

ALUMNI CONNECTION

A PUBLICATION FOR MEDICAL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



For everything you do.
We Thank You.

—The Alumni Association

**CLASS OF 2020
CELEBRATES MATCH DAY** pg 4

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A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear Alumni,

Welcome to our redesigned *Alumni Connection*! The Alumni Relations team and I hope that you will enjoy the new look, aimed at making the publication easy to navigate. (Please note that some photos, without masks, were taken before March 1, 2020.)

In this issue, we highlight Cleveland Clinic's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and our Alumni Awards. We also report on our Lerner College of Medicine graduates' highly successful Match Day results. (Please see pages 8-11, 7, and 4-6.)

Of course, the news dominating all of our personal and professional lives for many months now concerns the coronavirus pandemic. I am proud of, and amazed by, Cleveland Clinic's powerful and proactive response, including converting the atrium of our new Health Education Campus into the 1,000-bed Hope Hospital in only three short weeks, a massive team effort. (Please see page 11.)

Because of the early actions of Ohio's Governor Mike DeWine, and his collaboration with experts including Cleveland Clinic CEO and President Tom Mihaljevic, MD, we have seen far fewer patients with COVID-19 in our hospital system than originally anticipated. In fact, Cleveland Clinic sent a medical team to assist overwhelmed hospitals in other locations. This, too, shows the cooperative spirit of our Cleveland Clinic family. (Please see pages 8-9.)

Our Centennial plans are fluid right now because of the pandemic. We will update you when we know more.

And one final note: We, the Alumni Association, could not be prouder of our alumni than we are right now. We honor you for your dedication, skill, compassion, and personal sacrifice during this global pandemic. We teach many things at Cleveland Clinic, but heroism arises only from within. Thank you for all that you do, and please stay safe.

Sincerely,

Dale Shepard, MD, PhD

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ON THE COVER

The Alumni Association thanks each and every one of you for your service during this global pandemic. Our cover illustration is based on a T-shirt design that honors caregivers and expresses our thoughts well: "There is a Hero in All of Us." (Please see page 6 for more details about the shirt.)



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Cleveland Clinic sent medical teams to other hospitals caring for COVID-19 patients. Learn where they went and the personal experience of one team member, alumnus Pravin George, DO. See how the Health Education Campus' main building was transformed into Hope Hospital, and read comments by Dr. Mihaljevic on the pandemic.

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MATCH DAY: Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine

On March 20, like medical students across the nation, CCLCM students celebrated Match Day, an annual event when graduates learn where they will go for their residencies. This year's Match Day was unique because of the pandemic. The gathering at the CWRU Tinkham Veale University Center was quieter and calmer. Faculty members spoke from Tinkham Veale or their own homes. Students gathered with their families, in small groups, or waited at their computers for an email revealing their results. However, students and their loved ones still celebrated. Faculty members felt overwhelming pride. People connected. The coronavirus couldn't take that away. —From *Insight/Lerner College of Medicine*

Class of 2020



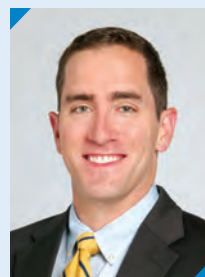
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University of Maryland-Mercy Medical Center
INTERNAL MEDICINE
Johns Hopkins Hospital
ANESTHESIOLOGY



Lestella Bivens

University of Chicago Medical Center
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OTOLARYNGOLOGY

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(Sherry) Sheikh**
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GENERAL SURGERY



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Vanderbilt University
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Emily Zhang
Cleveland Clinic
OTOLARYNGOLOGY



Jessica Zhang
UCLA Medical Center
INTERNAL MEDICINE

**Congratulations,
Class of 2020!**

Alumni Association Celebrates House Staff Officers, Trainees



The Alumni Association showed its appreciation of Cleveland Clinic's House Staff Association and medical trainees during Resident Appreciation Week in April by giving "There is a Hero in All of Us" T-shirts to the 16 house officers and Panera gift cards to the 1,300 trainees. Half of all proceeds from sales of these shirts, which were created by GV Art and Design, benefit caregiver support funds at both Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals.



Cleveland Clinic sponsors one of the nation's largest graduate medical education programs, with 108 training programs approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and 92 special fellowship programs. ■

Cardiology Fellow Receives Michener Award for Educational Podcast



1st photo: Cardiac amyloid discussion: Daniel Ambinder and Jackie Zimmerman (top left), Carine Hamo (top right), Heather Kagan and Yuxuan Wang (bottom panels), Amit Goyal (middle). **2nd photo:** The first CardioNerds recording. From left, Daniel Ambinder, Heather Kagan, Amit Goyal. (Photo taken prior to March 1, 2020.)

Cleveland Clinic cardiology fellow Amit Goyal, MD, has a story to tell. Actually, he has quite a few—as do colleagues and listeners around the world, who share them through his CardioNerds Podcast.

For this innovative medical education podcast, Dr. Goyal was named the 2020 recipient of the Dr. William and Roxanna Michener Award for the Development of Leadership in Medical Humanities and the Arts. The award support helps him develop and expand the podcast, launched in January, with his co-hosts at Johns Hopkins, cardiology fellows Carine E. Hamo, MD, Daniel Ambinder, MD, and resident Heather Kagan, MD. Dr. Goyal was chief resident at Johns Hopkins before coming to Cleveland Clinic for his fellowship.

“I am so fortunate and honored to receive the Michener Award,” Dr. Goyal says. “It opens the doors in many ways.”

The podcast helps listeners stay current in cardiovascular medicine. Along with an online medical education platform, it takes beginners to an advanced level and advanced listeners back to basics. Each podcast centers on one topic, followed by adjunct episodes with experts. “We seek to humanize the field of cardiology with easy-to-follow discussions, professional diversity, and a jovial

atmosphere,” Dr. Goyal says.

Every episode ends with “What Makes My Heart Flutter,” in which a listener shares a recent success story. “Given the unacceptably high rate of burnout in medicine, we believe that giving voice to each other’s successes—clinical or nonclinical—is important,” he says.

“Flutter moments” have included work-life balance, obtaining free medication for a patient, and the joys of seeing a patient through a successful heart transplant.

“We aim to make this show inclusive and promote diversity by attempting to achieve a gender balance of voices on the show,” he says. “We believe that hearing leading women cardiologists could help inspire a generation of learners into a field that traditionally has been less attractive for women.”

The Michener Award helps offset the cost of production, promotion and archiving the podcasts, Dr. Goyal says.

“We are grateful to Dr. Reza Manesh at Johns Hopkins for his encouragement and support in getting us started. I thank David Nemer, my cardiology co-fellow at Cleveland Clinic, for giving me the idea to apply for the award, and, from the bottom of my heart, I thank the Alumni Association,” Dr. Goyal says. “Their support makes our hearts flutter.” ■

RESIDENT Kavya Kommaraju, MD, Receives GL-1 Award



The Alumni Association congratulates Kavya Kommaraju, MD (PGY-1, Internal Medicine) on becoming the 33rd annual GL-1 Award Recipient. The award, established in 1987, recognizes excellence.

Dr. Kommaraju was an intern on the inpatient Cardiology service of Cleveland Clinic staff member and alumnus Ann Gage, MD, (CARD’17, CCM’18), who praised her maturity, efficiency, interpersonal skills and knowledge. She also wrote, “She excels at providing clear plans and appropriate levels of information for patients and their families. She demonstrated a sophisticated knowledge of the physiology at hand and was able to communicate this at an appropriate level. To do this requires both excellent socialization and superb intelligence.”

Dr. Gage added that “an intern who researches and continually educates herself on small points of data is unique. Kavya is a shining star whose excellent performance should be acknowledged.” ■

Putting Patients First ... Anywhere

“It really felt like it was a calling. We’ve all gone into a profession where we have chosen to go help those in need.”

—Lauren Lowery, PRN, an ICU nurse from Cleveland Clinic’s main campus who went to New York-Presbyterian

In the early days of the outbreak, Cleveland Clinic reached out to health systems in the hardest-hit areas of the country to provide assistance. Soon after, hundreds of Cleveland Clinic caregivers offered their services. Twelve physicians and 15 nurses provided front-line reinforcements at New York-Presbyterian hospitals in New York City, the epicenter of the pandemic in the United States. A group of nurses did the same at the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit. Caregivers also came to the aid of others in need around the world. In England, where Cleveland Clinic London will open in 2021, Cleveland Clinic physicians, nurses and pharmacists stepped up to assist with the National Health Service’s pandemic response. And in the United Arab Emirates, home to Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, caregivers from the U.S. also helped battle COVID-19. ■ —Cleveland Clinic Magazine





Alumnus Helps Fight Pandemic in His Old Neighborhood

Nearly 60 Cleveland Clinic alumni went to New York and Michigan to help overwhelmed hospitals care for patients with COVID-19. Among them was **Pravin George, DO (IM'10, N'13, NVS'14)**, a neuro-intensive care physician who, on learning he was assigned to New York-Presbyterian Hospital, realized he'd be back in the neighborhood where he grew up.

"I didn't know till the night before, in a conference call, where I would be working," he says. "It turned out to be the hospital where my grandfather went when he had a stroke."

Even before the team was assembled, he had considered helping out. Seeing the news of New York hit hard by the pandemic reminded him of the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. "I was just a college student then and wanted to do something. But I had no training then. I felt helpless."

Knowing that he and the other team members had Cleveland Clinic's backing gave him confidence, he says, and, everything else fell into place. "All of a sudden, I found I had a week off in my schedule," he says. "And my ICU group let me know that if I needed more time, they would help me out. It was exactly the right time."

Even so, it was a tough decision. He and his wife, **Ava George, DO (FM'13)**, a family practitioner at Cleveland Clinic Fairview Hospital, had just had a baby boy. The couple also has three daughters, ages 6,



Pravin George, MD, far right, and the medical team in New York (Photos are courtesy of Dr. George)

4 and 2. He was concerned about leaving them and also about being exposed to a dangerous virus, but he knew that there was a critical need for his skills and those of the four other ICU physicians on the team.

