendorfer Sr., MD (CARD’78), is a staff interventional cardiologist in the Robert and Suzanne Tomsich Department of Cardiovascular Medicine. He earned the Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented to individuals who have brought pride and recognition to Cleveland Clinic. In his illustrious career, he has worked to promote the

Continued on page 6
Dr. Simpfendorfer’s Three Doctor Sons Attend Awards Night To Honor Their Dad

Continued from page 1

Conrad C. Simpfendorfer, MD, (third from left), being named Distinguished Alumnus for 2018, with his three sons, also physicians. From left, Claus, a Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, radiologist; Conrad H., a surgeon at Cleveland Clinic, Florida; and, Christian M., an interventional cardiologist in Colorado Springs.

Civic luminary, an author, a radio and television guest and an adviser on healthcare issues to successive U.S. presidents. He practiced heart surgery with precision, for which he earned international fame. Later, he became President and CEO of Cleveland Clinic, where, for 13 years, he kept the institution on a steady course. Throughout his long career at Cleveland Clinic, he helped it become one of the greatest and best-known healthcare systems in the world.

In presenting the award, Susan Rehm, MD (IM’81, ID’83), said, “Toby Cosgrove is special because of the life choices he made, the profession he entered, the drive he has exuded to become the best there is at what he does, and he’s special because of all the people who have benefited from knowing him, trusting him, working with him and being treated by him.”

Continued on page 3

Delos “Toby” Cosgrove, MD, received the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association’s Special Achievement Award for his service to the institution. The award was presented by Susan Rehm, MD, (right) former President of the Alumni Association.

Philip Bailin, MD, MBA (D’74), right, receives the Alumni Association’s Service Award from Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD, Alumni Association President.
In accepting the award, Dr. Cosgrove said, “My proudest accomplishment is to count myself as a member of this group. You have given me more than I could have possibly asked for.”

**Philip Bailin, MD, MBA (D ’74),** received the organization’s **Service Award**, which recognizes alumni who have generously dedicated themselves to the growth and advancement of Cleveland Clinic and/or its Alumni Association. Dr. Bailin, now retired, was Chair of the Department of Dermatology from 1977 to 2005.

Citing Dr. Bailin’s many accomplishments, presenter **Dale Shepard, MD (IM’06, H/O’09)**, President-Elect of the Alumni Association, said Dr. Bailin served Cleveland Clinic in many ways over many years. For example, he was a frequent national and international lecturer at professional meetings and also Director of the Office of Practice Management and Associate Director of Leadership Development in the Office of Professional Staff Affairs.

Under his leadership, the Department of Dermatology grew from four to 11 staff physicians, making it, at the time, one of the largest academic dermatology programs in the country. During his tenure, Dr. Bailin added a basic research track to the residency program and developed post-residency fellowships in dermatologic surgery, dermatopathology and environmental dermatology. He also has published more than 120 articles and book chapters on the diagnosis and management of skin cancer, laser treatment of skin diseases, facial rejuvenation and cutaneous surgical techniques.

Also honored on Awards Night were Chelsea Garcia, MD (IM19), who received the **Michener Leadership Development Award** for a medical humanities project, and Benjamin Whiting, MD (PGY2), who received the **Graduate Level 1 Award** based on clinical excellence, character, communications skills and unique accomplishments.

**The Michener Award for Leadership went to Chelsea Garcia, MD, presented by Alumni Association President-Elect Dale R. Shepard, MD, PhD.**

Three men who served, or now serve, as President and CEO of Cleveland Clinic attended the Alumni Association’s Awards Night. They are, from left, Toby Cosgrove, MD, William Kiser, MD, and Tom Mihaljevic, MD. Cleveland Clinic founder George W. Crile looks on in his portrait behind them.

**Seeking Nominations for 2019 Alumni Awards**

As an alum of Cleveland Clinic, please consider nominating deserving individuals for one of our prestigious Alumni Awards. Last year, we were thrilled to receive many great nominations and recognize Dr. Toby Cosgrove, Dr. Conrad Simpfendorfer and Dr. Philip Bailin with awards.

On our website, alumni.clevelandclinic.org, you can nominate, review the award descriptions, and view an impressive list of past recipients. You also are welcome to send your nominations to alumni@ccf.org.

The three award categories are:

- **Distinguished Alumnus Award** (must be an alum by training)
- **Special Achievement Award** (all alumni)
- **Service Award** (all alumni)

We will accept nominations through **Saturday, June 1**. The nomination committee then will determine the final candidates, who will be voted on by the Alumni Board of Directors. Award recipients will be notified by the Alumni Office and invited to attend the Fall Alumni Board of Directors Reception and Awards Ceremony at the Foundation House on Friday, Sept. 20.

We appreciate your time and assistance with this process.
ALUM HONORED BY THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES SOCIETY

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Foundation has launched a campaign to honor the lives and achievements of women in the field of Infectious Diseases. Among the first honorees is Judy Aberg, MD, FIDSA, FACP (IM’93), one of only four women featured in this project. Dr. Aberg served as Chief Medical Resident at Cleveland Clinic before leaving for additional training.

Courtesy of the IDSA Foundation is an excerpt from the feature on this remarkable physician. For the complete story, go to: http://bit.ly/JudithabergMD:

During the early 1970s, Judith A. Aberg, MD, was an unwed, teen mother to a newborn daughter. She and her boyfriend had to fend for themselves after each was asked to move out of their parents’ homes. They made a life for themselves in a humble, rundown duplex that sat on a large, unmanaged property in Virginia Beach. His not-too-trusty 1963 Chevy van was parked close by.

Today, Dr. Aberg is Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Immunology for the Mount Sinai Health System in New York. She is a nationally renowned researcher in the field of HIV and AIDS.

At the time, it seemed nearly impossible that she would end up in a career that put her at the center of efforts to solve a global medical crisis. Anyone who knows Dr. Aberg, though, knows that her determination, her steadfastness, her passion for medicine and for helping the underserved could not be deterred.

But it wasn’t easy. Raising a young child, the couple spent several years just trying to make ends meet, all while paying for their college tuition. Dr. Aberg worked as an attendant at an amusement park, caught and cleaned crabs to sell to restaurants, cleaned construction sites and mowed grass at convenience stores and gas stations. Along with friends, she and her boyfriend painted cars, replaced the engines, and resold them.

She graduated from the College of Medicine at Pennsylvania State University in 1990, completed her internal medicine residency from 1990 to 1993, and served as chief medical resident in 1993 at the Cleveland Clinic. She then served as a fellow in the Division of Infectious Diseases at Washington University School of Medicine from 1994 to 1996.

It was during her training she chose to focus on HIV/AIDS. It was the 90s. People, mostly young men her same age, were dying of AIDS. They were stigmatized and ostracized by society. That made her even more determined to help. “I was going to stand up for them,” she said. “These guys were sick, and even their parents were alienating them. Nobody deserves to get HIV.”

Originally envisioning a career in a basic science laboratory, Dr. Aberg credits her work to a mentor, Richard Tenser, MD, MS, with whom she explored immune modulating therapy for patients with multiple sclerosis. She then shifted her focus to clinical and translational research. Later, Susan Rehm, MD, FIDSA, (IM’78), and Len Calabrese, DO (IM’78, RH’80), at Cleveland Clinic fueled her passion to provide care to patients as a clinical investigator.

As persons with HIV continued to live longer, there was increased demand for primary care and preventative vaccines. Dr. Aberg led numerous studies exploring drug interactions, vaccine responses and management of co-morbidities, most

Continued on page 5
Dr. Aberg

Continued from page 4

notably her work in cardiovascular complications associated with HIV. Dr. Aberg has been instrumental in developing state and national guidelines for the care of persons with HIV and has served and currently serves on multiple guideline panels.

She has established five clinical research sites and has partnered with basic science, behavioral science and genomics colleagues with the goal of promoting research development throughout the Mount Sinai Health System in New York.

Cardiology. Over a decade ago, she founded and began leading a multidisciplinary group, which has added important knowledge to our understanding of the genetic mechanisms behind atrial fibrillation. The group’s work is providing new targets for therapeutic research.

Dennis Stuehr, PhD (Staff’91), Department of Inflammation and Immunity in the Lerner Research Institute, who received the award for Scientific Achievement in Basic Science.

Carlos Isada, MD (IM’89, ID’92), of the Respiratory Institute, who earned the award for Master Educator. Dr. Isada completed residency and fellowship training at Cleveland Clinic and now serves as Vice Chair of the Department of Infectious Diseases. In addition, he has been Program Director of the Fellowship for Infectious Diseases since joining the staff in 1994.

Elaine Wyllie, MD (CHN’84, EEG’85), Neurological Institute, who received the award for Master Educator. Dr. Wyllie is one of the nation’s most respected pediatric neurologists and is the founder of Cleveland Clinic’s pediatric epilepsy program. Under Dr. Wyllie’s leadership, the team has become one of the largest and most respected pediatric epilepsy programs in the world.

In addition, the 2018 Nurse of the Year Award recipient was regional Ob-Gyn nurse Megan Capek, RN, and the 2018 Police Officer of the Year Award honoree was Andre Smith.
Charis Eng

Chair of Cancer Genomic Medicine. She is an internationally recognized leader in the field of cancer genetics.

“I am honored and humbled to receive the American Cancer Society’s Medal of Honor for Clinical Research,” Dr. Eng says. “To receive it on stage with the Hon. Joseph R. Biden Jr., Dr. Michael J. Thun, as well as Drs. Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier, the co-discoverers of CRISP-CAS9 gene editing, was overwhelming.”

