

By TYLER FRANCISCHINE

It was a year for the history books: In 1969, man walked on the moon, Woodstock rocked upstate New York and students from “the great class of ‘69” received their medical degrees from the UF College of Medicine.

Robert Watson, MD ’69, former senior associate dean for educational affairs at the UF College of Medicine, calls his 57-member class the greatest to ever walk the halls. From establishing the Hippocratic Award to honor beloved faculty to the “total debauchery” of post-exam shindigs, Watson said his class was a “reasonably crazy group.”

“In medical school, you bond with your classmates in ways that are hard to imagine,” Watson said. “It’s the time you realize how important it is to be a team.”

Watson and several of his classmates reflected on the good, bad and crazy days of their medical training during the 2019 Alumni Weekend, which kicked off Oct. 4 with a Golden Gator breakfast for members of the class of 1969, celebrating 50 years since graduation.

Alumni Weekend continued in the George T. Harrell, MD, Medical Education Building with tours of the UF Center for Experiential Learning and Simulation, which houses several human patient simulators. Alumni were treated to demonstrations that simulated birth and cardiac arrest. Other events included inducting two alumni into the UF College of Medicine Wall of Fame (see page 8), a scholarship luncheon that connected scholarship recipients with alumni, the annual Celebrating Classes dinner, a tailgate celebration and an Innovations in Research presentation from UF Health Shands chief medical officer C. Parker Gibbs Jr., MD ’89, who outlined his multidisciplinary approach to treating pediatric patients with osteosarcoma.

“I attend Alumni Weekend every fifth year, and I attended every single year when I was a dean,” Watson said. “I love to see my classmates and to see all the impressive changes to our campus. Medical school sure was a grind, but we sure had fun.”

CLASS OF 1969

ONE FOR THE AGES

The class of 1969 shares treasured memories at 2019 Alumni Weekend



Members of the class of 1969 gathered at the George T. Harrell, MD, Medical Education Building to catch up on the last 50 years at the 2019 Alumni Weekend held in October.

PHOTO BY LOUIS BREMS

NEWS CLIPS

PA PROFESSOR APPOINTED TO NATIONAL MEDICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Pamela Patton, MSP, PA-C, DFAAPA, director of admissions and the William M. Hall associate professor for the UF School of Physician Assistant Studies, was recently appointed to the Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry, a federal committee under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Service Administration agency.



PHOTO BY JESSE S. JONES

"It's a huge honor to be appointed to the federal advisory committee that focuses on the education and training of medical and dental primary care providers," said Patton, a triple Gator with degrees from the colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Medicine and Pharmacy. "The committee's goals to reduce gaps between primary care resources — including the shortage of primary care providers — and the needs of rural and underserved populations very much align with my own."

For five years, Patton provided low-cost medical care to the uninsured and poorly insured residents of rural North Central Florida through her work each week at the federally designated Alachua County Organization of Rural Needs health care clinic. Funding constraints forced its closing in October.

Patton is a member of the fifth graduating class of the UF School of PA Studies. She began her medical career on the UF kidney transplant team in the late 1970s and in 2002 was named associate clinical director of UF's kidney and pancreas transplant programs. Patton served as clinical director for those programs from 2007 until 2014, when she joined the faculty of the UF School of PA Studies. Today she dedicates her career to admitting, teaching and mentoring the next generation of PAs at her alma mater. ■



PHOTO BY LOUIS BREMS

PREMATURE INFANT SIMULATOR TRAINS STAFF IN HIGH-RISK, LOW-FREQUENCY SITUATIONS

Measuring not even 14 inches long and weighing a little over 2 pounds, Paul, the premature infant simulator, is making a weighty impact on the staff of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at UF Health Shands Children's Hospital. Acquired by the UF Center for Experiential Learning and Simulation in 2019, Paul is a high-fidelity mannequin simulating a baby born at 27 weeks, a condition creating high risks for many long-term medical complications.

"Very low birth weight babies like Paul comprise only 15%-20% of our admissions to the UF Health Shands Children's Hospital NICU," says UF Health neonatologist Nicole Cacho, DO, MPH. "Since these cases aren't seen frequently and the infants are at high risk for many long-term medical complications, giving Paul specific and skilled care in the simulated patient environment helps us to make sure we perform these resuscitations right." ■

AN EMERGING LEADER

Jodi Fitzgerald, MD '19, began her residency in family medicine in Westminster, Colorado, as an award winner from the Family Medicine Leads Emerging Leader Institute. She was named one of three best overall project winners by the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation. As a participant in the institute during her fourth year of medical school, Fitzgerald studied ways to improve nutrition counseling through her project, "A Nutrition Counseling Framework for Family Medicine." "So much of our patients' suffering can be traced back to obesity-related conditions," Fitzgerald said. "When I learned how these diseases can be prevented and even reversed through a healthful diet, I couldn't help but wonder why we as family physicians weren't talking about this with every single patient." She said the overall goal of her project was to support family physicians in having that conversation. The Emerging Leader Institute aims to increase the number of well-trained future family medicine leaders by offering up-and-coming residents and medical students a yearlong leadership development opportunity. ■

A GAME-CHANGING DISCOVERY

Work by UF researchers Ira Longini, PhD, and Natalie Dean, PhD, landed on National Geographic's list of Top 20 scientific discoveries of the decade. Longini, a professor in the department of biostatistics at the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions and the College of Medicine, and Dean, an assistant professor of biostatistics, played an integral role in the design and analysis of trials that tested efficacy of the successful Ebola vaccine. Approved for licensing in November, the vaccine is expected to save thousands of lives. ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

UF faculty members Ira Longini, PhD, and Natalie Dean, PhD, collaborated with the World Health Organization to develop and test the Ebola vaccine.