"Only very few people in the country can do what we do," he says. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

On arriving at New York Presbyterian, he learned that the patient population had exploded. "We had to get on the ground, assess the situation, and put everything together while admission rates were climbing into the hundreds per night," he says. "A lot of the docs were really tired, and the nursing ratio was very bad. They

were dealing with an extremely dire situation. It was good that we were there."

Not only was he driven to help colleagues, "but also, in the back of mind, I thought, 'We haven't had a surge, but Cleveland is a decent-sized city. If something happens, and all of a sudden, we have a surge in Northeast Ohio, by that time, I'd be back and could help our own teams. I could share with them what worked or what didn't. All five of us would be able to do that.'"

Dr. George says he is grateful for his experience of helping where the need was greatest at the height of a pandemic. "This was part of my life's mission." ■

Dr. Tom Mihaljevic

Comments on the Pandemic



Tom Mihaljevic, MD, CEO and President of Cleveland Clinic, recently was interviewed by *Cleveland Clinic Magazine* about the pandemic. Here are just a few of his thoughts, which concern the long-term effects on healthcare and what the pandemic reveals about Cleveland Clinic as an organization:

What good things do you see coming out of the pandemic that will reshape healthcare?

There are many silver linings. This country always finds a way to come out of every crisis stronger and smarter. When this is over, digital technology in healthcare is going to become more prevalent. Healthcare will be more integrated. And there's going to be a substantially greater allocation of research dollars, because the understanding of the importance of research is now more firmly established. In essence, I believe that all of the aspects of healthcare that we were seeking to improve for years will now improve in much more accelerated ways, just because of the needs uncovered during this pandemic.

A crisis can bring clarity. Is there anything that you understand more clearly today than you did before the pandemic?

What has become very clear is that Cleveland Clinic is a special organization. Our caregivers are our heroes. They're engaged. They're compassionate. And they're doing exceptional work throughout this pandemic. We've been in a fortunate position as one of the better-prepared organizations in healthcare, and therefore our caregivers have had opportunities to extend a helping hand for patients in need in New York City, Detroit, London and Abu Dhabi. I've never been more proud of the work that we do. This crisis, if anything, has reinforced my belief that we have a special mission, and that we're part of an extraordinary organization not only with a wonderful heritage, but with a very bright future. ■

Hope Hospital

In April, Cleveland Clinic completed a temporary conversion of the main building of the Health Education Campus of Case Western Reserve University and Cleveland Clinic into a surge hospital to be used if needed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The facility, called Hope Hospital, initially includes 327 patient beds for low-acuity COVID-19 patients. Cleveland Clinic has been observing the COVID-19 pandemic nationally and internationally and studying its effects to guide our approach. The temporary hospital is one part of Cleveland Clinic's strategy to be fully prepared to meet the needs of our community during this rapidly evolving situation.

The conversion was accomplished in less than a month.

"It's been a heroic effort by hundreds of people," Edmund S. Sabanegh Jr., MD, President of Main Campus and Regional Hospitals, said in an April 15 article on Cleveland Clinic's *Consult QD* website. "There's really no precedent for us doing something this big this quickly. It's been amazing to watch clinical leaders and operations, construction, design and nursing teams all come together in a very short window of time and literally build



a thousand-bed-capability facility that rivals fixed buildings in many parts of the country."

In World War I, a group of Cleveland doctors, nurses and support staff led by surgeon George W. Crile, MD, was the first American unit to arrive in France, where they established a field hospital. Cleveland Clinic was founded on this same model of teamwork.

"This gets back to our fundamentals," Dr. Sabanegh said, "which is to identify a need and be innovative in how you address it. To use the basic principles of what's right in medical care and solve a problem." ■

—Sources: *Cleveland Clinic's Newsroom* and *Consult QD*

“It's been amazing to watch clinical leaders and operations, construction, design and nursing teams all come together in a very short window of time and literally build a thousand-bed-capability facility that rivals fixed buildings in many parts of the country.”

—Edmund S. Sabanegh Jr., MD,
President of Main Campus
and Regional Hospitals



Share Your News

Your colleagues are interested in hearing your news.

Please drop us a line at:

ClevelandClinic.org/AlumniNewsletter

New Center Aims to Broaden Understanding of Emerging Diseases



Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute on the main campus in Cleveland



Cleveland Clinic is establishing the Center for Global and Emerging Pathogens Research to broaden understanding of emerging pathogens—ranging from Zika virus to SARS-CoV-2 (which causes COVID-19)—and to expedite critically needed treatments and vaccines.

The new center, supported in large part by philanthropy, will span Cleveland Clinic's Lerner Research Institute and the soon-to-open Cleveland Clinic Florida Research and Innovation Center (FRIC) in Port St. Lucie, Florida. A team of renowned experts will lead the center to further research of diseases such as COVID-19, highly pathogenic influenza, Dengue fever, AIDS and Zika virus-related conditions.

Leveraging Cleveland Clinic's robust research infrastructure, the center will uncover the scientific mechanisms of how SARS-Cov-2 and other pathogens cause disease.

In addition, researchers will closely collaborate with the newly established Cleveland Clinic BioRepository, drug developers at Lerner Research Institute's Center for Therapeutics Discovery, and the Populations Health Research Center.

Cleveland Clinic is ramping up research related to COVID-19. A research registry of nearly 10,000 patients is collecting data from patients tested at Cleveland Clinic, and there are plans to integrate the data with the electronic medical record. Researchers will mine the data to inform other studies.

Researchers published findings in

March on a network-based prediction model using artificial intelligence to identify targets for drug repurposing in coronaviruses. Other projects are uncovering how SARS-Cov-2 causes disease. A clinical trials committee will identify and prioritize the most promising therapies.

In partnership with Cleveland Clinic Florida, the new center also will conduct research at the Florida Research and Innovation Center building, an advanced research facility anticipated to open this summer. ■

—Cleveland Clinic Media Relations



Cleveland Clinic Florida Research and Innovation Center in Port St. Lucie, Florida (Photos provided by Cleveland Clinic Media Relations)

The Lerner College of Medicine is achieving its mission

Based on a 10-year follow up of the first Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine graduating class, the class of 2009, we are achieving our mission of developing physician investigators. The infographic below shows, among other things, that more than 70 percent of the class of 2009 report a dedicated research effort, and half reported protected research time.

Jessica Greenfield, PhD, a post-doctoral fellow in medical education and a clinical instructor of medicine with CCLCM, conducted the alumni study.

"The goals were to discover what the first class has accomplished since graduation and if they are involved in research activities, as we would hope they are," says Dr. Greenfield.

Our graduates continue to work hard and achieve. The number of research projects and publications is high, and the graduates' dedication to education, in terms of teaching, is impressive.

"It's heartening to see how graduates are promoting and paying forward the kind of educational experiences they had here," says Dr. Greenfield.

Four of the graduates went on to earn another degree following medical school. Advancing their education wasn't necessarily a surprise. Rather, what surprised Dr. Greenfield and her team was that the graduates earned another degree while they were busy with their residencies, fellowships and medical practice.

Because the literature suggests that a physician's first faculty appointment doesn't happen until 10 years after medical school graduation, Dr. Greenfield and her team waited until the first class was 10 years out before conducting this follow up. ■

TEN YEARS AFTER GRADUATION The Class of 2009



EDUCATION

18

ADVANCED
DEGREES

14

DUAL
DEGREES

4 earned after
medical school

65%

with faculty appointments including
associate dean, vice chair, assistant
professor, instructor, and adjunct.

PEER-REVIEWED SCHOLARSHIP

More than **83%** as first
or senior author on
peer-reviewed paper

More than **93%** as
contributing author on
peer-reviewed paper

75%

COMPLETED
FELLOWSHIP



More than
250
papers
published

RESEARCH

RESEARCH EFFORT

- At least **25%** received NIH funding
- **50%** have received non-NIH funding support
- **50%** have protected research time
- **60%** have served as PI or co-PI
- **1** patent

RESEARCHER ENGAGEMENT

Basic Science Research	20%
Translational Research	25%
Clinical Research	50%
Outcomes Research	20%
Health Services Research	15%

More than
90%
intend to
pursue additional
research
opportunities

Dr. Vince Receives \$4 million DOD research grant

D. Geoffrey Vince, PhD (Staff'11), Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering has received a four-year, \$4 million grant from the Department of Defense (DOD) to study the relationship between the composition of carotid artery plaque and the risk of a future cerebrovascular accident (CVA).

Ischemic stroke makes up nearly 90% of CVAs. Although the degree of the blockage and size of the plaque are important, Dr. Vince, who holds the Lois Kennedy Endowed Chair in Biomedical Engineering and Applied Therapeutics, believes that composition is a better measure of plaque vulnerability and stroke risk. Currently, carotid artery plaque composition is determined using magnetic resonance imaging. He and his research team will combine ultrasound and a new machine learning algorithm to better, and noninvasively, assess plaque composition.

In this study, 1,500 patients with carotid artery stenosis from Cleveland Clinic and the Louis

Stokes Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center will have ultrasound of their carotid arteries. In tandem, a new program, the Compositional Analysis System by Machine (CASM) learning algorithm, will create three-dimensional reconstructions of the plaques. The investigators will test the algorithm's ability to determine the degree of stenosis and predict the precise plaque composition.

The study also will seek associations between diabetes and the noninvasive ultrasonic measure of carotid plaque composition. Diabetes is a significant risk factor for atherosclerotic carotid stenosis—patients may have plaque that is softer and more pliable, increasing the likelihood of an ischemic stroke (compared to non-diabetic patients with similar amounts of plaque).

The investigators believe CASM may enable clinicians to better monitor patients who are taking medications for diabetes and assess their effects on the composition of carotid artery plaque.

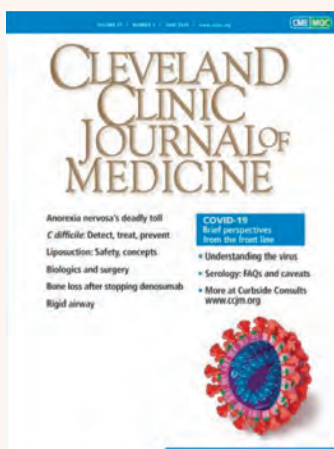
"This research is especially



D. Geoffrey Vince, PhD
(Photo by Stephen Travarca)

significant for the healthcare and wellbeing of veterans," comments Dr. Vince. "We know that about 20% of veterans have diabetes, and smoking rates are especially high among vets—both of which contribute to CVA risk. We are excited to collaborate with our colleagues from the VA to help provide care to this population." ■

—Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute



Cleveland Clinic has a journal of medicine?