The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions in basic cancer research, clinical research and cancer control. Dr. Eng has led many groundbreaking clinical and scientific discoveries throughout her career, notably:

• Discovering the relationship between PTEN gene mutations, Cowden syndrome and risks of specific cancers
• Linking multiple genes to the predisposition of specific cancers
• Launching a patient-centered, web-based family history tool backed by disease risk assessment and decision support at the point of care
• Deepening understanding of the role of bacterial composition in cancer and the potential of manipulating the microbiome to alter cancer progression

“Charis is a true pioneer in cancer genomics, especially integrating the study of genetics into clinical care,” says Serpil Erzurum, MD (Staff ’93), Chair of Cleveland Clinic’s Lerner Research Institute. “As a physician-scientist for over 20 years, she has dedicated her career to patient-oriented research in genetics and genomic medicine. She also has an unparalleled passion for mentoring the next generation of physician-scientists, PhDs, clinical researchers and healthcare leaders.”

Past Medal of Honor recipients include President George H. W. Bush, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy; George Papanicolau, MD, inventor of the Pap test; and former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, MD.
DR. SARAH VIJ NAMED DIRECTOR, MEN’S INFERTILITY SERVICE

Systemic diseases are often at the root of men’s fertility problems, and that’s why helping patients improve their overall health while also helping them achieve their reproductive goals are what Sarah Vij, MD (Staff’11), says she likes most about her job as the new Director of the Men’s Infertility Service.

“I see a lot of younger men, many of whom do not have a primary care physician, and I am able to use that as an opportunity to get them tied in to better overall care,” she says.

Fertility specialists take care of the whole patient in a way that you don’t often see in other subspecialties, and it is very gratifying to be able to help them improve their health at a younger age than they might otherwise present for care,” she says.

What sets the department apart, she says, is that it offers the full spectrum of diagnostic and therapeutic services in one location, maximizing patient convenience.

Cleveland Clinic also has a strong reproductive endocrinology group for the female half of an infertile couple, offering assistive reproductive techniques including intrauterine insemination and in vitro fertilization. The groups coordinate their efforts to achieve the best outcome for each couple.

HERE’S WHY YOU SHOULD READ BEFORE THE BOARD

Cleveland Clinic is a very busy place, and there seems to be an achievement around every corner. That’s why the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association extends invitations to representatives from departments across the institution to tell their stories.

We report on their presentations and post them on the Alumni Association’s website so the news can be shared widely among our more than 17,000 Cleveland Clinic trained physicians around the world.

We enjoy giving a voice to those whose contributions to the organization deserve special attention. Look for our next Before the Board installment in April. The latest edition can be found on the Alumni Relations website at alumni.clevelandclinic.org/alumni-connection.
His Mission Was To
Protect ‘The Neighbor’s Kids’

(’Editor’s note. The following introduction is from the upcoming book Dr. Edward Horvath plans to finish soon.)

“Why would a prominent physician leave his family, community, and medical practice to risk his life in a foreign country at war?

“The Neighbor’s Kids,” a memoir being written by Dr. Edward Horvath, addresses this question, tracing the odyssey of a boy from a small Ohio town to the battlefields of Iraq. Son of a decorated WW II combat veteran and raised in an extended immigrant family, he set his course early in life to become a husband, a father, a physician and a soldier.

“After completion of his medical training, this young physician began a successful career as a clinician, corporate medical director, research scientist, military officer and author. A turning point in middle age forced a period of reflection. Recognizing that something was missing in his life, he joined the Army Medical Corps and set out for Iraq at age 59, unaware of what awaited him.

“There, he faced the realities of war for the first time – dead soldiers, maimed children, a barbaric enemy – and came to question everything he once believed.”

“In my late 50’s. It was about 18 months after 9/11. My two sons were missing in his life, he joined the Army Medical Corps and set out for Iraq at age 59, unaware of what awaited him.

“Daniel, my oldest son, was sent to Vietnam. I had missed ‘my war,’ and somehow felt less of myself for having done so. This was my chance to make up for it.”

Both went off to join the Navy – the younger boy was awarded a Navy ROTC scholarship at Marquette University in Milwaukee and became a Navy pilot, while the older son joined the Navy as an enlisted sailor. He’s now a Navy officer like his younger brother. While his daughter did not choose a military career, she did follow in her father’s footsteps by going into medicine and currently practices OB-GYN in Baltimore.

“After some reflection, I decided to return to the military, myself,” he said. “There was a great need for physicians, especially in the Army, which was bearing the brunt of fighting in Iraq. I also wanted to provide my sons with an example of physical courage and enduring service. Finally, I felt I had some unfinished business to attend to. Although I’d served honorably in the Navy during the ‘70s, I was never sent to Vietnam. I had missed ‘my war,’ and somehow felt less of myself for having done so. This was my chance to make up for it.”

He got his front-row seat to the battle and witnessed, firsthand, the miseries and suffering of wounded soldiers and civilians and experienced the mistrust and hatreds that seem to go hand-in-hand with war. He even carried a
sidearm in a shoulder holster, which he admits seems odd to doctors who took that oath to “do no harm.” But, he explains, “If the enemy ever threatened me, my patients and my colleagues I was going to defend them.” He never had to use it.

Dr. Horvath vividly recalls other dramatic moments, such as when he first treated a wounded terrorist. He felt anger and wondered how he could care for such a person, who turned out to be only a teenager. But he treated him as if he were anyone else. Later, he was rebuked by an Iraqi interpreter who demanded to know why the boy had not been killed outright.

The enemy sometimes placed IEDs (improvised explosive devices) along the road and detonated them when children and military forces met.

“That’s what’s wrong with you Americans,” the interpreter said angrily.

He remembers the sadness of not being able to give water bottles to Iraqi children who ran toward U.S. military convoys as they rolled by. “We couldn’t stop. We couldn’t risk it,” Dr. Horvath said. The enemy sometimes placed IEDs (improvised explosive devices) along the road and detonated them when children and military forces met.

And he will never forget his chance encounter at an airport when a woman told him her son had been hospitalized in Iraq after falling from a helicopter. She described how his life had been saved by an Army doctor. After a brief conversation, Dr. Horvath remembered the soldier as one he’d treated while stationed with the 325th Combat Support Hospital near Tikrit, Iraq. Incredibly, the woman standing before him was the soldier’s mother. “I took care of your son that day. How is he doing?” Dr. Horvath asked. She was astonished and replied, “My boy came home to me because of you.”

Dr. Horvath was honorably discharged from the Army on his 68th birthday, Aug. 9, 2014, with the rank of full colonel.

While with the 325th Combat Support Hospital in Iraq during 2008, he worked alongside several other physicians who’d either trained at Cleveland Clinic or were still on staff there: Gino Trevisani (surgical residency), Bill Montgomery (spine surgery fellowship), and Jim Wu (colorectal staff surgeon).

Dr. Horvath left Cleveland Clinic in August 2000, after serving in the Department of Medicine for more than seven years before moving on to practice medicine elsewhere.

What overall impressions did war make on Dr. Horvath and his life? He summarizes it this way:

“First, everyone has a mission.

“Second, there is a ‘parental imperative’ where the caring and concern one has for his own children is extended to the children of others – the neighbor’s kids.

“And, third, although sometimes difficult, forgiveness is essential to the healing process for both offender and victim.”

Dr. Horvath hopes to take his story public soon with the release of a book on his experiences in Iraq, both the good and the bad. The current title for the book is The Neighbor’s Kids.
The 32 students of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine (CCLCM) graduating class, along with their family and friends, gathered last May to celebrate their hard work and their many accomplishments over the last five years.

After welcoming colleagues, faculty, supporters, family and friends to the event, J. Harry Isaacson, MD, Interim Executive Dean of the Lerner College of Medicine, acknowledged the 175th anniversary of the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and the 10th graduating class. He then recognized Norma Lerner and James B. Young, MD, former Executive Dean of the college and now Chief Academic Officer of Cleveland Clinic, both of whom addressed the group with video messages because they were attending family graduations. Dr. Isaacson also recognized Toby Cosgrove, MD, former CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic.

Addressing the students, Dr. Isaacson remarked on the impact of stories, both their patients’ and their own, and the importance of sharing them. “As you move forward to your new journeys in medicine, I encourage you to embrace reflection and sharing of stories as a way to continue your development as physicians,” said Dr. Isaacson, inviting them to also share their stories with the Lerner College community.

Tom Mihaljevic, MD, President and CEO of Cleveland Clinic, took the podium to congratulate the graduates and remind them that they always have a job at Cleveland Clinic if they so choose. He said that we view our organization as a family, and “this place will always keep the lights on for you.” He told the class that there’s never been a better time to be in healthcare. “The time is exciting, the opportunities are limitless,” he said.

This graduating class will be known not only for their many accomplishments, but also for their spirit of giving back. The class gift to the college, presented by Hannah Robinson and Daniel Sexton, was a donation to the Community Health Initiative, a program that gives students the chance to offer health screenings at a men’s shelter in Cleveland. Hannah described her experience in the program as one of the most memorable during her time in medical school. The students hope the gift will help the initiative to continue and improve.

Angela Dai and Daniel Li presented the alumni gift of stethoscopes, embellished with the Cleveland Clinic logo, for all incoming students. The class hopes that this alumni gift will become a new tradition.

Johanna Goldfarb, MD, Basic Science Education Course Director and Thread Leader, delivered the faculty presentation, which focused on remaining honest, kind and humble. “There are huge expectations put on physicians, and you will meet them best when you are true to yourself, when you have been kind and compassionate with your own needs, as well as those of others,” she said.

