From BENCH to BEDSIDE

Duke is closing the gap between new knowledge and new therapies
Message from the Dean

Over my nearly seven years at Duke, change has been the rule, not the exception. When I first came to Duke, our new education building — the Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans Center — was only an idea. We had three fewer departments, and most of the department chairs were different people. Back then we had only transiently had a Nobel laureate on our faculty. Today, we are still celebrating Robert Lefkowitz’s receipt of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

Indeed, the School of Medicine has been through a great deal of change since my arrival, and we have found and taken advantage of important opportunities.

I am struck by remarkable parallels between the time we find ourselves in now and an earlier era, in the first years of our School of Medicine. When our very first class came through, a United States president was trying to repair the economy after the collapse of the stock market.

At that time, the president of Duke University was an English professor, William Preston Few, who had had the vision of establishing a medical school at Duke. The original medical school and hospital were built at the end of the 1920s and opened during the Great Depression.

Decades later, we again have an English professor, William Davison, who had had the vision of establishing a medical school at Duke. The original medical school and hospital were built at the end of the 1920s and opened during the Great Depression.

The first dean of the School of Medicine, Wilburt Davison, laid the foundation for the outstanding institution we are today. He was, like me, a pediatrician.

Dean Davison recognized the importance of excellence in all of our three missions — clinical care, education, and, somewhat ahead of his time, research. He pioneered the idea of compressing the preclinical curriculum into one year, although that did not formally become part of Duke education until much later. And he recognized the importance of looking beyond grades in recruiting medical students, seeking out applicants who brought great depth of character as well as academic excellence.

These parallels between our earliest years and now are striking. Although some of the similarities are strategic and some are just odd coincidences, my point is that Duke University School of Medicine has, and has always had, a robust formula for success. We have strong and capable leaders; outstanding researchers, clinicians, learners, and staff; and engaged and supportive alumni and friends. Change is certain, but what is even more certain is Duke’s ability to rise to whatever challenges present themselves. That’s who we are, and I am very proud to be a part of this incredible team.

With warm wishes,

Nancy C. Andrews, MD, PhD
Dean, Duke University School of Medicine
Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Naneline H. Duke Professor of Medicine
Professor, Pediatrics
Professor, Pharmacology and Cancer Biology

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Dzau to Head Institute of Medicine

Chancellor Victor J. Dzau, MD, has been named president of the Institute of Medicine. He will succeed current president Harvey Fineberg, MD, PhD. Dzau will become chancellor emeritus on July 1.

During nearly 10 years as chancellor for health affairs and president and CEO of Duke University Health System, Dzau has been the driving force behind important initiatives including establishing the Duke Global Health Institute, the Duke Institute for Health Innovation, Duke Cancer Institute, the Duke Translational Medicine Institute, and Duke-National University of Singapore Graduate Medical School. Recently under his leadership Duke University Health System underwent a historic system-wide transformation of its clinical information systems to a single, state-of-the-art electronic health record. Dzau also led the transformation of the medical campus, adding the new Duke Cancer Center building, the Duke Medicine Pavilion, the Trent Semans Center for Health Education, two new buildings for Duke University School of Nursing, and the Hudson Building at Duke Eye Center, now under construction.

“Victor Dzau has been a visionary leader and, in collaboration with outstanding faculty and staff, he has made Duke one of the country’s leading centers of biomedical research and patient care,” said Duke University President Richard H. Brodhead. “He has guided Duke Medicine through a rapidly changing health care landscape with strength, imagination, and unflagging energy. He has been an outstanding citizen of the university, the city, and the region, and a major voice for health care innovation globally through the World Economic Forum. We will miss him at Duke, but we appreciate the well-deserved honor of his new position at the Institute of Medicine, which will give a national scope for his leadership skills.”

Dzau will continue to maintain his research laboratory at Duke, which focuses on the molecular and genetic mechanisms of cardiovascular disease and the development of gene and stem cell-based therapies to regenerate and repair tissue damage from heart attack and heart disease.

“It has been a distinct honor to serve such an outstanding university and health system,” Dzau said. “I am proud of the achievements of the team at Duke—faculty, staff, and management—and I believe Duke is positioned for even greater success in the future.”

Dzau and his wife, Ruth, will continue to reside in Durham and maintain an active role in the community, where he serves on numerous voluntary community and statewide boards.

Meriwether to Earn Honorary Duke Degree

Duke University School of Medicine alumnus W. Delano Meriwether, MD’67, will be one of five recipients of honorary degrees at the Duke University 2014 commencement on May 11.

Meriwether, the first black American to be accepted into the Duke University School of Medicine, graduated with honors in 1967. He went on to train at the University of Pennsylvania, Ohio State University, Johns Hopkins University, and the Harvard Division of Boston City Hospital. Afterwards, he was selected to be a White House fellow.

In 1983, Meriwether and his wife founded the Dr. W.D. and N. Meriwether Foundation to improve health, empower communities, and alleviate poverty in South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi, serving more than 23,000 people.
Kornbluth Named Duke University Provost

Sally Kornbluth, PhD, vice dean for basic science in the School of Medicine, has been named to succeed Peter Lange as provost of Duke University.

Kornbluth is currently a James B. Duke Professor of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology.

She recently was named as one of the 70 new members to the prestigious Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

As provost, Kornbluth will have broad responsibility for leading Duke’s schools and institutes, as well as admissions, financial aid, libraries, information technology, and all other facets of the university’s academic life.

“She combines a deep love of Duke with keen intelligence about the challenges facing higher education. I’m confident that Duke will continue to thrive in her care.”

Kornbluth’s appointment follows a national search that began in fall of 2013 and was chaired by George Truskey, the R. Eugene and Susie E. Gordon Professor and senior associate dean for research in the Pratt School of Engineering.

“To be Duke’s chief academic officer is both a tremendous honor and a significant challenge,” said Kornbluth. “Our intellectual foundation is strong, our teaching and research are transformative, and our collaborative, interdisciplinary culture creates opportunities for faculty and students to make a difference in the world. I look forward to listening, to learning, and to working with my colleagues to build on our many strengths.”

A member of the Duke faculty since 1994, Kornbluth was appointed vice dean for basic sciences in 2006. From 2009 to 2011, she also played a major role in directing the clinical research enterprise. Her own research is focused on the biological signals that tell a cell to start dividing or to self-destruct, both key processes for understanding cancer and degenerative disorders. Kornbluth received the Basic Science Research Mentoring Award from the School of Medicine in 2012 and the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Duke Medical Alumni Association in 2013. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Williams College and a bachelor of science in genetics from Cambridge University, England, where she was a Herchel Smith Scholar at Emmanuel College. She received a PhD in molecular oncology from the Rockefeller University in 1989 and went on to postdoctoral training at the University of California, San Diego. She is married to Daniel Lew, PhD, a James B. Duke Professor of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology, and their children, Alex and Joey, are undergraduates at Yale University.
Trent Room gets a new name and home

The Trent Room is on the move again.

The room, donated to Duke University by Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans and Karl Bock in 1956 to house the historic medical artifacts of the Josiah C. Trent, MD, History of Medicine Collection, began its life centuries earlier and on the far side of the Atlantic Ocean. It was originally the Duke of Richmond’s library in Richmond House, built around 1720 in Plaistow, England. The pine paneling was disassembled from the room, transported to Duke, and reassembled in 1956 in the original Duke Hospital library in the Davison Building. The room was furnished with period pieces, and a mural painted behind the windows gave visitors the feeling of looking out onto the formal garden of an English country house. Students and faculty used it as a quiet space for study.

In 1975, the Trent Room was moved into the lower level of the Medical Center Library in the Seeley G. Mudd building. There it continued to serve as a research and reading room for generations of students and faculty and as a showcase for the History of Medicine collections and artifacts.

The collections were moved to the Rubenstein Rare Books & Manuscript Library on the main campus in 2011, and the rest of the Trent Room is due to follow. A new Trent Room is planned as part of the renovations of the Rubenstein library’s special collections area.

Meanwhile, the room formerly known as the Trent Room in the Seeley G. Mudd building is still there, under a new name: befitting its origins, it is now known as the Richmond House Room. It houses medical artifacts from the Medical Center Library & Archives collections, and it is available for study and meetings.

Visitors to the Trent room following the dedication ceremony in 1956.

Duke Named National Vaccine Research Center

Duke Medicine’s successful track record in vaccine research has led to its selection as a Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit (VTEU) by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health, to evaluate vaccines, treatments, and diagnostics to protect people from infectious diseases, including emerging public health needs.

Duke was the only new site named since 2007 to the existing group of eight VTEUs. Each institution has the potential to receive funding estimated to be up to $135 million annually over a seven-year period.

Duke’s VTEU research will be administered through the Duke Human Vaccine Institute (DHVI), already a leader in the fight against major infectious diseases, with programs at the vanguard of developing vaccines for HIV, flu, tuberculosis, dengue, and others. The Duke VTEU brings together a consortium of Duke investigators with extensive clinical and scientific vaccine expertise.

“If you look at the top public health achievements of the past century, immunization is clearly among them,” said Emmanuel “Chip” Walter, MD, MPH, HS’90, professor of pediatrics and principal investigator of Duke’s VTEU. “But we must continue to further understand vaccine immune response and develop better vaccines. Plus, we have no vaccines for a host of other pathogens that we need to protect against. So there’s still a lot of work to be done.”
**Wilson Receives Lasker-Debakey Award**

Blake S. Wilson, a pioneer in the development of cochlear implants, received the Lasker-Debakey Clinical Medical Research Award in September. Wilson, who co-directs the Duke Hearing Center, shares the award with Graeme M. Clark of Australia and Ingeborg J. Hochmair of Austria.

The Lasker Awards are among the most respected science prizes in the world. Eighty-three Lasker laureates have received the Nobel Prize.

Wilson is an adjunct professor in the departments of surgery, biomedical engineering, and electrical and computer engineering. He helped establish the Duke Cochlear Implant Program in 1984, one of the first of its kind in the world. Cochlear implants have become widely used and have proven to be especially beneficial to children.

“The cochlear implant is one of the great innovations in modern medicine and has changed the hundreds of thousands of people worldwide who have benefited from its use,” said Chancellor Victor J. Dzau, MD. “We are proud of Blake’s key role in this project and for what it says about Duke’s commitment to encouraging the translation of scientific innovations to patient care.”

Wilson developed many of the processing strategies used in present-day cochlear implant systems to translate sounds into electrical signals the brain can interpret. The devices send the signals directly to the auditory nerve, bypassing sensory hair cells in the ear that are often damaged or absent in patients who are deaf or severely hearing impaired.

**Permar Receives White House Honor**

Sallie Permar, MD, PhD, was one of 102 researchers honored by President Obama with a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government to scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers.

Permar, an associate professor of pediatrics, assistant professor of immunology, and assistant professor of molecular genetics and microbiology, received the award for her research describing a newly isolated substance in breast milk that inhibits HIV replication and may protect infants from acquiring the virus from their mothers. The research was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In 2012, Permar received a New Innovator Award from the National Institutes of Health.

“Dr. Permar has distinguished herself at Duke and among her peers nationally as an innovative researcher recognized for her work in immune protection against mother-to-child transmission of HIV and other viruses,” said Dean Nancy C. Andrews, MD, PhD.
AOA names Duke members

The Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society this spring elected three Duke Medicine residents and fellows and eight students as members. In September 2013, AOA elected three Duke Medicine faculty and eight students as members.

Members are elected to AOA on the strength of criteria including scholastic achievement, leadership capabilities, ethical standards, fairness in dealing with colleagues, demonstrated professionalism, achievement and/or potential for achievement in medicine, and a record of service to the school and community.

Competition is especially stiff for faculty, as only three are elected from any one school each year: a senior (tenured) faculty member, a junior faculty member, and an alumnus.

Residents and fellows selected for membership for Spring 2014 are: Nicholas Andersen, MD; Shahid Nimjee, MD’02, PhD’05; and Kristy Rialon, MD.

Students selected for membership for Spring 2014 are: Kristin Bergethon, Trevor Dickey, Nina Fainberg, Nicole Helmke, Yiannis Kouliias, Ethan Ludmir, Irene Pien, and Sarah Jo Stephens.

The faculty selected for membership for Fall 2013 are: Cynthia Toth, MD, professor of ophthalmology and biomedical engineering; David Harpole Jr., MD, HS’84-’93, professor of surgery, associate professor of pathology, and vice chief of the Division of Surgical Services; and Geeta Swamy, MD, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology.

Students elected to AOA for Fall 2013 are: Jeffrey Ashton, Brian Gilmore, Jonathan Kochav, Kathleen Kollitz, Jonathan O’Donnell, Karen Scherr, Ye Elaine Wang, and John Yerxa.

Brain Tumor Team Receives Award

A multi-institutional team, led by Darell Bigner, MD, PhD, director of the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center at Duke and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute, has been named recipient of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Team Science Award. The award recognizes an outstanding interdisciplinary research team for its innovative and meritorious scientific work that has advanced or will likely advance cancer research, detection, diagnosis, prevention or treatment. The team was awarded this honor at the opening ceremonies of the AACR Annual Meeting, held in San Diego, Calif.

Medical Faculty Members Named to AAAS

Ten faculty members at the Duke University School of Medicine were among the 13 Duke University scientists named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in November 2013.

The Duke honorees were among 388 fellows from throughout the United States named in recognition of their scientific or socially distinguished work to advance the mission of science. AAAS is the world’s largest general scientific society and a publisher of peer-reviewed journals, including Science.

