

Alumni Connection

Volume XXX, No. 1

**William Proudfit, MD,
reflects on his
remarkable life
in medicine**

see page 18

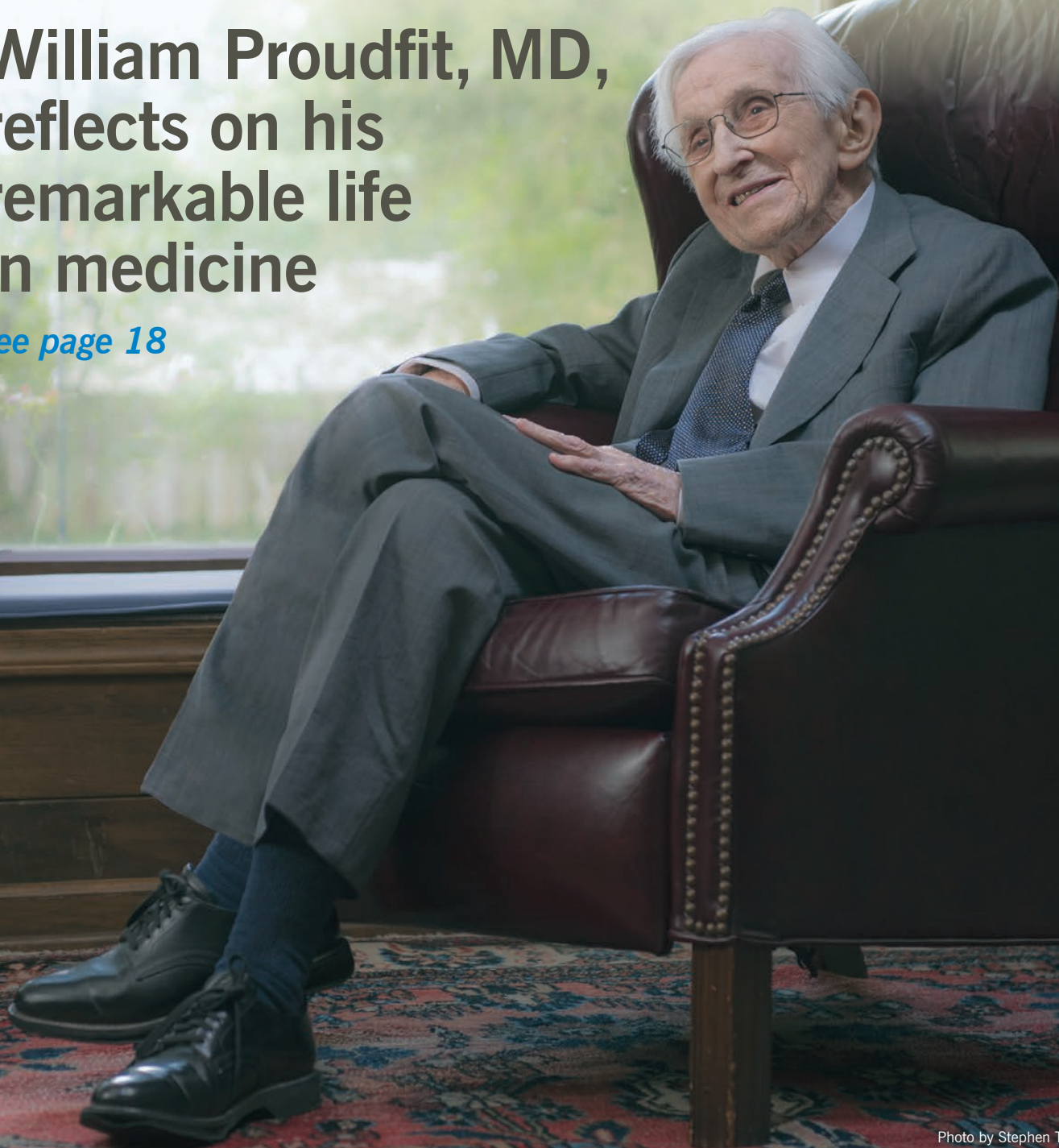


Photo by Stephen Travarca

Plans for Looking Back Move Forward

The Alumni Association's plans for its Centennial Wall Project have been approved at the highest level, and the lobby of the Sydell and Arnold Miller Family Pavilion was selected as the site for displays featuring Cleveland Clinic's history.

"This is the hub of all activities on main campus, where performances go on, where people meet and greet, where we start tours of the campus – the most prestigious and high-visibility location," says **Leonard Calabrese, DO (IM'78, RH'80)** the Alumni Association Centennial Wall Project Committee Director. "We're ecstatic about that!"

While "not set in stone," he says, the early renderings of the planned renovation (see accompanying illustration) "are very exciting and will provide space for meetings, a place where visitors and other people in that area can view the history of the Cleveland Clinic. There also will be an area where alumni, in particular, can take a deeper dive into the history of their own departments and institutes."

A collaborative group including members of the Alumni Association Board; **Dale Shepard, MD, PhD (IM'06, H/O'09)**, Alumni Board President; Dr. Calabrese; Cleveland Clinic Archives; and others at Cleveland Clinic who are involved in the organization's overall centennial planning are evaluating possibilities for the history project, Dr. Calabrese says.

The Centennial Wall Project "is a work in progress," he says. "There will be at least two different displays, one with a general

overview of Cleveland Clinic that everyone can take in and orient them to where Cleveland Clinic has been, is now and will be going, and another, a deeper dive for alumni, into the history."

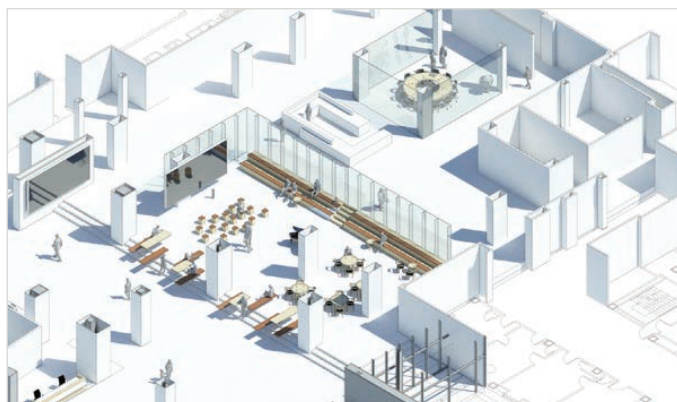
The Alumni Association's fundraising goal for the project

Current space in the Sydell and Arnold Miller Family Pavilion lobby where The Centennial Experience, including the Centennial Wall, will be located.

is \$5 million, with the current total at "just shy of \$1 million raised," says Mindy Stroh, Alumni Association Senior Director. "We thank all of our alumni donors for their support thus far and especially our Centennial Legacy Society members. We encourage those who have yet to participate to make their gift to honoring our 100 years and their time here as part of that."

Alumni will have an opportunity to share their ideas. "As we move into the building process, we will be reaching out to alumni throughout the country and the world regarding their priorities," Dr. Calabrese says.

Other plans for The Centennial Experience include:

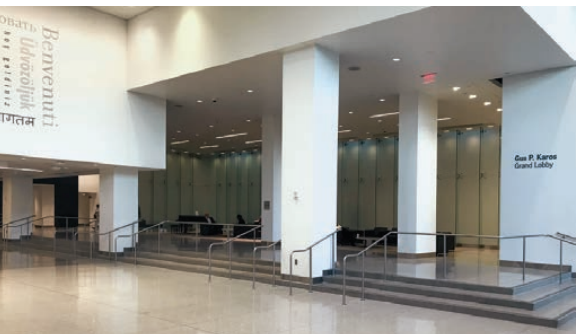


Rendering of proposed space renovation in the Sydell and Arnold Miller Family Pavilion lobby for The Centennial Experience.

- An immersive, global campaign crafted by Cleveland Clinic featuring a compelling docuseries, distributed with scale and reach, demonstrating how the values established nearly a century ago have placed Cleveland Clinic at the forefront of healthcare;
- An update of *To Act as a Unit*. The new edition will retain early chapters written by George Crile Jr., MD, William Proudfit, MD, et al, and provide a concise update of Cleveland Clinic's growth and leadership from 2004 to 2020. The book will be redesigned and shorter than the previous version. A chapter on women leaders at Cleveland Clinic will be added, and lists of members of the Boards of Governors, Directors and Trustees will be updated. The book will serve as a reference for future generations and show the continuity of Cleveland Clinic's mission, vision and values from 1921 to the present. A limited-edition, printed book with a modern aesthetic will be published, and an online PDF will be made available.
- A commemorative book called *100*, comprising 100 arresting images from across the Cleveland Clinic system, will be published. The images will reflect a broad range of activities – humanistic, medical and scientific. Patients, caregivers and facilities will be depicted, with cultural and geographic diversity on clear display. The quality of images and design will put this in the category of a high-end art book. It will have minimal verbiage, allowing the book to speak to people from all nations and cultures. *100* will be inclusive of all of Cleveland Clinic: Florida, Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, Toronto, Nevada and London.

At an Alumni Board meeting in September, Christopher Connell, Chief Design Officer, said the project not only will focus on the history of Cleveland Clinic but also on how the health system will inform the future of healthcare. He said the plan is for what is created to be useful beyond the milestone year.

To learn more and to support the Centennial Legacy Society, please visit clevelandclinic.org/alumnigiving. ■





Alumni Honoring our Centennial

We are thankful for our Centennial Legacy Society supporters, and we hope you will consider becoming a member. 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.

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

Visionary (\$20,000 or more)

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Mrs. Donna Marie Wilson
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Dr. Jess Young
Drs. Belinda Yen-Lieberman and
James M. Lieberman

*Deceased

Couples Who Met at Lerner College of

Dr. Lauren Banaszak and **Dr. Taylor Aiken**, Class of 2017, “fell in love” with Lerner College on interview day, and with each other while dating in the spring of 2013. Their favorite dates were eating at restaurants and studying at a coffee shop.

Dr. Banaszak, originally of Arlington Heights, Illinois, says Lerner College was her first choice because of its focus on research and a small class size, and Dr. Aiken, from Springfield, Missouri, was impressed by graduates’ residencies at prestigious institutions.

Being a couple affected their own residency plans. “We picked big cities so if we didn’t match programs, at least we would be in the same city,” Dr. Aiken says. Now, they are at the University of Wisconsin, she in internal medicine and he in general surgery.

While at Lerner College, they most enjoyed a research year together at the National Institutes of Health and bonding with fellow students. “We didn’t just find each other in medical school,” Dr. Banaszak says. “We made lifelong friends.”

Some of those friends plan to attend the couple’s June 2020 wedding in Madison, Wisconsin.



Taylor Aiken and Lauren Banaszak

problem-based learning curriculum, and she liked medical research and the small class size. On graduating, they had residencies in Pittsburgh, where they continue to live with their 2 1/2-year-old son, George Jr. Hers was in pediatrics and his in internal medicine.

Dr. Cater’s favorite memory of Lerner College was when classmates came for dinner at his parents’ home. “Laura was the one who would hang around the longest,” he says. Dr. Navarro remembers an event to which Dr. Cater brought his mother. “I met his mom three days after I met him!”

They married in May 2016, in her hometown of Barranquilla. Some of their friends flew out for the wedding, and others attended a June reception. “As a class, we were very close,” Dr. Cater says.

Dr. Alida Gertz and **Dr. Mark Tenforde**, Class of 2010, met on their second visit to CCLCM and began dating after Dr. Tenforde rented a room in Dr. Gertz’s three-bedroom condo.

The daughter of a military nurse and a research scientist, Dr. Gertz was drawn to the school’s problem-based learning curriculum and research focus. She’s now a family medicine physician researcher in Atlanta, where Dr. Tenforde specializes in infectious disease at the CDC. He also worked in Geneva with the Gavi vaccine alliance, had a CDC fellowship in Southeast Asia, and earned a PhD in epidemiology in Botswana.

The couple married in Alaska in 2011, “to the great disappointment of my Puerto Rican family,” Dr. Gertz says. Their daughter, Coraline, was born in February 2016. “Having a kid changes your life quite a lot!” Dr. Tenforde notes.

Some of their favorite Cleveland memories include sharing vegetarian dishes at Tommy’s in Coventry and running along Shaker Boulevard. “We also got close to a lot of people and had a really good time,” Dr. Tenforde says.

Dr. Priya Malik, Class of 2011, and **Dr. Jason Robertson**, Class of 2009, met in a romantic way – while conducting mouse research. “He helped me get used to working with mice,” she says.

Dr. Malik came to the U.S. from India at age 17 to attend a liberal arts college in Iowa. After graduating, she, like



Alida Gertz and Mark Tenforde with their daughter, Coraline



George Cater and Laura Navarro with son, George Jr.

Dr. George Cater and **Dr. Laura Navarro** grew up far apart – he in Brecksville, Ohio, and she in Colombia, South America. The Lerner College Class of 2013 orientation brought them together, although they didn’t formally date until their last year of school.

Dr. Cater’s engineering background drew him to Lerner’s

Medicine Build Lives, Careers Together

Dr. Robertson, was drawn to Lerner College because of its mix of medicine and research, small class size and closeness with instructors.

After residencies at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, the couple has returned to Cleveland and lives in Highland Heights. As a hospitalist, Dr. Malik works with institutions including Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Robertson is a pediatric surgeon and researcher at Cleveland Clinic. In 2011, they had weddings in both India and Baltimore, to accommodate their families. They had children during their residencies, daughter, Maya, 6, and son, Shawn, 4.

“As medical students in Cleveland, we knew where the best happy hours were,” Dr. Malik says. But much has changed. “Now, we have children in suburbia!”



Jason Robertson and Priya Malik with daughter, Maya and son, Shawn

Dr. Katie Stackhouse and **Dr. Tony Rizzo**, both Class of 2015, met before school even started, at a get-together with classmates. “We lived a block away from each other in Cleveland Heights,” she says.

Dr. Stackhouse, originally from Maryland, chose Lerner College for “the unique curriculum structure and research time,” and Dr. Rizzo, of Delaware, was drawn to its immersive experience. “I really valued the clinical training there,” he says. Their favorite dates were at night spots on the west side and shows at Playhouse Square.

On graduating, they landed residencies in Boston. In June 2019, they returned to Cleveland, where Dr. Stackhouse is a general surgery resident at Cleveland Clinic, and Dr. Rizzo is a fellow in gynecologic oncology at University Hospitals.

Although busy, they prioritize their relationship, he says. “We learned early on to make time for the people who are important in our lives.”

In the summer of 2019, the couple were married in Dr. Stackhouse’s home town of Thurmont, Maryland, with some of their Lerner College friends in attendance. ■



Tony Rizzo and Katie Stackhouse

LARA JEHI, MD, Named Chief Research Information Officer



Lara Jehi, MD

Lara Jehi, MD (IM’01, N’04, NPHY’06) has been appointed the inaugural Chief Research Information Officer at Cleveland Clinic.

In this newly created position, Dr. Jehi will establish and oversee a robust research informatics environment to advance biomedical research throughout Cleveland Clinic. She will work closely with information technology, research, finance and other key departments to optimize the enterprise’s digital infrastructure to support research activities and accelerate new treatments for patients.