Yes, we do! For nearly 90 years, Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine (CCJM) has published practical, clinical information on internal medicine, cardiology and related fields. Every month, CCJM reaches more than 125,000 physicians in print, and it also is available free at ccjm.org.

The journal, which consistently appears near the top of readership rankings, fulfills a core Cleveland Clinic mission of educating those who serve.

Please contact CCJM to request an email with the table of contents each month.

Doctors Credit Medical Training in Treating Patient with Rare Disorder

In April 2017, Charlotte Garrison of South Bend, Indiana, was life-flighted to Cleveland Clinic, where she had emergency tracheostomy surgery to help her breathe. For close to a year before that, the 68-year-old woman had struggled with a rare immune disorder that caused sores in her nose and mouth. Now, they were suffocating her.

Charlotte's symptoms first appeared in 2016, including severe fatigue that led the kindergarten teacher to early retirement. She was referred to **Anthony Fernandez, MD, PhD (DMP'11)**, Director of Medical and Inpatient Dermatology at Cleveland Clinic, who specializes in treating autoimmune and inflammatory diseases affecting the skin.

“I think that our experience, collaboration and aggressiveness in treatment were critical to Charlotte's eventual recovery. She is now doing fantastic.”

—Anthony Fernandez, MD, PhD,
Director of Medical and Inpatient
Dermatology at Cleveland Clinic

At her first appointment in January 2017, he diagnosed the illness as mucous membrane pemphigoid, or cicatricial pemphigoid. “She has a relatively rare autoimmune blistering disease subtype,” he says. “For Charlotte, the trachea and airway mucosa were affected, and severe involvement of the airway can end up being life-threatening. In addition, the skin can be affected, and she had that, as well.”

This autoimmune disease causes scarring and permanent tissue damage. “When the upper airway is involved, this scarring can prevent air from getting to the lungs,” he says, “so we were very aggressive in starting medications.”

Dr. Fernandez and **Matt Vasievich, MD, PhD (D'17)**, then a medical resident, identified a cancer drug, rituximab, that could control her symptoms. Dr. Vasievich went to great lengths to obtain her insurance company's approval. Still, there wasn't time for the drug to take effect before Charlotte's condition suddenly deteriorated, leading to a lifesaving tracheostomy by Paul Bryson, MD, Section Head of Laryngology in Cleveland Clinic's Head & Neck Institute. This was



followed by “a drug cocktail” to calm the inflammation and a few more operations to release scarring and treat the upper airway stenosis, Dr. Bryson says.

“I think that our experience, collaboration and aggressiveness in treatment were critical to Charlotte's eventual recovery,” Dr. Fernandez says. “She is now doing fantastic.”

Dr. Fernandez and Dr. Vasievich credit their Cleveland Clinic training with helping them diagnose and treat patients like Charlotte.

“I could not be happier with my training here,” Dr. Fernandez says. “We have one of the best dermato-



pathology fellowships in the world. We're an international referral center, so in training, we get as much breadth in the field as we will see in practicing. Both our dermatology and pathology clinics are outstanding. As a fellow, I could walk down the hall to consult internationally known experts who are editors of major textbooks. It is a very friendly and productive environment to practice in, which is why I wanted to stay."

Dr. Fernandez's duties include teaching and mentoring 12 dermatology residents and three dermatopathology fellows a year.

Dr. Vasievich, now on staff at an IHA medical dermatology clinic in southeast Michigan, says he is grateful for his years at Cleveland Clinic. "Someone once told me that when you get busy, you don't rise to the occasion. You fall to the level of your training. I think about artists like Michelangelo, whose students went out and developed their own style but were influenced by their training. Dr. Fernandez is a fantastic medical dermatologist. You learn from great mentors like him. Now, after three years, I'm developing my own style as a physician." ■



Dr. Anthony Fernandez



Dr. Matthew Vasievich

Digital Tools Enhance Anatomy Education

Within the Toby Devan Lewis Digital Suite inside the Samson Pavilion, first-year students are discovering the intricacies of the human body by interacting with computer-generated simulations and virtual anatomical models. **The digital suite comprises four rooms: virtual reality, ultrasound simulation, radiology and multi-user touch interface.**



VIRTUAL REALITY

Facilitated by Jennifer McBride, PhD, Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of Virtual Anatomy, students use an Oculus Rift virtual reality headset to examine digital anatomical models within the context of a clinical case. The anatomical models were produced by Zygote. Dr. McBride created the educational content to accompany the anatomical models. Students have access to a collection of clinical case modules that cover bodily systems and also can access



these modules directly from their smart phones, tablets or computers via an app.

ULTRASOUND SIMULATION

Guided by Shetal Shah, MD, Assistant Professor of Radiology, students learn anatomy by practicing ultrasound-related examinations on a Simbionix U/S Mentor. The high-fidelity male and female manikins, which represent a human torso, head and neck, can simulate a wide variety of virtual patients with both normal and pathologic findings.



RADIOLOGY

Stuart Morrison, MD, Clinical Professor of Radiology, guides students through a variety of imaging studies. Using the Agfa IMPAX client, a digital radiology imaging system, students can review a vast collection of patient X-rays, CT scans and MRIs.

MULTI-USER TOUCH INTERFACE

This station, facilitated by Richard Drake, PhD, Professor of Surgery and Director of Anatomy, combines a Sectra Table, which is a two-dimensional touchscreen, and actual



(Photos taken prior to March 1, 2020.)

Page 18-19 photo series: Students benefit from high-tech tools in the Toby Devan Lewis Digital Suite in the Samson Pavilion.

Page 19, Top photo: Jennifer McBride, PhD, Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of Virtual Anatomy, facilitates the virtual reality station within the Toby Devan Lewis Digital Suite.

Page 19, Bottom photo: Richard Drake, PhD, Professor of Surgery and Director of Anatomy, uses a Sectra Table to teach anatomy.

human imaging data from both the Visible Human Project from the U.S. National Library of Medicine and clinical imaging studies. The students can view 3-D renderings in multiple ways. Using a virtual knife, they can strip away layers of the body and even perform virtual dissection.

“Inclusion of these four modalities gives the students an opportunity to view and interact with complex anatomical structures in unique ways,” says Dr. McBride, noting that digital technology isn’t a replacement for the most valuable learning resource, the human donor. Students

also attend anatomy sessions in the CCLCM Anatomy Laboratory, where there are demonstrations of dissection on human donors. “The students seem to enjoy learning anatomy from both technology and human donors,” Dr. McBride says.

Drs. McBride and Drake are conducting a longitudinal retention to measure retention at the end of the first, second and third years and then compare the results with previously published data. ■

—Excerpted from January 2020 *Insight*, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine (Photos by Yu Kwan Lee)

“Inclusion of these four modalities gives the students an opportunity to view and interact with complex anatomical structures in unique ways.”

—Jennifer McBride, PhD, Associate Professor of Surgery and Director of Virtual Anatomy

Building THE BRIDGE PROJECT



Dr. Debasis Sahoo, left, and Dr. Matthew Kampert at Cleveland Clinic South Pointe Hospital (Photo by Don Gerda taken prior to March 1, 2020.)

Before becoming a physician, **Matthew Kampert, DO (FM'19, PC/SM'20)**, was an exercise physiologist. In that role, he says, he saw firsthand how people improved their health through lifestyle choices. He wanted to help influence the direction of healthcare, turning it toward disease prevention. In December 2018, as a family medicine resident at Cleveland Clinic South Pointe Hospital, he got that chance.

With the help of a mentor,

“Behavioral intervention gives them the tools and cues to recognize when they are off track. After one year, they have changed as people—now, they are exercisers.”

—Matthew Kampert, DO

Debasis Sahoo, MD, (IM'11, PULMCC'14), a pulmonary specialist on the staff of the Cleveland Clinic Respiratory Institute, he established a research study called THE BRIDGE PROJECT. The name was inspired by Dr. Kampert's father, who built bridges, and the prospect of helping patients lead healthier lives by bridging gaps in their access to community resources, exercise technology and education. The name is an acronym for “Targeted Healthcare Efforts to Bridge Resources, Improve the Development of Guideline-Based Exercise Prescription and Reduce Obesity by Joining Education, Community and Technology.”

The research project drew 30 participants, all with a BMI over 30. Their resting metabolic rate also was measured to determine how many calories they burned in a 24-hour period, and cardiopulmonary exercise tests determined how much oxygen they consumed while exercising and how hard their hearts worked as they did so.

Participants were attracted by the offer of YMCA gym memberships, as well as one-on-one patient education, medical appointments and progress assessments for six months. To remain in the study for an additional six months, they had to meet set goals for exercise and weight loss.

Dr. Kampert, now a sports medicine fellow, says he strongly believes in the need to “invest time in our patients now. That can pay off in the long run for them, the healthcare system, insurance providers and the community as a whole.”

The study's one-year goal was for participants to have become independent exercisers. “They also know how to eat, when to eat, how to exercise,” Dr. Kampert says. “They know how to pick themselves up when they slip, how to overcome obstacles. Behavioral intervention in the study gives them the tools and cues to recognize when they are off track and know how to come back to center. After one year, they have changed as people—now, they are exercisers.”

Dr. Sahoo, who helped develop the protocols and obtain internal approvals to conduct the study, which has concluded, says he is encouraged by the participants' progress and impressed by Dr. Kampert's vision.

