

Partnership Pulse

A Publication of the AU/UGA Medical Partnership

*onward and upward
celebrating our students' next steps*

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL
PARTNERSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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Partnership Pulse

Augusta University and the University of Georgia partnered to create a four-year medical education program in Athens to help alleviate a statewide shortage of physicians that threatens the health of Georgians. The Partnership Pulse is published bi-annually for alumni, friends, and the medical community of Augusta University and the University of Georgia.



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AU/UGA Medical Partnership

From the Campus Dean



This past spring and summer has been an exhilarating time at the Medical Partnership campus!

In May, we celebrated our sixth graduating class since we first opened our doors nine years ago. The graduating students will be going to 17 different states in 15 different specialties, with 69% staying in the southeastern United States and 45% joining primary care programs.

Right off the heels of that celebration, our second class of residents wrapped up their training with our Internal Medicine Residency Program in partnership with St. Mary's Health Care System. I'm so proud that two of the residents will be remaining in Athens to practice, and two will be practicing in rural Georgia where the greatest physician shortage exists.

As many of you know, we are set to expand our class size from 40 students per class to 60 students per class by the year 2020. This increase is keeping us on track with the recommendations of the Tripp Umbach report on medical education expansion in Georgia, which was completed in 2008. In early July, we received the blessing from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education for our expansion plans.

Throughout the summer we have been renovating the space in Russell Hall on UGA's Health Sciences Campus where our students do the majority of their learning. Enhancements include a new state of the art simulation center and clinical skills labs, renovated large classroom spaces for active learning, a larger library with natural light, 5 additional small group rooms for student learning, and additional office space for the increases in faculty and staff. We are also in the midst of recruiting additional faculty and staff members.

I look forward to welcoming you all to an open house event this fall in which we will showcase our new facilities!

I want to thank each of you for your dedication to our students and to the success of the Medical Partnership. We've had some amazing accomplishments over the past year! It takes a team working together to have a successful educational program for our students. Every member of our team is vital to our success, vital to our day-to-day work and vital to us continuing to thrive.

I also want to thank the leadership at University of Georgia and Augusta University, along with our state leaders for the support they have shown our campus. I look forward to the changes coming our way and cannot wait to share our progress with all of you.

As always, thank you for your support.

Michelle A. Nuss, MD
Campus Dean for the AU/UGA Medical Partnership

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Sixth annual Community Celebration held in honor of the Class of 2019

The Class of 2019 celebrated their achievements at the sixth annual Community Celebration at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education on Saturday, May 11. Forty-three students, along with their friends and family, gathered for this momentous occasion.

The ceremony began with a processional led by Campus Dean Michelle Nuss along with the Medical Partnership faculty. Dr. Nuss provided the welcoming remarks to the attendees and served as the host of the event. Medical Partnership student, Dr. Gabe Pajares Hurtado, was selected by his fellow classmates to provide the Moment of Reflection speech on behalf of the Class of 2019. Following this, Eve Anthony, Chief Executive Officer for the Athens Community Council on Aging, provided remarks on behalf of the Athens community and congratulated the many accomplishments of this class, as well as the entire Medical Partnership team. Many students and faculty volunteer with the Athens Community Council on Aging throughout their time at the Medical Partnership campus.

Medical Partnership faculty member, Dr. Matthew Crim, provided the keynote address at the Community Celebration. He was selected by the Class of 2019 for this honor and provided sound advice for the graduates.

Two students, Dr. Hannah Childs and Dr. Cinthana Kandasamy, were awarded the Glasgow-Rubin Citations for Academic Achievement Graduation Award with the American Medical Women's Association.

The ceremony concluded with the presentation of the class gift by Student Government Officers, Courtney Alvis and Ricardo Lopez-Hanson.

Following graduation, the Medical College of Georgia students who attended the Medical Partnership campus will be going to 17 different states in 15 different specialties. Sixty-nine percent will stay in the southeastern United States, and forty-five percent will attend primary care residencies.





Community Remarks given by Eve Anthony, CEO of Athens Community Council on Aging

I'm incredibly honored to be here with you all this morning to join in the celebration of the class of 2019.

For almost ten years, our local community has richly benefited from the Medical Partnership being in Athens. In addition to the more than 17 million dollars generated in local government revenue, residents of our community have seen a direct and lasting benefit.

My organization, the Athens Community Council on Aging, has had the privilege of partnering with the Medical Partnership since it opened.

This year, as part of the Community Health curriculum, a group of first year Medical Students visited a homebound older adult served through our Meals on Wheels program. While there, they noticed the client, Mr. Odie, did not have a bed and slept on the floor. The students worked diligently with our staff to get Mr. Odie a hospital bed and the other supplies he needed to live a safe and healthy life at home. But they didn't stop there, students have been returning to visit Mr. Odie, on a regular basis, to join him in his favorite past time, playing Chess.

So many of us tell stories about how when we were vulnerable or sick, our hero doctor made us strong. For Mr. Odie, one of our community's most vulnerable, he was made stronger because of the service of future doctors through the Medical Partnership.

Throughout my organization and many others, the students and faculty use their talent and skills to not only learn from the community in which they live, but to make it better.

Over the years, the Medical Partnership has given local organizations much needed access to physicians as consultants for our services, faculty members serving as volunteers and in leadership as board members, and creative and service-minded students who have generated interventions that have bettered the lives of those we serve.

At the Council on Aging, students have worked alongside faculty coaches and our staff on projects related to geriatric depression, chronic disease education, polypharmacy, and home safety, ultimately increasing our capacity to provide better care to a frail population. Recognizing the link between social isolation and negative health outcomes among older adults, several members of the 2019 graduating class created the Refined Singles Unwind Social Club for seniors seeking friendship and meaningful connection. The most successful components of this project still exist today.