“As healthcare has become vastly more data-intensive, the Chief Research Information Officer role will bridge research and patient data with clinical care,” said **James Young, MD (Staff’95)**,

Cleveland Clinic’s Chief Academic Officer. “Dr. Jehi’s expertise as both a data-based researcher and physician will provide strategic vision to leverage large clinical informatics systems to drive innovation.”

Dr. Jehi, an epilepsy specialist at Cleveland Clinic since 2006, is currently spearheading multi-institutional National Institutes of Health-funded grants focused on data science. She has led teams that developed the first nomograms for individualized outcome prediction after epilepsy surgery, work that was featured by *Lancet Neurology* in the Top 5 Innovations of 2015. Her data-driven algorithms for clinical care decision-making are being used, studied and expanded worldwide.

“We owe our patients a healthcare system that harnesses technology, creativity and science to provide the best care of today, and develop the pioneering care of tomorrow,” Dr. Jehi says. ■

Cleveland Clinic Abroad: Hospital Projects



Cleveland Clinic London celebrated a major construction milestone with its “topping out” ceremony on Oct. 2, 2019.

Cleveland Clinic London Celebrates Construction Milestone

By Caregiver Communications

Cleveland Clinic London reached a major milestone in the construction of its hospital at 33 Grosvenor Place when the final external piece of the eight-story, 324,000-square-foot building was put into place on Oct. 2.

The achievement was marked by a “topping out” ceremony attended by **Brian Donley, MD (Staff’95)**, CEO of Cleveland Clinic London; **Tom Mihaljevic, MD (Staff’04)**, Cleveland Clinic CEO and President; and Chris Connell, Chief Design Officer of the Center for Design at Cleveland Clinic. Additional guests included senior leaders from the hospital’s contractor, Sir Robert McAlpine.

The new hospital is Cleveland Clinic’s first facility in Europe, and – along with the first confirmed Outpatient Center at 24 Portland Place, near Harley Street – will be equipped with the latest facilities and technology to enhance quality, safety and patient experience.

“We are excited to have completed the construction phase of what will be one of the most technologically advanced hospitals

in the U.K. Cleveland Clinic is a global leader in specialized medical care, and our London hospital will enable patients from across the U.K. and beyond to access exceptional treatment that’s based on nearly 100 years of research and innovation,” Dr. Donley says.

“The London hospital is the latest addition to Cleveland Clinic’s global healthcare system,” adds Dr. Mihaljevic. “London is one of the leading international healthcare centers, home to top-quality talent and world-leading research that we can learn from as we look to innovate and provide the very best care.”

The facility opens in spring 2021 and will have 185 inpatient beds; eight operating rooms; a full imaging suite; endoscopy and catheterization labs; day case rooms for surgery; and a full neurological suite with rehabilitation. The facility will offer a full range of medical services including specialty services focusing on heart and vascular, orthopaedics, digestive diseases, neurosciences and general surgery. ■

Advance in London and Shanghai

Luye Medical and Cleveland Clinic Join to Build a Future Hospital in Shanghai

Luye Medical and Cleveland Clinic recently unveiled an architectural scale model of the world's first Cleveland Clinic Connected project – the Shanghai Luye Lilan Hospital.

Leaders from the government agency of Shanghai's Minhang District and the Shanghai New Hong Qiao International Medical Center (IMC), the Consul-General from the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai, representatives of industry associations and key therapeutic areas in China, and a team from Cleveland Clinic attended the event, holding discussions on how to leverage innovative medical technologies and service models globally to achieve the "Healthy China 2030" vision.

Shanghai Luye Lilan Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic Connected project, will be open for patients in 2024. It will focus on key therapeutic areas including cardiology, digestive disease and oncology; improving clinical outcomes; performing technology-intensive complex surgeries; and providing a wide range of high-quality patient-centered medical services.

At the event, Luye Medical, Cleveland Clinic and Foster + Partners presented a scale model of the project and introduced the design philosophy to the public for the first time. Revolving around the patient-centered healthcare philosophy, the Shanghai Luye Lilan Hospital will fully draw on China's landscaping elements in its architectural design to create a medical space seamlessly connected with nature.

The hospital will adopt the latest digital technologies and follow the international quality assurance standards to create an eco-friendly and comfortable space. Every patient will be able to enjoy an environment tied to nature, including an

open, landscape-rich atrium, a well-vented glass rooftop that can provide plenty of natural light, and the main building surrounded by a courtyard.

The event marked an important milestone following the strategic cooperation agreement signed in 2017 by the two parties to jointly create an international general hospital in Shanghai under the umbrella of Cleveland Clinic Connected, based on the shared vision of providing value-based and patient-centered healthcare. This relationship will help to upgrade China's healthcare services through providing leading-edge international medical technologies, a scientific operating model, and advanced management systems.

Cleveland Clinic Chief Operating Officer Bill Peacock said, "The presentation of the architectural scale model for this project is the beginning of a new chapter in medical collaboration and practice both in China and in the United States."

On this cooperation, Mr. Liu Dianbo, Chairman of the Board of Luye Life Sciences Group, expressed his excitement, saying, "The idea of enabling patients to enjoy the best medical products, technologies and services has been driving Luye Medical ever since its inception. In order to be better-positioned to meet the need for medical services of a higher quality in the future, we should join with the best international partners, to keep innovating and advancing medical solutions in all aspects. This future hospital is a forward-looking experiment and breakthrough for us; it also represents a commitment from both Luye Medical and Cleveland Clinic to patients in China and around the world."

Shanghai Luye Lilan Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic Connected project, will be located at the New Hong Qiao IMC. As the city with the largest medical service system in China, Shanghai plans to become one of Asia's leading medical centers by 2020 and create a tech innovation center with global influence before 2030.

Luye Medical is the regional healthcare services arm of Luye Life Sciences Group. Headquartered in Singapore, Luye Medical oversees over 50 private healthcare organizations across China, Australia, Singapore, South Korea, New Zealand and many other countries. ■



Artist rendering of the Shanghai Luye Lilan Hospital.



MAN WITH RARE DISORDER LEADS NORMAL LIFE AFTER STOMACH-SPARING PROCEDURE

When he was 17 and a high school junior in Chicago, Michael Ambrose came down with what he thought was a nasty case of stomach flu. However, when the pain and discomfort continued for weeks, his parents took him to a doctor – and then to several more, all of whom had difficulty determining the cause. In fact, Michael’s case became a subject at medical conferences as his physicians strived to solve the mystery.

Eventually, through a colonoscopy and genetic testing, the cause was found to be a rare, hereditary disease called juvenile polyposis syndrome, or JPS. Only about 1 in 100,000 people have it, and those who do are at increased risk of developing colorectal, stomach, small intestine and pancreatic cancer. The genetic test also discovered a rare blood disorder called hereditary hemorrhagic telangiectasia (HHT), caused by the same genetic mutation responsible for the JPS.

Over time, the illness severely impacted Michael’s life. He had endoscopies and colonoscopies every six months, with removals of “dozens and dozens” of polyps in his colon, intestines and stomach. Through it all, he still managed to hold down a stressful job as a staffer for a congressman in Washington, D.C. Finally, at the age of 27, he suddenly became tired, dizzy and winded. After several days he couldn’t walk or even lift his arm without getting exhausted and was on bed rest for several weeks.

“I had no energy at all, and my hemoglobin count kept falling,” he says. “It was around 5, when ‘normal’ is in the 12-to-20 range.”

The cause was internal bleeding from polyps so large that doctors at several top hospitals said they could not remove it endoscopically. Instead, they advised, Michael should have his stomach removed in a surgical procedure known as a gastrectomy.

Life-changing procedure

Unwilling to have such a radical surgery, especially at such a young age, Michael considered going to Japan, where less invasive, endoscopic techniques for his illness are available. Then, his primary care doctor, Santiago Candocia MD, helped him get an appointment with **Amit Bhatt, MD, (RES/U’05, IM’06, HMF’08, GE’12, GEAE’13)** a gastroenterologist at Cleveland Clinic’s Sanford R. Weiss, MD, Center for Hereditary Colorectal Neoplasia, who uses these techniques. Dr. Bhatt and other physicians and caregivers in the Sanford R. Weiss MD Center for Hereditary Colorectal Neoplasia who took care of Michael specialize in rare hereditary gastrointestinal polyposis and non-polyposis conditions.

In the fall of 2017, Michael first met with Dr. Bhatt; in January 2018, he had the endoscopic procedure. Since then, Michael has lived a normal life with a normal diet, and even started a new job that requires a fair amount of travel. “I can’t say enough about Dr. Bhatt and his team,” he says.

Endoscopy for polyposis

The Weiss Center “is one of largest polyposis centers in the world and one of the biggest hereditary polyposis centers in North America,” Dr. Bhatt says. “We see a lot of patients because we specialize in their care.”

Polyposis begins in the first decade of life, and most patients are symptomatic by the age of 20, Dr. Bhatt says. “A lot come to us when they are in their 20s and 30s, and the last thing you want at that age is surgery that changes your lifestyle.”

He performs a high volume of endoscopic procedures employing a specialized, diverse skill set, combining two

Continued on page 9

different techniques. He developed these skills through extensive medical training at Cleveland Clinic and then in Japan, a country where gastric cancer has been one of the most common cancers for the last decade, he says.

Cleveland Clinic training shapes patient care

"I am very grateful for the training I received at the Cleveland Clinic. It formed the foundation to an exciting and satisfying start to my career," Dr. Bhatt says.

He trained at Cleveland Clinic for his internal medicine residency, gastroenterology fellowship and advanced endoscopy fellowship. "The internal medicine residency is one of the best in the country, giving incredible exposure to the breadth and complexity of medicine. The program not only gave me a strong foundation in medicine, but exposed me to incredible gastroenterologists like **William Carey, MD (Staff 76)**, who mentored and inspired me to pursue a career in gastroenterology."

As a fellow at Cleveland Clinic, he was inspired by the beauty and art of advanced endoscopy, "in particular, an intricate procedure called endoscopic submucosal dissection (ESD) that allowed curative resection of early gastrointestinal cancer through an endoscope. At the time, ESD was primarily performed in Japan, where the technique was developed."

With the support of his fellowship and his mentors **Tyler Stevens, MD (IM'02, GE'05, GEAE'06)** and **John Vargo, MD (GI '90)** he was granted awards from both the American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) and the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) to travel to Japan and learn ESD.

"I traveled with my family and stayed in Tokyo for two months, where I learned ESD at the National Cancer Center Hospital from two world leaders, Professor Yutaka Saito and Dr. Seiichiro Abe," he says.

"As staff, this unique training gave me the foundation to launch our upper GI ESD program, performing the first curative ESD resections of esophageal and gastric cancer for our team. Over the past five years, we have treated hundreds of patients with early cancer and precancerous lesions with ESD, with exceptional outcomes. I am honored to now co-direct the Endoluminal Surgery Center with Dr. Emre Gorgun, a center focused on delivering the highest-quality minimally invasive treatment for patients with early gastrointestinal neoplasia."

The Cleveland Clinic fellowship and the Innovations team gave him the platform and support to develop new devices to make ESD easier and safer, he says. In 2019, he won the Cleveland Clinic Award in Outstanding Achievement in Medical Device Development for a device he invented as a fellow, a traction wire system that retracts a lesion to make endoscopic submucosal dissection easier and safer. It has been licensed for commercial development.

"I am grateful for the incredible training I received during my residency and fellowships at Cleveland Clinic and the amazing opportunities it has given me early in my career," Dr. Bhatt says. ■

It's Time for the *U.S. News & World Report* Survey

As alumni of Cleveland Clinic, you have been a part of our legacy of medical leadership, and we thank you for your contributions. We all can be proud of our shared history of being included in the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings through the years. Here are some highlights:

As the No. 4 hospital in America, Cleveland Clinic marks 20+ years as a Top 5 hospital nationally. For the past quarter of a century, we have been ranked the No. 1 hospital for heart care. And with less than 4% of hospitals – that is 165 out of 4,500 hospitals – ranked in even one of 16 specialty areas, Cleveland Clinic is ranked in 15 out of 16 specialty areas today (2019-2020). In addition, three Cleveland Clinic hospitals – main campus, Fairview Hospital and Hillcrest Hospital – are ranked in the Top 5 hospitals in the state of Ohio.

Specialties	U.S.
Cardiology & Heart Surgery	# 1
Rheumatology	# 2
Gynecology	# 3
Gastroenterology & GI Surgery	# 4
Nephrology	# 4
Urology	# 4
Cancer	# 6
Pulmonology	# 7
Geriatrics	# 8
Neurology & Neurosurgery	# 10
Ophthalmology	# 10
Psychiatry	# 11
Diabetes & Endocrinology	# 13
Orthopedics	# 17
Ear, Nose & Throat	# 27
Cleveland Clinic Children's — A national leader in Pediatric Care	
Cleveland Clinic Florida — #1 in the Miami-Ft. Lauderdale Metro Area #5 in Florida #17 in Gastroenterology & GI Surgery (nationally)	

Each year, the release of the Best Hospital rankings from *U.S. News & World Report* is an important event for us. Please help us to maintain our shared legacy by voting to recognize the ongoing strength of our medical leadership. There are two ways physicians who are board certified in the U.S. may impact the rankings:

- **Doximity Members:** Log on to your Doximity profile and vote for Cleveland Clinic.
- **Non-Doximity members:** Paper surveys were mailed in January to a random sampling of board certified physicians in each of the specialty areas.

Please keep Cleveland Clinic in mind as you vote this year, and thank you always for your contributions and your generous spirit. ■

QUICK THINKING, SURGERY BY CLEVELAND CLINIC ALUMNUS **SAVE MAN'S ARM**

An article in *The Washington Post* on May 25 featuring **Noah Raizman, MD, (HS'12)** tells the dramatic story of Michael Zelin, a 39-year-old real estate executive who went to the Emergency Room of Sibley Memorial Hospital for a painful forearm injury in May 2018. He thought his injury was minor, caused by overuse after pushing a heavy, double stroller with two of his children around a 5K racecourse near his home, soon followed by 36 holes of golf at a resort.

His wife, Lauren, texted their friend and orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Raizman for advice when Mr. Zelin's forearm pain grew so severe that over-the-counter pain relievers weren't helping. Dr. Raizman recommended that he go to the ER and be evaluated by his resident.

Initial thoughts

Dr. Raizman's initial thought was muscle strain or rhabdomyolysis. But lab tests showed no signs of this. The working diagnosis was tendinitis, which an MRI seemed to confirm. But his pain was worsening and soon, he was being given double doses of morphine.

Dr. Raizman headed to the hospital, worried that Mr. Zelin might have acute compartment syndrome.

Emergency surgery

On arriving, Dr. Raizman performed a compartment pressure measurement test and found more than double the pressure that would indicate acute compartment syndrome. He performed emergency fasciotomy. The operation went well, but the cause of the acute compartment syndrome still was unknown. While Mr. Zelin was recovering in intensive care, he developed a high fever. Blood cultures grew streptococcus bacteria – establishing the diagnosis of necrotizing fasciitis.