“As physicians, we are only trying to treat the sick,” he says. “If we change that goal and work to get people healthy, we are solving a big problem in our society. That's what fascinated me. We are self-motivating patients. We are not just taking care of medical problems but also making sure that the community can get healthier than they are now.” ■

Alumnus Models Healthcare for *Vogue*

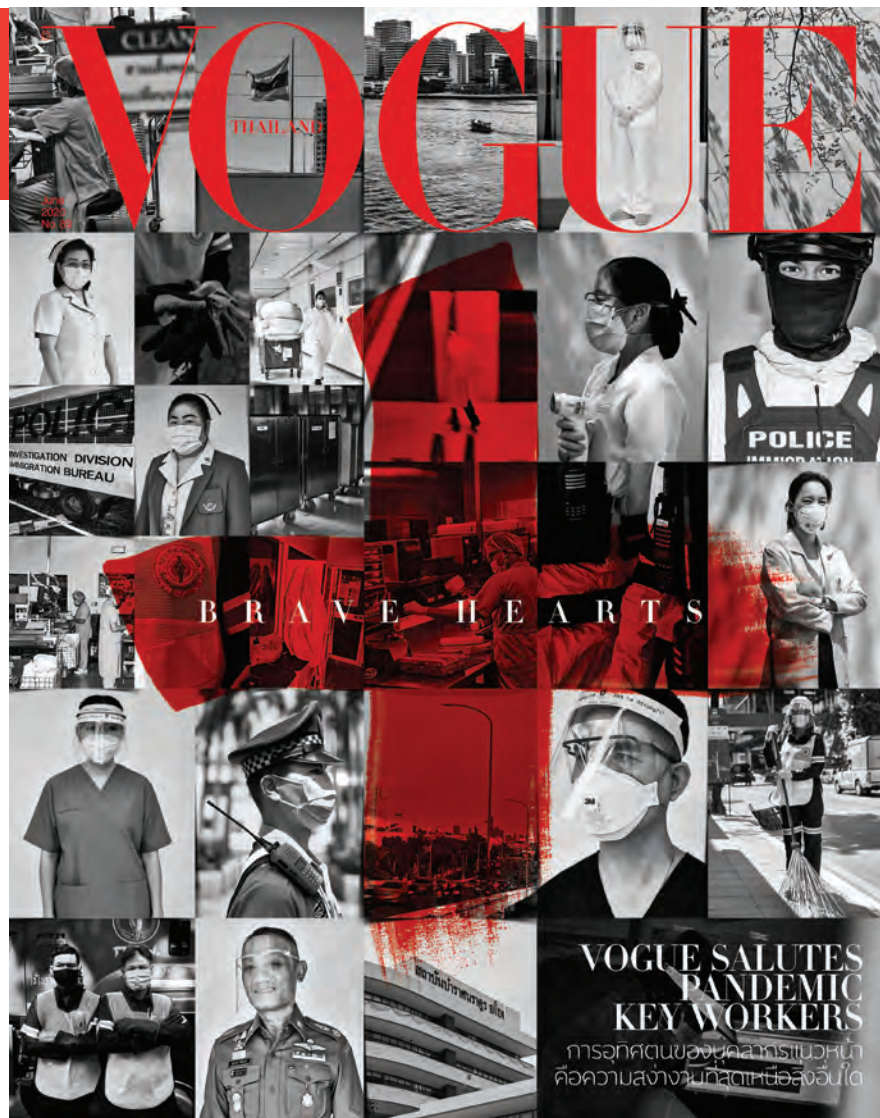


Siriorn P. Watcharananan, MD (ID'04, MN'05), has a new position to add to her professional CV: cover model for *Vogue Thailand*. And like other *Vogue* models, she is wearing the latest fashion—in this case, a mask and gown.

“I couldn’t imagine myself being on the cover dressed as a model,” she says. “The gown and N95 mask I wore is the dress that fits me the most.”

Dr. Watcharananan is an infectious disease specialist at the Praram 9 hospital in Bangkok and an associate professor in the section of Infectious Disease, Department of Medicine, Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok. She was invited to be on the cover for a story on the COVID-19 pandemic that includes healthcare providers and others working behind the scenes and on the front lines.

“As an ID doc, I cared for the COVID-19 cases and helped out with the infection control plan during the outbreak,” she says. “My colleagues and I worked on a few collaborative projects with national agencies, including a study of saliva as a way of diagnosing COVID-19 and a dry-heat and UV-sterilization study to reuse masks. Both projects had a strong impact as they later became national guidance.”



(Magazine photos provided by Dr. Watcharananan.)

She says her picture is representative of all doctors during this global crisis. “Healthcare workers are everyone’s heroes, and if you see my picture, I would like to greet you with my best wishes for everyone to stay strong, with a good spirit, and to be safe during this pandemic.”

Dr. Watcharananan says that all Cleveland Clinic alumni “would like to continue to contribute our best care to society worldwide.” She adds, “It has been 15 years since I graduated, and I miss Cleveland Clinic.” ■

“I couldn’t imagine myself being on the cover dressed as a model. The gown and N95 mask I wore is the dress that fits me the most.”

—Siriorn P. Watcharananan, MD

Alumni Couple Weds on Cleveland Clinic Rooftop



Dr. Chaudhury and Dr. Gadre are married by the Rev. Brent Raitz (Photos courtesy of Caregiver Communications)

Love knows no bounds. Cleveland Clinic physician **Shruti Gadre, MD (IM'15, PULMCC'18)**, and **Pulkit Chaudhury, MD (IM'16, VM'17)**, were planning a destination wedding in Boston on May 16 with 100 relatives and friends. When gatherings and events had to be canceled because of the pandemic, the couple wouldn't let it stop them from marrying.

“Cleveland Clinic has a special place in our story. It's where we met, and it is our second home.”

—Shruti Gadre, MD

Dr. Gadre thought of Cleveland Clinic.

“Cleveland Clinic has a special place in our story. It's where we met, and it is our second home,” Dr. Gadre says.

On May 16, Dr. Gadre and Dr. Chaudhury were married on the Cleveland Clinic rooftop, which overlooks downtown Cleveland. The Rev. Brent Raitz, a Cleveland Clinic chaplain, officiated, with family and friends attending virtually.

The couple met at Cleveland Clinic during their internal medicine residencies seven years ago. Dr. Chaudhury completed a vascular medicine fellowship at Cleveland Clinic and moved to Iowa City for his cardiology fellowship at the University of Iowa, where he has been for the past three years. In July, he joined Cleveland Clinic's Cardiology staff.

After Dr. Gadre's internal medicine training, she completed her pulmonary/critical care fellowship at

Cleveland Clinic before starting as a Cleveland Clinic staff physician in Pulmonary Medicine in 2018. Since April, she has been on medical intensive care unit service for two weeks and the Advanced Lung Disease Unit for two weeks. Some of her patients have had COVID-19.

“As weeks have gone by, we have learned a lot about the disease, developing protocols and best practices,” Dr. Gadre says. “Our patient outcomes have been quite remarkable, as I have been able to see many patients recover.”

She says that she and her husband are fortunate to be in the same profession.

“We understand each other's concerns, hours, affinity for our patients' well-being and dedication to our profession,” she says. “The pandemic only underscores this importance. In this time of crisis, my husband and I have been inspired by how we see the best of people and the collective community. Thank you to everyone who made our rooftop Cleveland Clinic wedding possible!” ■

—Article provided by
Caregiver Communications



Cleveland Clinic ranked the No. 2 hospital in the United States

Our hard work continues to be recognized. Cleveland Clinic was named the No. 2 hospital in the United States by the 2020-21 *U.S. News & World Report* “Best Hospitals” rankings. We also ranked as the No. 1 hospital in Ohio and metro areas for Cleveland, Akron and Miami/Ft. Lauderdale.

Our specialty care remains exceptional. We are ranked nationally in 14 specialties, including 13 in the top 10. Cleveland Clinic also received the highest rating in all common conditions and procedures rated by *U.S. News*.

Our Cleveland Clinic national rankings are:

- Cancer – No. 5
- Cardiology & Heart Surgery – No. 1 (for the 26th consecutive year)
- Diabetes & Endocrinology – No. 6
- Ear, Nose & Throat – No. 16
- Gastroenterology & GI Surgery – No. 3
- Geriatrics – No. 2
- Gynecology – No. 2
- Nephrology – No. 5
- Neurology & Neurosurgery – No. 9
- Ophthalmology – No. 10
- Orthopedics – No. 9
- Pulmonology & Lung Surgery – No. 4
- Rheumatology – No. 2
- Urology – No. 4

We are high-performing in:

- Psychiatry

In June, Cleveland Clinic Children’s ranked among the nation’s best pediatric hospitals by *U.S. News* in its 2020-21 edition of “Best Children’s Hospitals.” The hospital ranked in 10 of 10 specialties surveyed by *U.S. News*.

These rankings are a continued reinforcement of our caregivers’ expertise, teamwork and shared sense of purpose for our patients. They also reflect the legacy of our founders as well as the constituency of physicians and scientists throughout the world who have trained here and their commitment to excellence.

We remain grateful for your support of Cleveland Clinic throughout the year.

Sincerely,

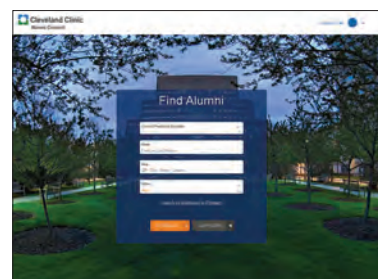


Tom Mihaljevic, MD
CEO and President



AlumniConnect is
the fastest and easiest
way to network from
anywhere in the world!

The network combines your Alumni profile and information you’ve shared with us into one powerful tool, allowing you to find Cleveland Clinic alumni from any specialty and location you choose. Take advantage of a tool that will help you: reconnect with former colleagues, classmates, and co-residents, expand your business reach and referral base, and so much more. There are over 22,000 alumni. Get started by reviewing your current profile to make sure all of the information is up-to-date.



Visit alumniconnect.ccf.org
to claim your profile. Contact us
at AlumniConnect@ccf.org or
216.444.2487 with questions.