Rebecca Achey
Education: BS, Tufts University, 2011
Residency: Neurological Surgery, Cleveland Clinic

Andrew Bowen
Education: BS, University of California, Irvine, 2012; MS, Case Western Reserve University, 2018
Residency: Otolaryngology, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education

Christine Chang
Education: BA, Oberlin College, 2013
Residency: Anesthesiology, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Jacob Christ
Education: BS, Cornell University, 2013
Residency: Obstetrics-Gynecology, University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals

Frank Cikach
Education: BS, Marietta College, 2011
Residency: Thoracic Surgery, Cleveland Clinic

Charles Dai
Education: BS, Rice University, 2012
Residency: Internal Medicine (Stanbury Physician-Scientist Pathway), Massachusetts General Hospital
Lu (Angela) Dai
Education: BS, University of Toronto, 2010; MS, University of Toronto, 2013
Preliminary Year: Medicine, Case Western Reserve University/MetroHealth Medical Center
Residency: Anesthesiology, Massachusetts General Hospital

Yi (James) Gao
Education: BA, Cornell University, 2012
Preliminary Year: Medicine, University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix
Residency: Dermatology, University of Minnesota Medical School

Alex Grubb
Education: BS, The Ohio State University, 2011
Residency: Internal Medicine, Duke University Medical Center

Daniel Hettel
Education: BS, The Ohio State University, 2011
Residency: Preliminary Surgery and Urology, Cleveland Clinic

Lu (Angela) Dai
Education: BS, University of Toronto, 2010; MS, University of Toronto, 2013
Preliminary Year: Medicine, Case Western Reserve University/MetroHealth Medical Center
Residency: Anesthesiology, Massachusetts General Hospital

Yi (James) Gao
Education: BA, Cornell University, 2012
Preliminary Year: Medicine, University of Arizona College of Medicine-Phoenix
Residency: Dermatology, University of Minnesota Medical School

Alex Grubb
Education: BS, The Ohio State University, 2011
Residency: Internal Medicine, Duke University Medical Center

Daniel Hettel
Education: BA, BS, University of Toledo, 2013
Residency: Preliminary Surgery and Urology, Cleveland Clinic

Vishesh Khanna
Education: BS, University of Oregon, 2013
Residency: Internal Medicine, Stanford University Programs

Clare Landefeld
Education: BA, Smith College, 2012; MS, Case Western Reserve University, 2018
Residency: Primary Medicine/Division of General Internal Medicine, Brigham & Women’s Hospital

Daniel Li
Education: BS, University of California-San Diego, 2012
Residency: Internal Medicine, Stanford University Programs

Erica Magelky
Education: BA, Boston University, 2010; MA, Case Western Reserve University, 2018
Residency: Obstetrics-Gynecology, UC San Diego Medical Center

Megan Morisada
Education: BS, Santa Clara University, 2012
Residency: Otolaryngology, UC Davis Medical Center

Erik Offerman
Education: BA, Northwestern University, 2008
Residency: Internal Medicine/Clinical Investigation Track, NYU School of Medicine

Stephen Raithel
Education: BA, Kenyon College, 2013
Residency: Anesthesiology, Brigham & Women’s Hospital

Jessica Ray
Education: BA, Williams College, 2010
Residency: Pediatrics, University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals

Hannah Robinson
Education: BA, Wesleyan University, 2011
Residency: Internal Medicine, Duke University Medical Center

Continued on page 12
GRADUATES

Continued from page 11

Daniel Sexton
Education: BS, California Institute of Technology, 2012
Residency: Neurological Surgery, Duke University Medical Center

Nemat Sharaf
Education: BS, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2010
Residency: Medicine-Pediatrics, Indiana University School of Medicine

Erin Sieke
Education: BA, University of Pennsylvania, 2012;
MS, Case Western Reserve University, 2018
Residency: Pediatrics, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Ao Zhang
Education: BS, Tsinghua University, 2005; MS, Tsinghua University, 2007;
PhD, Case Western Reserve University, 2013
Residency: Preliminary Surgery and Urology, Cleveland Clinic

Jin Zhang
Education: BS, University of Arizona, 2012
Residency: Medicine-Preliminary, Cleveland Clinic, Ophthalmology,
University of Arizona College of Medicine at South Campus

Alumni Connection thanks the producers of Insight, the newsletter of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, for this story.
Improvements have also been made in the treatment of retinal detachment. Improvements like this have made my years at Cleveland Clinic so memorable,” Dr. Kennedy said.

His motivation is similar to that of Larry and Maryann Kennedy, whose gifts to Cleveland Clinic also are prompted by the desire to help others. “We’re seeking to promote the futures of other ophthalmologists so they can provide the best possible care to their patients,” Larry Kennedy says.

Dr. Kennedy’s former fellows, colleagues and friends established the Roscoe J. Kennedy Lecture Series in 1985 to honor his work. For each lecture series, ophthalmologists from around the country attend and a special guest speaker presents on leading-edge research and advances in the profession. Fellows and residents also attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy’s estate planning will allow the series to continue in perpetuity.

Distinguished Background

Dr. Kennedy came to Cleveland Clinic in 1937 to complete a special fellowship and made such an impression that he was appointed to the clinic’s professional staff just two weeks later.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy medical corps, retiring with the rank of commander. Much of that time he was chief of surgery in a volunteer mobile medical unit begun by Cleveland Clinic doctors and headquartered in Auckland, New Zealand. The unit’s doctors were assigned to aid military personnel injured in the Southwest Pacific.

Dr. Kennedy was certified in 1939 by the American Board of Ophthalmology and went on to make numerous contributions to Cleveland Clinic, not only to Ophthalmology, but also to Cleveland Clinic’s leadership team. He served as a member of its Board of Governors from 1960 to 1964.

After retiring, Dr. Kennedy became an emeritus consultant in Ophthalmology and went on to volunteer as an ophthalmologist for the Collinwood Elder Care Center from 1972 to 1976.

For 48 years, he was married to Marie L. (Guerra), who passed away in 2009 at the age of 97. They met in the OR, where she was a surgical nurse. She was an avid volunteer in numerous fields of medicine and was deeply involved in matters concerning health, welfare and community service.

To learn more about the Roscoe J. Kennedy Lecture Series, or how to leave a lasting legacy gift in your estate plans as Larry and Maryann Kennedy have done, please contact Mindy Stroh, Senior Director, Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association, at strohm@ccf.com.

“Improvements in eye treatments have made my years at Cleveland Clinic so memorable,” Dr. Kennedy once said.
Amy Rowland, Dr. George W. Crile Sr.’s assistant, worked with him from his medical partnership days in downtown Cleveland through World War I and the founding of Cleveland Clinic in 1921. She remained with Cleveland Clinic until after Dr. Crile died in 1943, and she established much of the administrative process as well as the Education department.

Ms. Rowland was a nurse, educator, author and publications editor, highly regarded by the organization. From 1921 to 1926, she headed the editorial department, organized by Dr. Crile in 1921. Her work included editing for publication a group of technical volumes written by him and his associates, covering a variety of disease studies and surgical treatments. She continued to be active in biophysical research in Cleveland Clinic’s laboratories and also served as Executive Secretary of the Research Department.

Ms. Rowland was a charter member of the Women’s City Club of Cleveland and its director (1919-25) and president (1923-24); a founder of the Women’s Council for the Promotion of Peace; a founder, officer and trustee of the Cleveland Girls’ Council; a trustee of Alta House and Woman’s General Hospital; and president of other professional organizations. She died in 1953 at the age of 81.

Lillian Grundies worked with Dr. Crile in World War I, then moved with him to Cleveland Clinic. She advanced to head the hospital’s Central Supply (Purchasing) unit for many years until her retirement. That assignment proved grueling because she was beset by supply shortages and rationing during World War II while also dealing with the close scrutiny of government oversight.

Ms. Grundies was hired by Dr. Crile in 1912 to be the surgical nurse at “the office,” meaning the Bunts-Crile-Lower partnership in the Osborn Building at E. 9th Street and Huron Avenue. She then went to France with the Lakeside Unit and was stationed overseas from 1917 to 1919, serving with a U.S. Army medical corps unit that was the first American military unit to enter Europe in WWI.

Sadly, she also was at the scene of the Great Cleveland Clinic Disaster on May 15, 1929. Newspaper photographs show her ministering to William Brownlow, head of Cleveland Clinic’s Art & Photography department, who died later that day from the effects of poisonous fumes from the fire.

William L. Proudfit, MD (IM’43), legendary Cleveland Clinic cardiologist, once wrote of Ms. Grundies: “She would be difficult to improve on in a fictional account. She had a razor-sharp mind, a retentive memory and a good sense of values. She had no pretense about her. Most often, she would be at her desk using two telephones at the same time while also taking notes. She was a busy woman. Despite the pressures on her, she was always anxious to do a favor, particularly for the newcomers, such as a young physician-in-training.”


Continued on page 15
They Called Her ‘The Sun Queen’

Maria Telkes, PhD, was Cleveland Clinic’s first full-time, female staff member. She was an outstanding scientist, researcher and inventor who rose to national prominence through her specialization in the electrical aspects of medicine. Dr. Telkes went on to become a pioneering expert on solar power long before it was popular. Along the way, she even acquired a nickname, “The Sun Queen,” for her studies. She built the first all-solar house in the U.S. and experimented with her own solar oven, another first.

Dr. Telkes earned her physics teaching degree at the University of Sciences, Budapest, then later worked in Dr. Crile’s biophysics laboratory at Cleveland Clinic. Her first job was measuring in vitro radiation of tissues. She worked there for 12 years as a biophysicist and went on to the research laboratories of Westinghouse Electric Corporation. Later, she held positions in solar energy research and development at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In 1952, Dr. Telkes became the first recipient of the Achievement Award from the Society of Women Engineers, which recognized her contributions to solar energy research. She was born in Hungary in 1900 and emigrated to the U.S. in 1925, where she remained until she died in 1995. Her last professional position was as Director of the Solar Energy Laboratory at the Curtiss-Wright Corp., in Princeton, New Jersey.