But our organization is not the only one that has been impacted by the Medical Partnership and the community work that you do. Throughout the Athens area, students and faculty are working alongside non-profit organizations to make a meaningful difference in the lives of some of our community's most at risk populations. Because of the medical partnership, uninsured individuals have access to primary and preventative healthcare, and new interventions focusing on disease management, mental health resources, addiction recovery and many more have been introduced in community settings.

Student volunteer organizations have provided countless hours of service to individuals in their homes, neighborhoods and within non-profit organizations. Because the Medical Partnership values the community in which it resides, we're all better.

It has been a true honor to be able to work with so many of you. I congratulate you on this major accomplishment. My hope for each of you is to take what you have learned through your work with our local community, embed it into your medical skill set and continue to seek ways to improve the communities in which you will practice, live and serve as leaders. It really matters.

Eve Anthony is the Chief Executive Officer for the Athens Community Council on Aging. She studied Therapeutic Recreation at the University of Georgia and holds a certificate in Gerontology from Kennesaw State University.



Keynote Address by Dr. Matthew Crim

Dean Nuss, UGA Provost Morris, Partnership Faculty and Administration, and class of 2019, thank you for this opportunity to address you today. Congratulations on this fantastic accomplishment! This has been a week of celebration to culminate years of labor, and it is truly a moment to savor. Now that you have traveled to Augusta to complete your Harry Potter costumes, it is so sweet to return home to Athens to share this celebration with the friends and family and teachers that have helped to shape and mold you into the proud graduates you are today. Guests of the graduates – parents, partners, family, friends – congratulations! Thank you for the role you have played in the lives of these students – support in times of loss, revelry at times of accomplishment, guidance in times of struggle, tolerance in times of stress or absence. Occasions like this give us all a moment to pause and reflect, on how far we've come, and the people that have helped us along the way.

I am deeply honored by the invitation to speak in this program, and on a personal note, I would like to thank Dean Nuss for allowing me to join this vibrant community of medical education in a town and University that have given me so much. It is also my pleasure to share this stage with Jonathan Murrow, who has been a role model, mentor and friend throughout my journey as a physician, and re-introduced me to the Medical Partnership after I had been away for a few years. Thank you, Jonathan, for luring me “back to dear old Athens town.”

This celebration of graduation is richly deserved – you have been through so much to reach this stage. You have weathered years in the classroom, and now you are in the midst of a pedagogical shift.

Throughout medical school you have gradually pivoted from the classroom, to the clinic and hospital ward. Soon, you will embark on clinical training, with internships and residencies from Miami to Boston, Los Angeles to Baltimore, and many points between. Your learning will be less structured, more ad hoc, and more experiential. You will assimilate features of your attendings and co-residents that you wish to emulate or avoid, and craft your own preferences and style within the bounds of evidence and dogma. You have benefited from a medical school curriculum carefully crafted to prepare you for the fact that you will never stop learning. Throughout your career, you will continue to employ your skills in searching and digesting the literature, learning from and with your colleagues, to inform your clinical practice.

It is difficult to fathom, but after a couple of decades of school under your belt, you have just now reached the starting line for your career in medicine. At the cusp of this transition from school to career, I will offer one central theme, sprinkled with some advice to guide you along the way. You have chosen to enter a profession steeped in history, and yet the only constancy you will face in your clinical journey is that everything is constantly changing. During your career, scientific advances will change not only the clinical practice guidelines, but in some cases our fundamental understanding of the very pathophysiology of whole categories of disease. Tectonic shifts are underway in the way physicians are paid, with a transition from volume to value. Technological innovation and consumer culture are transforming access to care and clinical business models. You, also, will continue to mature and progress through the stages of life with

the joys and burdens they each impart. To keep rooted in the midst of this shifting landscape, my thesis is for you to keep ever close the maxim that medicine is a vocation of service.

You have all taken different paths to this stage—some linear and others more circuitous—yet you now join together under the banner of a common profession. You have established a foundation in the art and science of medicine upon which you will build throughout your career. But the farther you proceed down this consuming path, the more difficult it is to recall life before medicine. Think of the new vocabulary you have acquired in medical school alone—you have learned to speak an entirely new language of jargon and technical terms. Pause now, to think of you, at the start of medical school—what drew you here in the first place? What did you hope to accomplish? Your perspective at each stop along your path is a precious and finite glimpse into who are, and what you are becoming. I did not heed this advice at your stage, and I wish I had: take a moment to collect and record your thoughts—literally, in writing or a recording. What is driving you to pursue this path? What makes all this toil and sacrifice worth it for you?

The kernel of this truth for me is the opportunity to apply my knowledge and training in the service of others. There is so much noise that surrounds this work—board scores, duty hours, salaries, student loans. But at the heart of our practice, we are privileged to share with our patients in the most raw and human fragments of life—birth, death, illness, injury. Society entrusts us with this privilege, with the expectations of competence and professionalism. Never forget that the position you enjoy has been fashioned and earned by generations of physicians that have preceded you, and you, in turn, will shape the role of the physician in society for generations to come. How then can you carry forward this mantle?

William Osler was born in what is now Ontario in 1849. He completed medical school at McGill in Montreal, and post-graduate training with the pre-eminent pathologist Virchow in Europe, before joining the medical faculty at McGill, and then the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. In 1889, he moved to Baltimore as the first Physician-in-Chief of an upstart hospital, accompanied a few years later by a medical school. This institution had been bequeathed by a Quaker philanthropist who had built a fortune on the railroad from humble beginnings bartering goods in the Shenandoah Valley in exchange for corn whiskey, which he bottled and resold under the label “Hopkins Best.” It was at Johns Hopkins that Osler did much to earn his reputation as a father of modern medicine, including the composition of a pivotal medical textbook, the establishment of post-graduate residency training programs, and the introduction of clinical clerkships and bedside teaching to the medical school curriculum (the accomplishment of which he was most proud). Osler finished his career at Oxford University, in England, where he was knighted, and died in 1919 at the age of 70. Osler was a lover of books, and a prolific writer and speaker; he is fantastically quotable. He is also my personal mustache idol. I would like to use some Osler quotes to emphasize key points to guide you at the beginning of this journey.