Faculty from Duke University School of Medicine named as AAAS Fellows are:
- Alejandro Aballay, PhD, associate professor of molecular genetics and microbiology
- John H. McCusker, PhD, associate professor of molecular genetics and microbiology
- Vann Bennett, MD, PhD, professor of immunology and molecular genetics and microbiology
- Marc G. Caron, PhD, James B. Duke Professor of Cell Biology
- Michael B. Kastan, MD, PhD, professor of pharmacology and cancer biology, professor of pediatrics, and executive director of the Duke Cancer Institute
- Robert J. Lefkowitz, MD, professor of medicine, professor of pathology, professor of biochemistry
- David M. Virshup, MD, professor of pediatrics
- James O’Connell McNamara, MD, professor of neurosciences and director of the Center for Translational Neuroscience

Duke University faculty outside the School of Medicine who were named to AAAS are:
- Stephen Lawrence Craig, T’91, PhD, associate professor of chemistry
- Junfeng (Jim) Zhang, PhD, professor of global and environmental health
- Peter Lange, PhD, provost and chief academic officer
Buckley Twice Honored

Rebecca Buckley, MD, WC’54, HS’64, the James Buren Sidbury Distinguished Professor of Pediatrics and a professor in the Department of Immunology, recently received two honors, the 2014 John Howland Award, the highest honor bestowed by the American Pediatric Society, and the 2014 March of Dimes Sanders Lifetime Achievement Award.

Buckley earned a bachelor’s degree at Duke, received her medical degree at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, and returned to Duke for her residency and two fellowships. She joined the Duke faculty in 1965 and served as chief of the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology from 1974-2003.

Her research has focused on the fundamental causes and optimal treatments of genetically determined immunodeficiency diseases. She has been a pioneer in understanding severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) and in developing life-saving stem cell transplant therapies. Her research has enabled many babies born with SCID to develop normal immune systems through the removal of T-cells from donor bone marrow.

Match Day Marks New Beginnings

At this year’s Match Day, 89 Duke medical students learned where they’ll spend the next few years completing residencies. Among them, 24 are staying at Duke, 16 are going to Harvard University programs, and eight are going to the University of Pennsylvania or Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. In line with national trends, a significant number of students (21) matched in internal medicine. Other popular specialties include: radiology (9), anesthesiology (8), general surgery (7), and dermatology (6).

Six receive Butler Pioneer Awards

Six junior faculty members in the School of Medicine have been named recipients of a new award to support the work of promising physician-scientists.

The Butler Pioneer Award for Outstanding Young Physician-Scientists was made possible by a bequest from an alumnus of the School of Medicine, Clarence C. Butler, MD’42, and his wife Sarah. It supports MD or MD/PhD junior faculty members within the School of Medicine who propose pioneering, creative ideas directed at addressing problems of major biomedical or behavioral science importance.

The one-time award of $100,000 will fund each recipient’s research in whatever way he or she sees fit, including research supplies, equipment, personnel support, or salary support for protected research time. Proposals are based on the applicants’ qualifications and the creativity and potential impact of proposed research.

The recipients of the Butler Pioneer Awards are: Matthew Wolf, MD, PhD, HS’07, assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology; Sudarshan Rajagopal, MD, PhD, HS’06-’13, assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology; Dennis Ko, MD, PhD, assistant professor of molecular genetics and microbiology; Steven Crowley, MD’96, HS’00-’03, assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Nephrology; David Murdoch, MD, MPH, HS’03-’07, assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine; and Henry Tseng, MD, PhD, HS’03-’06, assistant professor of ophthalmology.
Duke Medical School and Hospital Earn Top Rankings

Duke University School of Medicine is again ranked eighth among the nation’s top medical schools, according to U.S. News & World Report. Duke tied with Columbia University. Additionally, five of Duke’s medical education specialty programs were ranked in the top 10, including geriatrics (3rd), internal medicine (4th), AIDS (8th), and women’s health and family medicine (9th).

Duke University Hospital is again ranked number one in North Carolina and is nationally ranked at 12th in the annual ranking of America’s Best Hospitals by U.S. News & World Report. Four clinical specialties were ranked among the top 10 nationally, including pulmonology (4th), cardiology (6th), and ophthalmology and urology (8th).

Duke Doc Uses Google Glass During Surgery

Duke foot and ankle surgeon Selene G. Parekh, MD, is featured in the Triangle Business Journal for his work every year teaching doctors in India about best practices. Recently, he helped perform foot and ankle surgery while wearing Google Glass, allowing the surgery to be broadcast live on the internet, one of the first surgeries worldwide to be done using the technology. To read the story, go to bizjournals.com/triangle/ and enter “Selene Parekh” in the search bar.

Reed Appointed Chair of Pediatrics

Ann M. Reed, MD, will join Duke University School of Medicine as chair of the Department of Pediatrics, effective August 1, 2014.

Reed currently serves as chair of the Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine at Mayo Clinic. She is also interim director and physician-in-chief for the Mayo Clinic Children’s Center in Rochester, Minnesota. She is a professor of pediatrics and medicine at the Mayo Medical School and a consultant in the Division of Rheumatology in both the Departments of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine and Internal Medicine.

Dr. Reed received her MD from the Medical College of Ohio. She completed an internship and residency in pediatrics at Children’s Hospital Medical Center of Akron and a fellowship in clinical immunology/rheumatology at Northwestern University/Children’s Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She additionally completed a research fellowship in a molecular genetics laboratory at the University of Chicago. Dr. Reed was a tenured associate professor at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and was active in a collaborative program with Duke providing clinical care of pediatric rheumatology patients before her move to Minnesota. She continues to be active in the clinical care of children with dermatomyositis and autoinflammatory disease.

Her research has helped to identify genes that predispose children to Juvenile Dermatomyositis (JDM) and to provide a comprehensive understanding of the genetics of the disease. Dr. Reed is principal investigator on several research grants funded by the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.
IN BRIEF

Kirk to Head Department of Surgery
Allan D. Kirk, MD’87, PhD’92, HS’95, PhD, has been appointed chair of the Department of Surgery and surgeon-in-chief for Duke University Health System. A graduate of the School of Medicine who also trained at Duke, Kirk is currently professor of surgery and pediatrics at Emory University and scientific director of the Emory Transplant Center and vice chair for research of the Emory Department of Surgery. He is an internationally recognized surgical scientist and leading authority on transplant immunology.

Kirk will assume his new roles at Duke on May 1.

O’Brien Named Chair of Neurology
Richard J. “Rich” O’Brien, MD, PhD, will join Duke University School of Medicine as chair of the Department of Neurology, effective July 1, 2014.

O’Brien is currently professor of neurology, neuroscience, and medicine and chair of the Department of Neurology at the Bayview Campus of The Johns Hopkins Medical Center. He also serves as associate dean for research at Johns Hopkins Medicine. His current research focuses on the effect of aging and neurodegenerative disorders on brain plasticity in animals and humans. In addition to his research, O’Brien is an active clinician, treating patients with neurodegenerative and cerebrospinal fluid disorders.

O’Brien received his undergraduate degree, MD, and PhD at Harvard University and completed a residency in internal medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital and a residency in neurology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He is a member of the leadership teams of the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging and the BIOCARD study and has received multiple NIH and foundation grant awards. He is actively involved with the McKnight and Simons foundations. He has received four awards in recognition of his teaching while on the faculty at Johns Hopkins.

Valdivia Appointed Vice Dean for Basic Science
Raphael H. Valdivia, PhD, has been appointed vice dean for basic sciences for Duke University School of Medicine. He will begin his service as vice dean on July 1, 2014, when current Vice Dean for Basic Science Sally Kornbluth, PhD, becomes provost.

Valdivia is an associate professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology and director of graduate studies for the department and director of the Center for the Genomics of Microbial Systems. Both of those leadership roles will transition to new directors this summer.

Valdivia received his PhD from Stanford University in 1997 and completed a Damon Runyon Cancer Research Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley, before joining the faculty of Duke as an assistant professor in 2002. His current research focuses on understanding the molecular basis for the pathogenesis of Chlamydia trachomatis, a leading sexually transmitted infection and the causative agent of blinding trachoma. He is currently funded by multiple NIH grants and a private foundation grant.

Valdivia has been honored as a Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences, as a recipient of the Merck Irving S. Sigal Award from the American Society for Microbiology and as a Burroughs Wellcome Fund Investigator in the Pathogenesis of Infectious Diseases. In 2012, he was elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
McNeill to lead Duke AHEAD

Diana McNeill, T’78, MD’82, HS’87-'88, professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, Metabolism, and Nutrition and assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has been selected as the inaugural director of the School of Medicine’s new Academy for Health Professions Education and Academic Development (Duke AHEAD).

The academy—a first at Duke—provides an academic home to promote excellence in the education of health professionals. The goals are to: 1) create an enterprise-wide community of education scholars; 2) foster innovation in health professions education; 3) support outstanding teachers; 4) provide faculty development programs; and 5) facilitate quality education research.

McNeill brings more than 26 years of teaching and clinical practice experience to this new position. She specializes in endocrinology with a clinical focus on Type 1 diabetes, diabetes in pregnancy, and thyroid disease.

In addition to her clinical work, McNeill was the program director of the Duke Internal Medicine Residency program from 2001-2011 and most recently served as leader of Graduate Medical Education Oversight and Accreditation at Duke. She has won numerous teaching awards, including the Golden Apple Award given by Duke Medical School students, the Stead Teaching Award given by medical residents, and the Outstanding Endocrinology Teaching Award given by endocrine fellows. She also has been named a Master Clinician Educator.

School of Medicine yearbooks

The Duke Aesculapian yearbooks have now been digitized and are available online at digitalnc.org/collections/yearbooks, scroll down to Duke University School of Medicine. The link is also on the Duke Medical Alumni Association Facebook page, at facebook.com/DukeMedicalAlumni.

2015 Medical Alumni Association Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 Medical Alumni Association Awards.

Categories are:
• Distinguished Alumnus/a
• Distinguished Faculty
• Early Career Achievement
• Humanitarian
• Distinguished Service
• Honorary Alumnus/a
• William G. Anlyan, MD, Lifetime Achievement

Deadline for nominations is August 15, 2014.

For nomination form and detailed award descriptions, visit medalumni.duke.edu/awards-recognition or e-mail karen.bernier@duke.edu
Duke Forward campaign hits $2 billion mark

Duke University’s seven-year comprehensive fundraising campaign, Duke Forward, has reached $2 billion of its $3.25 billion goal, including $787 million raised for Duke Medicine, President Richard H. Brodhead announced.

He called it a “significant milestone” for the campaign, which is raising money to enrich the student experience in and out of the classroom, invest in exceptional faculty, and support research and initiatives focused on training leaders to address some of society’s biggest challenges.

“Duke Forward is about giving life to big ideas. The impact of the groundbreaking work by our faculty and students spans continents, shapes policy, and ultimately, helps to prepare for a better future,” Brodhead said. “Reaching the $2 billion mark is a testament to the powerful faith people have in Duke’s mission and Duke’s future. We’re tremendously grateful to the many alumni, parents, and friends who have shared in moving Duke forward.”

To read more about Duke Medicine’s campaign, please visit DukeForward.duke.edu/dukemedicine.

Gift Funds First Full-Ride Merit Scholarship

Thanks to the generosity of Dudley Rauch, T’63, Duke University School of Medicine offered a fully funded merit-based scholarship last fall.

The Rauch Family Merit Scholarship, which covers the full cost of attendance for four years, including tuition, fees, transportation, and allowances for living and miscellaneous expenses, was awarded to its first recipient Collin Kent, T’11, MSI.

Because of the scholarship, Kent says when he graduates in a few years, he won’t have to make the choice between paying off significant debt and following his dream of caring for children, possibly in pediatric oncology.

“The scholarship allowed me to come to Duke for medical school,” Kent says. “Duke was my first choice, but until I got the scholarship, I was going to have to choose another school.”

The all-inclusive four-year scholarship is awarded to an incoming first-year student with outstanding promise for a significant career in medicine. After the Executive Committee of Admissions nominates a select group of students, the scholarship recipient is chosen by the school’s Merit Scholarship Committee.

“During my career in allied medical services, I have met several young physicians coping with significant debt,” Rauch explains. “My intent with this scholarship is to allow the recipient the freedom to follow his or her passion in a career in medicine. This is my way of giving back to the next generation.”

Kent’s deep commitment to service as a Duke undergrad helped convince the scholarship committee to choose him. Although he’s still deciding whether to specialize in pediatric oncology or another area of medicine, Kent says he will be forever grateful that the Rauch Scholarship has given him the freedom to choose, and he looks forward to making the Rauch family proud one day as a physician.

“This scholarship challenges me to make it mean something,” Kent says. “I’ve been given a great opportunity, and I want to do something that has a huge impact on people’s lives.”

Collin Kent, T’11, MSI

“I’ve been given a great opportunity, and I want to do something that has a huge impact on people’s lives.”

COLLIN KENT, T’11, MSI
COME BACK TO DUKE FOR MEDICAL ALUMNI WEEKEND

- Medical Alumni Awards Dinner on Thursday
- Friday Evening Welcome Reception hosted by the Davison Club, followed by a performance by the Duke Medicine Orchestra
- Brunch with Dean Nancy C. Andrews, MD, PhD, featuring newly appointed Duke University Provost Sally Kornbluth, PhD, on Saturday morning
- Duke vs. Virginia football game on Saturday
- Class dinners followed by dessert, drinks, and dancing on Saturday night
- Tours of the Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans Center for Health Education and other campus “must-sees”
2014

Don’t miss the chance to renew old friendships, reminisce about times past, and celebrate new beginnings during Medical Alumni Weekend this fall.

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For more information, please visit [medalumni.duke.edu](http://medalumni.duke.edu).

**Thursday, October 16 – Sunday, October 19**
MEETING THE CHALLENGES FACING TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

by Dave Hart
photos by Bruce DeBoer
“Our vision is to create a research environment at Duke that links discovery science with a creative engine that can accelerate the development of new technologies...”

ROBERT M. CALIFF,
director of the Duke Translational Medicine Institute and vice chancellor for clinical and translational research
We know more about the human body today than we did yesterday, and tomorrow we’ll know even more—a lot more. In the last two decades, advances in human genome sequencing, molecular imaging, and other areas have sparked a research revolution that reveals ever more detailed and precise information about how our bodies work. Every day brings new discoveries, many of which may hold the potential to improve human health in meaningful ways.

But the pace at which those discoveries lead to improved health has been frustratingly slow. Yes, new drugs and new therapies do reach patients, and when they do, they often make a tremendous difference. But relative to the number of research projects conducted, papers published, and trials run, it is clear that new health care advances have lagged behind the vast amounts of data generated by the explosion in biomedical discovery.