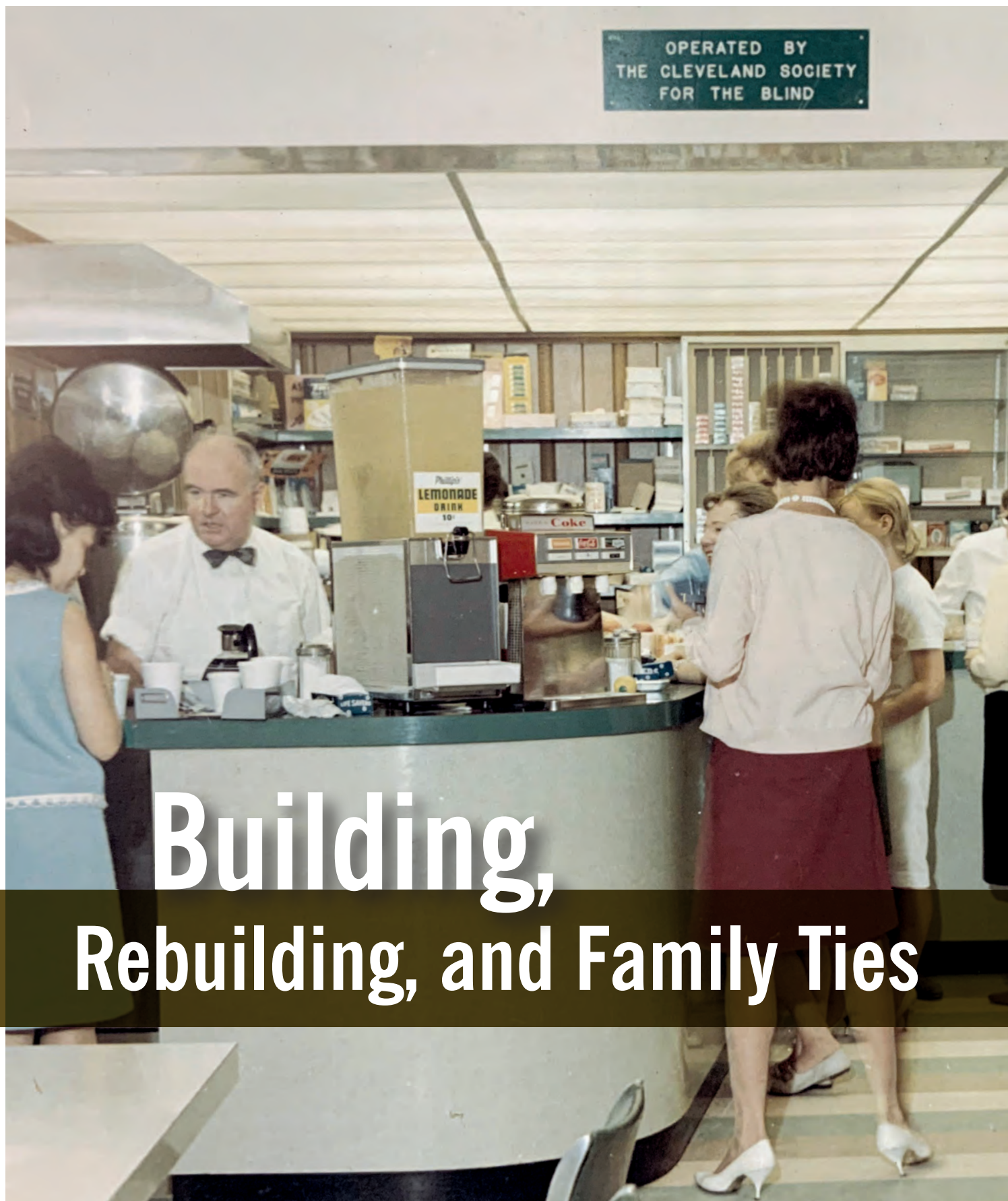
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Building, Rebuilding, and Family Ties

ALUMNI PERSPECTIVE

Leonard Calabrese, DO (IM'78, RH'80)

Chair, History Project

Cleveland Clinic's original building that opened in 1921 was beautiful. It had unique features, like an open and airy space with a skylight, which gave it more of a feeling of a hotel or theater lobby than a hospital setting. The second and third floors were wraparound corridors, where a physician could take a patient out the door on one side and walk around to personally introduce the patient to another physician on the other side. It was very intimate.

However, the story of the original building is forever and inextricably linked to the Cleveland Clinic Disaster of 1929. There was a lot of internal debate at the time as to what to do with the building and whether it should be razed. Dr. Crile thought that they would be able to reuse it, but it was decided that it should look different. Indeed, it is not recognizable in its present form

when compared to its appearance on opening day, Feb. 21, 1921. Some of us feel that the structure known as the T building is a very hallowed part of the campus, and it certainly is an important part of Cleveland Clinic's story.

Since the Disaster, this building has undergone varying iterations—patient care, research, administrative offices.

One of the really unusual features that I recall was a snack bar in the lobby run by blind volunteers, a collaboration between Cleveland Clinic and the Cleveland Sight Center. I remember going there as a small child when I had a doctor's appointment, and it was still a place where I could go for lunch when I was a medical student.

As our Archives article notes, Cleveland Clinic is like a family for those who work here. And, as the article also states, this is literally true for those whose children have followed in their footsteps. I am proud to say that my daughter, Cassandra Calabrese, DO, and I did all of our training at Cleveland Clinic and also were both chief residents in medicine—the only father-child pair to do so. Today, we work in the same department and collaborate on most of our research projects. The article mentions that Robert Eaton LeFevre trained at Cleveland Clinic and became a physician here, like his father, Fay LeFevre. George Crile and Barney Crile both practiced at Cleveland Clinic, too. Also, Alexander T. Bunts, Frank Bunts' son, looms large in Cleveland Clinic's history. Our sense of family at Cleveland Clinic, both metaphorical and literal, has contributed to our success since our founding in 1921 and our recovery from the tragedy of 1929. It is an important aspect of who we are and who we will become. ■



Photos provided by the Cleveland Sight Center.



1

Building Cleveland Clinic

When the four Founders of Cleveland Clinic—Drs. George Crile, Frank Bunts, William Lower, and John Phillips—decided to establish a group practice, their first step was to find a place for it. In October 1919, with the help of lawyer Edward Daoust, they organized the Association Building Company. This company raised money by selling common and preferred stock, mostly to the founders, their families, and friends. With funds acquired, the founders signed a 99-year (or “perpetual”) lease for the parcel at the corner of Euclid and East 93rd Street. They hired architects Ellerbe & Co. of St. Paul to design the new building.

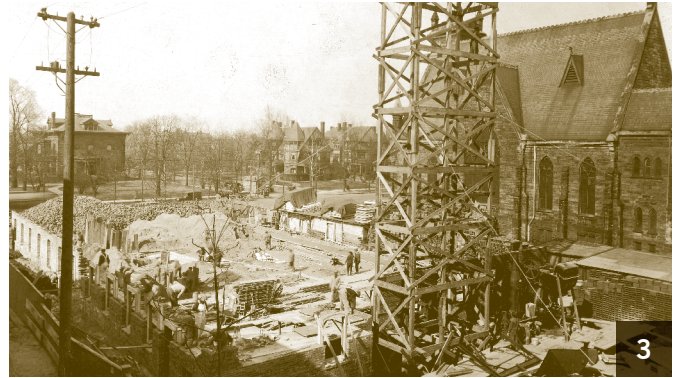
Photos now held in the Cleveland

Clinic Archives document the progress of construction, which began in February 1920. Taken monthly, these photos show the building’s transformation from a snow-covered foundation to a scaffold-covered frame to, finally, a complete new clinic. The founders held a flag-raising ceremony on July 3, 1920. Finally, the new Cleveland Clinic opened on February 21, 1921, marked with a ceremony featuring speeches, music and tours.

The new 41,000-square-foot building had four stories, the upper three centered around a large atrium that functioned as the waiting room. The exterior was of mottled white brick, and the rooms inside were finished light gray with birch

woodwork. The first floor housed the X-ray department, clinical labs, and pharmacy. The fourth floor was home to the art and photography department, editorial offices, library, boardroom, administrative offices, and biophysics lab. On the second and third floors, offices, examining rooms, and treatment rooms opened onto the waiting room or corridors of balconies surrounding the atrium.

After the Cleveland Clinic Disaster of 1929, the Executive Committee resolved to remodel the building as soon as it was proven to be safe. The Research Department conducted extensive tests to ensure that no poisonous gas remained in the building. Cleveland Clinic again hired Ellerbe & Co. to design the



1 | Aug 5, 1920: Building, no windows, construction fence, scaffolding from upper to second story window. **2 | March 1, 1920:** Snow, piles of wood, construction fence on left side. **3 | May 3, 1920:** Scaffolding, pit, people in pit. **4 | June 1, 1920:** Back of building—two stories done, scaffolding above. **5 | July 3, 1920:** Back of building, scaffolding in center. (Historic pictures of buildings and Dr. LeFevre provided by Cleveland Clinic Archives.)

remodel. The Board agreed that converting the building to administrative offices only would best allow it to remain in use while protecting any patients from discomfort associated with memories of the disaster. The remodel—and concurrent construction of a new, larger Clinic building on East 93rd Street—proceeded throughout 1930. Both buildings opened in 1931.

Over the years, the original four-story building has remained part of Cleveland Clinic, housing many different departments and offices. Now known as the T building, it stands as a connection to Cleveland Clinic's heritage and legacy of overcoming adversity. ■

CLEVELAND CLINIC FAMILIES



Fay LeFevre as a Fellow

In the Archives, we often hear staff members observe that Cleveland Clinic “is like a family.” For some alumni, that’s literally true: Members of the same family, spread across generations and medical specialties, have shared the Cleveland Clinic experience.

The LeFevres are one such family. Fay LeFevre, MD, followed his father’s footsteps to become a physician. At Cleveland Clinic, Dr. LeFevre founded the Department of Peripheral Vascular Disease and led the institution into a new era as the first chair of the newly formed Board of Governors. In turn his own son, Robert Eaton LeFevre, also became a physician and trained at Cleveland Clinic in surgery and urology. ■



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.

CENTENNIAL LEGACY SOCIETY

Cleveland Clinic's founders were visionaries whose tireless commitment to patient care, education and research, and whose willingness to invest their own resources in their work, guaranteed Cleveland Clinic's success and evolution into a leading international healthcare institution.

We are thankful for our Centennial Legacy Society supporters, who demonstrate this same spirit of commitment and personal investment, and we hope that you will consider joining this dedicated, visionary group.