Lou Adams once was called on to anesthetize a lion for medical research purposes, so the story goes.

The Lady and The Lion

Lou Adams was the head of Cleveland Clinic’s Anesthesia Services unit prior to Cleveland Clinic’s employing physician anesthesiologists. She brought the understaffed anesthesia program through the trying times of the Depression and World War II.

For many years, Dr. Crile relied predominantly on two people: Ms. Adams, Chief Anesthetist, and Emma Barr, Operating Room Supervisor, for the success of his thyroidectomies and other operations at Cleveland Clinic.

Ms. Adams, a member of the Lakeside Nursing class of 1909, was one of the school’s first graduates to work at Cleveland Clinic. She studied anesthesia in Philadelphia, but started at Cleveland Clinic Hospital in 1924 as a head nurse. In 1926, she transferred to the Anesthesia Department, where she served as Chief Anesthetist from 1928 until her retirement in 1952.

An anecdote reported in her obituary describes an unusual assignment of anesthetizing a lion.

She stayed with Cleveland Clinic throughout World War II – and beyond - as Chief Nurse Anesthetist, retiring on July 1, 1952, at age 66, with 28 years of service. Coincidentally, when she returned to Cleveland only two years later to visit her many friends at Cleveland Clinic, she had a stroke and died at the hospital.

Helping Americans To Eat Healthy

Helen Brown, PhD, was among the first researchers to establish a relationship between dietary fat and heart disease. She worked with Irvine H. Page, MD, at Cleveland Clinic. She became part of the executive team for the National Diet-Heart Study (1958-1965), during which she made dietary suggestions in an effort to change American eating habits.

Her work as a pioneering nutritionist provided the basis for a recommendation that Americans change their diet to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke. She continued her work studying sociological aspects of pediatric nutrition all over the world.

Dr. Brown earned a degree in chemistry and mathematics at Mount Holyoke College and then a doctorate in physiology and physiological chemistry at Yale University. She joined Cleveland Clinic’s research division in 1948, when the study of atherosclerosis was in its infancy. She was named Director of Dietary Research in 1958. Ten years later, as basic research in the field assumed increasing significance, she was recognized as an international authority. One of her major accomplishments was helping to give credence to the role of nutrition in health, moving dietary treatment from hospital research laboratories into the average home kitchen.

Continued on page 16
She began work as a laboratory researcher in the 1920s, when few women were able to enter the field. When she retired, she was recognized for having played a key role in changing the eating habits of millions of people. She developed the diet in Cleveland Clinic’s own kitchen and laboratories and became an advocate of eating sensibly. Dr. Brown died in 1995.

World-renowned Hypertension Expert

Harriet P. Dustan, MD, was world-renowned for her hypertension research, especially renal hypertension. During her medical career, she helped produce a series of innovations in the detection and treatment of hypertension. As a member of a noted Cleveland Clinic team, Dr. Dustan was among the first to suggest that reducing dietary sodium could lower hypertension and cardiac risks. She was the second woman president of the American Heart Association, the first editor-in-chief of its journal, *Hypertension*, and the first woman on the Board of Governors of the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Dustan began her association with Cleveland Clinic in 1948, working with doctors Irvine H. Page and Arthur C. Corcoran. She helped unlock the mechanisms of hypertension and develop or investigate all the early anti-hypertensive agents. Her work helped to change hypertension from a death sentence to a treatable disease.

Her research included the effects of serotonin in constricting blood vessels, now also used in antidepressants; the role of the blood enzyme renin in hypertension; the effects of discontinuing anti-hypertensive medications in hypertensive patients; and the roles of sodium and obesity in hypertension. She also was part of the team that established selective renal arteriography to track circulation in the kidneys as the reference standard for renal hypertension.

She was the first woman president of the Scientific Council of the Cleveland Area Heart Society and presented papers on her work at top national medical and research meetings. She also was active in 10 medical and scientific organizations.

Interested in all forms of hypertension, Dr. Dustan considered the improved understanding of the various forms of hypertension most closely associated with kidney disease as the most intriguing medical development in her career.

Dr. Dustan, who died in 1999, offered this observation 35 years earlier on the subject of women in the workforce: “Acceptance is based on what she has to offer, and being a woman is nothing to be apologetic about. In any field in which men predominate, women should not look upon themselves as opponents of men. Women have value because of who they are, just as do men.”

Cleveland Clinic Archives functions as the long-term memory of Cleveland Clinic, preserving and giving access to the permanent and historical records of the organization. For more information contact the Archives at archives.ccf.org or 216.448.2929.
Cardiologist, Researcher. Women’s Advocate

Bernadine Healy, MD (Staff’85), a nationally known cardiologist and Chair of Cleveland Clinic’s Research Institute, brought big changes to that institute before going on to become the first woman Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and, later, President and CEO American Red Cross. But she always maintained her connection with Cleveland Clinic, where her husband, famed heart surgeon Fred Loop, MD (Staff’70), was the CEO from 1989 to 2004.

Throughout her career, Dr. Healy was a strong advocate of equality for women in health research.

She graduated summa cum laude from Vassar College with a chemistry degree and a minor in philosophy after attending for three years. In 1970, she earned her medical degree at Harvard Medical School and went on to complete her postgraduate training in internal medicine and cardiology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where she later became a professor of medicine.

In 1985, she was appointed Chair of the Research Institute at Cleveland Clinic, where she oversaw the research programs of nine departments. She established new research programs, mostly in the field of molecular biology, and also participated in large NIH-funded research programs studying hypertension and coronary artery bypass graft surgery.

In 1991, President George H. W. Bush nominated Dr. Healy to be the first female Director of NIH. While there, she helped establish greater medical research equality by mandating that any study that received NIH funding must include both men and women in clinical trials. She also launched the Women’s Health Initiative at NIH, a $625 million effort to combat the lack of research on postmenopausal women’s health and to asepsis, prevention and cures for diseases affecting middle-aged women.

She served as professor and Dean of the College of Medicine and the College of Public Health at The Ohio State University and went on to become President and CEO of the American Red Cross, where she led an initiative for a strategic and safe blood reserve. She also was President of the American Heart Association.

She died of a brain tumor in 2011, at the age of 67.

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 anniversary approaches in 2021.

You are invited to submit topics for us to consider. Please contact Mindy Strohm, Senior Director, Alumni Relations, at strohm@ccf.org.
Hillcrest Hospital Opened 50 Years Ago

On Nov. 23, 1968, a fleet of ambulances drove across town from Cleveland Heights to Mayfield Heights, Ohio. But unlike most occasions requiring several ambulances, this was no disaster. They were transferring 31 patients from Doctors Hospital to the new Hillcrest Hospital in Mayfield Heights.

The opening of Hillcrest Hospital was the result of more than 10 years of planning and fundraising. Although Doctors Hospital was well-loved by the community, it was clear as early as 1956 that its location and facilities limited its growth. Cleveland’s suburbs were rapidly expanding, and the new population needed convenient medical care. Mayfield Heights developer Anthony Visconi donated 14 acres, which became the hospital site, seven miles from any other hospital at the time.

The cornerstone for Hillcrest was laid on Oct. 30, 1966, during a ceremony with an address by Congresswoman Frances P. Bolton. Two years later, with construction completed and the hospital almost ready, a dedication and open house followed. Visitors toured the new hospital’s leading-edge nuclear medicine, obstetrics and lab departments.

In 1976, Hillcrest underwent its first major expansion. Additional expansions were completed in 1986, 1994 and 2010.

Since opening 50 years ago, Hillcrest has become particularly well known in cardiac care and obstetrics. Hillcrest also was among the first hospitals in the Cleveland area to use innovations such as pre-admissions testing and same-day surgery to reduce the length of hospital stays. Hillcrest has been named one of the top 100 hospitals in the country 11 times.

An artist’s conception of what Hillcrest Hospital would look like. Several expansions over the years helped it to keep pace with a growing patient volume.

5 Ways a CGA May Benefit You

A CGA has much to offer because it:

• Guarantees income to you and/or a loved one for life
• Is simple and secure
• Reduces capital gains tax (if funded with an appreciated asset, such as stock)
• Can supplement retirement income
• Helps you leave a legacy supporting Cleveland Clinic

To learn more, please contact Melinda Strohm, Senior Director of Alumni Relations, at 216.444.6534 or strohm@ccf.org.
Support the Future of Medicine, Sponsor a Stethoscope for a Student.

Last year, the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine class of 2018 partnered with the Alumni Association to present each student with a personalized stethoscope. Help us continue the new tradition of welcoming students by making a gift to support a stethoscope for a student.

To sponsor a stethoscope for a student, visit give.ccf.org/stethoscopesforstudents

$17 million. 100% to cancer research at Cleveland Clinic


VELOSANO 100% for the cure
SAVE THE DATE

2019 Sones/Favaloro Scientific Program and Awards
Intercontinental Hotel, Cleveland, OH

On Friday, Nov. 8, 2019, Cleveland Clinic’s Sydell and Arnold Miller Heart and Vascular Institute will recognize William Sheldon, MD, Fawzy Estafanous, MD, Ken Ouriel MD, and Jess Young, MD as the 2019 Sones/Favaloro award recipients for their outstanding contributions to the field of cardiovascular anesthesia, medicine, and surgery.

3:30–6:30 p.m. – Scientific Program
7:00 p.m. – Reception + Awards Ceremony
Formal invitation to follow.

COMING SOON
A Network to Bring Together Cleveland Clinic Alumni Worldwide.
Update Your Contact Info Now!