Duke is playing a lead role among academic medical institutions working to change that. On multiple fronts, and in collaboration with partners within the university and nationwide, Duke researchers and clinicians are exploring ways to increase the speed and efficiency with which research discoveries are translated into advances in patient care.

Last October, the National Institutes of Health awarded the Duke Translational Medicine Institute a five-year, $47 million grant to help fuel that effort. The Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) provides wide-ranging resources for clinical researchers at Duke and an infrastructure that supports sharing developments across a consortium of more than 60 other research institutions nationwide. The award represents a renewal of the grant that Duke received in the initial round of CTSA funding in 2006.

“Our vision is to create a research environment at Duke that links discovery science with a creative engine that can accelerate the development of new technologies based on scientific merit and societal need to improve public health,” says cardiologist Robert M. Califf, MD, T’73, MD’78, HS’78, ’80-’83, the Donald F. Fortin, MD, Professor of Cardiology, director of the Duke Translational Medicine Institute.

“If you look at drug development, the failure rate is over 95 percent. So an enormous amount of money is being spent nationwide on things that don’t work. We have to get better at predicting what will be successful.”

ROBERT M. CALIFF

and vice chancellor of clinical and translational research.

There are many challenges to closing the gap between new knowledge and new therapies, says Califf.

“If you look at drug development, the failure rate is over 95 percent,” he says. “So an enormous amount of money is being spent nationwide on things that don’t work. We have to get better at predicting what will be successful. There’s a huge irreproducibility problem; we need systems to better reconstruct data and, when things fail, to understand why they failed. On the clinical side, every year there’s more regulation, and it becomes harder and more expensive to do trials.”

Califf says there may be something else at work too: the questions researchers are trying to answer have gotten harder.

“Look at how many advances in medicine we’ve had in the past century,” he says. “There has been a 40-year increase in life expectancy. That’s remarkable, but we see that rate of progress slowing down. It may be that the easier problems have been dealt with, and what we’re tackling now are the much more difficult ones, where progress is much more incremental.”

The process of translating laboratory discovery into patient care—often referred to as a “bench to bedside” process—is more complex and more varied than it might first appear. At Duke, researchers are approaching translational research from various angles and coming up with innovative ways to overcome the many challenges.

TEAM SCIENCE: BENCH TO BEDSIDE

When Bruce Sullenger, PhD, began working to try to develop a new anticoagulant drug made with the ubiquitous molecule ribonucleic acid (RNA) to prevent dangerous blood clots in patients during cardiac or vascular surgery, he quickly learned that he was only addressing half the problem.

“Some of the cardiologists pointed out that the challenge wasn’t inhibiting blood clotting,” says Sullenger, the Joseph W. and Dorothy W. Beard Professor of Surgery and director of the Duke Translational Research Institute. “The challenge is that when you inhibit blood clotting you also create the safety risk of excess bleeding. It’s like one of those angry emails you send out and then wish you could pull back: you give a patient an anticoagulant, and then they start bleeding and you need to quickly pull it back. It’s a fine line.”

Using RNA’s innate capability to act as a sort of molecular switching mechanism, Sullenger managed to walk that line. He found a way to make
both a novel blood thinner and its own antidote: a companion molecule that would bind to the first and very quickly produce the opposite effect.

“With this new discovery, we not only could give a drug to inhibit clotting, but if the patient started to bleed we could give a second drug, also made of nucleic acid, to reverse it rapidly,” Sullenger says.

Sullenger founded a company, Regado Biosciences, to raise the capital to continue development and trials of the new drug, called REG1. REG1 is currently in a phase 3 clinical trial of more than 13,000 patients, and the company went public last fall—one of four Duke biomedical spinoff companies to do so last year. In early March 2014 the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) designated REG1 as a “Fast Track” development program with the goal of making it available for use in patients sooner.

It’s a classic example of bench-to-bedside research—but the journey, like most similar ones, has been anything but fast and inexpensive. Sullenger began work on the project well over a decade ago. Data suggests that taking just one discovery from the lab to development and delivery to patients costs millions if not billions of dollars.

Among the things he has learned is that it takes a lot more than just scientists to shepherd a novel therapy along the translational path. You can’t just focus on molecules, physiology, and potential clinical applications. You also have to think—and this may not come naturally to a lot of scientists—about venture capital.

“The drug has worked as well as you could hope, but it’s taken longer than I would have thought, because you have to raise money,” says Sullenger. “There’s a whole business side of it. It costs so much money that you have to go outside the university. You need a critical mass of innovators and
entrepreneurs to move these things forward. Translation is team science. It’s fundamentally different than being a scientist working alone in an ivory tower lab. Collaboration is critical.”

The Duke Translational Research Institute that Sullenger directs is designed to support and facilitate translational research. The institute, established with the initial CTSA grant, awards pilot grants and helps researchers move projects through the pipeline, identify potential funding sources, negotiate the regulatory maze, and tap the expertise and collaboration of project leaders in many fields.

That last part is one of the things Duke does best, Sullenger says.

“Duke is leading in the area of putting teams together,” he says. “We try to find the best people from the private sector who know the culture of pharma or business or biotech and bring them here. They come back to Duke because they believe in this mission: We’re changing the culture that way, and it’s really helping us.”

That’s not to say it’s going to be easy, or quick. But Sullenger is optimistic.

“There is a recognition nationally that this is a need,” he says. “CTSA is the biggest program in the NIH, and it was federally mandated by Congress because taxpayers said, ‘We’re putting billions of dollars into biomedical research, and what is the outflow?’

“I think one thing people are learning is that biology is much more complicated than they may have thought. The idea that because we can sequence the genome we should suddenly know how to cure all these diseases is pretty naive. There’s not going to be a short-term fix. It’ll be a long process, and it’s going to take a sustained effort. But I think we’re going to get there.”

RESEARCH THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE: CLINICAL TRIALS

Newborn babies who develop potentially fatal intra-abdominal infections are often treated with an antibiotic called meropenem. Until recently, though, no one really knew what the most effective dose was for infants less than three months old, or even whether it was truly safe to treat them with the antibiotic: in adults, similar compounds have been linked to seizures.

Thanks to the Pediatric Trials Network (PTN), a $95 million National Institutes of Health initiative headed by Danny Benjamin, MD, PhD, MPH, HS’98-’01, professor of pediatrics and faculty director of trials at the Duke Clinical Research Institute, we now have answers to those questions. And we are gaining answers to similar questions about many other drugs used in children.

The NIH tapped Benjamin to lead the PTN, a nationwide initiative designed to close a critical loophole in drug regulations: the lack of pediatric dosing and safety standards for off-patent, or generic, drugs.

In the absence of such standards, pediatricians have to rely on their experience and expertise to prescribe these medications. Empirically tested and approved dosing guidelines would lead to safer, more consistent, and more efficient use of such drugs in children.

“Twenty years ago, in pediatrics we simply took the adult dose of a drug, divided by 70, and gave it on a milligram-per-kilogram basis,” Benjamin says. “Now that seems laughable. But it’s still the case with a lot of these off-patent drugs. We’re fixing that.”

Under Benjamin’s leadership, the PTN is in various stages of generating data to guide the pediatric use of more than two dozen drugs. In the case of meropenem, Duke’s Michael Cohen-Wolkowiez, MD, HS’09, associate professor of pediatrics, and P. Brian Smith, MD, MPH, MHS’06, HS’01-’07, associate professor of pediatrics, led a study of 200 young infants. Among the questions the investigators wanted to answer: What is the safest and most effective dose? Does the drug increase the risk of seizures or other serious side effects? And does it reach the brain?

“In babies, infections in the blood go to their brain,” says Benjamin. “If you use a molecule that’s only good in the blood but doesn’t reach the brain, you’re going to have a baby that might look better but really has that bug still in the brain, as meningitis. And you do not want that.”

The trial’s findings? Meropenem is safe to use in very young infants, some babies should get a higher dose than had been customarily prescribed, there is no statistical correlation between the drug and seizures, and, yes, it does work in the brain. The FDA is in the final stages of requiring re-labeling to reflect the findings.

“This will change the way people dose the molecule, and it changes the safety profile,” Benjamin says. “This is research that is going to make a difference.”

That, in essence, is the definition of translational research. Clinical trials are one of the stepping-stones in the translational path. And, as every medical researcher knows, trials are not easy, quick, or cheap.

“Taking molecules through clinical testing takes so much planning and infrastructure and thoughtfulness and
finances that it can seem daunting,” says Benjamin. “But if it were easy, everyone would do it, right? Despite the shortcomings, we’re headed in the right direction.”

Clinical testing involving newborns is especially difficult, and Benjamin and his team encountered a lot of skepticism about their chances of designing trials for very young infants that would produce sufficient reliable data.

“People said, ‘You can’t draw enough blood from neonates because they’re so small,’” says Benjamin. “So we did a lot of technical work to develop viable microsamples. Then people said, ‘You can’t find enough moms who will consent to having blood drawn from their babies so much.’ So we worked it out so that we only draw blood when the babies are giving blood anyway for glucose or other checks, and the moms started consenting. Then people said, ‘You won’t be able to interpret the data correctly.’ So we developed mathematical models to interpret the data correctly. Then they said, ‘Well, you can’t upscale it.’ So we showed we could do it across several dozen molecules, and for each molecule we did it across several hundred babies.”

On and on it went. For every apparent hurdle, Benjamin and the other researchers came up with a solution.

“We get ‘You can’t’ a lot,” says Benjamin. “We’re good with ‘You can’t.’ Because yes, you can. And not only can you do it, but we’ve done it.”

The procedures Benjamin and the investigators developed for conducting trials with newborns were so successful that the FDA recently asked him to bring a team of researchers to Washington, D.C., to share their trial template and the lessons they’ve drawn.

The investigators told the FDA’s anti-infectives unit how they designed their trials for newborns and offered advice that might help guide future trials. They also shared their findings about which drugs tested in adult and older pediatric studies for various indications could safely be extrapolated for use in infants, and which could not.

“We showed the FDA, ‘Here’s how we did it with various molecules,’” says Benjamin. “It’s up to the FDA to decide what to do with that in terms of requirements and enforcement. The drug companies may tell them, ‘We can’t do that.’ But it seems to me that if a couple of guys from Duke can do it, so can a major pharmaceutical company.”

“There’s a lot of great research being done in academic settings, but if it doesn’t get out of there and into the community to the patients it’s designed to help, it’s not helping anyone.”

EBONY BOULWARE,
chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine

THE LAST MILE:
COMMUNITY TRANSLATION

Translational research is generally considered a process that starts in the lab—the “bench”—where a new drug, device, or procedure is developed, and ends with the production that makes it available in the clinic—the “bedside.”

But for Ebony Boulware, MD’95, MPH, that ending point is where translational research begins.

“There’s translation from the bench to the bedside,” says Boulware, chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine. “What I do is take things from the bedside into the community. Do
interventions actually reach and benefit the people who need them, and do interventions that work in a controlled research environment work in a real world setting? There’s a lot of great research being done in academic settings, but if it doesn’t get out into the community and to the patients it’s designed to help, it’s not helping anyone.”

The test of meaningful translation, Boulware says, depends on successfully navigating that final step.

“This is the last mile on the translational research spectrum,” she says. “Our ultimate goal in health care is for the things we learn in our research to be practically applied in communities in ways that matter to patients. That really is the last mile of the journey.”

It’s a particularly challenging step. The potential barriers between promising treatments and the people who could benefit from them, especially those in underserved populations, are legion. Bridging the last mile requires, among other things, access to services, effective communication between patients and health care workers, mutual trust, coordination of care, commitment by policymakers, and mechanisms to ensure sustainability over time.

Every one of those issues presents its own challenges, says Boulware.

“We have a lot of research showing various interventions to be in one way or another efficacious, meaning it works in an ideal research setting,” she says. “We have much less effectiveness research, meaning, ‘Does it work when you take it out of that ideal setting and into the real world?’”

Boulware, who earned her medical degree at Duke in 1995, returned to join the faculty in October 2013 from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. In Baltimore, she conducted several NIH-funded studies of ways to improve the effectiveness of health care for patients, including a study exploring the real-world effectiveness of home blood pressure monitoring for African-American patients with hypertension. At Duke, she joins an institution that is one of two leading the Southeastern Diabetes Initiative, a $10 million Health Care Innovation program that collaborates with community partners to use geospatial mapping, electronic records, and a specially trained workforce to reduce death and disability from type-2 diabetes among at-risk populations.

Boulware says one lesson from effectiveness research stands out above all the others: the importance of ongoing community engagement in biomedical research. That engagement, she says, should start before research actually begins and continue after it is complete.

“Traditionally we, as academic researchers, decide what the priorities for research are,” she says. “We decide what diseases to study, and we say, ‘OK, what are the biomedical questions we need to answer to cure this disease?’ But we rarely go into the community first to find out what health care needs they want addressed.

“Communities are familiar with researchers coming and gathering people up for studies and then saying, ‘OK, thanks very much, we have our results and we’ll go ahead and publish those,’ and then the researchers are gone. We need to engage with communities throughout the research process, from identifying health care needs to participating in the research and then in the dissemination of research findings. Can ideas be jointly generated so the research answers the questions the community needs answered? And can results not just be published in a biomedical journal but also put into lay language and shared with the people who helped generate it and will ultimately use it? Thinking about research this way takes the focus away from just the researchers and shifts it more toward a partnership with communities.”

With the changes accompanying the Affordable Care Act, Boulware says she has arrived at Duke at the perfect time to tackle the challenges of the last mile.

“It’s a very dynamic time right now in health care, so it’s a very dynamic time for research,” she says. “As the health system adapts to accommodate these policy changes, it’s a good time to examine how we can provide the types of care that provide the greatest benefits to patients, families, and their communities. And, really, that’s what we’re here for.”
First-year medical student Rajvi Mehta, is a prime example of how Duke medical students can become health care leaders long before they graduate.

After suffering from anemia herself and realizing the scope of the problem in her home country of India, Mehta has made it her mission to combat the nutrient deficiency. Iron-deficiency anemia is the most common and widespread nutritional disorder in the world, and in India, it affects 900 million people.