In anticipation of Cleveland Clinic's 100th anniversary

in 2021, the Centennial Legacy Society is recognizing alumni who continue our tradition of excellence by making a gift of \$5,000 or more to an alumni fund that supports The Power of Every One Centennial Campaign. We welcome you to join the Society. Your generous gifts will help better serve patients and enhance 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, **216.444.2487**, or at strohm@ccf.org. Or, please visit give.ccf.org/alumni. ■

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Dr. Brian Herts
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Dr. Jin and Mrs. Tammy Wang
Dr. Bruce and Mrs. Elynn Wilkoff
Dr. Daniel and
Mrs. Donna Marie Wilson
James B. Young, MD
Dr. Jess Young
Drs. Belinda Yen-Lieberman and
James M. Lieberman

Note: An asterisk () indicates that the Centennial Legacy Society member has died.*

The CARES Act Inspires Charitable Giving

On March 27, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Donald Trump. The \$2 trillion economic stimulus package is designed to provide immediate relief for individuals and businesses, including nonprofits.

The CARES Act was enacted in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

As we find ourselves in unprecedented times, it may be helpful to recall that we survived other periods of financial disaster and great economic uncertainty. We may remember the pain of those times, but what is common to them all is the predilection for a rebounding economy. Every “down” era has been followed by a recovery that eventually eclipsed the damage sustained in the prior period.

The CARES Act is one way forward to enable this recovery. This package includes several new charitable provisions, as set forth below.

New Above-the-Line Standard Deduction Available: Up to \$300 per tax return in annual charitable contributions. This is available only to those who take the standard deduction. It is an “above-the-line” adjustment to income that will reduce a donor’s adjusted gross income (AGI),

and thereby reduce taxable income. If you have made a cash gift this year, it counts toward the \$300 cap.

Note: A gift to a donor advised fund does not qualify for this new deduction.

Increased Charitable Deduction

Limits: Individuals who itemize can deduct much greater amounts of their cash contributions this year. Individuals can elect to deduct donations up to 100% of their 2020 AGI (up from 60% previously). The new deduction is for cash gifts that go to a public charity, such as Cleveland Clinic.

Example: An individual who has an AGI of \$80,000 and makes a cash gift of \$80,000 will have no federal income tax liability for 2020.

Note these exceptions:

- The higher deduction does not apply to direct contributions to a donor advised fund, supporting organization or a private foundation.
- These new limits do not apply to gifts of appreciated stock.

Required Minimum Distributions Waived in 2020 for Most People:

Required minimum distributions for individuals over age 72 that would have had to start in 2020 do not have to start until 2021, including those from defined benefit pension plans and 457 plans. While it has been waived for 2020, the required minimum distribution remains

attractive for individuals who would like to make a significant charitable gift directly from an IRA to a charity through a qualified charitable contribution, while also avoiding taxable income.

Reminder: Directing a qualified charitable contribution to charity this year (up to \$100,000 per individual, age 70 ½ or older) will still reduce the taxable IRA balance. This allows all taxpayers—itemizers and non-itemizers alike—to direct gifts from their IRA to charities in a tax-efficient manner.

The inclusion of an expanded charitable giving incentive is a critical acknowledgement by Congress that the work of nonprofits such as Cleveland Clinic is essential and that those who support it will help rebuild the economy and ensure better days ahead for our country.

For more information, please contact Mindy Stroh, Senior Director, Alumni Relations, 216.444.2487.

In addition, the Gift Planning team at Cleveland Clinic can answer any questions you may have about the CARES Act, assist you with a gift to Cleveland Clinic’s Covid-19 efforts, or address other healthcare initiatives. You can reach the Gift Planning team at 216.444.1245 or giftplanning@ccf.org. ■

LEAVE A LEGACY

Like many of your peers who trained at Cleveland Clinic, you may want to support the education of future generations of physicians and caregivers. A gift in your will or trust can help you meet this goal while allowing you to retain control of your assets during your lifetime.

Sample Bequest Language: “I give and bequeath to The Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio, (the sum of \$_____ or _____%) to support _____.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MAKING A BEQUEST:

Contact Mindy Stroh, Senior Director, Alumni Relations, at 216.444.6534, or strohm@ccf.org.

Contacts



Jay Alberts, PhD
(Staff'05),
Biomedical
Engineering, was
invited to serve on
the Musculoskeletal
Rehabilitation

Sciences Study Section of the National Institutes of Health to review grant applications regarding rehabilitation for impaired physical functioning.



Wilma Bergfeld, MD (D'68), has
been elected to be
the 2020–21 Chair
of the American
Academy of
Dermatology

Nominating Committee.



Adarsh Bhimraj, MD (Staff'09),
Infectious Disease,
is the lead author
of the Infectious
Disease Society
of America's new

guidelines for management and treatment of COVID patients.



Mina Chung, MD
(Staff'93), is
leading the data
coordinating center
of a \$1.2 million,
multi-institution
award from the

American Heart Association. For the "COVID-19 and Its Cardiovascular Impact Rapid Response Grant," the Cleveland Clinic team will collect data from 12 institutions across the U.S.



Charis Eng, MD, PhD (Staff'05)
and her team, in a
new study published
in *JAMA Network
Open*, identified
for the first time

why patients with identical PTEN mutations often have vastly different clinical presentations. They discovered that, in individuals with PTEN mutations, copy number variations in the altered gene may modify whether patients develop autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and/or developmental delay versus PTEN-related cancer.



Serpil Erzurum, MD (Staff'93),
received a four-
year, \$3 million
competitive renewal
for her R01, titled
"Nitric Oxide in

Pulmonary Hypertension." This grant has been funded for 21 consecutive years.



Tommaso Falcone, MD (Staff'95),
received an
honorary fellowship
from the Royal
College of Obstetrics
& Gynecology in

the United Kingdom.



Bradley C. Gill, MD, MS (CCL-
CM'12, U'18)

has been
selected as
Medical Education
Fellow for the

2020–21 academic year.



Stanley Hazen, MD, PhD
(Staff'97) and
his team have
identified a new
diet-associated
gut microbe

(phenylacetylglutamine) linked with cardiovascular disease and related events, including myocardial infarction, stroke and death. Their study analyzed samples from more than 5,000 patients and was published in the prestigious journal *Cell*.



Michael Kattan, PhD, MBA
(Staff'04),
Quantitative
Health Sciences,
led a group of
investigators in the

Department of Quantitative Health Sciences in creating a real-time dashboard to track COVID-19 case and mortality data in the U.S. He worked with **Lara Jehi, MD**, in collaborating with colleagues across Cleveland Clinic to create a COVID-19 risk prediction calculator. Dr. Jehi is Cleveland Clinic's Chief Research Information Officer; Dr. Kattan holds the Dr. Keyhan and Dr. Jafar Mobasseri Endowed Chair for Innovations in Cancer Research. By comparing a control group of patients who tested negative with those who tested positive, the researchers are determining risk and protective factors associated with the virus. In addition, a bibliometric analysis published in the *International Journal of Surgery* lists Dr. Kattan as the most highly cited author in the world in the field of urological

surgery. He is a pioneer in medical risk prediction, and this ranking highlights the great influence his research has had in science and medicine.



Eric Klein, MD (U'86), and **Margot Damaser, PhD (Staff'05)**, were honored with 2020 Urology Care Foundation Awards. Dr. Klein received the Richard D. Williams, MD Prostate Cancer Research Excellence Award,

and Dr. Damaser received the Distinguished Mentor Award.



Prakash Kotagal, MD (CHN'86, NPHY'88), received the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Indian Neurologists in America.



Carli Lehr, MD (PULMCC'18), is the holder of the newly established Gregory and Maureen Church Term Chair

in Lung Transplantation Research. "This is a great honor, especially at this early stage in her career," says Raed Dweik, MD, MBA, Respiratory Institute Chair. "It is a reflection of her outstanding

research and the great supportive and mentorship environment in our lung transplant program and Pulmonary Department."



Laura Nagy, PhD (Staff'06), in January delivered the 24th Annual Mark Keller Honorary Lecture at the National

Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, part of the National Institutes of Health. This lecture series features a lecture by an outstanding alcohol researcher whose work makes significant and long-term contributions to our understanding of how alcohol affects the body and mind.



Jesse Schold, PhD, (Staff'09), received a one-year, \$198,000 grant from the National Science Foundation

titled "Epidemiology of COVID-19 Based on Surveillance of Deceased Donors in the United States."



Nima Sharifi, MD (Staff'13) and his team, in a new clinical study published in *JAMA Oncology*, show that the genetic

variant *HSD3B1*(1245C) is associated with faster progression to treatment resistance and shorter overall survival in metastatic prostate cancer. This study, the

first clinical trial validation of the relationship between *HSD3B1* status and clinical outcomes, suggests that genetic testing for the presence of *HSD3B1*(1245C) may help physicians identify those patients most likely to benefit from additional and more aggressive treatment.



Andrea Sikon, MD (Staff'01), is the 2020 recipient of the Society for General Internal Medicine's Association of Chiefs

and Leaders of General Internal Medicine Recognition Award. This award is given annually to the general internal medicine division chief who most represents excellence in division leadership. "This is a highly competitive award," says **Abby Spencer, MD, MS (Staff'14)**, Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program. "Dr. Sikon stood out as having strengthened our GIM division with special attention to growth in all areas, with a strong focus on faculty development and mentoring."

Gary Silver, MD (S'70, TCS'73)

started a heart surgery program in San Jose, California, after six years at Cleveland Clinic, three of which were with Donald Effler, MD. "After a couple of years, we were getting very busy," Dr. Silver says. "I was asked to join Rotary, and that is when I started our Adult Gift of Life project. Our first case was in 1986. The program brought

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Contacts

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patients in need of open heart surgery from around the world who were too poor to get treated in their home country.... mostly in need of single or double valve replacement. EVERYTHING was free to them, and I and my team donated the surgery, as did the hospital. Rotary provided taking care of the one family member who came with the patient. We did 46 patients from over 30 different countries. It was a very rewarding project.”



Mark S. Soberman, MD, MBA, FACS (TS'93), after 20 years as an academic general thoracic surgeon and seven years

as a healthcare administrator, now serves as the Senior Safety Officer for Ethicon, the surgical device division of Johnson & Johnson. “The safety organization at J & J is part of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer, reporting independently of the company’s commercial arm,” he says. “Overseeing medical safety for the global surgery group, my responsibilities include collaborating with colleagues in new product development, research and development, global strategy and marketing and post-market surveillance, mergers and acquisitions to ensure the safest design, manufacture and use of the Ethicon portfolio of medical devices.”