Whether you’re looking to reconnect with a fellow trainee, find an alum to recommend to a patient or are interested in networking with an alum professionally, our soon-to-launch site is designed so that you can:

• Reconnect with former colleagues, classmates and co-residents
• Expand your business reach and referral base
• Access our network of world-class physicians, researchers and trainees from hundreds of medical specialties
• Update your info to continue receiving our alumni newsletter, event info and important news
• Get connected with the alumni in your area

Look for further information soon from the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Relations Office.

Authors Corner

Cardiologist Writes Book on Board Review and Self-Assessment

Mark J. Eisenberg, MD, MPH (CARDIN ’95), a former interventional cardiology fellow at Cleveland Clinic and now Director of the MD-PhD Program at McGill University, recently published Cardiology Board Review and Self-Assessment: A Companion Guide to Hurst’s the Heart.

This all-inclusive study guide, with over 1,100 questions and detailed answers, complements the 14th edition of Hurst’s the Heart, a comprehensive review of the field of cardiovascular medicine.

Both books are available through Amazon.
CENTENNIAL LEGACY SOCIETY

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 gift 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.

Visionary ($20,000 or more)
Dr. Lee and Mrs. Marlene Adler
Dr. Janos Bacsanyi*
Dr. Hassan Barazi
Dr. Kenneth Barngrover
Dr. Conrado and Mrs. Ester Castor
Dr. James Chambers
Dr. Ravi Chittajallu
Drs. John and Mary Clough
Dr. Zeyd Ebrahim and Dr. Lilian Gonsalves Ebrahim
Dr. Pauline C. Kwok
Dr. Paul C. Janicki and Dr. Christine A. Quinn
Drs. Justin and Erin Juliano
Mrs. Kelsey and Dr. Jonathan Kaplan
Dr. William and Mrs. Eugenia Kiser
Dr. Christopher Leville
Dr. Andrew and Mrs. Vivien Liu
Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Janet Rice
Dr. Herb Rogove
Dr. Isobel Rutherford
Dr. Earl K. Shirey
Dr. Conrad C. Simpfendorfer and Mrs. Patricia V. Simpfendorfer
Drs. Jack M. and Lilian T. Thome

Member ($5,000–$9,999)
Drs. Tom and Abby Abelson
Dr. Mohamed Atassi
Drs. Amiya and Supra Banerjee
Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Bell
Dr. Edwin and Mrs. Beverly Beven
Dr. Christine and Mr. Dean Booth
Dr. Azmy* and Mrs. Ida Boutros
Dr. Johan J. Bredée
Dr. Richard P. Carroll
Theresa L. Chafel, M.D.
Dr. Philip Cusumano
Dr. Gary H. Dworkin
Drs. Toribio and Susan Flores
Dr. Fetnat Fouad-Tarazi
Mr. Dale and Mrs. Diane Goodrich
Dr. Raghav Govindarajan
Dr. Carl W. Groppe, Jr.
Dr. Mark and Mrs. Karen Grove
Dr. Michael and Dr. Haifa Hanna
Dr. Kuniaki Hayashi
Dr. Andrew and Mrs. Jane Healy
Dr. Norman and Mrs. Maryanne Hertz
Dr. James Hodgman
Dr. Edward P. Horvath
Drs. Octavian and Adriana Ioachimescu
Lynn Luthern and Frederic Joyce, MD
Dr. Leonard and Mrs. Susan Krajewski
Dr. Robert and Mrs. Brenda Kunkel
Dr. Julie A. Lahiri
Dr. Albert C. Lammert*
Dr. Richard Lang and Mrs. Lisa Kraemer
Drs. Rande and Linda Lazar, and Lauren, Sophie and Charlie/IT
Drs. Chao-wen and D. Anthony Lee
Nathaniel D. Lee and Kalysta A. Lee
Dr. Geoffrey and Mrs. Susan Lefterts
Dr. Marc and Mrs. Cynthia Levin

Founder ($10,000–$19,999)
Dr. Lee and Mrs. Marlene Adler
Dr. Janos Bacsanyi*
Dr. Hassan Barazi
Dr. Kenneth Barngrover
Dr. Conrado and Mrs. Ester Castor
Dr. James Chambers
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Drs. Jack M. and Lilian T. Thome

Among the latest physicians to join the Centennial Legacy Society (CLS) is Richard Lang, MD (IM’82), center, with his wife, Lisa Kraemer. Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD, Alumni Association president, presents Dr. Lang with his CLS certificate.

The Society was formed as a philanthropic tribute to those who mentored others during their training at Cleveland Clinic, as well as to provide funds to ensure the continuation of the highest-quality training for tomorrow’s students, residents and fellows.

As fellow Cleveland Clinic alumni and medical leaders, we cordially invite you to join your colleagues who are making a significant impact on medical education by becoming Centennial Legacy Society members.

If you have any questions about how to become a Centennial Legacy Society Member, please contact Alumni Relations Senior Director Mindy Strohm at strohm@ccf.org or visit alumni.clevelandclinic.org/giving

*Deceased
Cleveland Clinic: In the News

Parkinson Program Earns Prestigious Designation

The Parkinson Program of the Center for Neurological Restoration has been designated as a Center of Excellence by the Parkinson’s Foundation. This status is the most respected and sought-after designation in the field of Movement Disorders, with each center required to meet rigorous clinical, research, professional, educational and patient service criteria.

Cleveland Clinic’s Parkinson Center of Excellence, co-directed by Hubert Fernandez, MD (Staff’10), in Cleveland, and Zoltan Mari, MD, in Las Vegas, along with an entire team of Cleveland Clinic providers, is the only designated Center of Excellence in the states of Ohio and Nevada, and the first two-campus Center of Excellence to be awarded by the Parkinson Foundation worldwide.

Driscoll First to Hold Tippit Family Chair

Donna Driscoll, PhD (Staff’92), has been named the inaugural holder of the newly endowed Tippit Family Chair in Faculty Development and Vitality. The chair supports research leadership development.

Dr. Driscoll’s research program focuses on understanding the molecular mechanisms of gene regulation and has been continuously funded by the National Institutes of Health for more than 20 years. She led seminal discoveries about the role of selenium in the development of disease, which earned her recognition by the American Heart Association, including the Irving H. Page Arteriosclerosis Research Award for Young Investigators, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Research Award and the Established Investigator Award.

After earning a doctorate in pathology from the University of Chicago, she trained at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and Medical Research Council in the UK.

Dr. Driscoll joined Cleveland Clinic in 1992 and has been lauded by her peers and students as a leader and innovator. She was the first recipient of the Lerner Outstanding Educator Award and also received awards for outstanding service and mentorship.

Dr. Driscoll served as Vice Chair of Faculty Development under former Lerner Chair Paul DiCorleto, PhD (Staff’81), and in 2018 was named the first Director of the Lerner Faculty Office, launched to support recruitment, diversity, development, retention and vitality of research faculty. She also spearheaded the RISE (Research Intensive Summer Experience) internship program for Cleveland high school students from underrepresented groups in science, developing a pipeline for young scientists in Northeast Ohio.

“We deeply thank the Tippit family for this generous and forward-thinking gift,” said Serpil Erzurum, MD (Staff ’93), Lerner Research Institute Chair. “Dr. Driscoll is an esteemed researcher, dedicated educator and strong leader, and she is very deserving of this honor. She epitomizes Cleveland Clinic’s serving leadership culture.”

New Partnership Benefits Biomed Engineering

Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic have launched a partnership to advance research and education in biomedical engineering (BME) across Greater Cleveland’s growing health innovation ecosystem.

The alliance increases opportunities for trainees at all levels, from high school to postdoctoral education, allowing them to study with renowned scientists, physicians and engineers in fields including nanotechnology, neural engineering, imaging and regenerative medicine. More than 50 researchers with primary appointments in BME, as well as another 80 Case Western Reserve researchers in such disciplines as cardiology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics and precision medicine, will participate.

In 2017, Case Western Reserve’s BME researchers alone received nearly $20 million in federal, industry and nonprofit support.

“Our departments’ researchers have long partnered on projects where combining their experience and expertise could lead to better and faster results,” says Bob Kirsch, PhD, Chair of Case Western Reserve’s BME department. “This new model creates a framework to catalyze joint efforts in a more intentional manner, rather than relying on individual relationships or chance encounters to spark collaborations.”
As Cleveland Clinic alumni, you have helped contribute to our institution’s legacy of medical leadership through the accomplishments of your own practice. That legacy, reflected in Cleveland Clinic’s rankings, is something we all can be proud of.

Did you know that Cleveland Clinic has been ranked:
• No. 2 in the nation for the past three years
• Top 5 in the nation in 12 clinical specialties
• No. 1 in cardiology and heart surgery for 24 consecutive years
• No. 1 or No. 2 in urology for 18 years in a row in urology and was ranked No. 1 again in 2017-2018

The U.S. News & World Report rankings are an undeniable honor, but it is our responsibility to take Cleveland Clinic to the next level. As alumni, you have a special connection to this effort and are integral to our success. Please help us maintain and strengthen that shared legacy by voting to recognize how our leadership today continues to be as strong as ever.

Surveys for the annual U.S. News & World Report “Best Hospitals” ballot typically are available on Doximity between mid-February and early March. We ask that you keep Cleveland Clinic top of mind when you vote for Best Hospital ranked specialties.

There are two avenues by which physicians who are board-certified in the United States in one or more of the ranked specialties may impact these rankings:
• Doximity Members: Log on to your Doximity profile and vote for Cleveland Clinic.
• Non-Doximity Members: Paper surveys were mailed the week of Jan. 15 to a random sampling of board-certified physicians in each of the specialty areas.

When you vote, please consider how your training at Cleveland Clinic has helped contribute to where your practice and Cleveland Clinic are today, and where they are headed tomorrow.