Rajvi is founder of the social venture Let’s Be Well Red (LBWR), which is working to make high-protein nutritional bars more accessible in India. In 2012, she led efforts to develop a simple and delicious solution to anemia called the GudNeSs bar. The bars are made by a team of local LBWR members in Mumbai from local ingredients and contain the World Health Organization’s recommended daily dose of iron. Rajvi and the team, which now includes 14 other Duke medical students, have produced more than 70,000 bars to date that are available in retail stores, NGOs, and schools across three states in India.

Today, Rajvi and the team are raising money to expand efforts and maximize their impact. They want to expand the availability of GudNeSs bars to hospitals, airlines, and government schools. They also want to raise enough money to open a new production unit in South India in an effort to produce more bars and reduce transportation costs.

Rajvi says she’s determined that her venture will succeed in fighting anemia because it’s based on a model of accessibility, sustainability, and empowerment. The LBWR group is using the sales of bars in urban centers to subsidize the production of the bars in rural areas. The team also is training women how to make the bars in local production units, and empowering high school students to raise awareness about anemia at the grassroots level.

Other first-year Duke University School of Medicine students involved with the program include: Rui Dai, Michael Quist, Hussain Lalani, Sehj Kashyap, James Parra, Vinayak Venkataraman, Swara Bajpai, Samara Jinks, Arthurine Zakama, Tracy Han, Rathnayaka Gunasingha, Morgan Hardy, Peter Liu, and Charmaine Mutucumarana.

Watch a video of Mehta and the Let’s Be Well Red program at vimeo.com/83347823#at=0

- by Alyssa Zamora, Duke Global Health Institute
When Happy Accidents Lead to Scientific Success

Most scientists can point to an instance when serendipity played a role in their work. Some of the most exciting scientific discoveries have happened by accident. Penicillin resulted from a spoiled bacteria culture. The radioactivity of uranium without outside light was discovered when a cloudy day derailed an experiment with sunlight.

Indeed, two scientists at Duke University School of Medicine feel their careers have been transformed by serendipity. One, a pharmacologist and cancer biologist, has found his way into an unexpected avenue of work that may lead to a new treatment for HIV. Another, a neuroscientist, is recognized as an innovator in understanding brain injury and repair, but he never planned to go into science in the first place.

**SPINNING THE ROULETTE WHEEL OF DRUG DISCOVERY**

Drug discovery can involve conducting a massive screen in which millions of potential drugs are tested for their ability to bind to one target of interest—a receptor or other structure in the body that is known to be associated with a particular disease. To Tim Haystead, PhD, associate professor of pharmacology and cancer biology, that method seemed like spinning a roulette wheel and hoping your number comes up. So he developed a new method that thoroughly interrogated one drug candidate at a time by screening it against all of an organ’s vital cellular proteins at once.

He limited the group of proteins in the screen to only those likely to be involved in key processes in many of the body’s cells. “We had this way of catching a very large piece of what we call the druggable proteome, which is all the proteins that use a certain type of nucleotide in cells called ATP,” Haystead says. Proteins that bind to ATP often function as control switches for the most important functions inside a cell. “We could immobilize this ATP on a medium, and it would catch about 2,000 proteins at once,” Haystead says. The scientists would isolate the vital proteins from specific tissues such as brain, liver, or testes. Then they used this medium to screen individual drug candidates against all these vital proteins at once. These screens provided a snapshot of all the diseases the drug could be useful in, as well as any possible side effects. “Drug discovery involves a lot of luck,” Haystead says. “But the intellectual part was in trying to increase the probability that we would get a positive outcome. We tried to make luck work for us.”

In 2000, Haystead founded a company to commercialize his drug discovery platform, and he named it Serenex, which can be translated as “out of serendipity.”

After several years of exploration, Serenex began developing a handful of promising new drugs it had...
MAKING ROOM FOR LUCK
discovered using that platform. In 2008, the company was sold to pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, based largely on interest in one of those drugs, SNX5422. Serenex had found that the drug blocked an enzyme called HSP-90, which is used by many different oncogenes (genes that can turn normal cells into tumor cells). The drug is now in clinical trials as a potential treatment for several types of cancer, including lung, neuroendocrine, and blood cancers.

Though the company had closed up shop, the experience of launching it completely changed the focus of Haystead’s work. “I literally dumped all the work I used to work on, which was focused on the whole process of muscle plasticity and signaling. After the company was bought, all I wanted to do was use this technology in an academic setting to explore new therapies that might not attract industry interest, but that are badly needed,” he says. One example—a therapy for HIV that wouldn’t have to be taken daily, which would be more useful in developing countries than current therapies.

Back in his lab at Duke, Haystead began using his proteome-mining technology to find out how HIV infection affects all the body’s vital proteins. While screening those 2,000 proteins for their activity in HIV, HSP-90, the same protein involved in cancer, came up again. The screens showed that HSP-90 is activated in immune system cells that are infected with HIV, but not in normal immune system cells.

That excited Haystead because it opened up the possibility that the same drug Serenex had developed to fight cancer in one of those drugs, SNX5422. Serenex had found that might also have a lasting effect against HIV.

Haystead’s HIV research is being conducted in the Duke Human Vaccine Institute (DHVI), in collaboration with Barton Haynes, MD, the Frederic M. Hanes Professor of Medicine and director of DHVI. “We hope Tim’s HSP-90 inhibitors will attack HIV in novel ways and be able to add a powerful new approach to controlling or preventing HIV-1 infection,” Haynes says. “Working with Tim is terrific because he brings both insightful creativity and lots of energy to all he does.”

AN INNOVATOR IS BORN
Chay T. Kuo, MD, PhD, the George W. Brumley Assistant Professor of Cell Biology, is a big believer in making room for luck in his science. Even his becoming a physician-scientist was a happy accident. After earning a bachelor’s degree in architecture, Kuo was set to go to graduate school in that field. But his father, a neurosurgeon, insisted he apply to medical school. Kuo applied, assuming he would never get in. He did.

Once in medical school, Kuo found he liked answering scientific questions more than clinical ones, and during a neurology rotation he was struck by the fact that there were few if any good medical therapies to treat people who’ve had a stroke or traumatic brain injury. He has set about trying to change that. By exploring how and when stem cells help repair injury in the brain, he hopes to make discoveries that can lead to the development of drugs to enhance repair.

Most scientists who aim to manipulate stem cells in the lab to enhance brain repair try to coax the stem cells to produce new neurons. But neural stem cells alone in a culture dish won’t make new neurons. Kuo has shown why, and he has also shown that making new neurons may not be the only key to repairing brain injury. He and his colleagues demonstrated this discovery in two significant publications—one published in the journal Neuron in 2011 and featured on the cover, and another published in 2013 in the journal Nature. Both findings would probably never have been made, he says, were he not at Duke. “The questions remain the same, but if I were anywhere else, I could be working on something totally different,” he says.

When Kuo first met with Brigid Hogan, PhD, chair of the Department of Cell Biology and George Barth Geller Professor for Research in Molecular Biology, to discuss joining the faculty at Duke, they talked about his interest in a region of the brain where stem cells make neurons. This region contains many ciliated cells that provide the stem cells with a supportive niche. Hogan suggested that he should take a look at a protein called Foxj1. Hogan had been studying Foxj1 in the lung for its ability to control production of ciliated cells, but its
role in the brain was unknown. Then Kuo met another person who would provide him the inspiration he needed—Vann Bennett, MD, PhD, a James B. Duke Professor and then vice chair of the Department of Cell Biology. Bennett studies a class of structural proteins called ankyrins; they would end up playing a big role in Kuo’s subsequent findings. In 2011, Kuo and postdoctoral fellow Patricia Paez-Gonzalez, PhD, found that in order to produce new neurons, brain stem cells must be surrounded by a niche of supporting cells that he calls “the fountain of youth,” and that Foxj1 must activate a particular type of ankryin in order to form that structure.

“Chay is an exceptionally creative and energetic young scientist,” Hogan says. “He has succeeded by being open to ideas from different fields and applying them to an important clinical problem in neurobiology.”

Later, Kuo and his team made a discovery that challenged the assumptions of the field to such an extent that peer reviewers for the journal *Nature* initially rejected it. He found that even in the “fountain of youth,” stem cells don’t always produce new neurons when the brain is injured; sometimes, they make cells called astrocytes. Astrocytes have generally been thought to be undesirable in this context because they can lead to scarring, and because they can undergo gene mutations that can lead to brain tumors.

But Kuo and former postdoctoral fellow Eric Benner, MD, PhD, now an assistant professor of pediatrics, showed that there is something special about the astrocytes that are produced by stem cells in response to injury. These astrocytes stop bleeding in the immediate aftermath of injury, directed by a molecule called Thrombospondin 4. In experiments in mice, when production of these astrocytes is blocked, the injured brain region doesn’t heal. “Bleeding after brain injury is a serious and common problem for patients,” Kuo says. He adds that he wouldn’t have known where to look to find out what made these astrocytes different if he hadn’t talked to Cagla Eroglu, PhD, assistant professor of cell biology, who works down the hall from him, and who intensively studies thrombospondins and other proteins secreted by astrocytes.

“If the belief is that neural stem cells inherently know what’s best for the brain, then we suspect that making astrocytes instead of neurons for a time after injury is perhaps a good thing,” Kuo says. “In most of our therapeutic efforts, when we’re trying to suppress neural stem cells from making any other type of cells but neurons, maybe we’re going down the wrong road. We have lots of other studies now building in this direction.”

With both of these scientists, some of their discoveries could be chalked up to good fortune. Or maybe it’s that they have a willingness to let luck in. Kuo, for instance, is not afraid to question scientific assumptions, and he sees connections that others may not. “Maybe it helps that I’m not a particularly linear thinker,” Kuo says. As Haystead likes to say, quoting Louis Pasteur: “Luck favors only the prepared mind.”
A pioneering expert in the study and treatment of kidney disease and hypertension, Thomas Coffman is the longest-serving chief in the history of the acclaimed Duke Division of Nephrology. Under his leadership, Duke’s nephrology program has built a reputation as one of the nation’s best, renowned for providing outstanding patient care, conducting innovative research, and training the next generation of nephrologists. Coffman himself has served as principal mentor for more than 25 fellows and post-docs, many of whom now hold leadership positions in independent research programs and academic institutions.

Coffman came to Duke as an intern in 1981. Aside from a sabbatical year in 1990-91 working in the laboratory of Nobel laureate Oliver Smithies, he has been at Duke ever since. Following a fellowship in nephrology, he rose swiftly through the ranks, joining the faculty of the Department of Medicine in 1985 and being named chief of the Division of Nephrology in 1997. He was appointed the James R. Clapp Distinguished Professor of Medicine in 2002.

In addition to his work overseeing the Division of Nephrology and its array of clinical services at Duke, the Durham VA Medical Center, and offsite clinics, Coffman in 2010 somehow found the time to take on the directorship of two important programs: the Duke Cardiovascular Research Center, bringing together basic and translational investigators to foster novel multidisciplinary approaches to generate transformative discoveries in cardiovascular disease, and the Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disorders Signature Research Program at Duke-National University of Singapore Graduate Medical School. In 2012, he led the successful effort to create the Duke O’Brien Center for Kidney Research, funded by an extremely competitive award from the National Institutes of Health.

Much of Coffman’s research focuses on the complex interplay between the kidneys and the cardiovascular system in the development of high blood pressure, which is in turn a significant risk factor for heart disease, kidney failure, and stroke. His work clarifying the role the kidneys play in blood pressure regulation has important implications for the improved diagnosis and treatment of hypertension. He is also a leading authority in the use of molecular genetics to understand physiological functions and has made seminal contributions to the understanding of renal transplantation, diabetic kidney disease, and the role of lipid mediators in immune mediated kidney disease.

**Education:** University of Pennsylvania, Ohio State University

**Training:** Duke University

**Current titles:** James R. Clapp Distinguished Professor of Medicine; professor of cell biology; professor of immunology; chief, Division of Nephrology; senior vice-chair, Department of Medicine; founding director, Cardiovascular Research Center; director, Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disorders Signature Research Program, Duke-National University of Singapore Graduate Medical School.
An internationally renowned neuro-oncologist, Henry Friedman has dedicated his career to the research and treatment of brain and spinal cord tumors in children and adults.

A native New Yorker—his accent gives him away—Friedman came to Duke in 1981 as a senior research fellow in pediatric hematology and oncology. Two years later, he joined the faculty as an assistant professor of pediatrics, and in the 30-plus years since then, he has built a reputation for pioneering scholarship and compassionate care that has drawn patients to Durham from around the world.

Friedman has played an important role in building Duke’s brain tumor program into one of the best in the nation, the first to be designated by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke as a Specialized Research Center on Primary Tumors of the Central Nervous System. In 1992, Friedman was named associate chief of the Preuss Laboratory for Brain Tumor Research at Duke, and he became co-director of the Clinical Neuro-Oncology Program in 1997. In 2005, he was named one of two deputy directors of the Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center, one of the world’s foremost institutions in the research and treatment of brain tumors.

Friedman spent much of his early career focusing on young patients, and he played a key role in developing Duke’s pediatric neuro-oncology program. His current emphasis is on clinical care and research in adult populations. His clinical and laboratory work is aimed at analyzing and developing new therapeutic strategies to treat central nervous system malignancies, particularly malignant glioma, medulloblastoma, and ependymoma.

Famously accessible—“His door was always open, literally,” remembers one former student—Friedman has served as mentor and guide to countless students at Duke, and as a caring and committed physician for innumerable patients and their families who are dealing with the most difficult of situations.

A remarkably prolific investigator, Friedman has published more than 500 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and reviews, and is one of the nation’s most-cited authors on the subject of glioblastoma. He is a member of numerous medical associations and scholarly societies, has served on dozens of advisory boards, and is a reviewer for more than 25 academic journals.

Among his honors are the F. Wayne Rundles Award for Outstanding Cancer Research from the Duke University Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Visionary Award from the Tug McGraw Foundation, and the Humanitarian Award from the Voices Against Brain Cancer Foundation.