Soon afterward, Mrs. Zelin recalled that she had forgotten to tell the doctors that she was diagnosed with strep throat several days before her husband's arm began hurting. This was likely the source of Mr. Zelin's necrotizing fasciitis – a fast-moving infection can lead to septic shock and the need for multiple surgeries. Once tests showed the link to Mrs. Zelin's strep, their three children also were tested and found to be infected.

Mr. Zelin's doctors suspected that he overexerted himself by playing golf, damaging muscles in his forearm, and that Group A strep from his nose or mouth migrated to his arm, triggering necrotizing fasciitis. Swelling then led to acute

compartment syndrome. Although a rare combination, other cases have been reported.

Mr. Zelin went home after four surgeries and eight days in the hospital, with a PICC line in his arm to deliver IV antibiotics for six weeks. After two months and physical therapy, he regained full use of his arm and hand. Dr. Raizman noted that a delay of even another four to six hours before heading to the ER probably would have cost him his arm.



Noah Raizman, MD

Cleveland Clinic training

In a January 2020 interview with *Alumni Connection*, Dr. Raizman noted that his training at Cleveland Clinic prepared him well.

"It was a strange cause of compartment syndrome, and usually, we don't get to the OR this early," he said. "The amputation rate for necrotizing fasciitis in the forearm is probably 50 to 70 percent. I think that at Cleveland Clinic and Metro Health, I saw a number of cases of necrotizing fasciitis and compartment syndrome, though never

together. We saw and handled a lot of complex trauma. We are trained to recognize compartment syndrome early, but in this case, we didn't find out about the necrotizing fasciitis until the next day. I've never seen that before. Luckily, when I did the compartment release, I washed out the wound well, which helped clear the infection."

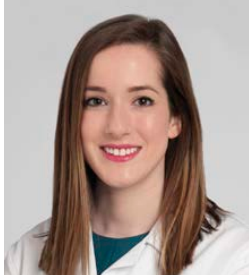
His mentors at Cleveland Clinic reinforced the importance of "patients first," he says. Although the Zelins were personal friends, "I give many patients my cell phone number and email address," he says. "I think that trying to make myself available to my patients without a lot of filters is the way that I practice. Kindness and accessibility are what I got used to at Cleveland Clinic. Each of the surgeons I trained with in my fellowship, **Peter Evans, MD (Staff'01)**, **Steven Maschke, MD (S'02, ORS'07)** and **William Seitz Jr., MD (Staff'00)** are wonderful mentors, both in how to operate and how to take care of people. They are both skilled surgeons and conscientious physicians."

He also attributes the successful outcome to teamwork and collaboration with the ICU and Infectious Disease services, something he experienced at Cleveland Clinic, as well as to his surgical training there. "I certainly thank my experience at Cleveland Clinic for my training and for feeling comfortable doing fasciotomies," he says. "I felt very well-trained to manage the situation." ■

NEW HSA OFFICERS NAMED

The Cleveland Clinic House Staff Association (HSA) has announced new officers. The HSA is the representative body of Cleveland Clinic residents, which works to promote the wellbeing, interests, and education of Cleveland Clinic residents. The HSA, which meets monthly, sponsors activities for residents including educational seminars and outings, as well as sporting, fine arts, volunteer and social events. ■

Executive Committee



PRESIDENT
Charlotte LaSenna, MD
PGY4, Dermatology



VICE PRESIDENT
Kevin Harris, MD
PGY3, Internal Medicine



TREASURER
Akriti Khanna, MD
PGY4, Diagnostic Radiology



SECRETARY
Katherine Glaser, MD
PGY4, Dermatology

AMA Delegate



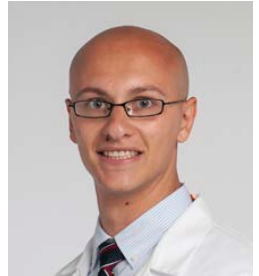
David Savage, MD, PhD
PGY2, Internal Medicine

The HSA represents
Cleveland Clinic
residents and sponsors
activities including
educational seminars
and outings.

Committee for Trainee Well-Being

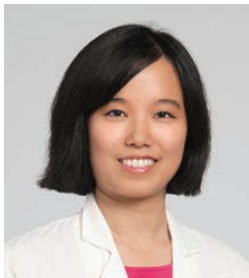


Amanda Pursell, MD
PGY3, Anesthesiology



Jeremy Weleff, DO
PGY2, Psychiatry

Community Engagement Committee



Kelley Chen, MD
PGY3, Internal Medicine



Nicole Frerichs, DO
PGY3, Internal Medicine

Education Committee



Vibhu Chittajallu, MD
PGY2, Internal Medicine



Jason Wheeler, MD, MSCR, MS
PGY3, Internal Medicine

Quality & Patient Safety Committee



Ryan Demkowicz, MD
PGY4, Anatomic &
Clinical Pathology



Joseph Meleca, MD
PGY4, Otolaryngology

Social Committee



Tony El-Hayek, DO, MHSA
PGY2, Anesthesiology



Amir Khan, MD
PGY2, Internal Medicine

WELCOME CLASS OF 2024!



On July 8, 32 medical students, comprising the 16th class of the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, joined the Cleveland Clinic family. This year's orientation was held at the Eric and Sheila Samson Pavilion, and several activities were held jointly with the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine University Program students.

As usual, we are impressed by the rich experiences and interests of our incoming class. While most have majored in the sciences, some have majored or minored in theater, theology and Arabic literature and language.

Members of the class have studied or volunteered in more than 40 countries. As is typical of our students, all members of the incoming class have served as tutors, mentors, teachers

or coaches. They have held a total of 115 leadership positions. They have volunteered in at least 72 healthcare activities and 101 community activities outside of healthcare. All the students have worked on notable research. They've earned 92 awards, grants and scholarships. They have been involved in 99 oral presentations and have 38 scientific publications to their credit.

Collectively, the students speak 20 languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Asante, Hindi, Gujarati, Igbo, Yoruba, Tamil and Kashmir. They are interested in a wide variety of research topics, including nanoparticles in cancer treatment and detection; sleep disorders; neural plasticity; opioid addiction; glioblastomas; HIV treatment; and many more.

Please give a warm welcome to the Class of 2024! ■

SINGLE-PORT ROBOTIC KIDNEY TRANSPLANT ACHIEVED

Cleveland Clinic is the first hospital in the world to successfully perform a single-port robotic kidney transplant, which enables all surgical instruments and the donor kidney to be placed through one small abdominal incision.

The Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute surgical team including **Jihad Kaouk, MD, FACS, FRCS (U'02)**, Director of the Center for Robotic and Image Guided Surgery; **Alvin Wee, MD (U/RT'08)**, Surgical Director of Renal Transplantation; **Mohamed Eltemamy, MD (AURL'19)**; **David Goldfarb, MD (U'90)**; and Eric Miller, MD. Dr. Kaouk and his team were the first in the country to successfully perform single-port prostatectomy and kidney cancer surgery in September 2018.

During the operation, the surgical team created a 4-centimeter incision on the patient's abdomen. The surgeon then used the single-port robot to prepare the site for the donor kidney, connect the blood vessels and reconstruct the urinary drainage, before suturing the incision. ■

PHYSICIAN JOB OPENINGS

Enjoyed your training at
Cleveland Clinic? Why not
return to continue your career?

VISIT

jobs.clevelandclinic.org

and search under physicians in
the professional areas, to view
available positions and find your
next amazing opportunity.

DOCTORS SUPPORTING DOCTORS

By Kathryn Thomas

Founder's Gift Sets Precedent for Physician Philanthropy Today

In January 1946, William E. Lower, MD, one of the four founders of Cleveland Clinic, voluntarily reduced his salary, by giving half back monthly to Cleveland Clinic to benefit indigent patients and advance research projects.

By establishing the William E. Lower Special Fund, he became one of the hospital's first major physician donors. As of May 31, 1947, the fund had grown to \$22,500, a portion of which had been contributed by patients and friends of Dr. Lower. In the endowment fund report from that year, Cleveland Clinic trustees were described as "unanimous in expressing their appreciation of Dr. Lower's generosity and assistance."

Similar to Dr. Lower, MDs and PhDs today support patient care and research in areas of medicine that are important to them. This generosity becomes part of their legacy.

The stories below highlight two researchers who are benefiting from the generosity of **Linda Graham, MD (Staff'99)**, and her husband, **Paul L. Fox, PhD (Staff'82)**, both Cleveland Clinic staff members who have made separate philanthropic commitments. With their gifts, they are furthering research that could have a beneficial impact on healthcare in the future.

Philanthropic Colleague Helps to Support a Wide Range of Research

Lerner Research Institute immunologist **Xiaoxia Li, PhD (Staff'94)**, and her team are studying the parallels between autoimmunity and immunotherapy. By manipulating the body's natural propensity to heal itself, rather than relying solely on chemotherapy and radiation, researchers may be able to slow disease progression and improve patient outcomes and quality of life.

Dr. Li has the special privilege of holding the Paul L. Fox, PhD, Endowed Chair in Molecular Medicine, which helps to support a wide range of research that contributes to the scientific community's understanding of several different autoimmune diseases and cancers.

In the last 20 years, she has made important discoveries including a key protein that controls inflammation, a novel mechanism linking inflammation and cancer, and a connection between intestinal bacteria and the development of autoimmune diseases.

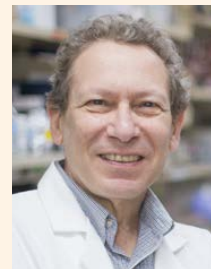
She published a discovery related to the molecular basis of cyanidin, a key flavonoid found in red berries and other fruits. Cyanidin is known to slow the development of several diseases such as asthma, diabetes, atherosclerosis and cancer through its anti-inflammatory effect. The research team discovered that cyanidin can bind to a particular proinflammatory cytokine receptor and inhibit its signaling, thus reducing inflammation in pre-clinical models.

She lately made another discovery that further defines a link between inflammation and cancer. This novel study shows how a proinflammatory cytokine recruits a growth factor receptor to initiate and promote tumor growth, and how manipulating a related protein may be the key to slowing down, and potentially halting, the process.

These critical discoveries, made possible by external grants and through the philanthropic support of her endowed chair, have earned many accolades.

"It is a privilege to be the chair holder of the Paul L. Fox, PhD, Endowed Chair in Molecular Medicine," Dr. Li says. "Not only because this funding has enabled me to further research efforts, but because it is a tremendous honor to be recognized by an esteemed colleague."

Dr. Fox is on staff at the Lerner Research Institute and holds the Robert Canova Endowed Chair in Inflammation Research. ■



Paul L. Fox, PhD

ENDOWMENTS OFFER ENDURING SUPPORT

Philanthropy is a vibrant thread woven throughout Cleveland Clinic's history from the beginning, when William E. Lower, MD, one of the four founders, gave half his salary back to Cleveland Clinic for the benefit of patients in need and to advance medical research.

Giving back continues today with gifts from **Linda Graham, MD**, her husband **Paul L. Fox, PhD**, and **Belinda Yen-Lieberman, PhD (RES/I'78)**, and her husband James M. Lieberman, MD.

Both couples have created an enduring legacy of support for Cleveland Clinic by establishing endowed chairs.

Endowments

Endowments create permanent provisions for chairs, fellowships, special departmental funds and lectureships. These enduring funds can also provide for the possibility of

Continued on page 28

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Eleven Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute postdoctoral research fellows received 2019 Alumni Association Postdoctoral Travel Awards, and four residents received Professional Development Grants, which support travel to medical meetings, scientific conferences, forums and seminars related to their vocations. We thank our alumni for contributing annually to both the Lerner Research Institute postdoctoral research fellows and the Education Institute in support of eligible residents and fellows in graduate medical education.

2019 Alumni Postdoctoral Travel Award Recipients



Vera Adema, PhD

Department: Translational Hematology and Oncology Research
Poster Presentation: 2019 American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting



Shuo Li, PhD

Department: Cardiovascular and Metabolic Sciences
Oral Presentation: 2019 ASBMB Special Symposium on Serine Proteases in Pericellular Proteolysis and Signaling



Defne Bayik, PhD

Department: Cardiovascular and Metabolic Sciences
Oral Presentation: 2019 Society for Neuro-Oncology Annual Scientific Meeting



Sunho Park, PhD

Department: Quantitative Health Sciences
Poster Presentation: 2019 NeurIPS Workshop on Bayesian Deep Learning



Emily Dolson, PhD

Department: Translational Hematology and Oncology Research
Oral Presentation: 2019 Evolution Annual Conference



Nikhil Sharma, PhD

Department: Inflammation and Immunity
Oral Presentation: 2019 Indo-US Symposium on New Insights Into the Inflammation, Immunity, and Pathobiology of Diseases



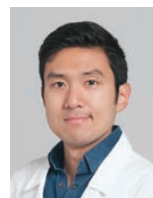
Vijay Kumar Jidigam, PhD

Department: Ophthalmic Research
Poster Presentation: 2019 Annual Angiogenesis Gordon Research Conference



Jagjit Singh, PhD

Department: Cardiovascular and Metabolic Sciences
Poster Presentation: 2019 Cell Symposium: Engineering Organoids and Organs



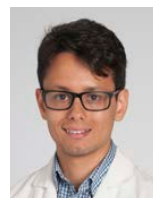
Adam Kim, PhD

Department: Inflammation and Immunity
Oral Presentation: 2019 Alcohol-Induced End Organ Diseases Gordon Research Conference



Carrie Smallcombe, PhD

Department: Inflammation and Immunity
Oral Presentation: 2019 American Thoracic Society International Conference



Benjamin Krishna, PhD

Department: Genomic Medicine Institute
Oral Presentation: 2019 International Herpesvirus Workshop

Continued on page 15

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Continued from page 14

2019 Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association Education Institute Award Recipients

Rachel Aliotta, MD

PGY-6, Chief Resident,
Plastic & Reconstructive
Surgery

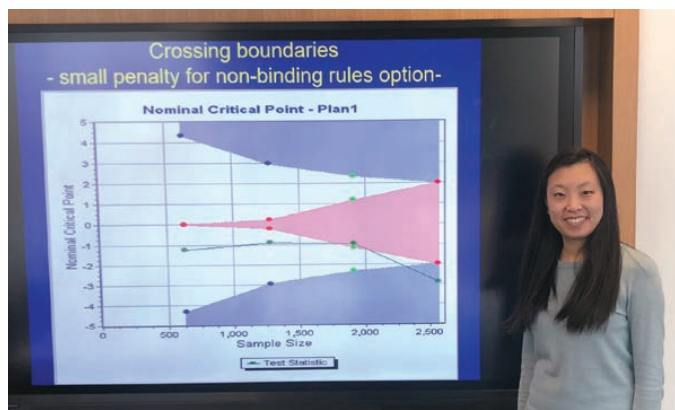
"The career development grant was used to support travel and fees to attend an advanced hand surgery course including didactics from world-renowned hand surgeons and a hands-on cadaver lab component. Dear Alumni, thank you for supporting residents such as myself with your generous donation. With your generosity, I was able to attend an incredible hand surgery course where I was able to supplement my residency curriculum with hands-on advanced training in areas in which I felt deficient. I now feel more confident and proficient as I near graduation from residency and start my fellowship at another institution."