From left are the UF Department of Medicine's Neeka Akhaven, MD; Katherine Huber, MD, FACP; and Zareen Zaidi, MD, PhD; with Joseph A. Tyndall, MD, MPH, interim dean, during the AAMC's Academic Societies Poster Reception and Group on Women in Medicine and Science Awards.

LEARN SERVE LEAD

Several UF College of Medicine faculty members attended the 2019 Learn Serve Lead, the annual meeting of the Association of American Medical Colleges, or AAMC. The meeting, held in Phoenix in November, is a signature learning and networking event for those in academic medicine, and the 2019 edition was the largest annual meeting in its history, with more than 4,850 attendees. Four UF faculty who are members of the AAMC's Group on Women in Medicine and Science presented research during the GWIMS, Group on Faculty Affairs, Council of Deans and Council of Faculty and Academic Societies Poster Reception and GWIMS Awards event. The session included more than 65 posters centered around the theme of Advancing Women in Medicine and Science.



PHOTO BY PEDRO CRUZ, PHD

ARTS IN MEDICINE

When scientist Pedro Cruz, PhD, was working on a research project, little did he know it would turn into a piece of art. He was doing AAV plasmids for Matthew Farrer, PhD, an endowed chair of the Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at UF Health, director of the Clinical Genomics Program and a professor of neurology, when something unexpected happened.

"One of the plasmids required the fluorescent protein gene — mCherry," said Cruz, a lab manager in the UF Center for Translational Research in Neurodegenerative Disease, as he described how the bright colors shone under his microscope that day. "It was not planned, but the mCherry gene expressed in the bacteria. I used the bacteria to draw different brain cells — like the astrocyte shown here — in the bacteria plate."



We want to see the world of science through your microscope!
Share your own science art with us at drgator@health.ufl.edu.

#FacesofUFMed

MEET SIX UF COLLEGE OF MEDICINE STUDENTS AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS WHO ARE SETTING THEIR SIGHTS ON MAKING AN IMPACT ON THE HEALTH CARE LANDSCAPE AS THE NEXT GENERATION OF GATOR MDS.



Name: Alexis Germain
Graduation year: 2020
Scholarship: Dean's Preeminence Scholarship
On the culture at the UF College of Medicine: "The sense of community is so palpable. Everyone says that when you visit their school, but this was the only place I could feel that from the students."



Name: Aparna Sethumadhavan
Graduation year: 2022
Scholarship: Hugh and Mabel Wilford Scholarship
On her vision for the future: "My goal in whatever I do is to work to reduce health inequities and support the advancement of marginalized people in health care. Health care is a human right, and I want to make sure that all patients are treated with this in mind."



Name: Oliver Sroka
Graduation year: 2021
Scholarship: Avonelle C. Noah Scholarship
On putting yourself in a patient's shoes: "After going through cancer, I have realized that every second of every day is an opportunity to make a difference in the world. I know that becoming a physician will allow me to seize those opportunities to help others be strong and to provide supportive counsel for those who are sick, no matter the diagnosis. That would bring me the greatest satisfaction in life."



Name: Chris Henson
Graduation year: 2020
Scholarship: J. Stephen Waters Scholarship
On sticking to your goals: "If any obstacles seem to prevent you from achieving your goals, find a way to work around them. Don't give up on your dreams."



Name: Xavier Williams
Graduation year: 2020
Scholarship: Ralph G. Blodgett Scholarship
On overcoming obstacles: "When things get difficult, we have to reach into our hearts. We have to continue to fight and realize our circumstances don't dictate our futures."



Name: Xiomara Brioso Rubio
Graduation year: 2020
Scholarship: William W. and Marie C. Wolff Scholarship
On building relationships with patients: "I aim to have a physician-patient partnership based on mutual respect and trust. I want to create a safe environment for my patients, so they know I am mindful of their finances, education and cultural beliefs. I am on their side."

Visit news.drgator.ufl.edu/scholarshipstories to read more and follow along with the #FacesofUFMed series on Instagram @UFMedicine.

Never not doing

By TYLER FRANCISCHINE

Dr. R. Dean Hautamaki passes on his passion for the “calling” of medicine to the next generation through generous scholarship

According to Sarasota physician R. Dean Hautamaki, MD '89, everyone has two choices in life.

“If a building is on fire and people are screaming inside, you either run to the fire or you stand on the curb and take photographs,” he says. “You have to decide who you are: an observer or a doer.”