Education: University of Rochester, Upstate Medical Center
Training: Upstate Medical Center, Duke University
Current titles: James B. Powell Jr. Professor of Neuro-Oncology; professor of pediatrics; associate professor of medicine; assistant professor of pathology; co-deputy director, Preston Robert Tisch Brain Tumor Center; Associate clinical director for clinical research, Neuro-Oncology Program
The fact that women make up half of today’s medical school students shouldn’t surprise many; however, the appointment of a female medical school dean still generates notice. Such was the case when Etta D. Pisano, MD’83, was named dean of the College of Medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in 2010.

The selection not only earned her the distinction of being MUSC’s first female dean of medicine, but it also made her part of a small, elite group of women currently holding top leadership positions at the country’s medical schools.

Pisano’s noteworthy achievements in medicine and research have cemented her status as an influential leader in academic medicine.

Prior to joining MUSC, Pisano held several positions at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, including vice dean for academic affairs, Kenan Professor of Radiology, director of the Biomedical Research Imaging Center, director of the N.C. Translational and Clinical Sciences Institute, and member of the UNC Health Care System Board of Directors. In her 21 years at UNC, she established herself as a pioneer in the use of digital imaging to detect and study breast cancer and other breast problems.

Her landmark study on digital breast imaging, DMIST, the results of which were published in 2005 in the New England Journal of Medicine, showed that digital mammography could detect breast cancer in young women better than film mammography. As a result, the use of digital mammography in the United States rose substantially from 7 percent in 2005 to 70 percent in 2010.

A fierce advocate for gender equality, Pisano served on a number of committees at UNC, including the medical school’s Salary Equity Committee and the university’s Committee on the Status of Women. She and her fellow committee members were able to encourage administrators to make changes to the university’s parental leave policy. Last year, she and a group of MUSC College of Women faculty members won a $650,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to develop a program that will support the careers of women in science.

Pisano is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. She is a recipient of the Gold Medal from the Association of University Radiologists and the American Roentgen Ray Society, and of the Alice Ettinger Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Association for Women Radiologists. In 2013, Pisano was honored with the Helen Taussig Living Legacy Award by the National Women’s History Museum.

Education: Dartmouth College, Duke University
Training: Beth Israel Hospital, Harvard Medical School
Current titles: Vice president for Medical Affairs, dean of the College of Medicine, professor of radiology, Medical University of South Carolina

Etta D. Pisano, MD’83

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD
Paul G. Shekelle, MD’82, PhD

When physicians use evidence-based medical thinking or treatment guidelines in their practices, they are likely using the work of Paul Shekelle, MD’82. He has changed the way doctors think about patient care, playing a significant role in the development of evidence-based guidelines in primary care and prevention for adult patients in the United States. Shekelle has researched and published extensively on outcomes of treatment for low back pain, heart disease, COPD, respiratory infections, and geriatric conditions, among many other conditions. He has also conducted groundbreaking work on the longevity and shelf life of clinical practice guidelines and the methodology for developing and updating clinical practice guidelines. A prolific researcher, to date Shekelle has served as principal investigator on numerous studies totaling more than $24 million worth of funding.

Shekelle is a staff physician and chief of the Division of Internal Medicine at the West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Since 1997, he has served as director of the Southern California Evidence-based Practice Center for the RAND Corporation, a nonprofit institution that helps improve policy and decision making through research and analysis. He is also a professor of medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine.

Shekelle received the 2011 Under Secretary’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Health Services Research, which is the highest honor for VA health services researchers and recognizes the recipients’ excellence in research, mentoring, and leadership.

Shekelle is widely recognized in the field of guidelines, quality measurement, and evidence-based medicine. He has extensive experience in practice guideline development and evaluation. He served for nine years on the American College of Physicians Clinical Guidelines Committee, including four years as the chair.

He is also known as an outstanding mentor and role model. He has made a substantial contribution to the future of VA health services through his mentorship and training of junior investigators through the VA’s Research Career Development Program, in fields as diverse as in gastroenterology, rheumatology, and geriatrics. Shekelle chairs the VA Health Services Research and Development Career Development Award Review Committee.

**Education:** University of Illinois, Urbana; Duke University; University of California, Los Angeles; University of California, School of Public Health

**Training:** University of California, Los Angeles

**Current titles:** Staff physician and chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Medical Center; director, Southern California Evidence-based Practice Center for the RAND Corporation; professor of medicine, University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine
Since 2008, Tom Catena has lived a life that few other fellow Rhodes Scholar candidates or Division I all-American football stars would ever consider. He is firmly planted—in some ways trapped—in the arid Nuba Mountains of Sudan, where decades of civil war have laid waste to the landscape and killed tens of thousands of people.

Many thousands more have been wounded or maimed by fighting between the Sudanese people and Sudanese government forces led by indicted war criminal President Omar al-Bashir.

Catena is a missionary doctor with a monumental task. He is medical director and the only physician at Mother of Mercy Hospital, a primitive, Catholic-based 300-bed stone and cinderblock facility that is the closest trauma center for more than one million people. Some of the war injured trek for up to seven days on foot or donkey to reach him.

Without so much as an X-ray machine to help him, Catena performs everything from amputations to brain surgery, as well as treats malnutrition and disease. His only help is a handful of locals who he’s trained as nurses and assistants, and several nuns and priests. Occasionally, when the roads leading to Mother of Mercy aren’t bombed out or made impassable during the months-long rainy season, a fellow missionary doctor will arrive to help for a couple of weeks or so.

Medical supplies are scarce, arriving via Kenya and Nairobi by a priest who travels four days each way to deliver what little anesthesia, bandages, and medicine are available, as the Sudanese government has cut off all humanitarian aid to the region.

Catena has been called a modern-day Albert Schweitzer.

He is driven by Christian faith, which runs deep in his family. “Duke gave me a world class medical education, and with this gift I am serving God by taking care of the least of his people,” he told DukeMed Alumni News in 2012.

Born in upstate, N.Y, he was a standout defensive lineman at Brown University. While at Duke, he made his first mission trip to Kenya. He then became a U.S. Naval Flight Surgeon, which took him to Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Australia, and the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. He finished residency training in Terre Haute, Ind.

He then pursued his desire to become a full-time missionary doctor and spent the next seven years at various remote hospitals in Kenya, working through the Catholic Medical Missions Board (CMMB). In 2008, he helped CMMB found Mother of Mercy Hospital, and has been the only full-time physician on staff ever since.

**Education:** Brown University; Siena College; Duke University School of Medicine

**Training:** U.S. Navy; Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind.

**Current title:** Medical director, Mother of Mercy Hospital, South Kordofan, Sudan
James R. Clapp, T’54, MD

James Clapp is known as a pillar of the Duke Department of Medicine. The Chatham County, N.C., native and self-described farm boy began his journey at Duke in 1950, when he arrived on campus in his father’s pickup truck to move in. It was the first time he had ever set foot on campus. After three years of pre-med undergraduate work at Duke, Clapp jumped at the chance to start his medical school career early when he was accepted to medical school at UNC-Chapel Hill. Later, he performed an internship and residency at Parkland Hospital at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, then pursued research in kidney and electrolyte metabolism at the National Heart Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health.

In 1965, Clapp accepted an associate professor position in the Duke Department of Medicine and played a critical role in the development of Duke’s nationally recognized Division of Nephrology. He established its research program, which drew attention for its groundbreaking work in describing the mechanisms of renal tubular function. One of the first three Duke faculty members to be appointed to the prestigious Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator program, Clapp made important observations about the biology of the kidney.

Today, Clapp is a professor of medicine emeritus, having served as professor of medicine from 1972 - 2001, following his service as associate professor.

Clapp is also widely recognized for his skilled and compassionate care of patients with advanced kidney disease and hypertension. Colleagues count him among the cohort of great physician-scientists that helped Duke medicine grow to national prominence in the late 20th century by bringing the most recent advances in medicine to their patients and making sure each patient received thoughtful, multidisciplinary care.

A national figure in renal physiology by the time he was 60, Clapp then changed careers very successfully to become founding director of two components of the Duke Center for Living—the Andrew G. Wallace Clinic and the Duke Executive Health Program. Under his leadership, both programs became enormously successful, thanks in part to Clapp’s cultivation of philanthropy to expand and improve the programs. The Executive Health Program continues to serve top executives from all over the world.

Clapp has made tremendous contributions to Duke, both during his active working years and beyond. He has been recognized by the Duke Division of Nephrology with an endowed fellowship in nephrology as well as a research endowment at the Center for Living and an endowed professorship at Duke Medicine.

Education: Duke University; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Training: Parkland Hospital at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center; U.S. Public Health Service
Current titles: Professor of medicine emeritus, Duke University School of Medicine
During 50 years at the National Cancer Institute, Joseph F. Fraumeni Jr., MD’58, developed epidemiologic and interdisciplinary research and training programs designed to identify the environmental and genetic determinants of cancer and the means of cancer prevention. One of his seminal research contributions was the discovery, with Frederick P. Li, of a genetic susceptibility to multiple forms of cancer among children and young adults within a group of four families. By following those families and 20 others, they characterized what came to be known as Li-Fraumeni syndrome, which led to collaborative studies that revealed inherited mutations in the p53 tumor suppressor gene. Another important contribution was his creation of maps showing geographic variation in cancer mortality at the county level. These maps provided a strategy for him and his colleagues to identify several environmental, occupational, and lifestyle risk factors for cancer. Throughout his career, Fraumeni emphasized collaborative research incorporating new and emerging molecular technologies into population- and family-based studies. This approach—called molecular epidemiology—is now helping to dissect the genetic and environmental components of cancer, along with their combined effects on the origins and progression of cancer.

At the National Cancer Institute, Fraumeni was the founding chief of the Environmental Epidemiology Branch, and he went on to become director of the new Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics. He served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, attaining the rank of assistant surgeon general. In 2012, Fraumeni stepped down from his role as division director to become a senior investigator and advisor at the National Cancer Institute. Fraumeni has served on the adjunct faculty at George Washington University, the Harvard School of Public Health, and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. Fraumeni is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine, the Association of American Physicians, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also the recipient of numerous awards, including the Medal of Honor from the International Agency for Research on Cancer and the American Cancer Society, the Charles S. Mott Prize from the General Motors Cancer Research Foundation, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association for Cancer Research, the James D. Bruce Award from the American College of Physicians, and the Nathan Davis Award from the American Medical Association.

**Education:** Harvard College, Duke University School of Medicine, Harvard School of Public Health

**Training:** Johns Hopkins Hospital, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

**Current title:** Senior investigator and advisor, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health
1940s
Kemp Jones, T’43, MD’46, HS’50, of Lake Forest, Ill., welcomed three new great grandchildren in 2013, for a total of nine. He will turn 93 in 2014 and writes that he is “going strong,” and that his goal is to reach age 110.

1950s
Dean McCandless, MD’50, a long-retired physician, is now 94. His wife of 70 years, Polly, died in December 2012 at age 93. He describes himself as “a kyphotic old man but still well so far as I know.”

Edward S. Whitesides, MD’51, remains active in medical mission work in Haiti. He formed an independent mission organization in Gastonia, N.C., called Lumiere Medical Ministries. The organization was active in building a hospital in Haiti before the 2010 earthquake and in rebuilding another hospital that was destroyed during the earthquake. Whitesides lives on a farm with his wife Margaret, whom he married after losing his first wife, Georgenne, to mental degeneration more than four years ago.

James F. Elliott Sr., MD’54, of Creedmoor, N.C. is retired and has five married children and nine grandchildren. He and his wife Ida and their family celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 19, 2013.

William B. Jones, MD’54, is retired after 33 years in the U.S. Air Force as a colonel. In 2008, he retired from the South Carolina State Guard as a brigadier general. He works three afternoons a week as medical director for CWI Insurance Company. He and his wife Ann live in Greenville, S.C. and in 2012 became great-grandparents.

Huitt E. Mattox, T’51, MD’54, retired from active obstetrics and gynecology practice in 1993, did locum tenens work until 2008, and now enjoys spending time on the golf course, attending a morning coffee club, and serving on the local hospital foundation board in Wilson, N.C.

Madison S. Spach, T’50, MD’54, HS’54-’59, writes that since retiring at age 80, his main personal achievement has been “learning to go to the grocery store and to handle the dishwasher.” His wife Cecilia continues her large commitment as treasurer of the Medical Faculty Wives, which has raised millions of dollars for Duke medical student scholarships over the years. The couple has four children and eight grandchildren. Son Madison Jr., T’74, L’80, lives in Laguna Nigel, Calif., and is a lawyer with his own firm. He and his wife Mary have two children. Daughter Joyce, a retired nurse, is widowed, lives in Durham, and has two children. Daughter Susan, of Fort Collins, Colo., is married with two children. Son David, MD’86, is a professor of medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle and is married with two children.

Robert B. Yudell, T’50, MD’54, DC, and his wife Anne will celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary this summer. Robert is still physically active and plays tennis three or four times a week. The couple lives in Charlotte.

Alan Solomon, MD’57, retired at the end of 2013 and was recognized by the University of Tennessee’s Graduate School of Medicine with the inaugural Beasley Pylon Award in recognition of his long and dedicated service from 1972-2013. Solomon is now emeritus professor of medicine and an American Cancer Society clinical research professor. He and his wife Andrea Cartwright live in Knoxville.

Floyd L. Wergeland Jr., MD’58, DC, of Bonita, Calif., has been fully retired from medicine since 2005. He is busy at a regional nature center, serving as a docent and a member of the board of directors and executive committee. He returns annually to the Ft. Lewis Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash., to present an award he established in 1986 to the outstanding fourth-year resident.

1960s

Kenneth J. Kahn, MD’62, HS’62-’63, DC, and his family welcomed a group of DukeMed class of 1962 classmates for an informal reunion at their home in Costa Rica in February 2014. The group (pictured above) included George Armstrong, MD’62, HS’62-’63, DC; Ben Satterfield, MD’62; Tom Foster, MD’62; Bill Baxley, E’55, MD’62, HS’62-’63; Bill Waddell, MD’62, HS’62-’64, DC; Charles Woods, MD’62, HS’62-’63; Eric Dudley, T’89, (representing his father Bud Dudley, T’58, MD’62), and their spouses. They spent 12 days touring Costa Rica and reminiscing about their days at Duke. In appreciation of the medical school, the group decided to donate $1,500 to the Duke Medical Alumni Association. Kahn lives in Costa Rica with his wife Norma and two children, Yasmine and Neil.