Sanghee Hong, MD

PGY-4, Fellow, Clinical and Experimental Hematology -Blood
and Marrow Transplant Program/ Department of Hematology
and Medical Oncology

"I was honored to receive the professional development grant. I used this fund to enroll in a graduate level course titled 'Clinical Trials' from the Case Western Reserve University/ Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. The fund covered some of the enrollment fee, which helped me relieve my financial stress immensely. This course has been extremely helpful to gain the detailed knowledge in clinical trial study design. It has been extremely helpful to plan my clinical research studies and has helped me shape my career path. Thank you so much, Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association, for your generous support. Your grant has become a springboard of my career!"



Matthew Grabowski, MD

PGY-6, Resident, Neurological Surgery

"I have been performing a year-long, collaborative research fellowship at Duke University Hospital under the direction of Peter Fecci, MD, PhD, Director of the Duke Brain Tumor

Immunotherapy Program and Duke Center for Brain and Spine Metastasis. In addition to continuing his research projects within the Lathia Lab at Cleveland Clinic on characterizing of the immune landscape in glioblastoma during treatment, within the Fecci Lab, I have been studying the systemically and local immune interactions that produce the profoundly immunosuppressive environment in glioblastoma patients.

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association for the assistance that allowed me to participate in this research fellowship. This experience has allowed me the ability to conduct research at two major academic centers (Duke and Cleveland Clinic), gaining valuable insights into the bench-to-bedside research process at one of the world's leading brain tumor immunotherapy programs, among other things. It has undoubtedly advanced both my clinical and research education to better enable me to succeed as an academic surgeon-scientist in the future."



Chionye Ossai, MD

PGY-5, Clinical Fellow, Pediatric
Medicine

"The Alumni Professional Development Grant has afforded me the opportunity to continue my master's program in informatics. I was able to use the funds to cover some of my tuition fees. I can now complete the program within my projected time and become board eligible in Clinical Informatics. I am grateful to the CCF Alumni for such a wonderful opportunity." ■



PHYSICIANS HONORED BY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

On Sept. 20, three physicians were honored for their distinguished service to Cleveland Clinic during the Fall Alumni Association Centennial Legacy Society and Awards Reception at the Foundation House.

Alumni Association Board President **Dale Shepard, MD, PhD (IM'06, H/O'09)**, introduced the awards recipients: **Thomas J. Masaryk, MD (DR'85, NR'89)**, Distinguished Alumnus Award; **Joseph Hahn, MD (CCF'76)**, Special Achievement Award; and **Pauline Kwok, MD (TRS'95, DR'00, ABI'01)**, Service Award.

Dr. Masaryk joined Cleveland Clinic's Diagnostic Radiology staff on Nov. 22, 1989, and became head of the Neuroradiology Section on Jan. 1, 1990. In his current roles as Director of Anatomy and Professor of Surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, and his previous position as Head of Neuroradiology, he has helped shape medical education, patient care and healthcare delivery at Cleveland Clinic. He also was honored for other contributions, including serving on the Board of Governors.

Throughout his time at Cleveland Clinic, "the two themes that I have had in my experience here are 'opportunities' and 'family,'" Dr. Masaryk said.

"I worked with people who were inspired and motivated, which led to publications, speaking invitations and travel. Through mentorship and opportunities at Cleveland Clinic, I got to see the world and a slice of humanity that you could never see anywhere else."

Dr. Hahn, now emeritus staff, served as a staff physician, Chair of Neurosurgery, Chief of Surgery, and Chief of Staff. He was lauded for his medical, scientific and leadership contributions to Cleveland Clinic.

He established an international reputation when, as Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery and Chief of Surgery, he helped develop a game-changing technology called brain mapping, enabling surgeons to pinpoint seizure sites in epilepsy patients. Dr. Hahn, who has an MBA from the Weatherhead School of Management, was recognized for influencing nearly every aspect of clinical practice as Chief of Staff and helping to guide Cleveland Clinic's financial and strategic planning. He also belongs to numerous professional organizations and has published extensively.

He noted that in his 40 years at Cleveland Clinic, he always was impressed by his colleagues' empathy for their patients. Sharing that he recently lost his wife, he said "the people here are fantastic. They took great care of her. This is a great place, it really is. If you ever become ill yourself or have somebody in your family who is, you will learn this very quickly."



Alumni Association Awards Recipients, from left:
Thomas J. Masaryk, MD, Pauline Kwok, MD, and Joseph Hahn, MD

Dr. Kwok was recognized for her contributions to the Alumni Association, including representing radiology alumni and producing an Alumni e-newsletter for her colleagues. In presenting the award, **Conrad Simpfendorfer, MD, FACS, (S'04, MIS'05, S/HEP'06)**, past President of the Alumni Association Board, noted that it was established "to recognize alumni who have generously dedicated themselves to the growth and advancement of Cleveland Clinic and/or its Alumni Association."

He lauded her efforts in producing the Imaging Institute newsletter and said that "few have ever deserved this award more than Dr. Kwok, to whom the word 'service' aptly applies."

Dr. Kwok said that after 15 years serving on the Alumni Association Board, "I have some great memories, and I treasure every moment. It is truly an honor to share the wonderful news of our institute and celebrate the successes of our staff residents and fellows."

In addition to the awards presentations, 24 new members were inducted into the Centennial Legacy Society.

"It's called the Centennial Legacy Society in anticipation of Cleveland Clinic's 100th anniversary in 2021," Dr. Shepard said. "It's no secret that philanthropy allows Cleveland Clinic to continually improve at what it does best, serve patients and increase the quality of our training for medical students." ■

Appointments

James Merlino, MD, New Chief Clinical Transformation Officer

By Caregiver Communications

James Merlino, MD (CRS'05), returned to Cleveland Clinic on Dec. 1 in a newly created role of Chief Clinical Transformation Officer. In this position, he is responsible for continuing to build on the success of, and advance the organization's performance in, quality, safety and patient experience. As part of his new role, he will oversee the Office of Patient Experience, Enterprise Quality and Safety and the Office of Continuous Improvement, as well as further integrate these areas.

As Chief Clinical Transformation Officer, he reports to Cleveland Clinic CEO and President Tom Mihaljevic, MD, and collaborates with the Executive Team. Adrienne Boissy, MD, Cynthia Deyling, MD, and Lisa Yerian, MD, will continue leading their respective areas and will report to Dr. Merlino.

In addition, Dr. Yerian has been promoted to Chief Improvement Officer and will join the Operating Council. She will direct, coordinate and evaluate improvement strategies, methods and implementation across the enterprise. As part of her new role, she will serve as a physician advocate and partner with hospital and institute leaders.

Dr. Merlino rejoins Cleveland Clinic after nearly five years at Press Ganey, where he served as President and Chief Medical Officer of the Strategic Consulting Division and Chief Transformation Officer. Before joining Press Ganey, he was Chief Experience Officer and Associate Chief of Staff at Cleveland Clinic, as well as a practicing staff colorectal surgeon in the Digestive Disease Institute. ■

Hematology/Medical Oncology Chair and Breast Medical Oncology Director Named

Jame Abraham, MD (Staff'13), has been named the new Chair of Cleveland Clinic's Department of Hematology/Medical



James Merlino, MD

Oncology, succeeding Matt Kalaycio, MD. Dr. Abraham also is a professor of medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and was Director of the Breast Oncology Program at Taussig Cancer Institute and Co-Director of the Cleveland Clinic Comprehensive Breast Cancer Program.

"Successfully leading our Hematology/Medical Oncology Department requires a leader who excels at empathy, fosters a culture of teamwork, demonstrates emotional intelligence and believes in the vision of our institute," said Brian Bolwell, MD, Chair of the Taussig Cancer Institute. "Dr. Abraham represents these qualities and has exhibited a passion for department and caregiver development, and elevating our national reputation."

Halle Moore, MD (Staff'99), was appointed Director of Breast Medical Oncology and also will serve as Co-Director of the Comprehensive Breast Cancer Program.

Dr. Moore, who joined Cleveland Clinic in 1999, specializes in the medical management of breast cancer, with a research focus on breast cancer treatment and issues related to cancer survivorship.

Four new staff physicians also were appointed:

Shilpa Gupta, MD, joined the genitourinary cancer program with a focus on bladder cancer. She previously served on the faculty at University of Minnesota, where she led the interdisciplinary solid tumor phase 1 program.

Khaled Hassan, MD, joined the thoracic cancer program. He previously served as assistant professor in the division of hematology/oncology at University of Michigan.

Suneel Kamath, MD, joined the gastrointestinal cancer program. He previously was the hematology and medical oncology chief fellow at Northwestern University.

Elizabeth Weinstein, MD, joined the palliative medicine program. She previously served as associate medical director for Hospice of the Western Reserve. ■



Jame Abraham, MD

Alumni hosts record-shattering Worldwide Classroom® program

Bogdan Kindzelski, MD, MS (CCLCM'16), a cardiothoracic surgery resident at Cleveland Clinic, filled in for one of his cardiac surgery colleagues to give a talk on "Meet a Heart Surgeon," as part of the Worldwide Classroom®. The talk, held live on Sept. 10, was broadcast to 876 students at 34 schools across Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Turns out Dr. Kindzelski is a natural at engaging with middle and high school students, breaking all prior records for attendance at a Worldwide Classroom.

"Talk about starting our 2019-2020 Worldwide Classroom season on a high note!" says Bryan Pflaum, MFA, Director of School Programs for Cleveland Clinic K-12 Education, which manages the connected learning program. "We're so appreciative of Dr. Kindzelski's involvement."

Learn more about the Worldwide Classroom initiative, and view the upcoming schedule at <http://bit.ly/worldwideclassroomprogram> ■

GLORY DAYS

William Proudfit, MD, looks back on a remarkable life in medicine

by John Soeder

Just shy of 106 (his birthday is in February), Cleveland Clinic's oldest retired physician remains sharp as a scalpel. **William Proudfit, MD (IM'43)**, is quick with a joke, too.

"I'll try not to say anything that will be used against me," the accomplished yet humble cardiologist tells a recorder-wielding reporter.

Dr. Proudfit has three children, seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. His wife of 67 years, Thelma, died in 2007.



William Proudfit, MD

A native of Connellsville, Pennsylvania, Dr. Proudfit graduated from Harvard Medical School, where tuition was \$400 a year when he attended during the Great Depression. "Unbelievable, isn't it?" he says.

He first came to Cleveland Clinic for a fellowship in 1940. Six years later, after serving in the Air Force during World War II, he was appointed head of electrocardiography. "Back then, it was more like an office practice than a hospital," Dr. Proudfit recalls. "There was no fancy medical equipment."

He counted trailblazers such as F. Mason Sones Jr., MD, and René Favaloro, MD, not only as colleagues, but friends.



Dr. Proudfit, seen in this undated photo with two Cleveland Clinic Fellows, led the Department of Clinical Cardiology from the mid-1960s through the mid-1970s. Photo: Cleveland Clinic Archives

Dr. Sones pioneered coronary angiography. "At first some people thought he was a nut – which he was," Dr. Proudfit says. "But they became convinced that he was a smart nut."

Dr. Favaloro performed the first coronary bypass surgery. "Every night, he studied catheterization films, which was unheard of," Dr. Proudfit recalls. "He had lots of original ideas."

Those were heady times at Cleveland Clinic. "We went from glory to glory," says Dr. Proudfit, who led the Department of Clinical Cardiology from the mid-1960s through the mid-1970s. "It was thrilling!"

Before his retirement in 1979, Dr. Proudfit was instrumental in developing the largest and longest-running cardiovascular registry, which has transformed the medical landscape by allowing physicians to provide better diagnoses and treatments for patients. It was the first computerized medical database, replacing paper records and ushering in a new era of data-driven care.

"You've got to enjoy the work you do, regardless of what the work is," Dr. Proudfit says. "I tried to enjoy everything I did." ■

Thomas Mroz, MD, New Chair of Orthopaedic & Rheumatologic Institute

By Caregiver Communications

Thomas E. Mroz, MD (Staff'04), has been appointed Chair of the Orthopaedic & Rheumatologic Institute, effective Jan. 1. He succeeded Brendan M. Patterson, MD, who served as interim chair since 2018.

Dr. Mroz, who joined Cleveland Clinic staff in 2004, was Director of the Center for Spine Health and Director of Spine Research in the Center. He specializes in all aspects of spinal surgery and has a dedicated interest in minimally invasive surgery and cervical spine surgery, including radiculopathy, myelopathy, stenosis, disc herniations, cervical disc replacement, revision cervical surgery, cervical infections, cervical tumors and cervical deformity.

Dr. Mroz has been a leader in Orthopaedics and organized



Thomas E. Mroz, MD

spine surgery throughout his career. He is active in research, and he has lectured nationally and internationally on minimally invasive surgery and cervical spine surgery. He has authored more than 400 research articles and abstracts in peer-reviewed medical literature, and he serves as Deputy Editor of the *Global Spine Journal* and *The Spine Journal*.

Dr. Mroz has served on governing boards of several academic societies and has chaired many national and international meetings. He is a board member of the North American Spine Society and serves as Chairman of its Continuing Medical Education Committee. ■

ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE

Leonard Calabrese, DO (IM'78, RH'80)
Chair, History Project

Three Who Made a Difference

In this issue, we celebrate three remarkable people whose accomplishments made a difference for Cleveland Clinic and the practice of medicine in America.

Emily Wagstaff, RN, and Frederick D. Brown, PhD, each made great personal contributions that affected Cleveland Clinic and the entire enterprise. Ms. Wagstaff was an unsung hero who took it upon herself to create an infrastructure for data analysis that now is legendary. The story of Dr. Brown is one of dedication and innovation, of an individual who so impressed the legendary Dr. Willem Kolff that he paved the way for Dr. Brown to obtain his doctorate.

Irvine Page, MD, was an absolute superstar of American medicine whose legacy is still felt, both nationally and internationally. Like Dr. Kolff, he was a Lasker Award winner, one of the greatest awards in American medicine.

Although I did not have the honor of meeting Ms. Wagstaff or Dr. Brown, I did know the iconic Dr. Page. He contributed so much to Cleveland Clinic's tripartite mission of patient care, education and research. In particular, he took research at Cleveland Clinic to its highest level.

Dr. Page came to Cleveland Clinic as an established researcher, and our research here really took off with his presence. By the time I arrived at Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Page still came to Cleveland Clinic a lot, and I got to meet with him. I also had the privilege of taking care of his sister Ruth Page, one of the grand dames of American ballet.

Dr. Page's other important contributions are twofold: his work in hypertension and vascular biology, and, equally, his voice as editor of *Modern Medicine*. In many people's opinions, the most important factor driving the development of what we know today as the Institute of Medicine was his relentless pursuit of an Academy of Medicine.

These remarkable individuals, Ms. Wagstaff, Dr. Brown and Dr. Page, should make us feel proud and inspired. We should remember them. We owe them all an intense debt of gratitude. As we approach our centennial year, they remind us once again that we truly walk in the shadows of giants.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

IRVINE PAGE, MD: A RESEARCH LEADER

Cleveland Clinic's Research Division turns 75 this year! Its early years were shaped by one of the most acclaimed physicians of his time: Irvine Heinly Page, MD. Dr. Page was a world-renowned hypertension researcher, a Nobel nominee and a valued collaborator to many. His decades at the head of Cleveland Clinic's research division provided necessary leadership in the post-Founders era and built the division into the powerhouse it is today.