Hautamaki has committed himself to the doer’s life, and with a recent philanthropic gift to the UF College of Medicine, he and his wife, Lizzie, are supporting the goals of the next generation of physicians and doers. The Dr. R. Dean and Elizabeth F. Hautamaki Endowed Medical Scholarship Fund provides \$1 million to establish merit-based scholarships for UF College of Medicine students.

“This scholarship is designed for individuals who are clearly driven, passionate and hardworking in the field of medicine, no matter what specialty they decide to go into,” Hautamaki says. “Every physician practicing in this country should be well-trained, ethical, caring, compassionate and communicative. We can make sure that is the case for every graduate of the UF College Medicine.”

Joseph A. Tyndall, MD, MPH, interim dean of the College of Medicine, says he feels deeply grateful for the Hautamakis’ commitment to UF medical students.

“They understand how daunting tuition debt can be and what a barrier it can pose to aspiring physicians,” Tyndall says. “Their generosity will have an incredible impact upon our best and brightest students.”

After graduating from the UF College of Medicine in 1989, Hautamaki completed a general surgery internship and two years of a general surgery residency at UF before traveling to Missouri for an internal medicine residency and a respiratory/critical care fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis.

“The UF faculty in the basic sciences and the clinical arena were outstanding,” he says. “When I went to St. Louis, I realized how good my education was at UF, not only from a knowledge standpoint but also from a clinical skills standpoint. I realized the education here was really special.”

Hautamaki co-founded the private practice Hautamaki and Horiuchi Personal Physicians of Sarasota in 2008. Unlike many practices in which a physician maintains office hours,

“
**You
have
to
decide
who
you
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an
observer
or a
doer.**
”

Hautamaki and his partners create a continuity of care for their patients, seeing them through stays in the hospital or emergency room, managing their care at rehabilitation facilities and making routine home visits for those who are recovering from surgeries, are homebound or are in hospice.

In addition to serving his patients who pay an annual fee for unlimited health care services, Hautamaki also practices medicine pro bono for 15%-20% of his patients who cannot afford the high costs of health care.

“I’ve always believed you have to love medicine to practice,” he says. “It’s not a job; it’s a way of life. I love diagnosing, treating and getting people back into a healthy state. I love being there for people and giving back. That’s why it’s a calling.”

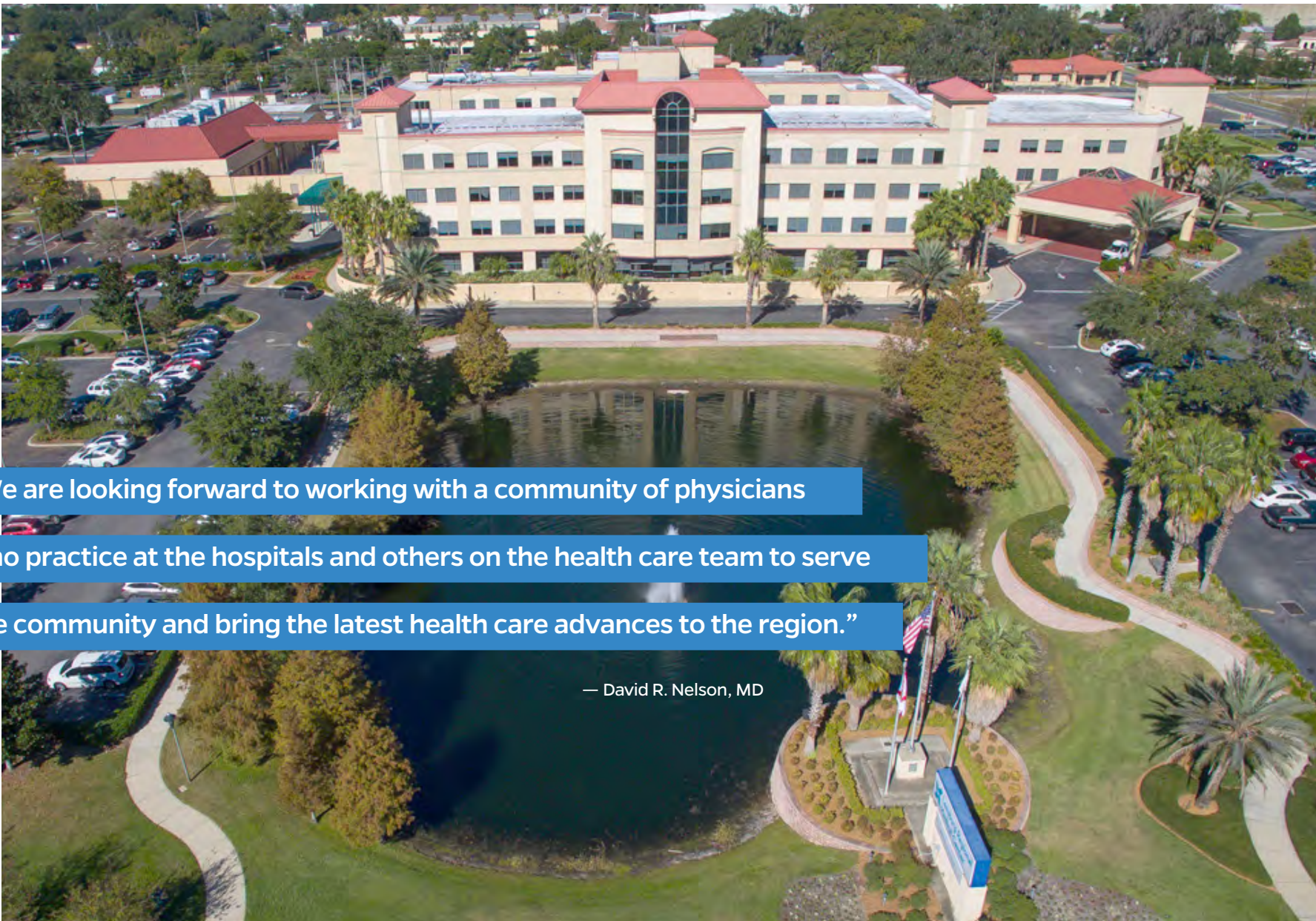
Ever the multitasker, Hautamaki serves as director for biotechnology companies Fibralign Corp. and First Wave Technologies. He is a co-trustee of the Louis and Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust, one of the largest private trusts in the state, which is dedicated to health care and community needs on Florida’s Suncoast. He’s a member of the faculty at the Florida State University College of Medicine and the current chair of the UF College of Medicine Dean’s Leadership Council, where he leads a group of physicians, physician assistants and business experts from around the state who provide input and support to the college on topics like fundraising and project management.