Paul W. Jones, MD’63, has been conducting medical aid work overseas, most recently in Northern Myanmar/Burma, where medical facilities are limited and some patients have up to a three-week wait to reach the only hospital in the area. He also has worked in Thailand, Somalia, South Sudan, and Rwanda. He thanks former Duke University School of Medicine professors N.F. Conant, MD, and D.T. Smith, MD, for their enthusiasm in teaching tropical medicine. He and his wife Janice have three living children (two daughters and one son). Their youngest son was killed in an auto accident at age 18. The Joneses have 13 grandchildren.

Eugene J. Gauzzo, MD’65, has been retired from his rural family medicine practice since 2008, and is now substitute teaching in grades pre-K through high school. He said it was a bit of a generation shock when he first walked into the classroom of pre-K 4-year-olds and saw them all working on computers. He and his wife, Shelby, who was both a laboratory technologist and radiology technician, live in Chaptico, Md.

Creighton B. Wright, T’61, MD’65, HS’65-’66, is president-elect of the Great Rivers Affiliate of the American Heart Association that covers five states. He is completing his term as president of the Academy of Medicine Foundation and is serving on the University of Cincinnati Health Board of Trustees. He remains president of his 12-person cardiac, vascular, and thoracic surgery group and is professor of surgery at the University of Cincinnati. He and his wife Carolyn have four children and 10 grandchildren and live in Covington, Ky.

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American Cancer Society Honors Hillard in ‘100 Stories of Hope’

When James Randolph ‘Randy” Hillard, MD, HS’77–’81, received the fatal diagnosis of stage four metastatic stomach cancer in 2011, he decided to cash in his chips. He planned to refuse treatment because the prognosis with chemotherapy wasn’t much better than without it. Hillard was going to get his affairs in order, live large for the remaining 10-or-so months he was told he had left, then commit suicide when the pain became unbearable. He even had contacted a suicide assistance organization in Switzerland. “Clearly, I was not in a good state of mind,” he says.

Luckily, Hillard’s primary care physician, oncologist, and wife talked him off the ledge. “Also,” he says, “I credit my time at Duke as having given me hope about the eventual cure for cancers through research. That certainly helped as well.”

Hillard chose to get treated with the breast cancer drug Trastuzumab that had just been approved for stomach cancer, even though the drug likely would add just two additional months to his life.

But there’s a curious thing about Trastuzumab. Some stomach cancer patients have had shockingly positive outcomes from taking the drug. Some are still alive and cancer free more than 10 years after their initial treatments taken during clinical trials.

Hillard seems to be one of those special patients.

More than three years after major surgery to remove 60 percent of his stomach, his gall bladder, most of his peritoneum, part of his liver, and several dozen lymph nodes, followed by radiation, Trastuzumab, and conventional chemotherapy, he is clear of the disease.

“It was only last September when there was no evidence of the disease that I started to let myself think of the C-word, which in my case is ‘Cured,’” he says.

He returned to work at Michigan State University as provost for health and professor of psychiatry nine months after his diagnosis. He immediately channeled his gratitude for a life nearly lost by leading Michigan State’s effort to establish Campus Cancer Champions, an American Cancer Society-affiliated consortium to bring together all of the university’s cancer researchers, clinicians, educators, and patient advocacy groups to work together in the fight against cancer.

“We found that there are people doing very closely related research who don’t know of each other,” he says. “We’re changing that.”

Hillard hasn’t stopped there. He’s also become a hospice physician and an advocate for stomach cancer patients, lobbying Congress for more research funds. He’s even formed a Facebook group called Stomach Cancer Warriors and Caregivers Family that has attracted more than 600 patients from around the world. Through it he initiated the International Swim with Your Chemo-port Day that saw hundreds of people post photos of themselves swimming with their chemotherapy ports. Hillard’s photo showed him scuba diving with his.

As the American Cancer Society celebrates its 100th anniversary this year, it is promoting “100 Stories of Hope” on its web page. The short profiles showcase “everyday people who are taking action to help us finish the fight,” the web site states.

Hillard is one of them and shares the honor with a diverse collection of cancer survivors and/or supporters, including a trio of 14-year-old girls who raised nearly $15,000 through community garage sales, and the music group Chicago, whose Sing...
With Chicago program has raised more than $250,000 in four years. ([cancer.org/fight/100-stories]) Hillard’s story is No. 77)

“Really, I feel undeserving of this,” Hillard says. “Others have done so much more than me, but I guess, in a way, I’m giving people hope.”

He continues to get a Trastuzumab infusion every three weeks, the side effects of which are minimal. “I just get a little tired and maybe a little chemo-brained,” he says. He urged his three adult children to be tested for *Helicobacter pylori*, the stomach bacteria that is associated with more than 90 percent of stomach cancers, and to his great relief all three tested negative.

“When I was in medical school and in my psychiatry residency at Duke, *Helicobacter pylori* wasn’t even discovered. The thought was that ulcers came from stress and that nothing could live in the stomach because it’s too acidic,” he says. “We now know that roughly 10 to 20 percent of the U.S. population carries the bacteria and that a percentage will get cancer. In Asia, though, more than 50 percent of the population is infected, and stomach cancer is the first or second leading cause of cancer deaths in all countries.”

He’s authoring and co-authoring papers about how the bacteria and stomach cancer disproportionately affect poor people and minorities. “These are voiceless groups in our society, which helps explain why stomach cancer has gotten significantly less attention than other cancers,” he states in his “100 Stories of Hope” profile.

“I am fortunate to be one of the first patients to get personalized therapy, but thanks to research going on at Duke and elsewhere, there will be many more in the near future,” he says.

Hillard credits his wife of 14 years, Aingeal Graham, for helping him to physically and emotionally survive his ordeal.

“She kept me going,” he says. “I didn’t think I’d live to see 2014. Now I’ll have my four grandchildren. That is something I never thought I’d see.”

Hillard and his wife live in East Lansing, Mich. – by Jim Rogalski

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Duke physicians; his father, Bennie B. Dalton, MD’32, and his son, James D. Dalton Jr., MD’90, also are alumni of Duke University School of Medicine. Dalton’s art is available at his web site, daltonsart.com.

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![Healing Emotional Wounds](image)

Nancy M. Welch, MD’72, has authored a book titled *Healing Emotional Wounds*, about her experience as a single mother raising two adopted children from the Ukraine, and their struggles to overcome emotional and behavioral challenges. It is a candid account of emotions that affirms the hope of healing through commitment, hard work, extensive family, church, and friend support. The book is available at [healingemotionalwounds-books.com](https://healingemotionalwounds-books.com) and will be in bookstores beginning in April 2014. Welch is the founder of Old Dominion University’s Child Development Center. The family lives in Chesapeake, Va.

Ronald V. Maier, MD’73, DC, was awarded the 2013 Dr. Rodman E. Sheen and Thomas G. Sheen Award presented by the American College of Surgeons in recognition of outstanding contributions to the medical profession. He notes that among the previous Sheen Award honorees was one of his most important mentors, the late Eugene A. Stead, MD, former chairman of the Duke Department of Medicine. Maier, the Jane and Donald D. Trunkey Professor and vice chair of surgery at the University of Washington School of Medicine, also gave the Scudder Oration on Trauma at the annual American College of Surgeons’ annual Clinical Congress. He and his wife Lauren live in Seattle.

Louis F. Fries, MD’75, has been named vice president, chief medical officer of Novavax, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company based in Gaithersburg, Md. He previously was vice president of clinical and medical affairs for the firm and formerly served as director of clinical development for GlaxoSmithKline. He has 25 years of experience in the clinical testing and development of human vaccines. He lives in Ellicott City, Md.

Continued on Page 36
Paul P. Gilbert, MD’77, has recently moved to part-time status with Ortho-Carolina in Charlotte, working three days a week. He also has been working on developing a small clinic in an underserved valley in Haiti and hopes to raise $2.5 million for the clinic over the next several years (OFCBministries.org). Gilbert’s daughter Sara is to be married in November.

Richard D. Klausner, MD’77, G-HON’03, has been appointed senior vice president and chief medical officer for Illumina, Inc. He will lead the company’s strategies for advancing genomics into clinical medicine and public health. He also is a member of the executive management team, which is responsible for directing all aspects of the company’s strategy and operations. He and his wife Cecile Ruth Bassen, MD’77, have two sons and live in Los Altos Hills, Calif.

Bruce Wilhelmsen, MD’79, is the co-founder of Bone Doctors’ Barbecue Sauces, which recently captured a first-place prize at the 2014 Scovie Awards, presented annually to recognize the best in fiery foods and barbecue. Bone Doctors’ Brazen Heat barbecue sauce won in the “BBQ Sauce: Diet-Friendly” category. Wilhelmsen, an orthopaedic surgeon based in Greenville, N.C., makes and sells Bone Doctors’ sauces—billed as “The Cure for the Common Barbecue”—with a colleague, David M. Heilbroner, MD. He and his wife Lisa live in Greenville.

Sanford Emery, MD’82, chairman of the West Virginia University School of Medicine Department of Orthopaedics, was elected as the next president of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. He will begin his one-year term in September 2014. The ABOS is the governing body for certifying orthopaedic surgeons in the United States. Emery has been a director of the board since 2009 and treasurer since 2011. He and his wife Gwendoly, T’77, MD’81, live in Morgantown, W.Va.

Barbara J. Martin, T’82, MD’86, is anticipating the publication of her nonfiction book, Elixir: An American Tragedy of a Deadly Drug, early this year. The book is the first book-length account of the Elixir Sulfanilamide tragedy of 1937, when more than 100 Americans, including many children, died after consuming an antibiotic solution made with the lethal solvent diethylene glycol, prompting the passage by Congress of the landmark Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act of 1938. She lives in Evanston, Ill.

Cheryl Walker-McGill, T’80, MD’84, HS’84, was named president-elect of the North Carolina Medical Board in November. She is currently an adjunct professor at the Wingate Graduate School of Business in Charlotte. She also is a medical director for Daimler Trucks North America’s manufacturing facilities located in Gastonia and Mount Holly, N.C.
Robert H. Sherrier, MD’85, HS’86-'90, has written a medical thriller titled Doctored Images, a novel about a brutal Mexican cartel, a dying drug mule, and a radiologist who finds himself hopelessly out of his depth. The book tells the story of Dr. Bo Richards, a radiology resident at the University of Colorado, who saves the life of a drug mule dying in the emergency room from a leaky cocaine packet. After he uncovers a drug smuggling conspiracy at his prestigious teaching hospital, he becomes a target of the drug smugglers, and the story of murder, mayhem, and torture unfolds. Doctored Images is available on amazon.com. Sherrier and his wife Carol Ruth Essom-Sherrier, MD, HS’90–’92, live in Hillsborough, N.C.

Marc H. Gorelick, MD’87, is now executive vice president at Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin. Since taking the position in October, he has had responsibility for surgical, ambulatory, imaging, and regional services. He continues to practice pediatric emergency medicine, teach, and conduct research as a professor of pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Stuart G. Marcus, MD’87, has been appointed CEO and president of St. Vincent’s Health Services, a member of Ascension Health, the nation’s largest Catholic and largest non-profit health care system. He also has been named as a ministry market leader for Ascension Health’s New York and Connecticut regions. He joined St. Vincent’s in 2006 and was named its president in 2012. He and his wife Hilary and their two children live in Easton, Conn.

Marc R. Safran, MD’87, has been elected to the presidential line of the International Society of Hip Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery, and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine and will assume the presidency from 2017-2019. He also will assume the presidency of the International Society of Hip Arthroscopy for 2015-2016. He is a professor of orthopaedic surgery at Stanford University, where he also serves as team physician for the men’s basketball team that currently is coached by former Duke standout player and assistant coach Johnny Dawkins, T’86. Safran and his wife Lee, T’86, have three children and live in Stanford.

William T. Obremskey, T’84, MD’88, MPH, DC, of Nashville, Tenn., was promoted to professor of orthopaedics at Vanderbilt University. He also is chief of orthopaedic trauma at Vanderbilt and is involved in Department of Defense research on severe orthopaedic injuries that can be applied to civilian and military injuries. He is completing a health care master of business administration degree at Vanderbilt and plans to continue practicing clinical medicine while helping the medical center navigate health care evolution. His wife Jill, T’86, is director of the Vanderbilt pediatric urgent care centers. They have three children. Allie is a premed sophomore at the University of Southern California, Nick is a senior in high school who plans to be premed in college, and Analise is a freshman in high school.

Tracy Gaudet, T’84, MD’91, has received a Pioneer in Integrative Medicine Award from The Bravewell Collaborative. The award confers a $100,000 grant to assist her in carrying out her mission to transform the culture of health care. In 2011, Gaudet was named one of the Top 25 Women in Health Care by Modern Healthcare. That same year, she joined the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as director of the VA’s newly founded Office of Patient-Centered Care and Cultural Transformation in Washington, D.C.

Jeffrey S. Johns, MD’95, relocated to Nashville, Tenn. in 2013 to join the Vanderbilt University faculty as associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation and as medical director of Vanderbilt Stallworth Rehabilitation Hospital, an 80-bed inpatient rehabilitation hospital. He and his wife Virginia live in Nashville.

Louis Brenner, MD’96, has joined Idera Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Mass., as senior vice president and chief medical officer. He previously served as senior vice president and chief medical officer for Radius Health, and prior to that he held key positions at AMAG Pharmaceuticals and Genzyme. He and his wife Davida live in Waban, Mass.


Ning Z. Wu, MD’98, HS’03, of South Barrington, Ill., is excited to report that his son, Austin Wu, currently a senior in high school, has been accepted to enter Duke University in the fall. He writes, “We are very excited that Duke Blue will continue in our family.”

Andrew Kayes, MD’00, was presented with the Overall Excellence Chapter Award for the Hawaii Radiological Society (HRS) by the American College of Radiology at its awards ceremony in May 2013. He is medical director at Maui Diagnostic Imaging and serves as councilor for HRS. He and his wife WanYu live in Kahului, Hawaii.