Communication is at the very center of your relationship with your patients. Your clinical task is to apply your knowledge of disease and treatment to an individual patient with a particular problem. Osler said, “Listen to your patient, [they are] telling you the diagnosis.” As you have learned in clinical skills and rotations, this sounds much easier than it actually is. You must cut through the fog of diction to discover the nuggets of data you can use to reach a diagnosis. Then you must understand and appreciate the patient’s explanatory model of their own illness, in order to affect your recommended treatment plan and counseling. The patient will not listen to you until they accept that you have heard them. This requires translation back and forth from medical jargon. Don’t forget what it was like before you knew all of the medical terminology you

have worked so hard to master—speak to your patient with respect, in language that is meaningful to them.

I enjoy working with undergraduate students and hear too often from students considering a career in clinical practice that they are explicitly not interested in medical school, because they want to be able to spend time with their patients and get to know them. The lived experience of these students is that the role of the physician is to pop in and out, write a prescription or perform a procedure, and that’s it. There are certainly many pressures on everyone’s time, and all members of the care team play an important role. But strive not to reduce your practice as a physician to a mechanical transaction—that neither provides optimal patient care, nor sustains the passion that brought you to this profession. Osler said, “It is much more important to know what sort of a patient has a disease, than what sort of a disease a patient has,” because “the good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.” Aspire to greatness.

When Osler left the University of Pennsylvania for Johns Hopkins in 1889, he delivered a valedictory address extolling two of the “elements which may make or mar your lives.” So, no pressure! These elements were actually two aspects of the same virtue—composure under pressure. Osler termed the physical manifestation of this quality “imperturbability,” and the mental facet “Aequanimitas,” in English equanimity, or even-mindedness. In charming period vernacular, Osler likened this to “coolness and presence of mind under all circumstances, calmness amid storm, clearness of judgement in moments of grave peril, ... or, to use an old and expressive word, phlegm”. We might say now, “never let ’em see you sweat”, or at this stage of training, “fake it ’til you make it.”

This “stiff upper lip” is not to be mistaken for apathy or arrogance, but is a critical characteristic to enable decision making when the stakes are high, and inspire confidence in the teams you will lead. You will face challenges. Your judgements in difficult situations will impact the health of individuals with lives and loved ones. As you venture out from under the wings of your faculty preceptors, rely on your training, have confidence in yourself, maintain your composure, and know your limits. Part of this self-awareness is knowing when to reach out for help and when to step back and lean on your colleagues; we all have limits, and that is a mark not of weakness, but a fact of the human condition.

So, class of 2019, before you set out for valediction at Agua Linda, or Hi-Lo, or Allgood, look back fondly on the years you have spent at the Medical Partnership, thank your loved ones for their support, take time to reflect on and record the reasons you chose this path and how you have matured through this stage of training. In patient care, prioritize clear and compassionate communication, cultivate your outward imperturbability, and inward equanimity. Know that the only certainty in your career is that everything changes, and embrace this rather than raging against, denying, or fearing it. Do not neglect your own wellness, as many will come to rely on your knowledge and judgment. Embrace what you may perceive initially as detours or tangents, as these often come to be the pivotal moments that define your career. And finally, keep ever at your core the vocation of service. Thank you for your attention, and best wishes as you embark on this fabulous journey. Congratulations!

Dr. Matthew Crim is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership and a cardiologist with Piedmont Healthcare. He received his medical degree in 2011 and completed his internal medicine residency in 2014, both from Johns Hopkins. He finished his cardiology fellowship in 2017 at Emory University.



1. Dr. Nuss helped cheer on the UGA women's basketball team in January as part of the Dean's Challenge. Each participating dean/college was challenged to get as many people as possible to attend their assigned women's basketball game. We represented big with 180 tickets distributed! Those who attended got free tickets and a food voucher. Dr. Nuss also got to join the team and coaching staff in the locker room before the game.



2. Senator Bill Cowser, along with UGA's government affairs team, toured Russell Hall to see the progress being made on the renovations this summer. Senator Cowser represents the 46th district which includes Clarke and Oconee and Walton counties. 3. Nine of our students took time out of a Saturday in March to volunteer for the Women in Science Event at Sandy Creek Nature Center. Our students showcased bone replicas and also showed kids what to expect at the doctor by doing a check up on a teddy bear. After making sure the bear was in good health, they got to take it home. 4. Congressman Jody Hice visited the Medical Partnership campus this past spring to learn more about our campus and visit with Dean Nuss and our students. Congressman Hice represents the 10th Congressional District in Georgia. 5. Our Internal Medicine resident participate in an escape room to build teamwork.



6. Dr. Cristina Elstad (back right), a member of the first graduating class at the Medical Partnership, hosted an event at her home on Saturday, February 2nd for students who are interested in going into Obstetrics and Gynecology. Elstad is now practicing at Athens OB/Gyn. We love alumni giving back!



7. A group of students (and one cute dog) took part in the lake clean up at Sandy Creek Park on April 27. They took kayaks into the lake to clean out trash.

8. The annual Wine and Cheese event was held in Carnegie Library on Friday, April 12. Guests got to indulge on good food and bid on a variety of auction items. The proceeds from the event went to benefit the Mercy Health Center.



9. Our Campus Associate Dean for Student and Multicultural Affairs, Dr. John Francis, opened up his home to our students last semester to fellowship and talk about future plans. This is a group from the Class of 2019 at Francis's home before Match Day.

10. Our University of Georgia Thank a Donor Day was held on Friday, April 19. Students got to come by and express their gratitude to our UGA donors by writing thank you cards. They also got to indulge on Ike and Jane donuts.