Dr. Page, an Indianapolis native, did not set out to follow his father's example and become a doctor. While studying at Cornell, mentors encouraged him to expand from biochemistry to medicine, and he found he loved medicine. After internships at Presbyterian and Bellevue hospitals, he moved to Munich in 1928 to work in brain chemistry at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute. However, alarmed by the political situation in Germany, he resolved to return to the United States. Unfortunately, he remembered, "nobody wanted a brain chemist."

A lucky break came when Donald Van Slyke of the Rockefeller Institute needed a doctor while vacationing in Munich. Mr. Van Slyke called Dr. Page, the only available American, and, impressed with Dr. Page's care, invited him back to New York to work at the Rockefeller Institute. Dr. Page jumped at the chance, and spent six years at the Rockefeller Institute, where he began conducting cardiovascular research, as well as maintaining his interests in mental illness and brain chemistry. In 1937, he moved to the Lilly Laboratory in Indianapolis, joining a team dedicated to the study of hypertension.



Dr. Irvine Heinly Page, left, consults with Dr. Ray W. Gifford Jr. and Dr. Harriet Dustan.



Irvine Heinly Page, MD

According to Dr. Page's longtime colleague Harriet Dustan, Dr. Page believed the team at Lilly was "the first multidisciplinary group of investigators brought together to study one problem." This early collaboration led to one of Dr. Page's first major contributions to medicine: the discovery and description of angiotensin and its role in hypertension.

Meanwhile, in the early 1940s, Cleveland

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

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Clinic entered a period of redefinition as its original Founders passed away. The Board of Trustees reached out to Dr. Page, who expressed interest once a research facility expansion was complete. In 1945, he came to Cleveland Clinic as the first Director of Research. Two of his colleagues at Lilly, Arthur Corcoran and Robert Taylor, joined him. At Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Page and his team became leaders in and advocates for hypertension research. Their scientific accomplishments included isolating and describing serotonin, developing the mosaic theory of hypertension, and establishing a link between dietary cholesterol and heart disease.

Dr. Page exemplified Cleveland Clinic's values of teamwork and innovation. His advocacy helped create the National Foundation for High Blood Pressure and spurred the National Institutes of Health to begin grant programs for high blood pressure research. As the longtime editor of *Modern Medicine*, he advocated in its pages for a National Academy of Medicine, which eventually became the Institute of Medicine. Part of Dr. Page's goal was to impose ethical requirements on Institute members. This reflected his deep and ongoing concern with moral and ethical standards in medicine. Throughout his career, Dr. Page worked closely with team members at Cleveland Clinic and collaborators around the world, including Dr. Harvey Cushing, Dr. Arda Green, Dr. Harriet Dustan, Dr. Maurice Rapport, Dr. James McCubbin, and more. Much of Dr. Page's extensive correspondence with scientists and friends worldwide now is held in the Cleveland Clinic Archives.

Dr. Page retired from Cleveland Clinic in 1966, but continued to write and participate in professional organizations until his death in 1991. Among his many accolades were the 1958 Albert Lasker Award, the 1970 Stouffer prize, and multiple nominations for the Nobel Prize. At Cleveland Clinic, his legacy lived on in the Page Center for Creative Thinking in Medicine, the annual Page Lecture, and the work of the Lerner Research Institute. ■

FRED BROWN, PhD

Frederick D. Brown, PhD, joined Cleveland Clinic in 1957 to work in Dr. Willem Kolff's Artificial Organs laboratory. Dr. Kolff was a pioneer of dialysis and the artificial heart.

Dr. Brown's early work focused on testing blood damage caused by heart-lung machines. The standardized method he worked out became the basis for the standard used by the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Brown's colleague Steven R. Topaz described him as a brilliant innovator, recalling how "[Fred] did a number of innovative things that he never felt sure enough to present to Dr. Kolff, so I would approach Dr. Kolff, who was usually super impressed, and Fred would get another project to finish."



Dr. Fred Brown, center, and other members of the team fondly referred to as the "Kolff Lab Kids."

Dr. Kolff did more than give Dr. Brown new projects in the lab. He was so impressed by Dr. Brown's work that he arranged for tuition and research funds for him to pursue a doctorate at Western Reserve Medical School. While studying, Dr. Brown continued to work at Cleveland Clinic part-time. His research included work on perfusion and early artificial heart prototypes. In addition to groundbreaking scientific work, the Kolff lab offered a spirit of camaraderie and friendship remembered fondly years later by the "Kolff Lab Kids."

After earning a PhD in anatomy, Dr. Brown left Cleveland Clinic for a second career in teaching and writing. He authored several anatomy and physiology textbooks and taught at St. John's College, Cuyahoga Community College, and Cleveland Clinic's School of Nurse Anesthesia. Today, Dr. Brown enjoys retirement in Florida, but his family's connection to Cleveland Clinic persists. His daughter-in-law China Weaver-Brown has been a caregiver at Cleveland Clinic for more than 30 years. ■

UNSUNG HERO: EMILY WAGSTAFF AND THE CARDIOVASCULAR INFORMATION REGISTRY

In 1971, Cleveland Clinic established the Cardiovascular Information Registry, a centralized database on surgical outcomes. Still in use today, the CVIR is one of the largest and longest-standing databases documenting heart procedures. This invaluable resource for researchers grew out of the records

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Continued from page 20

kept by Emily Wagstaff, RN. In a 2013 interview with the Archives, cardiologist William Proudfit, MD, described her role:

“Emily had decided on her own that she would keep records of everybody that was operated on. She kept complete records about their stay... After she had done this for two or three years, the surgeons realized she had the only information about patients they had operated on. Surgeons didn’t have any idea. They hadn’t kept any records. So, Emily pointed out the deficiency in our system, a gross deficiency..... And they got three women who knew nothing about heart disease or computers and Emily trained them. She taught them all the cardiology they needed to know. They started the system that is still used today and is the foundation for all subsequent papers on cardiac surgery. That’s the history of CVIR. It is really Emily Wagstaff that was responsible for the whole thing.”

By 1979, the registry had recorded information from over 11,000 patients. Ms. Wagstaff worked as a supervisor to train and guide new coders, as well as oversaw the office and assisted database programmers. Nearly 20 years after the registry officially started, she continued to take an active part in its maintenance, serving on the steering committee when the CVIR database was updated in 1989.

Emily Wagstaff started the system still used today, the foundation for all subsequent papers on cardiac surgery.

books. These studies have led to new, evidence-based surgical recommendations. This work goes on with an average of 300 requests per year for CVIR data from across Cleveland Clinic. ■



Emily Wagstaff, RN

Although Ms. Wagstaff passed away in 2006, her legacy lives on in the use of the CVIR in cardiovascular research. In 2012, researchers used CVIR data in 111 journal articles, 30 book chapters, and three

Cleveland Clinic | Archives

Alumni Connection's FROM THE ARCHIVES 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 Stroh, Senior Director, Alumni Relations, at strohm@ccf.org.

\$261 MILLION GIFT LARGEST IN CLEVELAND CLINIC HISTORY

Cleveland Clinic received the largest gift in its nearly 100-year history with a \$261 million distribution from the Lord Foundation of Ohio.

The distribution was made possible by the sale of LORD Corporation, a privately held manufacturing company. The sale has led to the distribution of more than \$1 billion to four institutions nationwide to advance education and research in science and technology.

In addition to Cleveland Clinic, beneficiaries are Duke University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the University of Southern California (USC). Each will receive approximately \$261 million as beneficiaries of gifts of stock from the late Thomas Lord, who led the family-owned company until his death in 1989.

The gift will help Cleveland Clinic further its mission. “Cleveland Clinic was founded on the ideal that innovation, research and teaching are integral components of patient care,” said Tom Mihaljevic, MD, CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic. “Mr. Lord’s generous gifts allow us to continue tackling today’s most complex medical challenges, discovering the next breakthroughs and improving lives worldwide.”

Mr. Lord’s estate plan included creation of a holding company, the Jura Corporation, and the establishment of four foundations, including the Lord Foundation of Ohio, which supports Cleveland Clinic. The Lord Foundation of Ohio, which was an indirect owner of LORD Corporation thanks to a generous gift from Mr. Lord in 1989, has received \$261 million in connection with this transaction.

“When developing his estate plan, Tom Lord identified research institutions that shared his vision of continuous learning and innovation,” said Lt. Gen. Frederick McCorkle, USMC (Ret.), chairman of the Jura Corporation Board of Directors.

Mr. Lord’s continued giving supports Cleveland Clinic’s Centennial campaign. With a goal of \$2 billion, it is the most ambitious philanthropic effort in Cleveland Clinic’s history. Collectively, the gifts provide critical resources for Cleveland Clinic’s physician-scientists to more quickly translate their discoveries into new therapies for patients here and around the world, in addition to supporting the Lerner

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TOP 10 MEDICAL INNOVATIONS FOR 2020 REVEALED

Our picks for the next big changes in healthcare

A dual-acting osteoporosis drug. Minimally invasive mitral valve surgery. A new treatment for peanut allergies. These are three of the innovations that will change healthcare in 2020, according to a panel of Cleveland Clinic physicians and scientists led by Emeritus Chief Wellness Officer Michael Roizen, MD.

The Top 10 Medical Innovations of 2020 were announced as the culminating event of Cleveland Clinic's 17th annual Medical Innovation Summit, held in Cleveland, October 21–23, 2019. Here they are, in order of anticipated importance:

1 Dual-Acting Osteoporosis Drug

With osteoporosis, bones become weak, brittle and at risk of breaking. Bone loss occurs silently and progressively – often without symptoms until the first fracture. But now there's a new way to increase bone strength. The FDA recently approved a dual-acting drug (romosozumab), which can help patients with osteoporosis prevent additional fractures.

2 Expanded Use of Minimally Invasive Mitral Valve Surgery

The mitral valve allows blood flow from the heart's left atrium to the left ventricle. But in about 1 in 10 people over age 75, the mitral valve is defective, causing regurgitation. Expanding the approval of a minimally invasive valve repair device to patients who have failed to get symptom relief from other therapies provides an important new treatment option.

3 Inaugural Medication for Transthyretin Amyloid Cardiomyopathy

A disheartening cardiovascular disorder, ATTR-CM is a progressive, underdiagnosed, potentially fatal disease in which amyloid protein fibrils deposit in, and stiffen, the walls of the heart's left ventricle. But a new agent to prevent misfolding of the deposited protein is showing a significantly reduced risk of death. Following Fast-Track and Breakthrough designations in 2017 and 2018, tafamidis received FDA approval in 2019. It's the first-ever medication for treatment of this increasingly recognized condition.

4 Therapy for Mitigation of Peanut Allergies

It's a terrifying reality for 2.5% of parents – the possibility that at any moment, their child might be unable to breathe due to an allergic reaction. Though emergency epinephrine has reduced the severity and risk of accidental exposure, it is not enough to quell the ever-present anxiety. A new oral immunotherapy medication to gradually build tolerance to peanut exposure may improve protection.

5 Closed-Loop Spinal Cord Stimulation

Chronic pain is a frustrating condition, and a large reason for prescribing opioid medication. Spinal cord stimulation is another popular treatment option for chronic pain. An implantable device provides electrical stimulus to the spinal cord. However, unsatisfactory outcomes due to subtherapeutic or overstimulation events are common. Closed-loop stimulation allows for better communication between the device and the spinal cord, optimizing stimulation and pain relief.

6 Biologics in Orthopaedic Repair

After orthopaedic surgery, the body can take anywhere from months to years to recover. But biologics – cells, blood components, growth factors and other natural substances – have the power to replace or harness the body's own power and promote healing. These elements are finding their way into orthopaedic care, allowing for the possibility of expedited improved outcomes.

7 Antibiotic Envelope for Cardiac Implantable Device Infection Prevention

Worldwide, roughly 1.5 million patients receive an implantable cardiac electronic device every year. In these patients, infection remains a major, potentially life-threatening complication. Antibiotic-embedded envelopes now can encase these cardiac devices, effectively preventing infection.

8 Bempedoic Acid for Cholesterol Lowering in Statin Intolerant Patients

High cholesterol is a major concern for nearly 40% of adults in the U.S. Left untreated, the condition could lead to serious health problems like heart attack and stroke. Statins are the typical treatment, but they cause unacceptable muscle pain in some people. Bempedoic acid provides another way to lower LDL-cholesterol while avoiding these side effects.


9 PARP Inhibitors for Maintenance Therapy in Ovarian Cancer

Poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors block the repair of damaged DNA in tumor cells, increasing cell death, especially in tumors with deficient repair mechanisms. One of the most recent advances in ovarian cancer treatment, PARP inhibitors have improved progression-free survival and are now being approved for first-line maintenance therapy in advanced-stage disease. Several additional large-scale trials are underway, with PARP inhibitors set to make great strides in improving outcomes in cancer therapy.

10 Drugs for Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction

In heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) – also known as diastolic heart failure – ventricular heart muscles contract normally but do not relax as they should. The heart is unable to properly fill with blood, leaving less blood to be pumped out to the body. Currently, treatment recommendations are directed at accompanying conditions and mere symptom relief. But SGLT2 inhibitors, a class of medications used to treat type 2 diabetes, is now being explored in HFpEF – alluding to a potential new treatment option. ■

For more on the annual Top 10 Medical Innovations, including descriptions, videos and year-by-year comparisons, visit [Cleveland Clinic Innovations](https://clevelandclinic.org/innovations).



Gary Procop, MD, holds the Belinda Yen-Lieberman, PhD, and James M. Lieberman, MD, Endowed Chair in Clinical Microbiology.

The Good, the Bad and the Infectious

Philanthropy opens new frontiers in clinical microbiology

by John Soeder

Think of it this way: Infectious agents are the bad guys – and there’s a new sheriff in town.

Gary Procop, MD (Staff’08), and his highly skilled posse in the Robert J. Tomsich Pathology & Laboratory Medicine Institute at Cleveland Clinic have dedicated themselves to identifying, more swiftly and more thoroughly, some of the viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites that you might find in a rogues’ gallery of microorganisms that cause infectious disease.

Dr. Procop holds the Belinda Yen-Lieberman, PhD, and James M. Lieberman, MD, Endowed Chair in Clinical Microbiology. The position was recently established through the generosity of a couple with strong ties to Cleveland Clinic.

“When we talk about microbiology, we’re often really talking about infectious disease,” Dr. Yen-Lieberman says. “If we can promote continued innovation in the detection of infectious disease, we can improve patient care.”

At Cleveland Clinic, the support of Drs. Yen-Lieberman and Lieberman is facilitating whole genome sequencing of microorganisms (useful for detecting antibiotic resistance), advanced simultaneous assessment of different genetic targets and an ambitious initiative

to differentiate true pathogens from bystander contaminants in microbiology’s version of the Wild West: the microbiome.

“Better characterization of infectious agents will lead to more targeted therapy, which means there will be more cures and more patients leaving the hospital on their own two feet,” Dr. Procop says. “Philanthropy makes this work possible.”