Deverick Anderson, MD’01, HS’01–’06, and his wife Ann celebrated the birth of their second child, William Isaac Anderson, on Jan. 19, 2013. Anderson is chair of the Antimicrobial Stewardship and Evaluation Team, co-director of the Duke Infection Control Outreach Network, and an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases of Duke’s Department of Medicine.

Continued on Page 38
Thomas W. LeBlanc, G’05, MD’06, completed fellowship training and earned board certification in medical oncology and in hospice and palliative care. He joined the Duke faculty in July 2013 as assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Hematologic Malignancies and Cellular Therapy. He recently was awarded a two-year junior career development grant award from the National Palliative Care Research Center to support his research on palliative care issues in patients with blood cancer. He also was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha as a graduate medical exam trainee at Duke in 2013. He lives in Durham.

Jessica Fowler, MD’11, is completing a pediatric residency at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and will serve as one of the 2014-2015 chief residents.

Adam W. Nardini, MD’12, has been accepted to the University of Iowa’s Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Program, which will begin July 1.

CORRECTION: On page 30 of the Fall 2013 issue, a correct photo was placed with the class note for Thomas Wise, MD’60.

1970s

E. Ruffin Franklin, MD, T’69, HS’75-’76, is senior partner for Capitol Pediatrics & Adolescent Center, which joined the Private Diagnostic Clinic (PDC) Division at Duke University Medical Center on Oct. 1, 2013. Capitol Pediatrics, which has three offices in Raleigh and Wake County, is the first private pediatric specialty practice to join Duke’s PDC. In addition to Franklin, other pediatricians in the group who had medical training at Duke are Jeffrey Ryan, MD, HS’94-’97; Wendy Taylor Book, MD’99, HS’99-’02; and Jacqueline Farber Kerkow, MD, HS’09-’12. Franklin and his wife Sandra live in Raleigh.

CORRECTION:

Joel Kovarsky, MD, HS’72-’77, has a book forthcoming from University of Virginia Press titled The True Geography of Our Country: Jefferson’s Cartographic Vision. The book charts the importance of geography and maps in helping lay the foundation for Jefferson’s lifelong pursuits. S. Max Edelson of the University of Virginia has this to say about the book: “Joel Kovarsky offers the reflections of a passionate map expert on an important and neglected dimension of Jefferson’s life and work.” Kovarsky, who retired from active medical practice in 2007, is owner of The Prime Meridian: Antique Maps and Books (theprimemeridian.com).

1980s

Janice M. Massey, MD, HS’79-’83, was presented with the 2013 Distinguished Physician Award by the American Association of Neuromuscular and Electrodagnostic Medicine (AANEM) in October. The award recognized her work “as an international neurology leader, a superb NM (neuromuscular) clinician, and an outstanding educator and researcher with a distinguished history of AANEM service.” In 2013, Massey also was named doctor of the year by the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America. She is currently director of the Neuromuscular Division in Duke’s Department of Neurology.

Linville M. Meadows, MD, HS’82-’87, has retired from the active practice of hematology/oncology and lives on a farm with alpacas and chickens. He spends a lot of time helping people recover from drug and alcohol addiction. He lives in Willis, Va.

Tim Benning, MD, HS’85-’89, was elected to the Board of Trustees of Peninsula Regional Health System in Salisbury, Md., and will serve as chairman of the board’s Quality Oversight Committee. Benning has practiced with Peninsula Pathology Associates, P.A., since 1991 and has served as president of the group since 2002. The group provides pathology services to five hospital laboratories in Maryland and Delaware. He and his wife Susan have two children ages 20 and 16.

1990s

Paul Mulhausen, MD, HS’87-’92, has joined the executive team as chief medical officer at Telligen Population Health Management Solutions. He provides clinical guidance at the executive level and enhances Telligen’s services for current and prospective clients. Mulhausen also serves as speaker of the House of Delegates and secretary/treasurer of the Iowa Medical Society. He lives in WIsconsin, Iowa.

Richard L. Duszak Jr., MD, HS’90-’94, recently moved to Atlanta, where he is vice chair of the Department of Radiology at Emory University School of Medicine and chief medical officer of the Neiman Health Policy Institute.
Stephen P. Combs, MD, HS’92–’95, is the chief executive medical officer for Wellmont Health System and Wellmont Medical Associates in northeast Tennessee. He leads a 150-member multi-specialty group and recently guided the organization through successful certification as a National Committee for Quality Assurance-certified Patient Centered Medical Home. He also leads the Wellmont Accountable Care Organization and the Highlands Wellmont Health Network PHO, and he is a clinical professor of pediatrics at the medical schools of East Tennessee State University and Lincoln Memorial University. He and his wife Danielle live in Kingsport, Tenn.

Gary W. Procop, MD, HS’92–’96, was selected as secretary of the American Board of Pathology. He currently is chair of molecular pathology at Cleveland Clinic and professor of pathology at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine. He lives in Twinsburg, Ohio.

Miguel J. Garcia-Oria, MD, HS’99–’00, has taken a new position as a general and bariatric surgeon at Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro de Majadahonda in Madrid, Spain, where he lives with his wife Aranzazu Caballero.

Christy Turer, MD, HS’04–’08, MHS’10, and her husband Aslan, HS’01–’09, welcomed their second son, Edison, in August 2013. Christy was promoted in 2013 to assistant professor at The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and received a 5-year K23 Career Development Award from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute for a proposal titled, “Primary Care, Communication, and Improving Children’s Health.” The family lives in Dallas.

Eric J. Forman, T’00, MD, HS’10, was appointed in 2013 as assistant professor of reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Rutgers University’s Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and Reproductive Medicine Associates of New Jersey in Morristown, N.J. He and his wife Sara have three children and live in Madison, N.J.

A snowy winter’s day in February at the Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans Center for Health Education
Dean Davison showed Freedy Unconditional Support

At age 85, Lucy R. Freedy, MD’57, still remembers with great clarity how Duke University School of Medicine’s founding dean Wilburt C. Davison, MD, saved her medical education after she became stricken with a lung tumor during her second year of medical school and required major surgery.

“I could just as easily have been written off after my surgery, but instead was comforted and supported and allowed back into the program,” she says. “Dean Davison coordinated everything and worked out a schedule to get me back in after the six months I had been out.”

Plus, Freedy adds, “I never received a single bill for the surgery or my time in the hospital. This was a tremendous benefit because I had to borrow money to get through medical school.”

What Davison did was allow Freedy to work in the operating room as a scrub nurse to get clinical experience, which she had missed with her initial Class of ’56 classmates.

“It was one of the greatest adventures I ever had,” she says. “The surgeon would even let me finish skin sutures.”

Freedy then began her third-year studies with the Class of ’57, with whom she graduated.

Her gratitude toward Duke is deepened even further, because Duke was the only medical school in North Carolina to accept her.

“Duke gave me a chance when the other school wouldn’t,” she says. “I feel very close to Duke and feel it’s important to give back. None of us did it alone, and we all stand by our Duke medical education.”

David L. Epstein, MD, the Joseph A.C. Wadsworth Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology and chair of the Department of Ophthalmology, died March 4, 2014. He was 69. Dr. Epstein served as chair for the last 22 years, building and leading an outstanding community of ophthalmologists and vision scientists. Under his leadership, the department grew to include its current team of 73 faculty members and more than 300 staff members.

A distinguished clinician-scientist, Dr. Epstein authored more than 230 scholarly papers and consulted in glaucoma clinical care while maintaining an active glaucoma research program. Dr. Epstein had a special interest in fostering physician-scientists’ careers in ophthalmology. He received many awards for his work, including the 2013 Mildred Weisenfeld Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). This award is presented annually to an individual in recognition of distinguished scholarly contributions to the clinical practice of ophthalmology.

In 2012, he received Duke University School of Medicine Medical Alumni Association’s Distinguished Faculty Award. Dr. Epstein also served on numerous national scientific advisory boards. From 1992-1993, he served as president of ARVO. He served as president of the Chandler-Grant Glaucoma Society from 2004-2005 and was president of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology in 2011.

In 2012, he received Duke University School of Medicine Medical Alumni Association's Distinguished Faculty Award. Dr. Epstein also served on numerous national scientific advisory boards. From 1992-1993, he served as president of ARVO. He served as president of the Chandler-Grant Glaucoma Society from 2004-2005 and was president of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology in 2011.

Annual gifts to the Davison Club support scholarships, medical education, and research at Duke University School of Medicine. For information or to join, please call Jason Bouck at 919-385-3162 or visit medicalannualfund.duke.edu.
Paul M. Abernethy, MD, HS'48-'50, of Burlington, N.C., died September 11, 2013. He was 92. Dr. Abernethy served two years in the Philippines during World War II and was honorarily discharged as a captain. After the war, he established a general practice in Forest City, N.C. He moved to Burlington in 1950 and became the town’s first eye doctor. He served as chief of staff at both Alamance County Hospital and Memorial Hospital of Alamance, which later merged to become Alamance Regional Medical Center. In the 1970s, he introduced a new technique in cataract surgery in North Carolina, which is now a standard practice in ophthalmology. In the 1980s, he co-founded Alamance Eye Center and practiced there until his retirement in 1995.

Joseph J. Bethany Jr., MD’52, a family medicine practitioner of Tuscaloosa, Ala., died October 3, 2013. He was 85. Dr. Bethany practiced family medicine for 25 years in Eutaw, Ala. After retiring from private practice in 1986, he accepted a staff position at Russell Student Health Center at the University of Alabama and retired permanently in 1996.

Joseph P. Bunn, T’54, MD’57, DC, of Winter Park, Fla., died at home on December 2, 2013, following a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 82. Dr. Bunn spent his 35-year career in the Winter Park area. He founded the Pediatrics Group and served in many positions at Winter Park Memorial Hospital.

Robert David Crouch Sr., MD, HS’50, ‘53–’56, of Frederick, Md., died on August 16, 2013. He was 88. Dr. Crouch served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and was a member of the Francis Scott Key American Legion Post #11. In 1957, he moved to Frederick, where he practiced urology for 53 years. In 2010, he sold the practice to Frederick Memorial Hospital. During his many years in practice, he was instrumental in bringing advanced technology for the treatment of urological conditions to the Frederick area. A licensed pilot, he combined his interests in flying and medicine as a medical examiner for the FAA for more than 20 years.

Paul “Marty” Fiser, MD, HS’77–’79, of Little Rock, Ark., died November 20, 2013. He was 82. Dr. Fiser served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force for three years at Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. In 1979, he became a clinical assistant professor at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in the Department of Pediatrics. He then went into private practice as an allergist for 30 years at the Arkansas Allergy and Asthma Clinic.

Joseph Farmer Jr., MD’62, HS’63–’70, of Durham, N.C., died March 19, 2014. He was 76. Dr. Farmer was professor emeritus in the Duke Division of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery in the Department of Surgery. Dr. Farmer completed his residency training and a fellowship in thoracic surgery at Duke before joining the faculty as assistant professor in 1971. He served as chief of the division from 1999-2005. Dr. Farmer, a pioneer in the early clinical implementation of cochlear implants, was co-founder of the Duke Hearing Center and the cochlear implant program, one of the first of its kind in the world. He was a member of Duke’s Institutional Review Board for more than 35 years, serving as vice chairman from 1984-1999 and as co-chairman from 1999-2011. Dr. Farmer was a member of many professional organizations and served as president of the American Otological Society and president of the board of directors for the American Journal of Otology. He also served as president of the Duke University Medical Alumni Association from 1987-1988.

Benjamin J. Floyd, MD, HS’56–’60, of Texarkana, Tex., died July 31, 2013. He was 85. Dr. Floyd was a retired physician for Yarbrough-Floyd-Hunter Associates; a member of the American Medical Association, the American Urological Society, and the American Board of Urology; and a Korean War veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Samuel J. Friedberg, MD, HS’56–’62, of San Antonio, Tex., died on October 15, 2013, after a difficult illness. He was 86. Dr. Friedberg was called to military service in the U.S. Navy in 1954. After residency training, he remained at Duke for another 10 years as an associate professor of medicine and director of the cooperative lipid laboratory for the Veterans Administration Cooperative Studies in Atherosclerosis. In 1968, he and his family moved to San Antonio, where he was one of the founding faculty members of the University of Texas Health Science Center. He retired in 1992. He also headed the UT Health Science Center’s Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism from 1968-1975.

Matthew Hill Grimmett III, MD’43, HS’46–’48, ‘64–’67, of Sunset Beach, N.C., died August 22, 2013. He was 96. During World War II, Dr. Grimmett served in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to the First Marine Division during operations in the Pacific. Following his discharge from the Navy, he returned to Duke and completed a residency in pediatrics, which he practiced for 17 years in Concord and Kannapolis. Due to a service-related disability, he returned to Duke and completed a residency in radiology, which he practiced in Concord and Shallotte and Loris, S.C., until his retirement in 1989.

George W. Hambrick Jr., MD, HS’51–’53, of Charlottesville, Va., considered the father of the modern field of dermatology, died December 10, 2013, six days after his 91st birthday. From 1948-1950, Dr. Hambrick served in the U.S. Army in Georgia and Okinawa, Japan. Beginning in the early 1950s, he launched an academic career, rising through the ranks at Columbia University, the University of Pennsylvania, and Johns Hopkins University, where he served as professor and chairman of dermatology until 1976. He then directed the Department of Dermatology at the University of Cincinnati for five years before moving to Cornell University in New York, where he co-directed the Division of Dermatology.

Continued on Page 42
Howard Egbert Herring Jr., T'46, MD'48, of Pensacola, Fla., died August 16, 2013. He was 87. Dr. Herring’s military career included serving in the U.S. Naval Reserves as an ensign during World War II and the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps as a captain during the Korean War. After a fellowship at Duke, he was an instructor in medicine. He enjoyed an active practice in internal medicine in allergy and immunology for 42 years in Pensacola at the Medical Center Clinic and later at West Florida Medical Center.

Paul E. Hill, MD’54, of Flat Rock, N.C., died December 24, 2013. He was 88. After high school, Dr. Hill volunteered and entered the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as a navigator. Later he became a physician with an active medical practice of 50 years, working in family medicine in his native town of Murphy, followed by a practice in internal medicine in Hendersonville until his retirement in 1991.