Thank you for your generous spirit of giving back to Cleveland Clinic. We remain grateful to you for your kind support, which allows us to continue the legacy together.

Children’s Ranks in All 10 Pediatric Specialties

Cleveland Clinic Children’s has been recognized as a national leader in clinical care by U.S. News & World Report’s 2018-2019 edition of “Best Children’s Hospitals.”

“Your dedication to caring for our youngest, most vulnerable patients, their families and one another has led to this notable achievement,” Thomas Mihaljevic, President and CEO, told caregivers.

“Parents of children who have common or complex health problems turn to Cleveland Clinic Children’s because they know their child will receive the highest quality care available,” he said. “This level of care is a direct result of hard work, expertise and a shared commitment to working as a team.”

Cleveland Clinic Children’s patients have benefited from the compassionate and innovative care offered here.”

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Continued on page 24
New Regional Leadership in Florida

A new leadership structure has been created to better serve the needs of Cleveland Clinic’s expanded operation in Florida.

“By extending our presence in Florida, we are staying true to Cleveland Clinic’s mission of improving the lives of as many patients as possible everywhere,” says Cleveland Clinic CEO and President Tom Mihaljevic, MD.

Cleveland Clinic Florida CEO and President Wael Barsoum, MD (S’96, ORS’00), has accepted a new role as CEO and President of the Cleveland Clinic Florida region. Dr. Barsoum completed an orthopaedic surgery residency at Cleveland Clinic in 2000 and rejoined the staff after his fellowship in 2001 in Naples. He returned to Cleveland in 2003 as a member of the Orthopaedic Surgery staff.

In addition to his leadership and training roles, he specializes in adult reconstructive surgery, including primary/revision hip and knee replacement, hip and knee reconstruction, and knee arthroscopy.

As a part of this new structure, under Dr. Barsoum’s leadership, the following positions have been established:

- **Joseph Iannotti, MD, PhD (Staff’00)**, Chair of Cleveland Clinic’s Orthopaedic and Rheumatologic Institute for nearly two decades, now is Chief of Staff for the Cleveland Clinic Florida region. Dr. Iannotti joined Cleveland Clinic in 2000. In addition to his clinical practice as an orthopaedic surgeon, he has been the Co-Director of the Orthopaedic Research Center, with a joint appointment in the Department of Biomedical Engineering. He brings years of experience in clinical integration, clinical care paths and cost efficiencies, which will be instrumental as medical specialties offered in southeast Florida expand.

- **Rodolfo J. Blandon, MD (Staff’01)**, who has been serving as Chief of Staff in Weston, has accepted the new role of President of Cleveland Clinic Florida’s Weston hospital. Dr. Blandon has been a member of Cleveland Clinic Florida’s staff since 2001. Over the past 18 years, he has made significant contributions to the growth of Cleveland Clinic Florida while maintaining a robust practice in interventional radiology and serving as Chair of the Department of Imaging.

**Gregory Rosencrance, MD (Staff’14),** returns to Florida to serve as President of Indian River Medical Center upon the completion of the regulatory review process. Dr. Rosencrance joined Cleveland Clinic Florida in 2014, and then moved to Cleveland in 2016 to serve as Medicine Institute Chair. During his tenure in Cleveland, he was instrumental in launching Cleveland Clinic Community Care, the hospital system’s population health initiative.

**Robert L. Lord, Jr.,** will continue as President of Martin Health System. In November 2015, Mr. Lord was named President of Martin Health after serving as its Chief Operating Officer, Senior Vice President responsible for system facility management, and Chief Legal Officer. He joined Martin Health in 1998. Lord is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives and is Florida Bar board-certified as a healthcare attorney.

Indian River Medical Center

**Indian River Medical Center, Martin Healthcare Join Cleveland Clinic Health System**

The Indian River Medical Center Board of Directors and the Indian River County Hospital District Trustees have voted to approve a series of agreements that will result in the medical center’s joining the Cleveland Clinic health system. The 332-bed, nonprofit medical center serves Indian River County and surrounding area residents in southeast Florida.

Martin Health System also will become part of Cleveland Clinic. Martin Health features three hospitals with 521 beds, a 150-member employed physician group, and a full range of outpatient services in one of the fastest-growing areas of southeast Florida.
Franklin (Frank) A. Michota, MD (IM'96)’s death in 2015 was a significant loss to Cleveland Clinic and the field of hospital medicine, says Christopher Whinney, MD (Staff'01), Chair of the Department of Hospital Medicine.

“Dr. Michota was a pioneer who established the model of hospitalist care at Cleveland Clinic,” Dr. Whinney says. “Moreover, he is remembered as a talented, passionate and engaging clinician and educator.”

To honor him and his achievements, Dr. Michota’s family, friends and co-workers have established a memorial tribute fund in his name. The Dr. Franklin A. Michota Fund for Hospital Medicine will support and educate physicians, helping them to pursue sustainable, rewarding careers in hospital-based care. The goal is to raise $100,000 to allow the fund to become self-sustaining, and a website has been established for contributions: https://give.ccf.org/michota

The fund has two components:

The Dr. Franklin A. Michota Visiting Professor Lecture Series – Each year, national or international leaders in hospital medicine will be invited to present a lecture at Cleveland Clinic.

The Dr. Franklin A. Michota Scholarship – Annual scholarships will go to selected outstanding internal medicine residents at Cleveland Clinic for hospital medicine-related education or research.

“A memorial fund is a fitting tribute, not only to honor the man, but also to serve present and future hospitalists,” Dr. Whinney says. “The lecture series will serve as a forum for a candid exchange of ideas in how to improve the quality, safety and experience of care in the hospital. That’s something Dr. Michota constantly aspired to achieve throughout his career.”

Dr. Michota founded Cleveland Clinic’s Department of Hospital Medicine in 1997 as one of the nation’s first such medical groups. He was passionate about educating the next generation of hospitalists in his roles as the Department of Hospital Medicine’s Director of Academic Affairs and an associate professor of medicine at Cleveland Clinic’s Lerner College of Medicine.

About the Department of Hospital Medicine

Hospital medicine providers have a primary professional focus of caring for hospitalized patients, as well as the system of care in the hospital. This is achieved by being present and accessible in the hospital at all hours of the day or night, as well as helping to facilitate transitions of care from the hospital back to the primary care team. Under Dr. Michota’s leadership, the department grew from just three hospitalists to over 200 hospital medicine specialists who provide the highest-quality inpatient and perioperative care.

Today, the department is responsible for over 17,000 patients a year at the main campus and five regional hospitals. It also developed one of the nation’s first hospital medicine postgraduate fellowships, and department members help educate medical students from the Lerner College of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University and elsewhere. They also perform academic research to advance the quality and safety of hospital care.
Maher A. Abbas, MD (CRS’03), has established the Dubai Colorectal and Digestive Center in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Basem Abdelmalak, MD (AN’00, CC’01), became President-elect of the Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia at its annual meeting. The society addresses the needs of, and seeks advances in, the ever-growing specialty of ambulatory anesthesia.

Linda Bradley, MD (Staff’91), Vice Chair of the Ob-Gyn and Women’s Health Institute, has been named Medical Director of the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL). She is a past President of the AAGL and has been an active member, serving on several task forces and committees.

David L. Bronson, MD, MACP, FRCP (Staff’92), on Jan. 1 became the Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Joint Commission. He also is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, the Royal College of Physicians of Thailand, and the European Federation of Internal Medicine.

Tatiana Byzova, PhD (Staff’99), Lerner Research Institute, was honored with a Special Recognition Award by the American Heart Association’s Council on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology for her service to the council, as well as her many professional contributions to the study of thrombosis.

Jianguo Cheng, MD, PhD (Staff’06), Departments of Pain Management and Neurosciences, has been named to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force. With this nomination, he becomes one of 28 members on the newly formed federal advisory committee. The committee will propose updates to best practices and recommendations on addressing identified gaps or inconsistencies for pain management in an effort to combat the opioid epidemic.

James Cook, MD, PhD (Staff’03), Molecular Pathology, will serve as the principal investigator for the pathology core of the Lymphoma and Leukemia Molecular Profiling Project, an international research consortium that has received a Program Project grant from the National Institutes of Health. The study includes four complementary projects designed to increase understanding of difficult-to-treat lymphomas. This is a five-year, $10.3 million project. In addition to Cleveland Clinic, participating sites include administering site Mayo Clinic Scottsdale, Mayo Clinic Rochester, University of Barcelona, City of Hope University of Nebraska, Weil-Cornell Medical School, British Columbia Cancer Agency and the National Cancer Institute.

Dr. Calabrese Receives Honorary Degree

Leonard Calabrese, DO (IM’78, RH’80), has been awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degree by Alma College for his lifetime achievements and pioneering work in rheumatology and immunology, particularly HIV. Dr. Calabrese also was the keynote speaker for a Health Careers Day at the college, addressing “The Art and Science of Empathy in Healthcare.” This is Dr. Calabrese’s second honorary Doctor of Letters. The first was awarded in 2013 by the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. Dr. Calabrese is Cleveland Clinic’s Vice Chair, Department of Rheumatic and Immunologic Diseases. He was the first to hold two endowed chairs at Cleveland Clinic, the R.J. Fasenmyer Chair in Clinical Immunology and the Theodore F. Classen, DO, Chair in Osteopathic Research and Education.

Toby Cosgrove, MD (Staff’75), Cleveland Clinic Executive Advisor, Former CEO and President, gave the Keynote Address at the 40th Annual Meeting of the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists.

Margot Damaser, PhD (Staff’05), Biomedical Engineering and Glickman Urologic & Kidney Institute, was profiled by the American Urological Association’s newsletter AUA Investigator in “Urology Researchers Making a Difference.” The article describes her as “a trailblazer in using multidisciplinary expertise in technology to explore innovative approaches to the study and treatment of urologic disease.” She also recently began a four-year term as a member of the NIH National Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases Advisory Council, one of only two members advising on urologic research.