A previous gift from Drs. Yen-Lieberman and Lieberman created a scholarship for students in the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

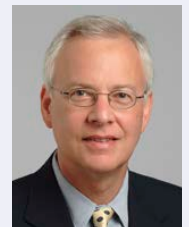
Giving promotes “a positive feeling,” Dr. Lieberman says, citing a raft of studies linking philanthropy to everything from increased happiness to decreased blood pressure.

With their latest gift, the couple hopes to spur further advances in a behind-the-scenes field. “Cleveland Clinic has a tremendous research platform in microbiology,” Dr. Yen-Lieberman says. “The endowed chair is our way of trying to keep that platform running, long after we leave the scene.”

And the stakes couldn’t be higher. “Microbiology,” Dr. Yen-Lieberman says, “touches anyone who’s alive.” ■



Belinda Yen-Lieberman, MD



James Lieberman, MD

MEET THE DONORS

Dr. Belinda Yen-Lieberman

(RES/I’78) is a clinical researcher and Emeritus Professor at Cleveland Clinic, where she has worked with industry partners on innovative diagnostic tests for HIV and other viruses.

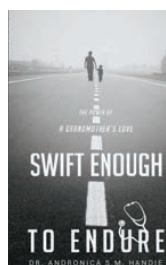
Dr. James Lieberman is a Clinical Associate Professor at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and a retired Cleveland Clinic diagnostic radiologist.

Married in 1979, they have two grown sons.

Authors Corner



Swift Enough to Endure: The Power of a Grandmother's Love

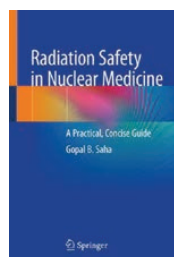


Swift Enough to Endure: The Power of a Grandmother's Love, by **Andronica S. M. Handie, DPM, MS (S/PMS'04)**, a foot and ankle surgeon, is an autobiographical account of how Dr. Handie's close relationship with his grandmother helped shape his life and career.

The book reveals that the circumstances into which children are born are less important than faith, confidence and familial support in helping children achieve their potential and transform their dreams into reality. The book reveals why others' expectations based on a child's demographics do not determine whether that child pursues and achieves success. The literary work follows Dr. Handie's life as a boy in the Delta, an impoverished area of rural Arkansas, and how he defied the odds and achieved the highest educational goals through faith, self-confidence and staunch support from his grandmother who raised him. Dr. Handie's story illustrates that, no matter how challenging life's obstacles, a child's dreams still can be realized with the help of unwavering love. The book is available on Amazon.com.

Radiation Safety in Nuclear Medicine

Gopal B. Saha, PhD, Emeritus Staff (DR'09), recently authored a book, *Radiation Safety in Nuclear Medicine*, published by Springer Nature. Dr Saha also wrote three more books: *Fundamentals of Nuclear Pharmacy*, 7th ed., *Physics and Radiobiology of Nuclear Medicine*, 4th ed., and *Basics of PET Imaging*, 3rd ed. Some editions have been translated into Chinese and Japanese. All are textbooks used by physicians, residents and technologists in nuclear medicine for their specialty board examination.



Two Candles, Dating Games and Land of Cotton

Angela Sréter Spencer, MD (N'04, NVS'06), has published three books, *Two Candles*, *Dating Games* and *Land of Cotton*.

Owner and CEO of Spencer Neurology Clinic in Melbourne, Florida, Dr. Spencer is a cerebrovascular neurologist, certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Born in Transylvania, Romania, and raised in Hungary, she has lived most of her adult life in the U.S. and has pursued a longtime interest in art and literature.

Two Candles, published in 2010 and reprinted in 2012, was her first published book of poems and includes illustrations by award-winning photographer Dr. Laszlo Hopp. Dr. Spencer was recognized in the *International Who's Who in Poetry* publication, and her poems were included in an anthology of best poems in 2011 and 2012.

Her second book, *Dating Games*, published in 2012, is a collection of short stories based on many interviews she conducted.

Her third book, *Land of Cotton*, published in 2015, is a suspenseful crime novel about a murder.

In addition to her writing career, Dr. Spencer is an accomplished Florida landscape artist known for her works in both acrylic and oil media. Her paintings hang in homes in seven U.S. states, as well as in British Columbia, Finland and Hungary. She also has had several art exhibitions throughout Florida.

Dr. Spencer is a resident of Bayside Lakes, Palm Bay, Florida. She can be contacted via email aspencermd@gmail.com or her website, SundaysWithAngela.com ■



At left, Charis Eng, MD, PhD, with student Alice Tzeng.

Alice Tzeng ('21) helped draft a leading-edge research proposal for BRCA-related cancer research, for which the Gray Foundation has committed \$1.6 million over five years. She did so under the mentorship of Principal Investigator Charis Eng, MD, PhD, Professor of Genetics and Genome Sciences, and Chair of the Genomic Medicine Institute. Ms. Tzeng also assisted in formulating a proposal that received \$100,000 in VeloSano pilot funding, which helped generate preliminary data that strengthened the application for the Gray Foundation award.

The project title is "Interplay and perturbations of the local microbiome and host immune system in breast cancer." Currently, more than half of breast cancer cases are unrelated to known genetic/environmental risk factors, highlighting the importance of discovering other factors that predispose an individual to breast cancer, or that promote it.

"One promising candidate is the microbiome, composed of bacteria and other microbes that coexist in our bodies, which has emerged as a major contributor to human health and disease," Ms. Tzeng says. "Our proposal aims to examine, for the first time, how local microbes and the immune system crosstalk with one another to influence breast cancer growth and progression. This work may potentially transform our understanding of breast cancer development and give rise to creative strategies for preventing, diagnosing

STUDENT ALICE TZENG HELPS SECURE GRANTS OF \$1.7 MILLION

and treating this prevalent disease."

She is the beneficiary of Dr. Eng's stepped mentorship program. Liz Shay ('20), **another of Dr. Eng's mentees**, acted as a "mini-mentor" while the proposals were drafted.

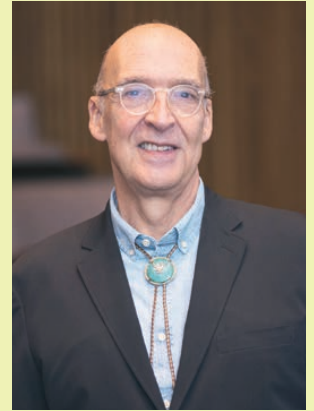
Similarly, when Ms. Shay was drafting her grant to support her research year in the Eng lab, she was mini-mentored by her predecessor medical student in the lab, **Torrey Byrd, MD, University Program** ('19). Lerner College alumni **Huan Zhang, MD** ('16), and **Hannah Wang, MD** ('17), also benefited from the stepped mentorship program. In fact, Dr. Wang helped generate vital preliminary data, published in 2017, that enabled the current Gray Foundation award.

The Eng lab grant was one of seven chosen to receive Gray Foundation funding, in part because of the collaborative partnership among Dr. Eng, an expert in human cancer genomics and computational microbiomics, and co-investigators Stephen Grobmyer, MD, Head of Cleveland Clinic's Breast Center and expert in breast cancer surgical oncology and clinical trials, and Jacob Scott, MD, DPhil, Translational Hematology and Oncology Research at Cleveland Clinic, an expert mathematician who models genomic evolution.

"I appreciate Dr. Eng's giving me the opportunity to draft these grants and am looking forward to starting on the project!" Ms. Tzeng says. ■

Alice Tzeng's proposal aims to find how local microbes and the immune system crosstalk with one another. "This work may potentially transform our understanding of breast cancer development," she says.

A Tie to the Past



Leonard H Calabrese, DO (IM'78, RH'80), had a surprise for those attending his recent Medical Grand Rounds on immunology: He sported a bolo tie that once belonged to George S. Crile, MD. Purchased at an estate sale of Dr. Crile's effects, the bolo was a special gift to Dr. Calabrese, who included slides of Dr. Crile during his Grand Rounds presentation.

Cleveland Clinic: In the News

Ex-mechanic Revs Up New Career as Emergency Medicine Physician

By Cleveland Clinic Caregiver Communications

Cars and humans are surprisingly similar, says Carl Allamby, MD.

And he should know. After spending more than two decades as the owner/operator of an auto repair business in South Euclid, the 47-year-old is now in a residency at Cleveland Clinic Akron General as an emergency medicine physician.

“Cars take in oxygen and fuel and combustion to make the engine go. That’s the same thing we do to make our bodies go. And our brains transmit information to our extremities and organ systems, in much the same way a computer and wiring control how a car works,” notes Dr. Allamby, during a break from a nine-hour shift.

There are even more parallels, he says. Dr. Allamby explains that if your car breaks down on the side of the road, you’re dependent on a tow truck driver to get you to a repair facility,

where you hope the professionals will get the job done and at a reasonable price.

“It’s the same thing in emergency medicine. People come in without a clue of what it’s going to take to feel better, and they are at the highest level of stress. I try to calm them down, get to the root source of the problem, diagnose it and give them a solution for what it’s going to take to get them going again.



Carl Allamby, MD

“In a sense, I’ve been doing the course work of emergency medicine my whole life.”

What prompted the successful proprietor of Advanced Auto Care to change course in mid-career, spend nine years pursuing management and health science degrees (while running his company), and then sell his business in 2015 to attend Northeast Ohio Medical University?

“I get that question a lot: ‘Why change careers now’,” says Dr. Allamby, one of 11 Emergency Medicine residents who began work at Akron General on July 1. “I realize my story – working in an industry for years, and then moving to another one that is even more challenging – is not typical.”

Growing up in East Cleveland, he had considered pursuing a career in some medical field. But he recalls having no role models to encourage or inspire him at the time. A lackluster high school student, he enjoyed working on cars and eventually opened his own repair shop.



From left, Kim and Dr. Carl Allamby and their daughters Kennedy and Kayla at Cleveland Clinic Akron General.

As one of a disproportionately low number of African American physicians, he knows he’s seen as a role model by patients and future generations alike.

“I try to be an inspiration for anyone who has come from a disadvantaged background,” he says. “I’m there to show people that even if the odds are stacked against you, you can potentially succeed with the right attitude and the willingness to do the hard work that needs to get done.”

And in three years, when he turns 50 and his residency ends, Dr. Allamby plans to redouble his efforts to improve lives in Northeast Ohio. “I don’t need to escape from the surroundings that have nurtured me my entire life,” he says. “I know I can do something great here, for the people I’ve known my entire life.” ■

In the News continued on page 27

Cleveland Clinic: In the News

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Alumnus Breaks New Ground with 3D-Printed Finger Bone Implant

Daniel Penello, MD (HS'10)

was featured in a Florida publication, the *Business Observer*, on Sep. 13 for helping a patient with a crushed middle finger by using a 3D-printed finger bone implant. The article, "Bone deep: Orthopedic specialists go all-in on creative solutions," by Brian Hartz, Tampa Bay Editor, tells the story of Tampa Bay area ironworker Robert Smith, who went to the St. Petersburg-based Alexander Orthopaedic Associates for treatment of his mangled finger.

Surgeon and co-owner Dr. Daniel Penello, MD, had to get creative with the treatment. The complexity of Smith's injury – which rendered his finger, with little skeletal support, virtually useless – required a special type of artificial bone implant that didn't exist.

Penello studied the problem for five months. His solution? A 3D-printed finger bone implant, made of surgical-grade metal, that would allow Smith, 38, to regain full use of his finger and hand and return to his job. The alternatives were grim: Try to live with the disfigurement by wearing a splint, or have the finger amputated.

"The patient had a unique problem, and the practice went above and beyond to create a custom solution for him," says Dr. Penello. "3D printing is what allowed us to meet his needs."

Dr. Penello successfully operated on the patient in May, and the patient planned to return to work not long thereafter.

Vladimir Alexander, MD, who founded

the practice in 2002, was quoted as saying that Dr. Penello's approach was groundbreaking for a finger procedure. ■



Daniel Penello, MD



Image of the implant inside the patient's finger and a closeup of the device, made of surgical-grade metal.



From left, Dr. Marina N. Magrey, Zaeem Lone, Ammar Lone, and Dr. Masroor Mustafa.

LIKE MOTHER AND FATHER, LIKE SON

Following in the footsteps of his parents, Marina Magrey, MD, and Masroor Mustafa, MD, (both Internal Medicine '97), Zaeem Lone recently began his first year at the Lerner College of Medicine.

He returned home to Cleveland in July after graduating from Johns Hopkins.

"Cleveland Clinic was our first family when we landed in Cleveland 25 years ago, and Zaeem was born at the Clinic while we were completing our internal medicine residency," Dr. Magrey says. "We feel confident that he will be nurtured into a compassionate physician, as we were by some of our teachers like Dr. Isaacson, Dr. Calabrese, Dr. Reem, and Dr. Mayer." ■



ALUMNI ENJOY RECEPTION IN PHILIPPINES

On Aug. 31, **Dr Vermen Verallo (D'67)** hosted a gathering of Cleveland Clinic Alumni at the Manila Polo Club in the Philippines.

Attending were: **Christine Poblete-Lopez, MD (D'06)**, Cleveland Clinic; **Jorge Garcia, MD (TCS'74)**, Washington Hospital Center, D.C., and Asian Hospital; **Maria (Leni) Iboleon Dy, (CARD'97)**, St. Luke's Medical Center; **Joy Arabelle C. Fontanilla, MD (IM'98)**, Asian Hospital; **Susan Gan Garcia, MD**, St. Luke's Medical Center; **Roger Lim, MD (CARD/S'01)**, Asian Hospital; **Dennis P. Serrano, MD (U/RT'96)**, St. Luke's Medical Center; and **Vermen M. Verallo-Rowell, MD (D'67)**, Makati Medical Center.

The group discussed extending the reach of Cleveland Clinic through greater collaboration with alumni in the Philippines, where most are affiliated with St. Luke's Medical Center, Makati Medical Center and Asian Hospital. Other topics included observerships, fellowships, teleconferencing, second-opinion and international referrals, and Cleveland Clinic updates. ■

ENDOWMENTS OFFER ENDURING SUPPORT

Continued from page 13

attracting strong, vital talent to Cleveland Clinic and expanding our mission of patient care, research and education.

The value of an endowment to Cleveland Clinic lies in its permanence. While providing a stream of discretionary income, the invested funds also grow over time to protect the fund against future financial challenges and to sustain the income stream for the long term. These funds provide support across the institution for leading-edge research, education of medical professionals, and enhancing the care of patients in Northeast Ohio and around the world.

Many unique opportunities are made possible by endowed support:

Chairs – Endowed chairs provide a permanent annual source of income enabling a chair holder to pursue innovative programs and efforts.

Fellowships – Endowed fellowships are often used to help recruit and retain young talent and create training and research opportunities.

Lectureships – Endowed lecture funds bring visiting

professors or lecturers to share their unique perspective and knowledge.

Research and Education – Endowed funds can be designated to support individuals demonstrating exceptional abilities in research and education. Endowed scholarships support medical students attending the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

Departmental Funds – Endowed departmental funds support initiatives and priorities of a designated department and provide funding that otherwise would be unavailable.