Lynn A. Hughes, MD, HS’71–’75, died February 13, 2014, at a care facility in Concord, N.C. He was 75. Dr. Hughes’ career included serving as a captain and flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force. He was stationed in Vietnam during the war. He first moved to Concord in 1975 and opened the Hughes Clinic, PA, which later became Northeast ENT. He practiced for more than 35 years before retiring in 2010 due to failing health. Throughout his career, Dr. Hughes maintained a relationship with Duke University Medical Center as an assistant consulting professor of otolaryngology in the Department of Surgery.

Harry C. Huneycutt, MD’61, HS’61–’66, DC, of Reno, Nev., died September 28, 2013, of unexpected heart problems following an elk hunting trip with his son. He was 79. Dr. Huneycutt served as a military physician in Germany from 1967-1970. After completing military service, he made Reno his permanent home and delivered more than 5,000 babies during his 43 years of caring for patients there.

Charles A. James, MD’54, of Columbia, S.C., died January 19, 2014. He was 84. Early in his career, Dr. James served for two years as the base pediatrician at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Tex. He later co-founded Sandhills Pediatric and Adolescent Clinic in Columbia, where he practiced until his retirement in 1998. He also served on the medical staffs of Richland Memorial, Baptist, and Providence Hospitals and was a pediatric consultant to Moncrief Army Community Hospital at Fort Jackson. He held an appointment as a clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. A founding father of Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital, he and his wife Clara Christine Schroeder co-chaired the successful campaign to establish the state’s first freestanding children’s hospital.

Richard Alexander Kelly Jr., MD’54, of Raleigh, N.C., died February 22, 2014. He was 86. Dr. Kelly joined the U.S. Army while still in college, serving as a clerk on a hospital ship. In 1956, he moved to Greensboro, where he began a general practice. In 1974, he was recruited to be chief of outpatient services at Moses Cone Hospital, where he served for 10 years. After spending the first part of his retirement in Oak Ridge, N.C., in 1998, Dr. Kelly and his wife Patsy, WC’52, moved to Raleigh to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Beverly C. Morgan, MD’55, died at her home in Newport Beach, Calif., on January 25, 2014. She was 88. Dr. Morgan’s career included serving as a full professor of pediatric cardiology at the University of Washington School of Medicine. In 1974, she became chair of the Department of Pediatrics and later chief pediatrician at Seattle Children’s Orthopedic Hospital. In 1980, she moved to the University of California Irvine School of Medicine, where she was also chair of pediatrics. After stepping down from administration, she remained at UC Irvine as a professor of pediatric cardiology until her retirement in 2009. She established an endowed professorship in pediatric cardiology at Duke University School of Medicine.

Blaine S. Nashold Jr., MD, a professor emeritus in Duke’s Division of Neurosurgery in the Department of Surgery, died March 11, 2014. He was 90. Dr. Nashold served in the Office of Naval Intelligence in the U.S. Navy, completing two distinguished tours of duty in the Mediterranean and Korea. He joined the faculty at Duke as an assistant professor in 1957 following completion of his neurosurgical training, and he remained at Duke for 37 years until his retirement in 1994. From 1962-1963 Dr. Nashold was the personal neurosurgeon to President John F. Kennedy. He was internationally known for his work in functional neurosurgery. He developed the DREZ operation for deafferentation pain and carried out more than 800 of these operations. His research focused on the neurophysiology of pain, and after his retirement he continued studying pain after spinal injury, the use of lasers in surgery, and the effect of pulsed radiofrequency on the spinal cord in his Duke laboratory. Dr. Nashold was a founding member of the American Stereotactic Society and served as president of this organization. He also served as president of the World Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery. In 1993, he was awarded the Spiegel-Wycis gold medal by the World Society of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery.

Pamela Bond Nicholson, MD’89, of Statesville, N.C., died unexpectedly on December 2, 2013. She was 50. Over the years, she, her husband, John Christie Nicholson, MD’89, and their five children lived in Iowa, the Dominican Republic, North Carolina, and Vermont.
Philip B. Oliva, T'60, MD'63, died unexpectedly on February 14, 2014, in Denver, Colo. He was 74. Dr. Oliva was recognized as a world renowned cardiologist. He also was a pioneer of high-altitude cycling and the founder of the Heart Cycle Bicycle Touring Club.

James F. O'Neill, MD'54, HS'54-'58, DC, of St. Petersburg, Fla., died June 11, 2013, at age 86. He practiced ophthalmology in St. Petersburg for 30 years.

Shirley Kirkman Osterhout, WC'53, MD'57, HS'57-'59, of Durham, died September 23, 2013. She was 81. After residency training at Duke, Dr. Osterhout became an instructor and eventually an assistant professor of pediatrics. She also was the assistant dean for medical education and mentored and assisted medical students through their work of becoming doctors. She received the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1973. Also while at Duke, she was clinical director and then medical director of the Poison Control Center. Her work with Jay Arena, MD'32, HS'33, and mentor Susan Dees, MD, inspired her life’s career in pediatrics and child safety. She retired as professor emeritus from Duke in 1997.

Lawrence W. Pollard Jr., MD'53, of Salinas, Calif., died on February 13, 2014, of respiratory complications. He was 85. Dr. Pollard served as a naval aviation cadet in 1945 and later joined the U.S. Air Force and served with NASA as part of the Mercury Space Program. He left the air force in 1962 and opened a cardiology practice in Monterey, Calif. He retired in 1982 to pursue his interests in flying, fishing, and investing.

George E. Prince, MD'44, of Wilmington, N.C., died on November 27, 2013, at Cape Fear Hospital following a fall. He was 92. Dr. Prince served as a major in the U.S. Air Force and was chief of pediatrics at the U.S. Air Force Hospital at Mitchell Field in New York. He practiced medicine in Gaston County, N.C., for 51 years. His contributions to the Gaston County community included founding the Children’s Clinic and serving as medical director of the Gaston County Health Department and chief of staff at Gaston Memorial and Garrison Hospitals.

George Justice Race, MD, PhD, HS'47-'48, '51-'53, of Dallas, Tex., died at home on December 17, 2013. He was 87. After serving in the U.S. Army in World War II, Dr. Race entered the U.S. Air Force and served in Korea as a flight surgeon for three years. His career included serving as chief of pathology at Baylor University Medical Center, a position he held just shy of 30 years. He devoted the latter part of his career to developing the continuing education department at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He retired as an emeritus professor of pathology in 1994.

Mark William Sebastian, MD, HS'87-'94, died on May 27, 2013, in Hartford, Conn. He was 55. Dr. Sebastian served in various capacities at Duke University Medical Center, including as an associate professor of surgery and associate dean of the School of Medicine. He also served as associate professor of surgery at the University of Connecticut and director of trauma at Hartford Hospital in Hartford. He received numerous awards during his medical career, but among his most prized were those for teaching. They include the David C. Sabinson Jr. Teaching Award in Surgery and the Golden Apple Teaching Award from Duke.

Clive H. Sell, MD, HS'86, of Phoenix, Ariz., died January 5, 2014. He was 59. A vitreoretinal surgeon, Dr. Sell helped found Associates Retina Consultants in Phoenix, where he was a senior partner until his passing. He also helped create the only vitreoretina fellowship in Arizona.

James H. Shore, T'62, MD'65, of Denver, a psychiatrist who served as chancellor of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and the University of Colorado-Denver, died September 29, 2013, at his ranch in Wyoming. He was 73. Dr. Shore was a key player in the move of the University of Colorado’s health sciences campus from Denver to what is now the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora. He also devoted considerable energy to improving mental health services for American Indians and native Alaskans, an interest sparked by a childhood visit to the ancestral home of the Cherokee nation in North Carolina. Dr. Shore was a 2011 recipient of the Duke Medical Alumni Association Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Julian C. “Julio” Sleeper, MD, HS'57-'62, of Wichita Falls, Tex., died on January 24, 2014. He was 85. Dr. Sleeper served two years as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps in Ft. Lewis, Wash., and later moved to Wichita Falls where he joined the Wichita Falls Clinic. He was the first board-certified cardiologist in Wichita Falls and was instrumental in starting the coronary care units at Bethania and Wichita General Hospital, now United Regional Healthcare Center. He was a member of the staff at United Regional Healthcare Center for more than 50 years until retiring in 2003.

Lawrence K. Thompson III, T'56, MD'61, of Carlisle and Camp Hill, Pa., and Durham, died January 28, 2014. He was 78. Dr. Thompson spent time on the medical staff at Duke in maxillofacial plastic surgery. He also was an instructor of anatomy and was appointed to the Children’s Special Health Services. In conjunction with his faculty appointment, from 1971-1974, he was chief of plastic surgery at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Durham. In 1974, he established Durham Plastic Surgery Associates, Inc. and remained in private practice in Durham until 1994. Later, he and wife Mary Lou returned to their home state of Pennsylvania, where he continued in private practice.

Continued on Page 44
Thomas T. Thompson, MD, HS’67-'69, of Raleigh, died November 26, 2013. He was 80. Dr. Thompson served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1952-1955. In 1969, he joined the Veterans Administration Hospital in Durham, eventually becoming both chief of radiology and associate chief of staff of allied health and education. He served as professor of radiology and associate dean of Duke University School of Medicine from 1975-1981. He went on to hold positions at the University of Miami Medical School in Miami South Shore Hospital. In 1993, he retired from medicine and was awarded Fellow Emeritus status by the American College of Radiology.

William W. Thompson, T’42 MD’47, HS’48-'49, of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., died December 2, 2013, at the Fort Walton Beach Medical Center. He was 92. Dr. Thompson’s military service included being a private first class in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1943-46, eventually reaching the rank of major. He was chief of pediatrics at the Army Service School at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Tex. He practiced pediatrics in Radford, Va., from 1954-56, and in 1957, he started a practice in Fort Walton Beach, practicing in the area for well over 50 years.

Scholarship Endowment Honors “Exceptionalism”

Joe Walker, T’51, MD’60, felt Duke afforded him his whole future, according to his wife, Mary Mattingly Walker, N’59. The couple met at Duke when she was a nursing student and he was a medical student. “Joe had an uncle who was a country doctor, and he spent a lot of time with him,” says Mary Walker. “He always knew that was the life he wanted.”

Walker, a native of Cleveland County, N.C., interrupted his undergraduate studies at Duke’s Trinity College to become a fighter pilot in the Korean War. When he returned from the war, he enrolled at Guilford College, hoping to complete the credits needed to graduate and apply to medical school.

“His science teacher at Guilford actually called Dr. Markee (Joseph Markee, MD, then-chair of the Department of Anatomy) at Duke, and said there’s a young man I’d like you to interview,” says Mary Walker.

Walker got the interview and was accepted. During medical school, he was able to find work in Duke’s laboratories to help pay for tuition and living expenses. When he graduated from the School of Medicine in 1960, he also received his Duke undergraduate degree, by virtue of credits earned at Trinity, Guilford Community College, and during medical school.

Shortly after graduation, he and Mary were married, and Walker began fulfilling his dream of serving his Cleveland County community, opening two general practices, one in the rural county and one in Shelby, N.C.

“Joe maintained two offices his whole career, but serving the county was his primary love,” says Mary Walker. “He loved medicine and would have gladly done it without pay.”

Walker, who died in 2004, was deeply appreciative of his Duke medical education throughout his life. He and Mary were thrilled to be part of the earliest beginnings of the Davison Club, whose members give $1,000 annually to support medical student scholarships, education, and research.

In 1969, when the late G. Byron Hodge, MD, HS’42-'47, and his wife Katie Adams Hodge, N’43, hosted a party at their home in Spartanburg, S.C., the Walkers were there, along with other Duke medical alumni and then-Chancellor William G. Anlyan, MD, HS’49-'55, to learn about plans to form an annual giving club.

Joe Walker joined as a charter member and later served as Medical Alumni Association president. In 1980, he and Mary became Davison Club Centurions. After Joe’s death, Mary committed $100,000 to establish the Mary Mattingly Walker and Dr. Joseph E. Walker Scholarship Fund in the School of Medicine.

Mary Walker says the gift honors the qualities embodied in the School of Medicine and the lifelong relationships she and Joe enjoyed through the Davison Club.

“Duke has such quality, exceptionalism, and devotion all around—the teachers to the students and the students to the teachers,” says Mary Walker. “It’s old fashioned, and old school, but it’s still part of the culture today. It’s very satisfying to know that our gift will help Duke medical students for years to come.”
Whenever Fred Sanfilippo, PhD’75, MD’76, HS’76-’79, and his wife Janet, WC’72, MBA’80, talk about where to direct their philanthropy, the question isn’t whether to give back to Duke, but what part of Duke to give back to.

Their ties to the university run both deep and wide. Fred earned two degrees, did his residency, and then joined the faculty as a professor of pathology, surgery, and immunology. Janet received undergraduate and graduate degrees and then worked for many years in the President’s Office, the School of Medicine, and the Fuqua School. Longtime Davison Club and Founders Society members, the Sanfilipplos have given generously to Duke in numerous ways over the years. But they wanted to do more.

“It could have been the Departments of Immunology or Pathology or the Fuqua School where we learned so much,” Fred said. “Or the Cancer Center, which saved Janet’s life, or Neonatology, which nursed our daughter through her difficult first hours. It could have been a lot of things. We had to decide what program would have the biggest impact on the lives of others.”

In the end they designated the Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP), Duke Medicine’s MD/PhD program, as the recipient of their most recent gift. Fred’s decision to go the MD/PhD route at Duke has served him well throughout his career at Duke and as a senior leader at Johns Hopkins, Ohio State, and Emory.

“The Duke MSTP is a great program,” says Fred. “It helped me understand and appreciate the relationship between the research, clinical, and educational aspects of medicine. Most importantly, it trains the next generation of physician-scientist-educators whose innovations help improve the health of people around the world.”

The Sanfilipplos elected to give back to Duke with a bequest commitment, which will establish a permanent endowment to provide scholarships for students in the MD/PhD program.
MEDICAL FAMILIES WEEKEND

About 200 students and family members attended Medical Families Weekend in March. Joan Sullivan shows Vernetta Foster — aunt of 3rd year student, Duriel Hardy — how to operate a human patient simulator in the Trent Semans Center for Health Education.