Conor Delaney, MD, PhD (CRS/A’00), center, has received an honorary fellowship from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Dr. Delaney is Chairman of the Digestive Disease and Surgery Institute. Dr. Delaney had received his original fellowship from that college, as well.

Richard L. Drake, PhD (Staff’03), was awarded the “Dr. Jose Eleuterio Gonzalez” medal by the Universidad Autonoma De Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico, for his contributions to medical education.

Continued on page 27
Student Completes Acting Internship with Alumnus

Jason Ya (CCLCM'19), feels lucky to have completed his acting internship, sometimes called a sub-internship, at the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, under the supervision of Lerner College of Medicine alumnus Ning Zhou, MD (CCLCM '13). Dr. Zhou is the Director of the VA’s Internal Medicine Acting Internship Program, in which medical students complete supervised clinical rotations that mimic what they will be doing during their first year as a resident.
Reena Mehra, MD (PULMCC’02), received the 2018 Clinical Translational Science Collaborative/large pilot award for “Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Cardiac Electrophysiologic Biomarkers of Sudden Cardiac Death.” She and her team received the 2018 Transformative Neuroscience Research Development Program seed funding award to establish a multimodal neurocardiorespiratory sleep physiologic signal biorepository and registry of summary data. Dr. Mehra also was honored by colleagues with the annual 2018 annual STAR award from the Case School of Medicine for her service and interactive contributions.

Craig Nielsen, MD, FACP (IM’97), is Governor-Elect of the Ohio chapter of the American College of Physicians.

Vipan Nikore, MD, MBA (IM’13), was named to the list of Canada’s 40 most prominent leaders under age 40. He also recently became TD Bank’s Chief Medical Officer.

Dianne Perez, PhD (Staff’96), Department of Molecular Cardiology, was named the Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation Harrington Scholar for her promising research in Alzheimer’s disease. The award provides up to $600,000 in project funding over the course of two years, which she will use to evaluate the cognitive effects of a drug she has spent nearly 30 years researching and developing.

Elia B. Plow, PhD, PT (Staff’10), Lerner Research Institute Department of Biomedical Engineering and Neurological Institute Center for Neurological Restoration, received a four-year, $2.5 million award from the Department of Defense. Dr. Plow will lead a brain stimulation study in patients with paralyzed upper limbs due to spinal cord injury. The project is a collaboration with the Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, MetroHealth Rehabilitation Institute of Ohio, and the Kessler Foundation/Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation.

Seth Podolsky, MD (Staff’12), received the American College of Emergency Physicians 2017–18 Outstanding Speaker of the Year Award. This award recognizes a faculty member who has consistently demonstrated teaching excellence through performance, versatility and dependability during the organization’s educational meetings throughout the year.

Gary W. Procop, MD, MS (Staff’98), has been elected to the Board of Directors for the American Society for Clinical Pathology. He will serve as the Chair of the Commission on Science, Technology & Public Policy, and currently serves on the Effective Test Utilization Steering Committee and National Pathology Quality Registry Forum for this organization. Dr. Procop also was appointed Chair of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) Committee on Continuing Certification, as well as being a member of the Board of Trustees of ABMS. Additionally, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute.

Rachel Scheraga, MD (Staff’13), Respiratory Institute and Lerner Research Institute, was named one of four “Rising Stars of Research” by the American Thoracic Society (ATS) at the ATS International Conference in San Diego. ATS Rising Stars are early career basic and translational researchers who show great potential in their fields. Dr. Scheraga’s research is focused on targeting unregulated pulmonary inflammation leading to acute lung injury and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

Samir Shah, MD (S’14), and his wife, Kahan, announce the birth of their son, Roshan. Dr. Shah works at Brigham and Women’s Hospital as a vascular surgeon and reports that he has begun a research program investigating patient-centered outcomes after lower extremity arterial procedures. Also, he recently received

Bevens Celebrate 58 Years of Marriage

Edwin (ED) Beven, MD (S’62, VS’63), and his wife, Beverly, recently celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. Dr. Beven is a legend at Cleveland Clinic. He served the organization for many years during what has been called “the greatest generation of vascular surgeons” and headed Cleveland Clinic’s Department of Vascular Surgery from 1972 to 1988. We congratulate the Bevens on their extraordinary anniversary and wish them well.
the Tipping Point Award from the Center for Surgery and Public Health, a joint venture between the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Harvard Medical School.

Nima Sharifi, MD, and W.H. Wilson Tang, MD, were elected to the Association of American Physicians, an honorary society for leading physician-scientists. They were honored at the society’s annual meeting in Chicago.

Kurt P. Spindler, MD (SM’91), will be principal investigator into the study of techniques used for anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction. The study is funded by a $6 million grant to Cleveland Clinic from The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health. The five-year grant supports a multicenter, randomized, clinical trial aimed at determining whether outcomes of a new surgical technique, Bridge-Enhanced ACL Repair, are equal to or better than outcomes of traditional ACL reconstruction surgery.

Randall Starling, MD (Staff’95), Cardiovascular Medicine, began his term as President of the Heart Failure Society of America in October.

J. C. Tabet, MD, is retiring after 38 years in practice, 32 of which have been spent at Aultman Hospital as one of Stark County, Ohio’s premiere neurosurgeons. He calls, “The year I applied for my residency at the Cleveland Clinic, there were 53 applicants and two accepted. Of the two accepted, I was the only one that finished a six-year residency.” One of his proudest accomplishments, he says, is the annual trek he and a team of surgical nurses and anesthesiologists would take to Honduras to provide high-level neurosurgery to those in need. Last month, Aultman honored Dr. Tabet by inducting him into the Hippocrates Honor Society, a lifetime achievement award distinction. He now plans to move to the Dallas area to be near his children and grandchildren.

Elias Traboulsi, MD, Med (Staff’97), has received the Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award from The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. The award recognizes institutional officials who have demonstrated excellence in leadership, resource management, innovation and residency program oversight at their sponsoring institutions.

Judith L. Trudel, MD (CRS’86), was elected President of the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery for a one-year appointment.

John (Jack) A. Vanek, MD (DR’78), is retired and pursuing his passion for writing. The second novel in his Father Jake Austin Mystery Series, MIRACLES, was to be released worldwide in trade paperback and as an e-book in February. The mystery takes place in Oberlin, Ohio, and the Greater Cleveland area.

Aaron Viny, MD, MS (CCLCM’15), received the Mentored Clinical Scientist Research Career Development Award (K08) from the National Cancer Institute to study the role of the cohesion complex in normal and malignant hematopoiesis. Dr. Viny is a hematologic oncologist at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, specializing in leukemias and myelodysplastic syndrome. He conducts leukemia research as part of the Ross Levine laboratory.

Christopher Whinney, MD (Staff’01), was selected to receive the Evelyn V. Hess, MD, MACP, Master Teacher Award of the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Physicians for 2018.

Mia F. Williams, MD, MS (CCLCM’15), writes that she has decided to stay in the Bay Area, despite her earlier plan of spending just a few years in California for residency. Dr. Williams has joined the faculty of the University of California San Francisco as an assistant clinical professor in general internal medicine. “As I was looking for what to do next, I looked primarily at academic positions and at some community programs with a commitment to the care of Latino patients. While those positions were very interesting, I kept going back to my interests in teaching and mentoring, and wanting to contribute to a larger population than just my patients,” she says. In her new role, she will focus on curricular innovations in topics of diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as on quality improvement for patients with limited English proficiency.

Hadley M. Wood, MD (S’04, U’09), will receive a 2019 Presidential Citation from the American Urological Association for significantly promoting the cause of urology. She is being recognized for founding the field of translational urology and improving the quality of patient care in this new specialty.

Susan Rehm, MD (IM’81, ID’83), Vice Chair of the Department of Infectious Disease and Executive Director of Physician Health, has been named Associate Chief of Staff. She joins Emergency Services Institute Chair Brad Borden, MD, in this key leadership role for the Chief of Staff’s office.
in memoriam

Charles Fairweather Kane, MD (IM’51), formerly of Brockton and Duxbury, Massachusetts, and Newbury, New Hampshire, died in April 2018 at age 96. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Dartmouth College, and attended Dartmouth Medical School for two years before completing his medical degree at the University of Pennsylvania as a member of the medical honor society, Alpha Omega Alpha. He then entered the U.S. Navy, stationed at San Diego and later at Pearl Harbor in the late stages of WWII. He was a member of the American College of Physicians in internal medicine and a longtime member of the medical staff at Brockton Hospital, as well as the teaching staff of Boston University Medical School.