When he’s not working, Hautamaki spends time on his cattle ranch east of Sarasota with his wife, who graduated from Ringling College in Sarasota and has taught for more than two decades, including at the Forty Carrots Family Center.

A father of four college-aged children, Hautamaki finds peace working in his family’s organic garden, walking his dogs in the woods near his home or moving the cattle around the ranch. Downtime doesn’t come around often, but he has no regrets for the fast-paced life he’s carved out for himself over nearly three decades of practice.

“It’s a lot of work,” Hautamaki says. “It takes its physical and mental toll, and yet it’s the way I wanted to live my life. People in need truly come first.”





“We are looking forward to working with a community of physicians who practice at the hospitals and others on the health care team to serve the community and bring the latest health care advances to the region.”

— David R. Nelson, MD

Leesburg Regional Medical Center became UF Health Leesburg Hospital in January.

UF Health to partner with The Villages®, acquires Central Florida Health’s regional hospitals

By MELANIE FRIDL ROSS

The Villages® and UF Health announced in December their intent to develop a comprehensive health care campus that will offer a full portfolio of education, research, and advanced health care and wellness services for The Villages® community. Building on a strategic affiliation that has connected local residents to leading-edge stroke care and other health care services for several years, UF Health and Central Florida Health also agreed to evolve their relationship, with UF Health acquiring its two regional hospitals in January.

The Villages® seeks to become America’s “healthiest hometown,” and the broad vision will include a variety of UF Health medical practices as well as teaching and research alliances with various UF colleges, such as Dentistry, Health and Human Performance, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Professions, and Veterinary Medicine, along with associated centers and institutes. UF/IFAS extension programming focused on food and nutrition also will be a highlight.

Leesburg Regional Medical Center became UF Health Leesburg Hospital, and The Villages® Regional Hospital became UF Health The Villages® Hospital. The move strengthens and improves the availability of high-quality, efficient, affordable health care for Lake, Sumter and Marion counties through the 660-bed regional system, and will preserve and enhance the hospitals’ focus on other important missions of research, medical education and charity care.

Over time, long-term capital plans for facility improvements and new equipment and technologies will be considered, including construction of a new general acute care hospital in association with The Villages®. In January, a new 24-hour freestanding emergency room opened on State Road 44 in Wildwood, just across from Brownwood Paddock Square in The Villages®.

“UF Health and Central Florida Health have had a complementary, collegial relationship that has already begun to expand the health care services available to patients in the area,” said David R. Nelson, MD, senior vice president for health affairs at UF and president of UF Health. “We are looking forward to working with community physicians who practice at the hospitals and others on the health care team to serve the needs of the community and bring the latest health care advances to the region.”

The news regarding the two hospitals is the latest step in UF Health’s commitment to making high-quality, compassionate health care more accessible and comes in the wake of an announcement earlier in December that The Villages® and UF Health have signed a letter of intent to work together to develop a comprehensive health care campus.

UF Health acquired Central Florida Health’s two regional hospitals in January. Below, The Villages® Hospital became UF Health The Villages® Hospital.



Ushering in a new era for UF Health and Shriners Hospitals for Children

By TYLER FRANCISCHINE

UF Health and Shriners Hospitals for Children have forged a unique relationship that will have a meaningful impact on children with musculoskeletal problems.

The two institutions announced in October that Shriners Hospitals for Children will create the Shriners professorship in pediatric orthopaedics, the Shriners fellowship in pediatric orthopaedics and funding for improvements at the pediatric orthopaedic practice to help enhance the patient experience. The commitment will provide ongoing support for research, faculty and staff development, program enhancements and continuing education related to the care of pediatric orthopaedic patients at both UF Health Shands Children’s Hospital and the UF Health Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Institute.