Minimum gift amounts apply when creating these various types of endowments because the permanent funds must generate enough continuing financial support to maintain the associated program. However, you may contribute to an existing endowment at any level with a planned or cash gift to make a lasting impact. To ensure that the goal of your gift is met, you may include a provision in your estate plan to complete your pledge or your gift if it is not fulfilled during your lifetime. ■

VeloSano Kids Trike & Bike Supports Cancer Research

In 2019, more than 1,000 children ages 3-12 in eight Northeast Ohio communities rode to raise over \$175,000 for pediatric cancer research at Cleveland Clinic Children's. Each participant received a personal fundraising page for posting updates and photos. At the end of each event, riders were awarded with a ticket to Cedar Point amusement park, courtesy of the presenting sponsor.

Communities hosting rides included: Bay Village, Shaker Heights, Hudson, Rocky River, Mentor, Chagrin Falls, North Ridgeville, and Strongsville. More cities will be added in 2020 – please log onto velosano.org/trikeandbike for more information or to register a child today!

VELOSANO
Bike to cure.



FDA Approves 3D-printed Airway Stents Developed by Cleveland Clinic Doctor

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cleared patient-specific airway stents developed by Cleveland Clinic physician Tom Gildea, MD, (PULMCC'03).

The stents are used to keep open the airways of patients with serious breathing disorders, such as those caused by tumors, inflammation, trauma or other masses. Until now, the patient-specific devices were being implanted under FDA's compassionate use program, which allows patients who have failed all available forms of treatment to receive investigational ones not yet available to the public.

Standard airway stents come in a limited number of sizes and shapes and generally are designed for larger airways. However, no two patient anatomies are alike, making it difficult to get a perfect fit, especially for those with complex conditions. Even in parts of the airways that are easily accessible, ill-fitting standard stents can result in stent kinking and bending, as well as airway complications such as growth of new tissue, mucus impaction and tissue death.

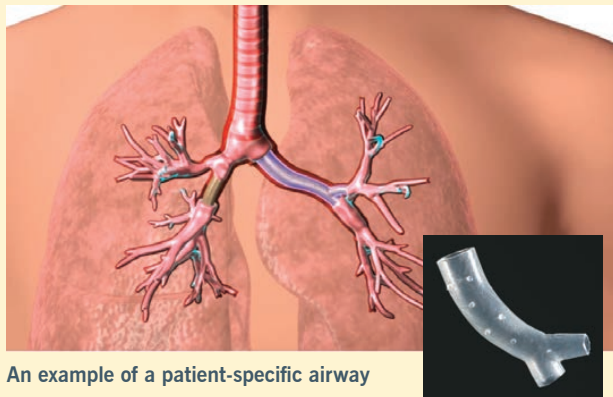
The patient-specific stents developed by Dr. Gildea and his engineering team are designed using CT scans and proprietary 3D visualization software. The molds for the stents are then printed using a 3D printer and injected with medical-grade silicone. This process allows them to perfectly fit a patient's anatomy.

"Breathing is something many people take for granted, but for many of these patients, every breath can be a struggle. It's been gratifying to see patients receiving the customized stents feeling relief right away," said Dr. Gildea, Section Head of Bronchoscopy at Cleveland Clinic. "We are excited to be able to bring this technology to more patients across the country and grateful for the patients and donors who have worked with us to help pioneer this technology."

Another advantage of the patient-specific silicone stents is they have the potential to be more tolerable than traditional silicone stents, which, in certain patients, may have to be changed frequently or cleaned due to problems from a poor fit. In studies, the patient-specific stents lasted, on average, about a year, versus 90 days for stock stents. Furthermore, the patient-specific stents exhibited shorter procedure times and improved patient-reported symptoms, leading to a reduced need for stent changes and modifications.

With personalized medical devices more common in orthopaedics, the patient-specific stent was developed and FDA-cleared by an engineering team inside an orthopaedic-focused Cleveland Clinic subsidiary. A new subsidiary named VisionAir Solutions will be formed around the technology, with the sole mission of bringing more personalized medical devices to interventional pulmonologists and the patients who need them. By the end of the first quarter of 2020, this new spinoff company plans to begin providing the personalized stents to patients in a controlled launch at many of the country's top medical institutions.

Dr. Gildea is an inventor of this technology that is being manufactured by a Cleveland Clinic spin-off company. Dr. Gildea and Cleveland Clinic may benefit financially if the technology is successful. ■



An example of a patient-specific airway stent developed at Cleveland Clinic.

\$261 MILLION GIFT

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College of Medicine's unique approach of integrating basic science, research and clinical medicine to train not just physicians but physician-scientists.

"Cleveland Clinic cares for patients by discovering tomorrow's treatments and educating future caregivers," said James Young, MD, Cleveland Clinic's Chief Academic Officer. "We are extremely grateful for the Lord Foundation of Ohio's generosity and deep commitment through the years, based on a shared belief that innovation and ingenuity can solve the world's biggest problems."

LORD Corporation – founded in Erie, Pennsylvania and now based in Cary, North Carolina – grew to sales of more than \$1 billion in 2018, and was just purchased by Parker-Hannifin Corporation for \$3.675 billion, triggering the distribution of the proceeds to the four institutions.

The distribution of more than \$1 billion from the four foundations to their respective institutions is believed to be one of the largest single contributions of its kind for science and technology education and research. Cleveland Clinic, Duke, MIT and USC will determine the use of the funds on their respective campuses. ■

contacts

Basem Abdelmalak, MD (AN'00 CC'01), was installed as the 35th president of the Society for AMBulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA) at its annual meeting, which took place in Austin in May. SAMBA aims at leading and advancing anesthesia care for outpatient, office-based, and non-operating room (endoscopy, IR, bronchoscopy, etc.) procedures nationally and worldwide.

Benjamin Abelson, MD (CCLCM'14), a Urology resident, recently won Cleveland Clinic's Bruce Hubbard Stewart Award for Humanistic Medicine. This award recognizes physicians who combine scientific skills, compassion and sensitivity toward patients. It was established in memory of Dr. Stewart, who was on the staff of the Department of Urology for many years and later served as Chairman of the Division of Surgery.

Jame Abraham, MD (Staff'13), has been appointed Chair of the Hematology/Medical Oncology Department. Dr. Abraham has served as the Director of the Breast Oncology Program at Taussig Cancer Institute and Co-Director of the Cleveland Clinic Comprehensive Breast Cancer Program. He also is a professor of medicine at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

Jay Alberts, PhD (Staff'05), received a three-year, \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense for the Troop READY project, a collaboration between Dr. Alberts and military experts to test a combat version of the Microsoft HoloLens-augmented reality system for measuring return-to-duty readiness.

Mohammad Azhar Aziz, PhD (RES/CB'10), received the Researcher Award for the Basic Research Track of the 11th Ministry of National Guard – Health Affairs Annual Research Award in 2018. Dr. Aziz is a Team Leader for the Colorectal Cancer Research Program and a Research Scientist/Principal Investigator at King Abdullah International Medical Research Center, King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, and King Abdulaziz Medical City. He was a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Cancer Biology from 2008 to 2010, working with the late Dr. Janet Houghton.

Virginia (Dee) Banks, MD, MBA, FIDSA, (IM'75), received The Watanakunakorn Clinician Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America during IDWeek 2019. The award honors the memory of Dr. Chatrchai Watanakunakorn and goes to an IDSA member or fellow in recognition of outstanding achievement in the clinical practice of infectious diseases. An infectious diseases physician with Northeast Ohio Infectious Disease Associates in Youngstown, Ohio, Dr. Banks was honored for providing national leadership and innovative solutions for infection control in hospitals and providing expertise in HIV treatment and prevention, influenza, immunization, and hepatitis C as a partner with the National Medical Association, the nation's largest and oldest organization representing African American physicians and their patients.

Francois Bethoux, MD (N/I'01), has been appointed Chair of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation



Dr. Roffi Chairs Cardiology Congress

Marco Roffi, MD (CARDIN'01), with Prof. Silvia Priori of Pavia, Italy, is the chairperson of the European Society of Cardiology's annual congress for the edition 2019 (Paris) and 2020 (Amsterdam). "This is the world's largest gathering in the cardiovascular field in terms of number of attendees," Dr. Roffi says. "This year in Paris, we achieved an all-time record with over 33 500 participants."

The European Society of Cardiology is a volunteer-led, nonprofit medical society whose members and decision-makers are scientists, clinicians, nurses and allied professionals in all fields of cardiology. The organization unites national cardiac societies from around the world in order to understand the impact of cardiovascular disease and how to better reduce its burden.

Dr. Roffi is Full Professor and Vice-Chairman of Cardiology, as well as Director of the Interventional Cardiology Unit, at Geneva University Hospital in Switzerland.

Department. Dr. Bethoux has served as the Director of Rehabilitation Services at the Cleveland Clinic Mellen Center. He also is Medical Director of the Arts and Medicine Institute and professor of medicine at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

Gail Cresci, PhD, RD, LD, CNSC (Staff'10), Cleveland Clinic Children's, Lerner Research and Digestive Diseases and Surgery Institute, was selected as Vice President for the

American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition.

Srinivasan Dasarathy, MD (Staff'06), received a five-year, \$2.2 million renewal of a collaborative U01 grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis Clinical Research Network, the goal of which is to identify the course of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and develop new therapies for adults and children.

contacts

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Charis Eng, MD, PhD (Staff'05), Lerner Research Institute, was named a "world expert" and a top three scholarly author on the topic of hereditary neoplastic syndromes by Expertscape, a medical search service for consumers. In September, Dr. Eng also hosted Cleveland Clinic's 7th Annual Genetics Education Symposium, "Genetics and Genomics: Neurogenetics Across the Lifespan."

K.V. Gopal (Gopalakrishna), MD, (Staff'76) was named the American College of Physicians Ohio 2019 Laureate Award Winner. Dr. Gopal serves as the Chair of the Department of Medicine and the Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Fairview Hospital. He also is a clinical professor of medicine with the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

Stanley Hazen, MD, PhD (Staff'97), was awarded a five-year, \$12.1 million P01 (program project grant) from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for Gut Microbiota and Cardiometabolic Diseases. Each integrated project within this

program explores the complex interactions between distinct gut microbiota-dependent pathways and host physiological processes critical to cardiometabolic diseases. Co-investigators of this programmatic grant include **Zeneng Wang, PhD, (RES/CE'08)**; **Adeline Hajjar, PhD (Staff'18)**; and **Jonathan Mark Brown, PhD, (LRCBH'15)**, all of the Lerner Research Institute, and Michael Fischbach, PhD, of Stanford University.

Caitlin Hicks, MD, MS (CCLCM'12), Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, was the lead author on a paper, published in *JAMA Surgery*, that reveals the risky use of a less-preferred method of creating vascular access in long-term hemodialysis patients.

"The good news from our survey data is that progress has been made in the last decade toward reducing the number of inappropriate vascular access surgeries performed in the United States," Dr. Hicks told *NewsWire*.

Dr. Hicks and her co-authors believe that a peer-to-peer initiative to educate and urge a change in protocol may influence those physicians who are still using the riskier procedure. (Read "Study: One-Fifth Of U.S. Surgeons Still 'Overusing' Riskier Procedure to Create Kidney Dialysis Access.")

William Kiser, MD (U'90), former **Cleveland Clinic Chief Executive Officer**, and his wife, Jean, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on May 1. They marked the milestone with a Mass at St. Dominic Church in Shaker Heights followed by a reception at their home.

Richard Macchia, MD (Staff'14), is celebrating two milestones this year: completing 10 years at Cleveland Clinic Florida and 50 years in the practice of medicine.

Jose Castillo-Mancilla, MD (ID'05), associate professor of Medicine-Infectious Disease at the University of Colorado-Denver, was appointed an associate editor of *Open Forum Infectious Diseases*, a publication

of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA). His area of focus is HIV clinical research and general infectious diseases. Dr. Castillo-Mancilla also received the University of Colorado-Denver Rising Star Award in 2016.

Daniel Martin, MD (Staff'08), **Arun Singh, MD (Staff'03)**, and **Elias Traboulsi, MD (Staff'97)**, each received the American Academy of Ophthalmology Life Achievement Honor Award. This award symbolizes their longstanding commitment to advancing the profession and positively impacting patients' eye health.

Peter J. Mazzone, MD, MPH, FCCP (IM'97, PULMCC'01) staff and Director of the Lung Cancer Program and Lung Screening Program in Cleveland Clinic's Respiratory Institute, recently was named editor-in-chief of the prestigious pulmonary medicine journal, *CHEST*.

The publication's vision, like the American College of Chest Physicians, is to provide clinically relevant

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Gerald A. Hoeltge, MD, FCAP (LMED'75), at right in the accompanying photo, received the 2019 CAP Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his long history of exceptional service in many areas of the organization. The award recognizes College of American Pathologists members who make episodic, sustained or cumulative contributions to the practice of pathology and to CAP that set the nominees apart from their peers. Dr. Hoeltge has served as a CAP laboratory accreditation inspector, Ohio state commissioner, deputy regional commissioner for the Great Lakes region, and regional commissioner for the same area. He also served on several scientific resource committees. Currently, he is the editor for the *Laboratory Accreditation Manual* revision project. Dr. Hoeltge is retired from the Robert J. Tomsich Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Institute at Cleveland Clinic.

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2019 Annual Staff Celebration Award Recipients

Nydia Martinez Galvis, MD, (Staff'12) and **Adrian Zachary, DO, (Staff'03)** received the 2019 Bruce Hubbard Stewart Award at the Annual Staff Celebration. The award honors clinicians who manifest compassion, professionalism, integrity and respect for the emotional and intellectual needs of patients. Winners of the Maria and Sam Miller Professional Excellence Awards, which acknowledge the dedication, innovation and quality of caregivers, included:

- Scientific Achievement - Clinical Research: **Alok Khorana, MD (Staff'13)**
- Scientific Achievement - Basic Science: **Nima Sharifi, MD (Staff'13)**
- Master Educator: **Camille Sabella, MD (Staff'95)**
- Master Clinician: **Alan Lichtin, MD (Staff'88)**

research and patient management guidance to pulmonary medicine physicians worldwide. "It's certainly an honor and privilege to be given the opportunity to help support and guide that vision," Dr. Mazzone says.

He says his goal is to provide content for readers that can easily be translated into clinical practice, which means prioritizing the highest quality research. Dr. Mazzone has been a member of CHEST since 1999 and served in a number of leadership positions within the organization. His inaugural issue as editor-in-chief was published in July 2019.

Nagy Mekhail, MD, PhD (AN'92), professor at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, received the American Society of Regional Anesthesia and Pain Medicine 2019 John J. Bonica Award. The award, presented on



Nagy Mekhail, MD

Nov. 16, in conjunction with the 18th Annual Pain Medicine Meeting in New Orleans, honors those who embody the ideals of Dr. Bonica and his passion for pain medicine, as seen in their contributions to research, teaching and clinical practice.

Dr. Mekhail also is Director of Evidence-Based Pain Medicine Research and Education in Cleveland Clinic's Department of Pain Management and formerly was Director and Chair of the Department of Pain Management from 1997-2010.

Thomas Mroz, MD (Staff'04), has been appointed Chair of the Orthopaedic & Rheumatologic Institute, effective Jan. 10. He currently is Director of the Center for Spine Health and Director of Spine Research in the Center. He joined the Cleveland Clinic staff in 2004.