Peter J. Cohn, MD (VS’67), died at age 84 in 2018. Dr. Cohn was born in Berlin in 1933. In December of 1939, he and his parents, Dr. Hans and Dr. Irma Cohn, left Nazi Germany for London and then New York. They settled on Cleveland’s West Side in 1941, where his parents practiced medicine until their deaths in 1959. Dr. Cohn graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1959. He loved performing general surgery for four decades, including nearly 30 years in partnership with Dr. Isidore Cohn graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1959. He loved performing general surgery for four decades, including nearly 30 years in partnership with Dr. Isidore Cohn, died at the age of 84 in 2018. Dr. Cohn was born in Berlin in 1933. In December of 1939, he and his parents, Dr. Hans and Dr. Irma Cohn, left Nazi Germany for London and then New York. They settled on Cleveland’s West Side in 1941, where his parents practiced medicine until their deaths in 1959. Dr. Cohn graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1959. He loved performing general surgery for four decades, including nearly 30 years in partnership with Dr. Isidore Cohn, left Nazi Germany for London and then New York. They settled on Cleveland’s West Side in 1941, where his parents practiced medicine until their deaths in 1959. Dr. Cohn graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1959. He loved performing general surgery for four decades, including nearly 30 years in partnership with Dr. Isidore Cohn, left Nazi Germany for London and then New York. They settled on Cleveland’s West Side in 1941, where his parents practiced medicine until their deaths in 1959. Dr. Cohn graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1959. He loved performing general surgery for four decades, including nearly 30 years in partnership with Dr. Isidore Cohn, left Nazi Germany for London and then New York. They settled on Cleveland’s West Side in 1941, where his parents practiced medicine until their deaths in 1959. Dr. Cohn graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1959. He loved performing general surgery for four decades, including nearly 30 years in partnership with Dr. Isidore Cohn, left Nazi Germany for London and then New York. They settled on Cleveland’s West Side in 1941, where his parents practiced medicine until their deaths in 1959. Dr. Cohn graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1959. He loved performing general surgery for four decades, including nearly 30 years in partnership with Dr. Isidore Cohn, left Nazi Germany for London and then New York. They settled on Cleveland’s West Side in 1941, where his parents practiced medicine until their deaths in 1959. Dr. Cohn graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1959. He loved performing general surgery for four decades, including nearly 30 years in partnership with Dr. Isidore Cohn, left Nazi Germany for London and then New York. They settled on Cleveland’s West Side in 1941, where his parents practiced medicine until their deaths in 1959. Dr. Cohn graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1959. He loved performing general surgery for four decades, including nearly 30 years in partnership with Dr. Isidore Cohn, left Nazi Germany for London and then New York. They settled on Cleveland’s West Side in 1941, where his parents practiced medicine until their deaths in 1959. Dr. Cohn graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1959. He loved performing general surgery for four decades, including nearly 30 years in partnership with Dr. Isidore Cohn, left Nazi Germany for London and then New York. They settled on Cleveland’s West Side in 1941, where his parents practiced medicine until their deaths in 1959. Dr. Cohn graduated from The Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1959. He loved performing general surgery for four decades, including nearly 30 years in partnership with Dr. Isidore

Janos T. Bacsanyi, MD (IM’63), of Rockville, Maryland, passed away in June 2018. Born and educated in Budapest, Hungary, he emigrated to the U.S. seeking political asylum in 1957. He served as Chief Trauma Surgeon at Suburban Hospital for 20 years and as a medical official at the F.D.A. for 47 years, specializing in research and development of medications.

Susan M. Staugaitis, MD, PhD (Staff’88), retired Cleveland Clinic neuropathologist, died on Aug. 6, 2018, at the age of 61. “Dr. Staugaitis was a passionate advocate for pathology and science and she loved to teach,” says Brian Rubin, MD, Chairman, Robert J. Tomsich Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Institute. “She left us way too early, and I know we will all miss her.” Dr. Staugaitis earned her master’s, doctorate and medical degrees from New York University School of Medicine. She completed residency training in anatomic pathology at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, specializing in neuropathology. She was a postdoctoral research scientist there for two years before joining Cleveland Clinic’s Department of Neurosciences and Anatomic Pathology in 1998. In 2004, she also was appointed an assistant professor of molecular medicine in Cleveland Clinic’s Lerner College of Medicine. She was indispensable in Cleveland Clinic’s MS research program and served as the primary pathologist on the rapid autopsy tissue acquisition team. She was instrumental in studies using postmortem human tissue.

Leslie J. Gilbert, MD (IM’91, VM’93), has died at age 57 after a long battle with cancer. Dr. Gilbert earned her medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and completed her internship, residency and fellowship training in vascular medicine at Cleveland Clinic in 1993. She began her career at St. Vincent Hospital, where she built a large solo practice in vascular medicine. She returned to Cleveland Clinic to join the staff in 2008 and was instrumental in building and developing a regional vascular medicine presence.

Douglas Bourningal, MD (IM’85), 62, died in a crash of an ultra-light plane he was piloting on Aug. 19, 2018, in the Dominican Republic. News accounts reported that he was regarded as one of the top cardiologists in the Dominican Republic.

Sylvain Brunet, PhD (Staff’11), project scientist in the Department of Neurosciences at Lerner Research Institute, died in late 2018 at age 49. He earned his undergraduate degree and PhD from McGill University in Montreal in 1998. He joined the Department of Neurosciences in June 2011 and was appointed an assistant professor in the Department of Molecular Medicine at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. Dr. Brunet made many contributions to the understanding of the role of ion channels in cardiac diseases and arrhythmias. His recent work focused on the role of mitochondrial dysfunction in aging cardiac myocytes. In addition, he identified the role of kinases in functional recovery after ischemic injury to the white matter portion of the brain.

Kristin A. Carlin, DO, 49, died in April 2018 in a car accident while coming home from a shift as a hospitalist in Florida. After graduating from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2000, Kristin trained in Internal Medicine at St. Luke’s University Health Network in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Carlin took a position with Cleveland Clinic, where she worked for four years there as a diagnostician. She continued her career at Moffit Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida. Most recently, she was on the staff of Mease Countryside Hospital in Tampa Bay.

Albert C. Lammert, MD (Staff’56), was born in Pittsburgh in 1923. He graduated from Mt. Lebanon High School and attended Allegheny College, where he graduated with honors in three years. He then attended Case Western Reserve Medical School, and after an internship at Western Pennsylvania Hospital in Pittsburgh, he completed a residency in obstetrics and gynecology at University Hospitals in Cleveland. He then served three years of active duty in the Navy as a Destroyer Squadron Medical Officer with the Sixth Fleet. Upon discharge, he returned to Cleveland, where he joined Dr. Howard Taylor in the newly formed Department of Obstetrics at Cleveland Clinic.

Continued on page 31
in memoriam

Continued from page 30

Cleveland Clinic. After 10 years at Cleveland Clinic, he went into private practice and was an assistant clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Case Western Reserve Medical School. He retired to Florida at the age of 62 and, after 20 years there, he and his wife, Patricia, moved to Wenatchee, Washington, to be with his son, a radiologist, and his daughter-in-law and four grandsons.

William “Bill” Mabee, MD (IM’67, GE’68), died in December 2018 at age 82. Bill grew up in Cleveland Heights and completed his undergraduate training at The Ohio State University, graduating in 1958. He then attended Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, for medical school, graduating in 1963. He did postgraduate training in medicine and gastroenterology at Huron Road Hospital and Cleveland Clinic and then practiced medicine for more than 30 years at the Akron Clinic, St. Thomas, Akron City and Akron General hospitals. He once served as Chief of Medical Staff at Akron General.

Marian Z. Tomaszewski, MD (Staff’74), passed away in late 2018 in Long Island, New York. Dr. Tomaszewski was born on June 30, 1934, in Warsaw, Poland and grew up during the tragic years of World War II in Poland occupied by Nazi Germany. He had a strong desire to pursue a career in medicine after the war and attended the Academy of Medicine in Warsaw, Poland (Akademia Medyczna w Warszawie). He earned his medical degree in 1958. He then attended Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, for medical school, graduating in 1963. He did postgraduate training in medicine and gastroenterology at Huron Road Hospital and Cleveland Clinic and then practiced medicine for more than 30 years at the Akron Clinic, St. Thomas, Akron City and Akron General hospitals. He once served as Chief of Medical Staff at Akron General.

Philip Khairallah (Staff’56), 90, of Scottsdale, Arizona and formerly of Newbury, Ohio, passed away peacefully at his home late last year. Born in Brooklyn, New York, he was the son of Amin and Laurence Khairallah. His family moved to Beirut, Lebanon when he was 3 years old and he grew up there. While in Lebanon, he attended the American University of Beirut and graduated as a physician in 1951. Dr. Khairallah returned to the United States and started a job at the Cleveland Clinic, where he specialized in hypertension research, with distinguished colleagues, including Drs Irvine Page, Merlin Bumpus, Robert Tarazi, Subha Sen, Robert Smeby and Mahesh Khosla. He was ordained into the priesthood in the Melkite rite of the Greek Catholic Church in 1973. Notably, he was the first married priest to serve in the United States and was known to many of his students at Cleveland Clinic as “Father Doctor Phil”. During his time in research, he trained countless MD and PhD fellows and many PhD students.

V.O. Speights, Jr., DO (ACLPTh’82), died in May 2018 at the age of 64. He was born June 3, 1953, in Crockett, Texas. He was the only child of Vester Oats “Doc” and Agnes Louise (Anders) Speights. He spent his early childhood on the family cotton farm in Leon County, graduated from Centerville High School and then attended Texas A & M, graduating in 1974. After working in a hospital in Pasadena, Texas, for two years, he started medical school in 1976 and earned his DO degree from the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1980. He did his residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at Cleveland Clinic and went on to fill other important pathology positions, among them Chief of Clinical Pathology at the VA in Temple, Texas, from 1985 to 1987. He was a member of numerous professional organizations, serving on boards and co-authoring research articles.

Lizabeth Brooks Stokes, MD (Staff’02), died May 28, 2018, at the age of 47. She was an associate staff member in the Women’s Health Institute at Cleveland Clinic. She practiced at Fairview Hospital for eight years before moving her practice to the Cleveland Clinic’s main campus in 2010. She built a distinguished career by providing compassionate care and being a strong advocate for Women’s Health. She earned the Vitals Patients’ Choice Award in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018; Top 10 Doctors in the state in 2014; and the Compassionate Doctor Recognition in 2018. Memorial donations can be sent to Cleveland Clinic Foundation, P.O. Box 931517, Cleveland, OH 44193-1655, or made online at giving.clevelandclinic.org.

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.
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