Since opening the doors of its first hospital in Shreveport, Louisiana, in 1922, Shriners Hospitals for Children has grown into an internationally recognized

pediatric specialty health care system with hospitals in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The Shriners endowed professorship in pediatric orthopaedics supports a UF College of Medicine faculty member who demonstrates commitment to the treatment of orthopaedic diseases that adversely affect the lives, well-being, comfort and happiness of children. The professorship has been awarded to Laurel Blakemore, MD, division chief of pediatric orthopaedics in the department of orthopaedics and rehabilitation. Blakemore is nationally known for her expertise in complex spinal deformity, scoliosis and general pediatric orthopaedics.

The Shriners endowed fellowship in pediatric orthopaedics supports training physicians at the UF College of Medicine who will specialize in treating children with congenital deformities and conditions, neuromusculoskeletal diseases, orthopaedic injuries and rare bone diseases.

Grants from Shriners Hospitals for Children will help create and equip clinical space dedicated to pediatric care at the UF Health Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine Institute. This space will be recognized as a Shriners Center of Excellence. Included will be the purchase of a second EOS X-ray, a low-dose, 3D imaging system that allows practitioners to view the interaction between a patient’s joints and the rest of the musculoskeletal system, including the legs, hips and spine.

“The new relationship with Shriners Hospitals for Children allows UF Health to advance our practice in specialty orthopaedics through comprehensive clinical research and improved treatments for children with unique and life-altering skeletal conditions,” said David R. Nelson, MD, senior vice president for health affairs at UF and president of UF Health. “We are grateful for this special association, which also provides unparalleled training opportunities for future generations of orthopaedics practitioners.”

Mark T. Scarborough, MD ‘85, a professor and chair of the UF College of Medicine’s Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation, said the opportunities to work with and care for this population of patients help faculty, residents and fellows alike enhance their knowledge and skills in pediatric care.

“We are thrilled to have the chance to recognize and expand the work of one of our current clinical leaders through the endowed professorship,” Scarborough said. “We look forward to sharing our research and outcomes regularly with Shriners Hospitals for Children.”

The new relationship between Shriners Hospitals for Children and UF Health was recognized Oct. 4 with a signing ceremony that included UF President Kent Fuchs, members of the SHC-Florida Board of Governors and members of the UF Foundation Board of Directors.



University of Florida and UF Health leadership met with Shriners Hospitals for Children officials in October to celebrate their combined efforts to improve the treatment of orthopaedic diseases in children.

Two alumni added to UF College of Medicine Wall of Fame

By TYLER FRANCISCHINE AND STYLIANA RESVANIS

During the annual Alumni Weekend celebration in October, Christopher Broder, PhD '89, and Mark Atkinson, PhD '88, were inducted into the UF College of Medicine Wall of Fame, an honor created in 1988 to recognize outstanding alumni who have made contributions to medicine, government, education and the community. Broder and Atkinson joined the ranks of 36 other alumni named to the wall who have left their mark in science and medicine.

"Thank you for representing the UF College of Medicine so incredibly and for the distinction you have built in your careers," said Interim Dean Joseph A. Tyndall, MD, MPH, during the unveiling ceremony Oct. 4 in the Founders Gallery on UF's campus.



Christopher Broder, PhD '89

His work has led to the development of vaccines and therapeutics for important emerging viral diseases, he's an inventor on 19 patents worldwide and his work has been cited more than 20,000 times. Christopher Broder, PhD '89, is a leader in the world of virology, and his journey began at the UF College of Medicine.

"Entering the PhD program at the UF College of Medicine opened my eyes to the real importance of infectious disease," says Broder, who serves as a professor and chair

of microbiology and immunology at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. "I didn't just learn how to ask scientific questions and design an approach to answer those questions; I learned the process of gathering and using existing knowledge to formulate the right questions."

After Broder graduated from UF — where he established a molecular-pathogenic model for the flesh-eating group A streptococci bacteria — he became a National Research Council research associate at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Laboratory of Viral Diseases. From 2006 until 2018, he served as the director of the emerging infectious diseases graduate program at the Uniformed Services University.

When Broder reflects on all he's accomplished so far, one breakthrough remains top of mind. Broder helped develop the Equivac HeV vaccine, the first commercialized vaccine to protect horses from the Hendra virus and subsequently prevent the transmission of this virus from horse to human.

Broder calls being named to the UF College of Medicine Wall of Fame one of the "highest honors" he's received in his scientific career.

"Being recognized by my alma mater on my accomplishments since leaving UF is an exceptional tribute," he says. — TF



Mark Atkinson, PhD '88

In 1970s Detroit, mechanics and cars were built in droves. There, in a middle school shop class, a 12-year-old raised by a single mom discovered a love for problem-solving by taking engines apart and putting them back together. That passion and curiosity would eventually drive him from his Michigan hometown to sunny Florida in pursuit of a solution to one of the most pervasive health issues.