11. The annual Simulated Patient Luncheon took place on Wednesday, April 24. The luncheon is a time to thank the SP volunteers and let them interact with the students they worked with during the year.



Oh the places they'll go: Match Day 2019

Resident applicants at the Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership gathered on Friday, March 15 at noon in George Hall on the UGA Health Sciences Campus for Match Day, an event celebrating the next step in their medical careers. Sealed envelopes addressed to each member of the class of 2019 and delivered by faculty were opened at noon, and inside each envelope was a personal letter revealing where the student will pursue his or her postgraduate medical education. This year's Match Day was celebrated with a red-carpet theme and many were dressed in their formal attire.

An annual event, Match Day takes place after students participate in interviews and visits to residency programs in Georgia and across the country. To determine the post-graduation assignments, the students ranked residency programs where they would like to complete their training, and the residency programs ranked the student applicants. The lists are then submitted to the nonprofit organization National Resident Matching Program in Washington, D.C., which uses an algorithm that aligns the choices of the applicants with those of the residency programs.

The final pairings are announced simultaneously across the United States at noon on the third Friday in March.

"This is the sixth successful match in Athens at the Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership," said campus dean, Dr. Michelle Nuss. "The accomplishments of the 42 MCG students that spent the majority of their time

learning medicine at the Medical Partnership have landed them at top-tier residency programs across the United States. The students will be going to 17 different states in 15 different specialties, with 69 percent staying in the southeastern United States and 45 percent joining primary care programs. Thank you to the faculty, administrators, staff and mentors in our community who have devoted their time to educating our future physicians."

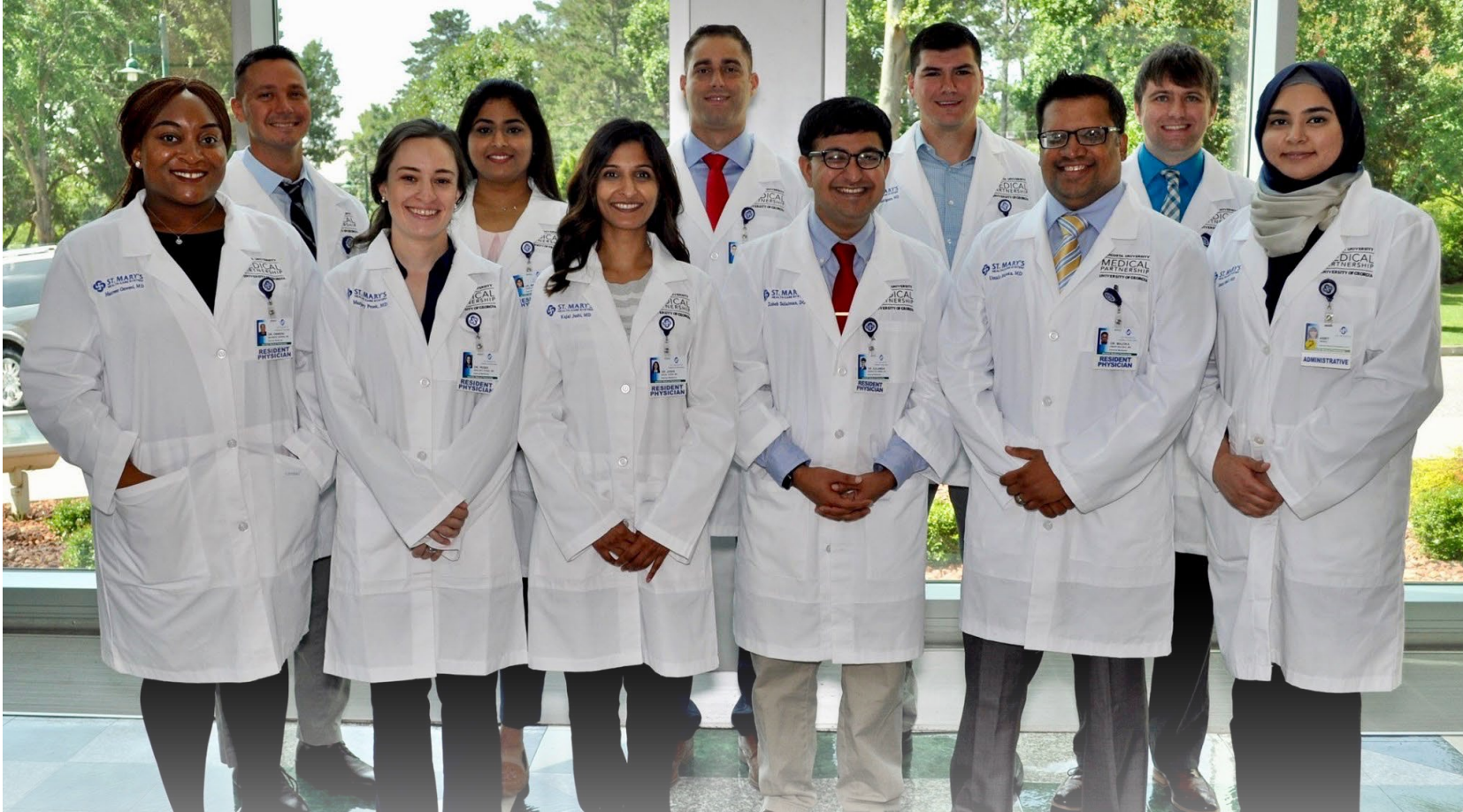
AU/UGA Medical Partnership participants in Match Day 2019 are honored with the following Residency Appointments:



Last Name	First Name	Institution Name	Specialty	State
Agajyelleh	Yordanos	John Peter Smith Hospital	Family Medicine	TX
Agrawal	Shub	Emory University School of Medicine	Internal Medicine	GA
Ali	Shawkut	Harbor-UCLA Medical Center	Family Medicine	CA
Alvis	Courtney	Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital	Pediatrics	FL
Anderson	Andrew	PG1 WellStar Kennestone Regional Medical Ctr	Transitional	GA
		PG2 Emory University School of Medicine	Anesthesiology	GA
Anderson	Travis	University of South Alabama Hospitals	Orthopedic Surgery	AL
Anukam	Amarachi	University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics	Internal Medicine	IA
Barney	Hannah	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	Internal Medicine	CA
Beckworth	Joseph	Medical University of South Carolina	Psychiatry	SC
Chang	Jane	PG1 Virginia Commonwealth Univ. Health Sys.	Internal Medicine	VA
		PG2 Virginia Commonwealth Univ. Health Sys.	Neurology	VA
Childs	Hannah	Medical College of Georgia	Obstetrics and Gynecology	GA
Clemm	Nicholas	Univ. of Tennessee Ctr of Medicine-Memphis	Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	TN
Green	Max	Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Edu.	Internal Medicine	FL
Hudson	Blakeley	University of Alabama- Birmingham	Emergency Medicine	AL



Last Name	First Name	Institution Name	Specialty	State
Kandasamy	Cinthana	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard	Internal Medicine	MA
Knopf	John	PG1 Gwinnett Medical Center	Transitional	GA
		PG2 Johns Hopkins Hospital	Radiology-Diagnostic	MD
Larsen	Keely	Univ. of Florida Ctr of Medicine-Shands Hospital	Pediatrics	FL
Lauture	Adolphia	Mt Sinai Medical Center-Miami	Obstetrics and Gynecology	FL
Lopez-Hanson	Ricardo	East Tennessee State University	Surgery-Preliminary	TN
Martinez	Audrey	Mountain AHEC-Asheville	Psychiatry	NC
Matlock	Elizabeth	UC San Diego Medical Center	Psychiatry/Family Medicine	CA
Mbata	Osinakachukwu	Oregon Health & Science University	Obstetrics and Gynecology	OR
Neelam	Anudeep	Emory University School of Medicine	Internal Medicine	GA
Oakley	Taylor	PG1 Univ. of Tennessee Sch. of Med.-Knoxville	Transitional	TN
		PG2 Univ. of Tennessee Sch. of Med.-Knoxville	Radiology-Diagnostic	TN
Odom	Billie	Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center	Neurology	NC
Olinger	Sean	Baylor-Scott & White	General Surgery	TX
Pajares-Hurtado	Gabriel	Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Harvard	Internal Medicine	MA
Perez	John	West Virginia University School of Medicine	Psychiatry	WV
Perkins	Crystal	PG1 Redmond Regional Medical Center	Transitional	GA
		PG2 Univ. of Florida Ctr of Med.-Shands Hospital	Radiology-Diagnostic	FL
Pham	Jonathan	John Peter Smith Hospital	Emergency Medicine	TX
Principe	Jessica	Brigham & Women's Hospital/Harvard	Psychiatry	MA
Ratchford	Connor	Univ. of Colorado School of Medicine-Denver	Surgery-Preliminary	CO
Saunders	William	University of Michigan Hospitals-Ann Arbor	Family Medicine	MI
Schoenmann	Nicholas	Medical College of Georgia	Emergency Medicine	GA
Steinberg	Daniel	University of Tennessee - St Thomas Hospitals	Emergency Medicine	TN
Thomas	Lauren	Univ. of Florida Ctr of Medicine-Shands Hospital	Obstetrics and Gynecology	FL
Villa	Mateo	Kendall Regional Medical Center	General Surgery	FL
Webb	Mason	Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Edu.	Internal Medicine/Research	MN
Westbrook	Marquise	Keesler Air Force Base	Internal Medicine	MS
Williams	Leah	Univ. of Colorado School of Medicine -Denver	Pediatrics	CO
Wright	Ashley	Palmetto Health Richland	Family Medicine	SC
CLASS OF 2018 RESIDENCY APPOINTMENTS				
Ward	Jordan	Duke Univ. School of Med. Research Fellowship	Dermatology	NC
		PG2 Medical College of Georgia	Dermatology	GA



AU/UGA Medical Partnership and St. Mary's fill all positions in NEGA's first medical residency program

For the fifth year in its five-year history, the Augusta University/ University of Georgia Medical Partnership Internal Medicine Residency Program at St. Mary's Health Care System has filled all openings for its new class of medical residents.

The AU/UGA Medical Partnership Internal Medicine Residency Program (IMRP) is the first new graduate medical education program in Northeast Georgia in recent years and received full accreditation from the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education in October 2016.

The new residents began practicing at St. Mary's on July 1 under the supervision of advanced resident physicians and physician faculty from the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University and area community-based teaching faculty.

"This is another exciting year in the history of our program," said Montez Carter, St. Mary's President and CEO. "Our first four classes have been filled with truly fine young physicians. We are confident this next class will continue the tradition of compassion and excellence. St. Mary's is proud to be an integral part of the Internal Medicine Residency Program and its success in bringing more medical doctors to Georgia and to the Athens region."

"We are honored to have received so many truly exceptional

applicants to our program," said Achilia Morrow, MD, MPH, Program Director for the IMRP. "The supportive medical community, dedicated volunteer faculty, staff, and St. Mary's Health Care System truly make this an excellent program to learn and train physicians in Northeast Georgia."

"We are proud to have these 11 physicians join our residency program. They truly impressed us with their maturity, compassion, scholarly achievements, and dedication to improving the community," said Dr. Morrow.

The IMRP is a joint effort by the Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership and St. Mary's, the program's Major Participating Site. The program's goal is to address the physician shortage in Georgia. Residents are graduates of medical school who will be completing the last stage of their medical education: a three-year, hands-on program that ends in certification by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

The IMRP received 2,370 applications for this year's 11 categorical residents. A committee made up of Internal Medicine Residency Program faculty, several local physicians, and leaders from St. Mary's and the Medical Partnership, interviewed selected applicants. Candidates typically interview with multiple programs. Afterwards, the candidates and the programs rank their preferences, then the National Residency

Matching Program determines placements. Residents learn which program they have been matched with on Match Day, held on the third Friday of March every year.