Abby Spencer, MD, MS (Staff'14), has been accepted as a Fellow in the 2020-2021 Hedwig van Ameringen

Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program for Women. The ELAM program is a one-year, part-time fellowship that offers leadership training, coaching, networking and mentoring for women who hold leadership positions in academic medicine, dentistry, public health and pharmacy. Dr. Spencer also was awarded the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education’s 2020 Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach Award and was the keynote speaker at Weill Cornell Medicine’s 3rd Annual Primary Care & Hospital Medicine Innovations Symposium.



Suthep Udomsawaengsup, MD, FRCST, FACS (AL/FSE'07) is Director of the Bariatric and Metabolic Institute

and an associate professor in the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. He also is President of the Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia and President of the Laparoscopic Endoscopic Surgeons of Thailand.



Robert Wirka, MD (CCLCM'10) received the 2019 Irvine H. Page Junior Faculty Research Award for his contributions

to cardiovascular research. The award, which recognizes investigators early in their faculty careers for demonstrating leadership potential in cardiovascular research, is sponsored by the American Heart Association Council on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology. As an award recipient, Dr. Wirka was invited to share his work at the Lerner Research Institute’s 36th Annual Page Lecture, which honors Irvine Page, MD, a world-renowned Cleveland Clinic physician who played a major role in founding the American Heart Association, and all pioneers in heart research and care. Dr. Wirka presented “From GWAS to Mechanism in Coronary Artery Disease.” Joe Loscalzo, MD, PhD, MA, head of the Department of Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, was the Page lecturer.

While attending the Lerner College of Medicine, Dr. Wirka conducted his thesis research in the lab of Jonathan Smith, PhD, Professor of Molecular Medicine, where he published a first-author paper on atrial fibrillation genomics. After graduating, he completed his internal medicine residency at the University of California, San Francisco, and a cardiology fellowship at Stanford University. He recently published a high-impact

paper in Nature Medicine on the cell phenotypes in atherosclerosis using single-cell RNA sequencing.

"It is so very wonderful to see one of our CCLCM alumni win the AHA Junior Page Award," says Serpil Erzurum, MD, Chair of the Lerner Research Institute and Professor of Medicine. "Dr. Page would have been so proud!"



Elham Yousef, MD, MBA (Staff '13), Hospital Medicine, received the Dean's Academic Achievement Award for outstanding

academic record at Case Western Reserve University's Weatherhead School of Management. She also received membership to Beta Gamma Sigma, the International Honor Society for Collegiate Schools of Business in recognition of high scholastic achievement.

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.



Photos above and below taken prior to March 1, 2020.

Joseph "Joe" Couri, MD (IM'79, RH'81), retired rheumatologist and songwriter, and hip-hop recording artist Warith Muhammad, wrote a song and made a music video together called "Don't Start," featuring singer/songwriter Maria Criss. They live in Peoria, Illinois, where Don't Start is a program in association with Carl Cannon and his Elite Program designed to prevent children and teenagers, especially those at risk, from joining gangs and becoming involved with drugs, bullying and gun violence. Dr. Couri and Warith Muhammad met through Mirror Image Studios in Bartonville, Illinois, where they both have recorded.



"We submitted the song to an international competition through The Akademia Music Awards program in Los Angeles, and it was named song and video of the month in the hip-hop genre in 2017," Dr. Couri says. "War

was given artist of the year for 2017 for his work, including 'Don't Start.' This year, we were given the Akademia Music Executive award, their highest award. We were very honored to receive it. 'Don't Start' is being played on internet radio on multiple stations around the world." Their video will be distributed to Peoria-area schools. "Ideally, we would like to spread our message around the country," Dr. Couri says. ■

Contacts



From left: Alpa Shah, MD (P'98); Richard (Dick) Dart, MD (IM'71); Rana Nasser, MD (IM'94, ID'96), Susan Rehm, MD. Not pictured: Miland Shah, MD (IM'95, CARD'98), invasive cardiology at Marshfield Clinic. (Photo taken prior to March 1, 2020.)

Visit to Marshfield Clinic

Susan Rehm, MD, ran into several Cleveland Clinic alumni at Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, Wisconsin, where she gave a grand rounds presentation on "Professional Fulfillment."

"It was so great to reconnect and learn from one another," she says.

One alumnus whom she saw, **Alpa Shah, MD, (P'98)**, Chair, Marshfield Clinic Board of Directors, is the first woman elected to her position in the 103-year history of the organization. She also is Chair, Physician and Allied Professionals Health Committee, leading institutional initiatives for physician and allied professionals' health and wellbeing. ■



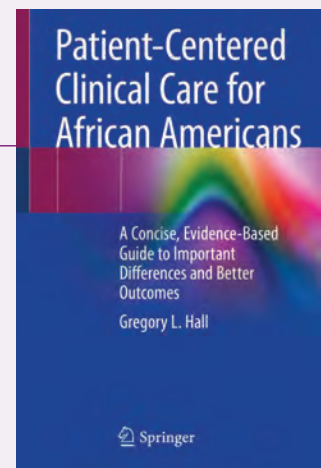
AUTHOR'S CORNER

Gregory L. Hall, MD (IM'94), has published a book, *Patient-Centered Clinical Care for African Americans: A Concise, Evidence-Based Guide to Important Differences and Better Outcomes*.

The book is especially timely "with poor chronic disease outcomes in African Americans at the forefront of national news due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a new crop of residents," he says. It would be good preparation "for the increased number of African Americans they will see at hospitals this summer and thereafter. As I remember from my days at Cleveland Clinic, many of these residents have had minimal contact with African Americans prior to their arrival in July."

The book is available from Springer publishing, Amazon, and other national outlets.

Dr. Hall is Co-Director of the Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED)-Cleveland State University Partnership for Urban Health and Director for African American Health, Research, Education & Policy at Cleveland State University, as well as associate professor of Internal Medicine and Integrative Medical Sciences at NEOMED. ■



Dr. Hong Honored by *Crain's* as a Woman of Note

Sandra Hong, MD (Staff'05), of Cleveland Clinic's Department of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, was named by *Crain's Cleveland Business* publication as one of its "Women of Note." The annual list honors inspiring women whose dedication and achievements enrich Northeast Ohio. Nominated by a panel of *Crain's* editors, honorees are selected from a wide pool of women who serve in a variety of leadership roles.

Dr. Hong is Regional Medical Director of Cleveland Clinic's southern region, which includes Brunswick, Medina, Wadsworth, Olmsted Township and Strongsville. She helped develop northern Ohio's first food-allergy center, the Food Allergy Center of Excellence (FACE), which launched in February.

"Today," the article says, "she leads a multidisciplinary team of allergists, pediatric psychologists and dietitians working to diagnose allergies and disease caused by reactions to food."

The article notes that about 32 million people in the U.S. have food allergies, including 8% of children, and that Dr. Hong's own nephews have severe peanut allergies, "the most common cause of food-induced anaphylaxis."

The new center, based in Dr. Hong's native Strongsville, also treats patients with diseases including asthma and eczema. Calling FACE "a labor of love," she also said that "researching and eventually improving every facet of an individual's life" is what sparked her interest in the field.



Dr. Hong told the magazine that her Korean-born mother and father, a former cytologist and grocery-store owner, instilled in her "the values of hard work and kindness" and that she is "blessed to be doing a job that speaks to me and allows me to help others." ■

Dr. Joseph Howarth Celebrates His 100th Birthday



Joseph Howarth, MD (NS'51), celebrated his 100th birthday on July 9.

A native of England, Dr. Howarth graduated from the medical school of the University of Manchester. During World War II, he served in the British Royal Army Medical Corps, and after the war, he emigrated to North America. He completed his neurosurgery training at Cleveland Clinic under W. James Gardner, MD. After serving on Cleveland Clinic's neurosurgery staff, Dr. Howarth moved to Orlando, Florida, and entered private practice

at what was then Orange Memorial Hospital. He was there for nearly 25 years, becoming Chief of Staff in 1966.

In 1975, Dr. Howarth joined the United States Air Force. When he left the Air Force, with the rank of colonel, he moved to Santa Barbara, California, and became Director of the Neck and Back Clinic of Samsun Medical Clinic.

Dr. Howarth retired in Palm Desert, California, with his wife of 58 years, Peggy. He now enjoys traveling and visiting his six children and five grandchildren. ■

In Memoriam



Judith Mary Darmady, MD (PD'65),

passed away on April 13 at Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital, in

Basingstoke, Hampshire, England, after contracting coronavirus. An esteemed physician, renowned for her work in Basingstoke, she was awarded an OBE in the Queen's birthday honors list in 2010. She chaired two charities, the Ungureni Trust in Romania and United Aid for Azerbaijan. Dr. Darmady had a long and distinguished career as a pediatrician at Basingstoke Hospital before retiring in 1995. She was remembered by friends and colleagues as kind and generous, "commanding the respect, love and friendship of most people in Basingstoke and Deane," and as "a consummate professional" who "discharged her duties with great passion and gained the respect of one and all."



Andrew Donnelly, MD (U'59), died

March 15 following a brief illness. He had a distinguished career as a urologist for

over 30 years. He is survived by four children, Margaret (Denis Cormier), Eilish, Kelly and Michael, and his brother Desmond (Moyra) Donnelly, as well as three grandchildren, two great-grandsons and one

great-great granddaughter, as well as many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.



Ernest William Thomas McCrank, MD (IM'66), age

79, died Dec. 10 in Calgary, Alberta. He was born on April 4, 1940

in Val-d'Or, QC. He and his wife, Jan, were married 55 years. They enjoyed golfing, tennis, hiking, biking, skiing and traveling. He is survived by his children, Colleen (Jeff Nazarchuk) of Calgary, and Ernest of Cultus Lake, British Columbia, a brother, Neil (Sue) of Calgary, a granddaughter and other loving family members. Dr. McCrank earned his medical degree in 1964 from Queen's University and went on to a residency in psychiatry, work at Homewood in Guelph, Ontario, and then to Western University in London, Ontario, where he became Emeritus Professor in Psychiatry. He specialized in anxiety disorders and served on the Mental Health Review Board of Alberta.