Upon coming to the UF College of Medicine as a graduate student, Mark Atkinson, PhD '88

— the first in his immediate family to ever attend college, let alone graduate school — sought to answer three questions: Can we predict who will develop Type 1 diabetes, can we determine what causes the disease and can we cure it? Although the first task is largely complete, three decades later, scientists are still working to answer the latter two queries.

"There's promise that we're on the precipice of that long-held breakthrough notion about preventing and curing the disease," he says. "There's never been a time with more potential to see that occur."

This potential for a breakthrough pushes Atkinson to keep his foot on the gas all these years later. As the director of the UF Diabetes Institute, the American Diabetes Association Eminent Scholar for Diabetes Research and the Jeffrey Keene Family Professor, he and his team collaborate with colleagues throughout UF's academic health center and beyond on initiatives ranging from research on diabetes development in dogs to nutrition and education programs for the community.

As one of the most-cited authors in Type 1 diabetes research, he's received accolades from national and international organizations such as JDRF and the American Diabetes Association but counts the 2019 UF College of Medicine Wall of Fame recognition among his top accomplishments.

"This award is special because this place is home," says Atkinson, who founded the Network for Pancreatic Organ donors with Diabetes program, or nPOD — now the largest Type 1 diabetes research program in the world — and established a nonprofit with his wife in 2011 to deliver diabetes supplies to patients in developing countries. "I always felt there's no place I could do more for Type 1 diabetes than at UF."

Despite the honors that line his office walls, what fuels Atkinson are the connections he forms with people, from collaborators across campus and around the world to patients and families affected by the disease he's dedicated his career to driving away.

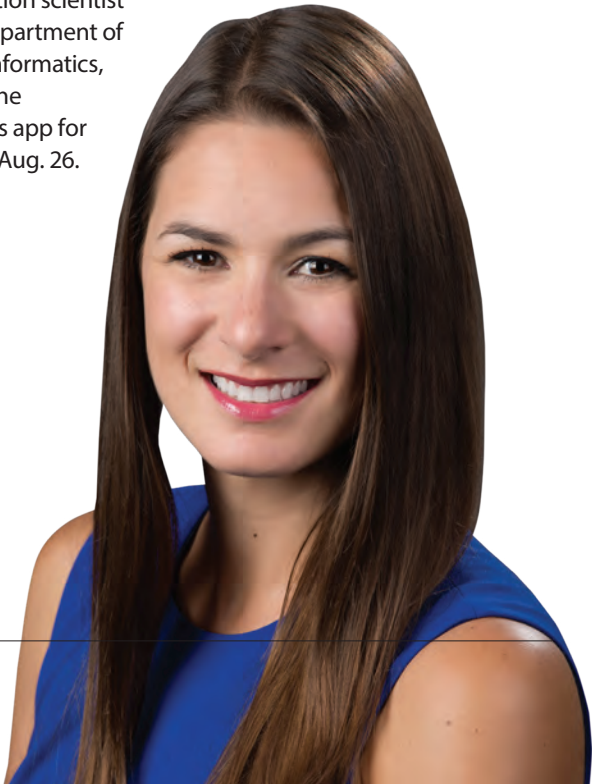
"At UF, diabetes research becomes more than a job; it becomes a mission," he says. "It's something you talk and think about, not just while you're on campus or in this hospital. It's about 24/7 dedication." — SR

FACULTY SOUND BITES



Compliance is king — not what you eat but what can you stick to over the long term. When I'm talking with a child, the focus needs to be on the healthy behaviors, on developing a healthy eating pattern in your life and it being something you enjoy."

— **Michelle Cardel, PhD**, a nutrition scientist and an assistant professor in the department of health outcomes and biomedical informatics, discussing childhood obesity and the controversy over a Weight Watchers app for children with The New York Times, Aug. 26.



NEARLY 500 ALUMNI AND FRIENDS gathered on campus for the annual Alumni Weekend Oct. 4-5, which recognized milestone reunion years for the classes of 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014.



PHOTOS BY LOUIS BREMS AND JESSE S. JONES



We all have occasional fears that go away without treatment, like being afraid of the dark ... **OCD is not the existence of these illogical thoughts, it is the inability to suppress them.**

— **Carol Mathews, MD**, a professor in the department of psychiatry and director of the Center for OCD, Anxiety and Related Disorders at UF, discussing the Fear Facers Summer Camp for children with obsessive-compulsive and anxiety disorders with The New York Times, June 28.



Bystander CPR is the most important

intervention to increase the chance of a good outcome, such as survival without severe brain injury.

— **Torben Becker, MD, PhD**, associate medical director of Alachua County Fire Rescue and an assistant professor in the department of emergency medicine, discussing his team's research on bystander CPR during cardiac arrest with Reuters Health, Oct. 2.



LISTEN UP

Check out UF Health's new monthly podcast series, UF Health MedEd Cast, to gain insight on trending health care topics. Earn CME credits while hearing about clinical issues and the latest research advancements from UF Health physicians.