"I could not be more excited to welcome this incoming class of residents" said AU/UGA Medical Partnership Campus Dean Michelle Nuss, M.D. "They each bring a new perspective and talent to our program. I know they will bring great things to our community here in Athens and to the whole state of Georgia."

In addition to the care they provide at St. Mary's Hospital, the residents work hand-in-hand with physician faculty at Community Internal Medicine of Athens in the Resource Medical Center at 1500 Oglethorpe Ave, Athens. This full-fledged outpatient practice provides primary wellness care, sick care and chronic disease management for adults, and accepts most major forms of insurance, Medicare and Medicaid, and self-pay, with financial assistance available to those who qualify.

Third year Residents also complete clinical rotations in Greensboro, Ga., providing inpatient care at St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital and outpatient care at TenderCare Clinic.

"Being the site of the first medical residency program in Northeast Georgia continues to be a tremendous honor for St. Mary's," said Bruce Middendorf, M.D., St. Mary's Chief Medical Officer. "Residents bring new energy and enthusiasm into our clinical areas. At the same time, working with these new physicians is exciting for our medical staff. We are looking forward to welcoming our fifth class of residents and to working with them to further raise the bar for clinical excellence at St. Mary's and across Northeast Georgia. This is a great day for our community."

Photo at left: Eleven new resident physicians from the AU/UGA Medical Partnership Internal Medicine Residency Program began their tenure as the Class of 2022 on July 1, 2019.



The IMRP Class of 2022 and the schools at which they completed their medical education are:

Kajal Joshi, MD, medical degree from American University of Antigua College of Medicine

Akhila Madala, MD, medical degree from Narayana Medical College

Umair Majoka, MD, medical degree from American University of Antigua College of Medicine

Maureen Onweni, MD, medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine

Marjory Pesek, MD, medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine

Nathaniel Rodriguez, MD, medical degree from American University of Antigua College of Medicine

Juan Salazar Castillo, MD, medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine

Robert Seminara, MD, medical degree from American University of Integrative Sciences School of Medicine

Amtul Shafi, MD, medical degree from Shadan Institute of Medical Sciences

Kevin Shapiro, MD, medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine

Zoheb Sulaiman, DO, medical degree from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine



Side Note: In addition to the residents listed above, the program matched with Joshua Moore, DO, a preliminary year resident who was planning to practice for a year with the IMRP before continuing his training in anesthesiology. Dr. Moore earned his medical degree from the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine. Prior to starting in July, Dr. Moore tragically passed away in a motor vehicle accident.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT:

Zach Balest, MD

The Alumnus Highlight for this issue of the Partnership Pulse is featuring Dr. Zach Balest. Dr. Balest is a graduate of the inaugural class at the Medical Partnership in 2014. Following residency, he began a career at Gainesville Eye Associates. He returned to campus last semester to present the lecture “Problem-focused Exam: Approach to the Patient with Decreased Vision” to our M2 medical students.

Hometown and background information:

I was born and raised in Gainesville, Georgia. I attended the University of North Georgia for undergraduate and majored in biology.

Education:

BS from University of North Georgia, 2008

MD from Medical College of Georgia, 2014, at the AU/UGA Medical Partnership campus

Transitional internship at Baptist Health System, 2014-2015

Residency in Ophthalmology at Emory University, 2015-2018

Why did you choose the Medical Partnership campus?

The location and emphasis on mixed learning styles including small groups, case-based learning, and didactic sessions.

What was your favorite thing about attending the Athens campus?

The camaraderie amongst faculty and fellow students.

What was the most challenging thing you went through as a medical student?

You definitely give up a lot of your social life and will feel like you are missing out due to the time commitments required. It's tough to put things to the side because you have a big test coming up or some other commitment.

How long have you been at Gainesville Eye Associates?

I started in late July 2018.

Why ophthalmology?

Ophthalmology provides a good balance between clinic and surgery, utilizes a great deal of new technologies, and we are often able to have a substantial impact on our patient's lives through our treatments.

How did the Medical Partnership prepare you for your career as an ophthalmologist?

The Medical Partnership definitely prepares you to work as a member of the healthcare team, which is important in ophthalmology due to the substantial number of conditions that have ophthalmic manifestations.

Why did you choose to stay in Georgia?

My entire family is in the Gainesville area.

You spoke to a class recently here...why do that?

I remember not learning a lot of ophthalmology while in medical school. As I progressed through training, I realized how important basic ophthalmic knowledge is, no matter what field you go into. I also remember that some of my favorite sessions were when clinical faculty came in to give specialty-specific lectures. I wanted to take the opportunity to share what I believe is some of the basic ophthalmic knowledge that all physicians should know.

Obviously you have an interest in giving back as an alumnus...why?

As a member of the inaugural class, I know how important the community physicians were in my education. I feel that I owe the current students the same opportunities that I was given.

Any advice to medical school students?

Everyone will have highs and lows throughout medical school. Keep your head up and don't be afraid to ask for help along the way. It's a long road, but there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Any advice to those looking to go to medical school?

Do your due diligence and make sure you know what you are getting into and that you are in it for the right reasons. Things will be much harder if you learn this on the back end.



Honor Societies Induct New Members

On February 11, the Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership honored 23 students, faculty, alumni and residents at the annual Alpha Omega Alpha/Gold Humanism Honor Society/Dean's Clinical Honor Society Celebration Ceremony.

ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA HONOR MEDICAL SOCIETY

The Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, a professional medical organization, recognizes and advocates for excellence in scholarship and the highest ideals in the profession of medicine. Members have a compelling drive to do well and to advance the medical profession and exemplify the highest standards of professionalism. The top twenty-five percent of the Class of 2019 were eligible with only sixteen percent to be inducted between their M3 and M4 years.