Laura Nagy, PhD (Staff'06), Department of Inflammation & Immunity, Lerner Research Institute, was named a 2020 Honorary Member of the Society of Toxicology. This is the organization's most prestigious award for outstanding and sustained achievements in advancing health through the science of toxicology and allied health sciences.

A collaborative team including leaders **Steven Nissen, MD, (Staff'92)**, **Ali Aminian, MD (BMIR'01)**, and **Michael Kattan, PhD (Staff'04)**, have developed a new medical calculator to estimate the risk of diabetes complications after weight loss surgery. The calculator will be accessible on the Cleveland Clinic Risk Calculator Library website and as a smartphone application (BariatricCalc).

Steven Schmitt, MD (IM'91, ID'94), a staff physician in Cleveland Clinic's Department of Infectious Disease, received The Society Citation Award from the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) during IDWeek. The award is given in recognition of exemplary contributions to IDSA, outstanding discovery in the field of infectious diseases, or a lifetime of outstanding achievement in a given area — whether research, clinical investigation or clinical practice.

The IDSA recognized Dr. Schmitt as "a leading voice for the appropriate recognition of the value of the infectious diseases specialist." He was lauded for representing IDSA with several key advisory committees of the American Medical Association over the past decade, and for leading efforts that resulted in two seminal publications in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* in 2014 and 2019. "The two studies have formed the backbone of efforts to demonstrate the value of ID physicians to the systems where they practice."

Rishi Singh, MD (OPH'07), Cole Eye Institute, was awarded a grant by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Research to Prevent Blindness. The award for IRIS® Registry Research supports researchers who want to conduct big data research in ophthalmology and blindness prevention. Dr. Singh will use IRIS Registry data to better understand differences in the selection and frequency of diabetic macular edema treatment among patients of different races, socioeconomic status and education levels, as well as how visual outcomes differ among those groups.

Elias S. Siraj, MD, FACP, FACE (IM'99, END'01), became Associate Dean for Clinical Research at Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, Virginia, in December 2018. This is in addition to his responsibilities as Professor and Chief, Division of Endocrinology; Director of the Strelitz Diabetes Center; and The David L. Bernd Distinguished Chair for the EVMS- Sentara Cardiovascular and

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Diabetes Program, positions he has held since 2016.

After his residency and fellowship, he was a junior faculty member in Cleveland Clinic's Department of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism, from 2001 to 2006. From 2006 to 2016, he was on staff at Temple University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, section of Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism.

Abby Spencer, MD, MS (Staff'14), was elected to the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine Committee on Medical Education and Committee on Women and Minority Faculty.

George Stark, PhD (Staff'92), Department of Cancer Biology, Lerner Research Institute, was honored with the 2019 Steven C. Beering Award. The prestigious award recognizes internationally regarded scientists for their contributions to the advancement of biomedical or clinical science. Dr. Stark is the 37th recipient of the annual award, which was first presented in 1983 and comes with a medal and \$25,000.

David Streem, MD (P'99), has been named Chair of the Northeast Ohio Hospital Opioid Consortium, a group of healthcare organizations working to mitigate the opioid crisis through education, medication-assisted treatment and expanded distribution of Naloxone. He will lead development and alignment of initiatives to impact the opiate epidemic throughout Northeast Ohio health systems.

Ken Tomecki, MD (Staff'80), recently was elected President of the American Academy of Dermatology, the world's largest dermatology society representing more than 20,000 physicians. He becomes President-elect at the 2020 Annual Meeting in Denver and then President at the 2021 Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

John Vargo, MD, MPH (GI '90), was appointed President of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy in May. Dr. Vargo is the Director of Enterprise Endoscopy Operations and Director of Endoscopic Research and Innovation in Cleveland Clinic's Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition. He also is Head of the Section of Advanced Endoscopy and Chair Emeritus of the Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

Emily E. Volk, MD, MBA, FCAP (ACLP'98), was elected by the Fellows of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) as President-elect. Dr. Volk assumed her role Sept. 21 at the CAP19 annual meeting in Orlando, Florida. She will continue to serve on the organization's Board of Governors and take additional leadership roles preceding the start of her presidency in the fall of 2021.

Dr. Volk — assistant professor of pathology at the University of Texas-Health, San Antonio, and senior vice-president of clinical



Emily Volk, MD

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services at University Health System in San Antonio, Texas — has served on the CAP's Board of Governors since 2013 and has been an active member of the organization for more than 20 years.



Dr. Waters receives ACOS award

Daniel J. Waters, DO, MA, (CS 1989), was named the 2019 recipient of the Charles L. Ballinger Distinguished Osteopathic Surgeon Award by the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons (ACOS). He accepted the award at the College's Annual Ceremonial Conclave in Colorado Springs in October.

The distinction recognizes outstanding career achievements in surgery, education and leadership and has been awarded annually since 1972. Dr. Waters retired from cardiac surgical practice in April, 30 years after completing his fellowship at Cleveland Clinic. He headed the Department of Cardiac Surgery at MercyOne North

Iowa Hospital in Mason City, Iowa for nearly 30 years. He also served as Director of Medical Education for two decades.

"I did make special mention of CCF in my acceptance remarks, particularly Drs. (Fred) Loop and (Toby) Cosgrove, not just as surgical mentors but as examples of dynamic physician leaders I tried to emulate," he says. "My career owes a lot to CCF, its surgeons and its culture."

Dr. Waters has published numerous scientific articles, essays and stories, including two JAMA essays included in hardback book collections of the journal's best medical writings. He earned a Graduate Certificate in Narrative Healthcare from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Asheville, North Carolina, followed by an M.A. in Writing in 2018. Recently, he published three novels, *Surf City Confidential*, *Ship Bottom Blues* and *Threshold*.

Lawrence M. Wyner, MD, (U/RT'91), received the 2018 Earl F. Nation Retrospectroscope Award from the American Urological Association for excellence in the study of urologic history. His work was featured in the April 2, 2019, issue of *JAMA*. Dr. Wyner is a professor in the Department of Urology at Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine in Huntington, West Virginia.

in memoriam

Roger Francis Classen, DO

(Staff '15), age 74, of Chagrin Falls, Ohio and Boca Raton, Florida, passed away on Oct. 6. Born to the late Mary and Theodore Classen, DO, Dr. Classen followed in his father's footsteps and graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1972. His vocation was to be a healer in all aspects of his life, caring for his patients as if they were his own family. His father founded Brentwood Hospital, the forerunner of South Pointe Hospital, a Cleveland Clinic Hospital, where Dr. Classen also established a legacy.

Dr. Classen is survived by his wife of almost 40 years, Debra (nee Schweitzer), children Travis, of Cleveland, Tegan Zima (husband Will) of Boca Raton, Florida, and Tiffany O'Donnell (husband Sean) of Morristown, New Jersey; grandchildren, siblings, nieces and nephews. He enjoyed spending time with his family, including sailing and fishing with his grandchildren, Dylan, Rowan, River and Elleyna.

Earl Fleegler, MD (Staff '78), a world-renowned hand surgeon and resident of Plymouth, Massachusetts, died on Aug. 3 at age 79, surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Cetlin, son Eric, daughter-in-law Marisa, brother Harvey, and three grandchildren. He is predeceased by his first wife, Kathy, and son Michael.

He was born in Philadelphia on Oct. 29, 1939, to Harry and Florence Fleegler. He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in 1961 with a degree in biology and earned his medical degree at Jefferson Medical

College in 1965. He trained in general surgery at Temple University, had a fellowship in plastic surgery at Allegheny General Hospital, and then did further training in hand surgery in Arizona.

Dr. Fleegler practiced in Cleveland from 1973 to 1995, first in private practice and then at Cleveland Clinic, where he was the Division Chief of hand surgery. In 1995, he and Kathy moved to Ambler, Pennsylvania, where he continued in private practice and as a professor and faculty member of the Department of Surgery at Rutgers University in Virginia. He was widely known for treating hand tumors, performing complex hand surgery and editing the book *Tumors of the Hand and Upper Limb*. He also wrote journal articles and book chapters on hand surgery and taught several generations of plastic surgery residents. He retired in 2014.

Edward D. Frohlich, MD (Staff '64), 87, internationally recognized for his investigative work in clinical and experimental hypertension for which he received numerous awards, passed away on Aug. 16 in New Orleans. He was born Sept. 10, 1931, in New



Edward D. Frohlich, MD

York to William and May Frohlich. In addition to his wife, Sherry, whom he married in 1959, Dr. Frohlich is survived by three children, Margie, Bruce and Lara, and their spouses, three grandchildren and a brother.

He graduated from Washington and Jefferson College, the University of Maryland Medical School, and Northwestern University in Chicago and served in the U.S. Army Medical Research Laboratory in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Dr. Frohlich was the Alton Ochsner Distinguished Scientist at the Ochsner Clinic Foundation and staff member of the Ochsner Clinic. He was committed to practicing medicine, teaching and mentoring, professional medical writing and serving his elected professional societies. He served on the editorial boards of numerous peer reviewed journals and as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Medical-Clinical Research* and *The Journal of Hypertension* (the latter, a prominent journal of the American Heart Association). His research publications focused on the hemodynamic mechanisms underlying hypertension and its treatment. He authored more than 1,100 peer reviewed scientific papers, chapters, editorials, and textbooks, including *Pathophysiology: Altered Regulatory Mechanisms in Disease*.

Sigismund L Harder, MD (IM'61), 94, died on Aug. 16 in Melbourne, Florida. He is survived by his wife of more than 60 years, Alexandra, his daughter and son, Elizabeth Christensen and Thomas Harder, and their spouses, stepson Wolfgang Boehm of Regensburg, Germany, a sister and four grandchildren.

Dr. Harder emigrated to the U.S. from Germany in 1956 to complete his medical training at Cleveland Clinic. He obtained his U.S. citizenship in

1961 and a year later began his career in internal medicine at the Holzer Clinic in Gallipolis, where he practiced from 1962 until retiring in 1997. He and his wife lived in Gallipolis until late 2015, when they moved to Melbourne. In addition to practicing medicine, he was a talented musician and an avid runner, sailor and hiker.

Joel B. Holland, MD (CARD/I'00), 67, died on Sept. 20. He is survived by his wife of over 30 years, Laura, sons Jeffrey and Matthew, and many close family members. Dr. Holland was born in New York City and earned undergraduate and medical degrees from the University of Rochester, where he graduated at the top of his classes. Following a residency in Chicago, he moved to Cleveland, where his career spanned over 35 years, the last 17 of which were as a cardiologist at Cleveland Clinic.

Dr. Holland's accomplishments include appointments as Co-Chief of Cardiology at Mount Sinai Hospital, Associate Chief of Cardiology at University Hospitals and associate professor of medicine at Case Western Reserve University. He was a longtime member of the Board of Trustees of the American Heart Association of Northeast Ohio and a fellow of the American College of Cardiology. In April, he joined the staff of St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn, New York, and his family moved to Huntington, New York.

Dr. Holland enjoyed tennis, skiing, following the Cleveland Indians and Cavs, and bonding with his dog, Buddy.

Continued on page 35

in memoriam

Continued from page 34

Carl F. Kupferer, DO, FACOI (PULMCC'75), passed away on Aug. 15 at age 76.

Throughout his career as a pulmonologist/internist in St. Louis, Missouri, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, he was dedicated to patient care.

Dr. Kupferer is survived by his wife, Suzanne, children, Cindy Dodge, Andrea Boyle, Amy Hinnerichs, Burke Webster, Whitney Barnhart, and Zak Kupferer and their spouses; 10 grandchildren and a brother.

Jafar Mobasseri, MD (DR'71), of Hunting Valley, Ohio, a radiologist at Hillcrest Hospital for nearly 25 years, peacefully passed away at the age of 81 on Dec. 10, 2019, at Hillcrest Hospital.

Dr. Mobasseri, who pioneered one of the early catheters for peripheral interventions and angioplasties, started his surgical, then radiology, residency at Cleveland Clinic in 1966. He practiced radiology from 1973 to 1996 at Hillcrest Hospital, where he held positions including Head of Special Procedures, Assistant Director of Radiology, and Director of the Division of Radiology.

Dr. Mobasseri was born on May 7, 1938, in Shiraz, Iran, to Morvaread and Husayn Mobasseri and was the second eldest of eight children. After graduating from the Palavi University medical school in Shiraz in 1966, he emigrated to the United States to start his residency at Cleveland Clinic.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Keyhan, and children Sara Egoavil (Cesar), John (Julia Kopronica),



Kevin (Rebecca Backus), and six grandchildren. The family suggests that contributions in his memory be made to Cleveland Clinic Alzheimer's Research. Gifts can be sent to The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, P.O. Box 931517, Cleveland, Ohio, 44193-1655, or made online at clevelandclinic.org/giving.

Robert P. Riley MD (IM'63), passed away on July 5 at age 89. His wife of 60 years, Coletta (nee O'Brien), predeceased him. He is survived by Robert F., Eileen Brady, Nancy McBride, Peter M. and their spouses, and Thomas J., 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was known for his commitment to his profession, his patients and his family.

Dr. Riley was born in Cleveland, and after graduating from St. Ignatius High School and earning his undergraduate and medical school degrees at Saint Louis University in

Missouri, he returned to Cleveland to start a surgical residency. This was interrupted when he was drafted into the U.S. Navy, where he was the surgeon on the USS Essex aircraft carrier until 1957. He returned to Cleveland and started his general practice, going on to complete his training in internal medicine and nephrology at Cleveland Clinic. Dr. Riley was a founding member of the Kidney Foundation and pioneered the use of the artificial kidney dialysis machine on the west side of Cleveland.

Admired for his compassionate patient care, Dr. Riley was awarded the "Pillar of Medicine" in 2006 by Cleveland Clinic. A medical practitioner for 50 years, he was on staff at Lakewood Hospital, Fairview General Hospital and St. John's Hospital. In his free time, he played the piano, sailed, golfed and was an avid reader and gardener.

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.

Tanya Tekautz, MD (Staff'06), a pediatric neuro-oncologist, died on Dec. 9, at the age of 51. In 2006, Dr. Tekautz began her career at Cleveland Clinic as Director of the Pediatric and Young Adult Brain Tumor Program in the Taussig Cancer Center, a role she served in for 13 years. Prior to coming to Cleveland Clinic, she was a member of the neuro-oncology staff at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, where she completed several fellowships as part of her medical training. Her work was published widely in professional journals as she advanced the field of pediatric cancer research.

James Vern Zelch, MD (S'70, DR'72), of Solon, Ohio, passed away in October. He is survived by his wife, Doreene, children, Nancy Westrich, Mark (Andrea), and Ryan Schmidt, grandchildren and siblings.



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The Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association offers a wide range of benefits and services to members. By connecting with the Association, you can stay in touch with opportunities for professional growth. Learn more at ClevelandClinic.org/AlumniBenefits

GOOD NUMBERS TO KNOW

Alumni Office

216.444.2487

800.444.3664
(24/7 voice mail)

Referring Physicians Hotline

855.Refer123

855.733.3712

Global Patient Services

National (out of state)

216.445.5580

International

001.216.444.8184

Critical Care Transport Worldwide

866.442.5092

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e-mail alumni@ccf.org | website: clevelandclinic.org/alumni

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