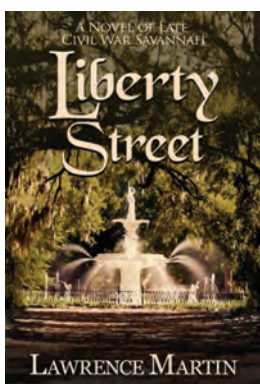
Two ways to tune in:

- Listen directly by streaming from **UFHealth.org/MedMatters/podcast**
- Download the podcast to your computer, tablet or smartphone and listen to it using a built-in audio player or a third-party application such as Apple Podcasts, Stitcher or iHeartRadio. Simply search for UF Health MedEd Cast in these applications to subscribe.



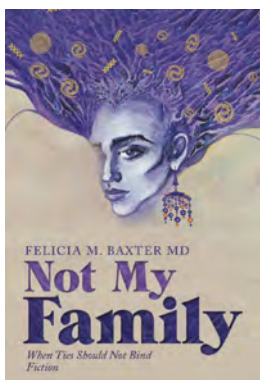
READING ROUNDUP

For this crop of physicians, the pen is just as mighty as the scalpel. Listed here are recently published books authored by UF College of Medicine alumni, which range from novels about historical Savannah, Georgia, and family memories to a guide on exercise for cancer prevention and recovery. Learn more about the inspiration that fuels these physician-writers.



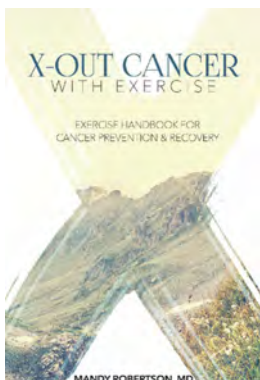
AUTHOR: Lawrence Martin, MD '69
BOOK TITLE: "Liberty Street: A Novel of Later Civil War Savannah"
PUBLICATION DATE: July 2017, Lakeside Press, won second-place prize for historical fiction at the 2018 Florida Writers Association's Royal Palm Literary Awards

"I grew up in Savannah, Georgia, which was the end point of Gen. Sherman's March to the Sea in 1864. After touring the mansion where he stayed, I became fascinated with Savannah's Civil War history. I always loved to write, and during my career as a pulmonologist, I wrote a dozen nonfiction books for doctors and the lay public. With my newfound fascination, I decided to tackle fiction and ended up writing three Civil War novels. The latest is the story of a 24-year-old war widow and her complicated love affairs in war-ravaged Savannah."



AUTHOR: Felicia Baxter, MD '97
BOOK TITLE: "Not My Family: When Ties Should Not Bind Fiction"
PUBLICATION DATE: May 2019, AuthorHouse

"'Not My Family' is not and was never meant to be a typical fluffy beach read. In Writing 101, you learn to write about what you know, so I loosely based this on my family, a collection of disconnected memories. My hope is that readers consider alternative actions and reactions to life. One of the finer points I hope rings true is finding forgiveness: forgiving yourself and others for past transgressions and learning that forgiveness doesn't justify the transgression but allows you to move on and grow."



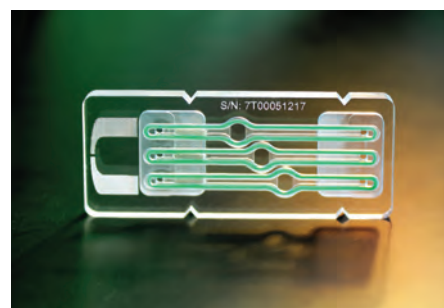
AUTHOR: Mandy Robertson, MD '99
BOOK TITLE: "X-Out Cancer With Exercise: Exercise Handbook for Cancer Prevention and Recovery"
PUBLICATION DATE: July 2019, BookBaby

"My book started as handouts for my patients with the goal of educating people on the ways exercise can improve their health and well-being and how to exercise safely no matter their skill level or limitations. I hope people find success with exercise in recovering from cancer and cancer treatments, living with cancer or preventing cancer altogether."

RESEARCH ROUNDUP

UF RESEARCHERS DEVELOPING 'PANCREATIC ISLET ON A CHIP' TO STUDY TYPE 1 DIABETES

A group of UF researchers will use a new \$5 million grant to develop a "pancreatic islet on a chip" — a platform that will allow them to more efficiently and effectively study Type 1 diabetes and potential treatments for the condition. The system will harness recent advances in stem cell technology, gene editing and biomedical devices to replicate the conditions in the body that result in Type 1 diabetes. That will give researchers a unique window to study the mechanisms of immune cell destruction caused by Type 1 diabetes.



UF HEALTH RESEARCHERS FIND NEW DETAILS OF IMMUNE SYSTEM'S MOLECULAR 'SWITCH'

Each day, a battle rages inside the body. The immune system fights off infections but, in patients with certain medical conditions, it can also become overactive and damage vital organs. A group led by Dorina Avram, PhD, a professor in the UF College of Medicine's Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, has found out how one molecular "switch" influences the immune system — a finding the group says has major implications for future treatments for immune system diseases and cancer. The research focused on a subset of cells that prevent the immune system from overreacting by producing antibodies that attack normal body tissues. The absence of a specific gene — known as Bcl11b — in regulatory T (Treg) cells triggers fatal systemic inflammation in mice, the researchers found. The results were published in August in the journal Science Advances.