Travis Anderson
Joseph Thomas Beckworth
Cinthana Kandasamy
John Knopf
Anudeep Neelam
Jessica Principe
Leah Williams

GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY

In 2002, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation established the Gold Humanism Honor Society as a signature program to recognize medical students, residents, and faculty who practice patient-centered care by modeling the qualities of integrity, excellence, compassion, altruism, respect and empathy. Students were nominated by their peers, as well as faculty from the Medical Partnership.

Courtney Alvis
Shub Agrawal (2018)
Caleb Botta
Stephanie Hernandez
Cinthana Kandasamy
Bess Matlock
Ronke Olowojesiku

DEAN'S CLINICAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Medical College of Georgia established the Dean's Clinical Honor Society in 2017 for the purpose of honoring outstanding medical students who consistently achieved high academic excellence throughout the core clinical clerkships of the 3rd year of medical school.

Andrew Anderson
Joseph Thomas Beckworth
Hannah Jean Childs
Cinthana Kandasamy
John Andrew Knopf
Anudeep Neelam
Billie Odom
John Michael Perez
Jessica Lynne Principe
Nicholas Schoenmann
Leah Williams

Additional AOA Inductees:

David Sailors, MD
MCG Alumnus Inductee

Nancy Hockley, MD
*AU/UGA Medical Partnership
Faculty Member Inductee*

Zahraa Rabeeah, MD
*Piedmont Athens Regional Internal
Medicine Resident Inductee*



Coming Back Home

Local Navy Veteran remembers time spent at Navy Supply Corps School

As Steve Kassay walks around the University of Georgia Health Sciences Campus, hand-in-hand with his wife Nancy, he points out places that spark memories.

Steve has returned to the campus he called home for six months when the grounds of the Health Sciences Campus were used as the Navy Supply Corps School for the U.S. Navy. The Navy Supply Corps was at this location on Prince avenue from 1953 – 2010. During this time, all active-duty supply corps officers in the U.S. Navy were trained in Athens.

Following its closing in 2010, the Navy transferred the property to the U.S. Department of Education who then deeded the property to the University of Georgia. The campus now houses the Augusta University/ University of Georgia Medical Partnership and the University of Georgia College of Public Health.

Steve suffers from the early stages of dementia, but remembers the mornings spent in Royar Square in front of Winnie Davis Hall with amazing accuracy.

"This is where we would line up in the mornings," Steve said. "If we weren't dressed just right, we would get demerits."

Steve was born on March 12, 1942 in Cleveland and is 77 years young. He graduated from Purdue University in 1964, followed by graduate school at Tulane University.

After one year at Tulane, he decided to leave the university. "I was tired of school," he said. That is when Steve started thinking about a different future.

"I looked at the draft board and realized my chances of being drafted were very high," he said. "That's what led me to join the Navy."

Steve settled on the Navy through the process of elimination. "I'm flatfooted, so the Army wouldn't take me, and the Air Force wanted you in for five years, so I worked my way to the Navy and met with a recruiter so they could take a look at me," Steve said. "And that's how I ended up in the Navy."

In June of 1965, he started Officer Candidate School in Rhode Island. "They turn you into military," Steve said of OCS. "Or at least try to."

Steve said OCS was more about breaking you down mentally than physically.

"They would tell us to do these impossible things like read nine hundred pages in a book each night," said Steve. "Others were going crazy trying to do these things, and I told them to sit back and relax, because it was impossible."

"Steve doesn't like rules," said Nancy. "And they would get demerits for dressing wrong, being late, anything."

Nancy said Steve found his way around a few things.

"He couldn't make a bed to save his life," she said, "so he traded off with his roommate. The roommate would make the bed, and Steve would help with academics."

Steve said he found his way to the Supply Corps kind of like he did with the Navy itself—the process of elimination.

"I couldn't see well, so I couldn't drive a ship," he said.

He left OCS in September of 1965 and got word he would be coming to Athens to go through Navy Supply School.

"Up until then I didn't know where the South was," Steve said. "My family didn't travel, so my whole world was within 100 miles of Cleveland."

He arrived in Athens in October of 1965 after driving the whole way from Ohio.

"It was like going to school," Steve said of his time here.

The Kassays are pretty certain that Steve lived in what is now Miller Hall and currently houses the University of Georgia College of Public Health faculty.

"I enjoyed my time in Athens," said Steve.

Following his training at the Navy Supply Corps School, Steve left Athens in March 1966 for San Diego where he worked on the USS Nereus. The Nereus was a submarine tender, and supply officers on board made sure submarines were stocked and supplied properly.

During his time in San Diego, Steve was promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade before working his way to Lieutenant.

In August of 1968, Steve was released from active duty and became listed as a reserve officer.

Nancy and Steve met in Santa Monica, California in August of 1971. At the time, he was selling medical insurance with New York Life and made a personal sales call to her office. They later married in Las Vegas, Nevada, on December 21, 1972.

"The service was performed by a real minister, not Elvis!" said Nancy.

In June of 1974, Steve was granted honorable discharge from the Navy. Following this, Kassay spent the majority of his career in the computer software business and also taught math for 12 years.

Bombardier's view of NSCS



Left: Kassay dons his service cap and shows off his Navy photo during a visit back to Winnie Davis Hall.

Top and bottom: Photos from Kassay's days in the Navy.



Steve and Nancy decided to move to Athens from Los Angeles in 2003 after they had both retired. Nancy still has family in south Georgia, and the two also wanted the atmosphere of a college town.

In the fall of 2018, the Kassays made a trip to the Augusta University/ University of Georgia Medical Partnership to donate some of Steve's old Navy items—his sword (engraved with his name), his hat, and insignias. The Kassays do not have children and wanted the memorabilia to go to a special place.