Mohamed Naguib, MD (Staff'10), a

staff member of Cleveland Clinic's Anesthesiology Institute, died

at his home in mid-February. Renowned nationally and internationally for his contributions to the field of anesthesiology,

Dr. Naguib was a successful academic physician. "This is a terrible loss to our GENA family, to the Anesthesiology Institute, to the Cleveland Clinic and to the whole anesthesia community," says Maged Argalious, MD, MSc, MBA, Professor and Chair, Department of General Anesthesiology. "To us, he was a colleague, a friend, and a mentor."



Satoru Nakamoto, MD (CARD'57),

92, one of Cleveland Clinic's oldest and most distinguished staff members,

passed away peacefully at home May 5 after a brief struggle with cancer. He joined Cleveland Clinic in 1956, and in 1967, he was appointed head of the newly formed Department of Hemodialysis, where he became a pioneer in dialysis and renal transplantation. He directed the kidney transplantation program in its crucial, formative years. His colleagues admired Dr. Nakamoto's intellect, perseverance and innovations that produced the seminal work in renal transplantation. He was considered the consummate physician, researcher and educator, who made patient care his priority.

Dr. Nakamoto is survived by his wife of 62 years, Grace Nakamoto (nee Maruo); children Dean Nakamoto, MD (Miki), Donna Lew (Christopher, MD) and David Nakamoto; grandchildren Kent and Alissa Nakamoto, and Alexander, Maria and Michele Lew. (Please

see related story, page 39)

Please consider a contribution in memory of Dr. Satoru Nakamoto to Cleveland Clinic Glickman Urological & Kidney Institute—Hypertension & Nephrology Education. Gifts can be sent to Cleveland Clinic Foundation, P.O. Box 931517, Cleveland, OH 44193-1655.



Donald Geoffrey "Don" Norris, MD (PD'92), 79, died at home with family in Audubon, PA on April 26, from cancer.

A dedicated pediatric hematologist/oncologist, he held positions at Cleveland Clinic, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, before launching a second career in peer review and quality improvement in the field of medicine. He was born on June 19, 1940, to Herbert Thomas and Ruth Maude (Church) Norris of Pullman, WA. He earned his medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and pursued advanced medical training at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, and the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine. While stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, he served three years as a general medical officer in the Third Armored Division of the U.S. Army, reaching the rank of major. He is survived by Sue, his wife of 37 years; their son Geoffrey; his former wife, Bonnie Hepburn, MD; their daughters Wendy (Stuart) and Robin (Peter); granddaughters Casey and

Reed; and numerous in-laws, nieces, nephews and cousins. His parents and brother, H. Thomas Norris, MD, preceded him in death.



William Proudfit, MD (IM'43), died Feb. 11, just five days shy of his 106th birthday. He was the loving husband of

Thelma J. (nee Janaske). Born in Connellsville, Pennsylvania, he was a graduate of Washington and Jefferson College, 1935, and Harvard Medical School, 1939. After interning at Geisinger Memorial Hospital in Danville, Pennsylvania, he trained in internal medicine and cardiology at Cleveland Clinic from 1940 to 1943, and then served in the U.S. Army Airforce from 1943 to 1946. He returned to Cleveland Clinic in 1946 as a staff member in the Department of Cardiopulmonary Disease and soon became head of the section of Electrocardiography. Years later, he became the head of the Department of Clinical Cardiology. An author and coauthor of many papers or book chapters, he served a term on Cleveland Clinic's Board of Governors and received the Distinguished Fellows Award of Cleveland Clinic's Alumni Association. He retired in 1979 but continued researching and writing for many years. He was the father of John P. Proudfit (Donna) of North Ridgeville, Ohio; Ann P. Iannarelli (Dennis J., deceased) of Cleveland Heights, Ohio; James H. Proudfit (Karen) of

Euclid, Ohio, and the grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of nine.



Robin Eric Rosenberg, MD (S'82, CRS'83), died in February. He graduated from Trinity College with honors

in biology and AOA from Temple University School of Medicine. He received his medical degree from the Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University and went on to complete his residency and fellowship at Cleveland Clinic in 1983. He was board certified in colon and rectal surgery and general surgery. He practiced in the greater Philadelphia area, where he was named a top doctor by *Philadelphia Magazine*. He was a member of the Undine Barge Club and regularly rowed his single scull on the Schuylkill River. Dr. Rosenberg is survived by his wife, Irene, and his son, Christopher.



Merton Seigleman, MD (AN'61), died Feb. 25 at the age of 96. He was on the staff of Cleveland Clinic's Department

of Anesthesia from January 1960 to March 1961. He always spoke highly of his time at Cleveland Clinic and stayed in touch with many

Continued on page 38

In Memoriam

Continued from page 37

colleagues. He became a Consultant in Anaesthetics at Blackburn Royal Infirmary in East Lancashire, England, established a Pain Relief Clinic and was the founder of the East Lancashire Hospice, which he oversaw from its inception Feb. 25, 1981, through fundraising, to the opening of a 10-bed facility on June 21, 1984. He worked there tirelessly for many years. He was awarded an OBE in 1985 and the Anne Norfolk Lifetime Achievement Award by Hospice UK in 2014.



David O. Taylor, MD (Staff '01), Professor of Medicine, died Feb. 5. He was 60 years old. In 2001, Dr. Taylor joined Cleveland Clinic

as a staff physician in the Robert and Suzanne Tomsich Department

of Cardiovascular Medicine, a role he served in for 19 years. He was also the Director of the Heart Failure and Transplantation Fellowship. He served on the editorial board for many leading specialty journals and led numerous studies related to cardiac transplantation and treatment of congestive heart failure. He was once named as one of the top 27 cardiologists in the United States by *Forbes Magazine*.

Dr. Taylor's contributions to heart transplantation were recognized globally. He was President of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation in 2012-13, and his contributions to the International Transplant Registry and Guidelines significantly improved the care of multiple generations of patients.

Prior to joining Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Taylor served 10 years at the University of Utah where he was Medical Director of the Cardiac Transplant Program. He was a

Professor of Medicine in the Division of Cardiology at the University of Utah Medical Center, receiving five Outstanding Teaching Awards during his tenure there.

"It is with tremendous sadness that we mourn the passing of our dear colleague and friend, David Taylor," says Lars Svensson, MD, PhD, Chair of the Sydel and Arnold Miller Family Heart, Vascular & Thoracic Institute. "He was an outstanding physician and a strong leader. He was highly respected by colleagues and well loved by his patients."

"From his first days at Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Taylor's clinical impact and profound professional abilities were immediately evident," says Randall C. Starling MD, MPH. "He has left a legacy on our trainees and his colleagues that will impact the care of patients around the world."

He is survived by his wife, Linda, and children, Matthew, Alyssa and Mackenzie.



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For more information, please call Mindy Stroh, Senior Director, Alumni Relations, at **216.444.2487**.

Kidney Transplant Pioneer Satoru Nakamoto, MD, Dies at 92



Satoru Nakamoto, MD (CARD'57), renowned for his foundational work in the field of kidney dialysis and

renal transplantation, passed away peacefully at home on May 5, at the age of 92. (Please see obituary, page 36)

Born in Yamaguchi prefecture, Japan, he earned his medical degree at Yamaguchi Medical College after World War II and emigrated to the United States in 1953 as a medical intern. In July 1956, he joined Cleveland Clinic as a research fellow for Willem Kolff, MD, famed for his work in kidney dialysis. Recalling his arrival there, Dr. Nakamoto wrote, "As a Japanese exchange fellow, I was excited but scared to be working with such a prominent researcher." He soon became a valued member of Dr. Kolff's team.

In April, 1961, Dr. Nakamoto, by then a staff member, attended the annual meeting of the American Society of Artificial Internal Organs, where he learned that teams at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston and Hôpital Necker in Paris had performed successful kidney transplants in a small number of patients beginning in 1954. He realized that successful kidney

transplantation could offer patients a better quality of life in the long run than chronic hemodialysis.

With some trepidation, Dr. Nakamoto suggested to Dr. Kolff that he organize a kidney transplant program at Cleveland Clinic. He thought his idea might be rejected because of Dr. Kolff's focus on dialysis, but to his surprise, Dr. Kolff not only called it "an excellent idea," but also put Dr. Nakamoto in charge of the program.

According to an early history of kidney transplantation at Cleveland Clinic written by Dr. Nakamoto, the first one performed there was before he started the program, on Oct. 25, 1957, from a deceased donor to a 23-year-old man. On Nov. 27, 1962, the newly established Cleveland Clinic Transplantation Committee had its first meeting, with members Dr. Nakamoto, Dr. Kolff, Dr. Gene Poutasse, Dr. Ralph Straffon and Dr. Donald Senhauser. On Jan. 9, 1963, Cleveland Clinic's second-ever kidney transplant was performed, from a deceased donor to a 48-year-old woman. The first living related kidney transplant took place April 1, 1963, from a 40-year-old mother to her 14-year-old daughter.

In 1967, when Dr. Kolff moved to the University of Utah in Salt Lake City to develop a wide range of artificial organs, Dr. Nakamoto succeeded him as head of the newly

formed Department of Hemodialysis. He retired in 1991.

By 2013, the year that Cleveland Clinic celebrated its 50th anniversary of kidney transplantation, over 3,000 kidney transplants had been performed. More than 75 patients had lived with the same functioning kidney transplant for 30 to 45 years.

Even with all of his professional accomplishments and acclaim throughout his long and distinguished career, Dr. Nakamoto's reputation remained that of a humble, modest man, and a loving husband and father.

"Throughout everything, my dad was still a family man," says older son Dean Nakamoto, MD. "He traveled and worked late a lot, but he always made time for family vacations. We did a lot of fishing together on our yearly trips to Canada, and we played a lot of golf together—though we were not good golfers."

He didn't realize while growing up just how famous his father was, he says. "I really had no idea. He didn't talk too much about his work. It was my sixth-grade science teacher who told me."

After retiring, Dr. Nakamoto enjoyed spending time with his wife, Grace, their children Donna Lew, Dean and David and their grandchildren, keeping up with friends from around the world, gardening and golfing. ■



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