UF HEALTH RESEARCHERS RECEIVE NIH GRANTS TO HELP COMBAT THE OPIOID CRISIS

A multidisciplinary team of UF faculty from the colleges of Medicine, Public Health and Health Professions, Law, and Education, along with numerous state partners, has received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to help plan a large, long-term national study on the effects of prenatal exposure to opioids and other substances on brain development and behavioral health in young children. The national study, known as the HEALthy Brain and Child Development Study, or HEALthy BCD, is part of the NIH HEAL Initiative. Launched in 2018, the initiative aims to improve prevention and treatment strategies for opioid misuse and addiction and enhance pain management.



UFHealth.org/MedMatters



John C. Smulian, MD, MPH

OB-GYN DEPARTMENT CHAIR SHARES HIS VISION

By MEGAN KIMMEL MACPHERSON

With the hiring of John C. Smulian, MD, MPH, as chair of the UF College of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in January 2019, the department has welcomed a nearly 50% increase in faculty, the establishment of six divisions and the creation of several comprehensive multispecialty programs to elevate the program and advance women's health and prenatal care. An expert in maternal-fetal medicine and complications in pregnancy, Smulian has brought a renewed enthusiasm and vision for the department and its ability to work across the hospital to integrate services and improve continuity of care in obstetrics, gynecology and all aspects of women's health.

We asked him a few questions to better understand the future of the department:

Q: | What's your vision for the department?

A: We want to provide every degree of care for patients at the local, regional, state and national level, but the focus starts at home. UF has an excellent reputation for providing high-quality patient care, especially for patients with highly complex medical conditions. However, we pride ourselves on providing the full spectrum of care, including the most routine care for women. The culture of our department is a culture of inquiry. Everything we do should further knowledge, education and clinical care for women's health.

Q: | What has changed since you joined UF?

A: We hired nine faculty members in the first six months of the 2019 academic year, created divisions to reflect the needs of our patients and our educational mission, and are working toward establishing several multispecialty programs to address the needs of patients, in effect, creating a medical home for patients receiving prenatal care who also have complicated diseases. The department has also reorganized into six distinct but collaborative divisions: academic specialists in general obstetrics and gynecology, reproductive endocrinology and infertility, gynecologic oncology, maternal-fetal medicine, female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery, and minimally invasive gynecologic surgery.

Q: | Can you explain the new multidisciplinary programs that will serve patients with multiple gynecologic/obstetric or condition-specific needs?

A: We will continue to provide OB-GYN care for patients with any condition. What's new is that we're moving toward a system of condition-specific care — conditions that require special, collaborative, multispecialty care — which allows us to provide concentrated expertise. Heart Care in Pregnancy and Diabetes in Pregnancy are two of the hyperfocused programs we've established, and we also have multidisciplinary programs in perinatal infectious disease and invasive placental disorders.

Q: | What's new in OB-GYN research?

A: We believe that the origin of health and disease for many conditions begins in utero. To that end, we are establishing a collaborative reproductive biology research program that investigates the role of the placenta in the health of both mother and fetus, and then ultimately the impact on that child's health into adulthood. Additionally, we are the only clinical site investigating a promising nonpharmacologic method for treating preterm labor.



PHOTO BY MINDY C. MILLER

HELPING OUR STUDENTS TRAVEL

HOST

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UF College of Medicine alumni from across the nation have opened their doors to help future Gator physicians. The Help Our Students Travel, or HOST, program connects fourth-year UF medical students with alumni volunteers who provide a place to stay during residency interview trips and invaluable advice about residency training, the prospective medical center and the community in which students are interviewing.

We have a special need for HOST volunteers from the following cities:

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- Detroit, Michigan

- Ann Arbor, Michigan
- New Brunswick, New Jersey
- Lebanon, New Hampshire
- Indianapolis, Indiana
- Jackson, Mississippi
- Rochester, Minnesota

Visit drgator.ufl.edu/HOST to get involved.

Marking a milestone



PHOTOS BY LOUIS BREMS

WHITE COAT CEREMONY

Members of the UF College of Medicine class of 2023 celebrated a milestone in their medical training Nov. 24 at the annual **Mark S. Gold, MD '75, Distinguished Professor and Alumnus White Coat Ceremony**, which marks a gradual transition from classroom-based learning to clinical experience.

“When you put on that white coat, you gain access to people’s lives in a most intimate way,” Interim Dean Joseph A. Tyndall, MD, MPH, told students at the event. “You get to hear about their journeys and their sorrows, you get to hold their hands, you get to heal, you get to help to calm them during their suffering. You gain an access that comes with a high moral obligation to do absolutely the right thing every time.”

PLEASE JOIN JOSEPH A. TYNDALL, MD, MPH, INTERIM DEAN, AND DONNA PARKER, MD, ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR DIVERSITY AND HEALTH EQUITY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, FOR AN

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*You do not need to be registered for the NMA conference to attend the reception.

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