"We didn't want to give the items to someone they don't mean anything to," said Nancy.

"That sword is significant," said Steve's caregiver Kaitlyn Quinn. "It represents an accomplishment during a time in his life, and he wanted it to be taken care of."

When Steve and Nancy were invited back to the Medical Partnership to tour the campus and give an interview, Nancy said Steve was giddy with excitement.

"This is all he's been talking about" she said. "I've heard about it every single day."

Staff members at the Medical Partnership are going through ways to properly display Kassay's Navy belongings with the honor that they deserve.

As for Steve, he feels glad that his Navy items have returned to their home.

"It's a great place for them to be," he said. "I'm thrilled they're back."

Residency Graduation & Awards

On Friday, June 14, the second class of the Augusta University/ University of Georgia Medical Partnership Internal Residency Program in partnership with St. Mary's Health Care System, celebrated their graduation at the Georgia Club outside of Athens.

The night began with a reception, followed by a dinner buffet. Dr. Achilia Morrow, Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program, gave the opening remarks and was followed by AU/UGA Medical Partnership Campus Dean, Dr. Michelle Nuss, and Dr. Bruce Middendorf, St. Mary's Chief Medical Officer.

Nuss spoke about the instrumental partnership with St. Mary's and the importance of the residency program here in Athens.

"For those of you who do not know the history of this program, shortly after the first students at the Medical Partnership began in 2010, it was determined that a residency program was needed here in the Athens community," said Nuss. "The focus would be on internal medicine with our ultimate goal and mission to generate additional community physicians in the state of Georgia."

Residents are graduates of medical school who are working toward full licensure as independent physicians. Residency is a three-year program with increasing levels of independence. It's the final stage in their internal medicine education. At the end of the three-year program, they will sit for their Boards and then either go into practice or continue into training for a specialty.

The IMRP is accredited to host up to 34 residents. They provide supervised inpatient care at St. Mary's Hospital on Baxter Street and outpatient care at Community Internal Medicine of Athens on Oglethorpe Avenue. In addition, third year residents spend two months in a rural healthcare setting, providing inpatient care at St. Mary's Good Samaritan Hospital and outpatient care at TenderCare Clinic, both in Greensboro.

Five of the nine residents are staying in the state of Georgia: Dr. Seth Courson will be in private practice in Valdosta, Dr. Mary De Croos will start

an Endocrinology fellowship at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, Dr. Sandeep Jalli will be the new Chief Resident at AU/UGA Medical Partnership Residency Program, Dr. Zachary Newman will be in private practice in Lexington, and Dr. Rida Younus will stay on as a hospitalist at St. Mary's.

"This is tremendous that two of our residents will be practicing primary care in rural Georgia where the greatest physician shortage exists", said Dr. Shelley Nuss.

"I am quite excited to stay in Athens and give back to the very same program and hospital that helped make me the physician I am today," said Younus. "My time as a resident came with its struggles, smiles, laughter, growth and amazing times. I am thankful for the friends I've gained for life and the attendings, hospital staff and nurses that have been with me every step of the way. I am looking forward to the new journey here and cannot wait to start."

Jalli said it has been a different experience to now be on the "other side of the desk."

"I'm really excited to be chief resident," he said. "The program and St. Mary's have changed in a lot in the last three to four years, and I hope that in my time as chief I can continue to help make positive changes. I think overall it's going to be a really exciting year, and I'm really grateful to be given the opportunity to continue to work with the excellent people at St. Mary's."

The Class of 2019:

Kristina Catania, MD | ID Critical Care Fellowship at ECU

Seth Courson, DO | Private Practice in Valdosta, GA

Mary De Croos, MD | Endocrinology fellowship at MCG

Zachary Di Iulio, MD | Hospitalist, Washington state

Bennett Gladden, MD | Hospitalist, Washington state

Sandeep Jalli, DO | Chief Resident

Zachary Newman, MD | Private practice Lexington, GA

Walaa Treki, MD | Practice in Northeast

Rida Younus, MD | Hospitalist at St. Mary's

Winners from the End of the Year Awards Ceremony

The following were awards were determined by voting by their colleagues and peers.

Award Name	2019 Winner
Subspecialty Attending of the Year	Alan Morgan, MD
Cardiology Attending of the Year	J. Lauren Dowling, MD
Hospitalist of the Year	Robert Meyer, MD
ICU Attending of the Year	Karan Julka, MD
Faculty of the Year	Andy Albritton, MD
Rotation of the Year	Neurohospitalist
Outstanding Professionalism & Ethics	Meet Shah, MD
Senior Resident of the Year	Seth Courson, DO
Intern of the Year	Jamila Pham, MD
Resident of the Year	Zachary Di Iulio, MD
St. Mary's Nursing Choice Award	Kristina Catania, MD
Chief Resident Award	Narayana Gowda, MD



SPOTLIGHT ON SIMULATED PATIENT VOLUNTEER:

Terry Nestor

For this edition of the *Partnership Pulse*, our Simulated Patient Volunteer spotlight is highlighting Terry Nestor. Nestor has worked with nine Medical Partnership classes.

“Terry always comes in with a big smile on her face, and her smile can brighten a room!” said Tina Powers, Standardized Patient Program Coordinator.

Simulated Patient Volunteers (SPVs) are individuals from the community who portray patients for the purpose of teaching medical students within an educational program. SPVs allow students to develop excellent bedside manner, data-gathering skills, and other clinical skills such as physical examination.

Unlike a real patient, SPVs have the opportunity to provide the medical student with valuable feedback to help improve their ability to interact with patients. Training with SPVs has proven beneficial in helping medical students learn to become excellent physicians.

“Terry takes her role as a simulated patient seriously because she wants the SP encounter to be a valuable learning tool in the education of the medical students,” said Powers.

Tell us a little about yourself:

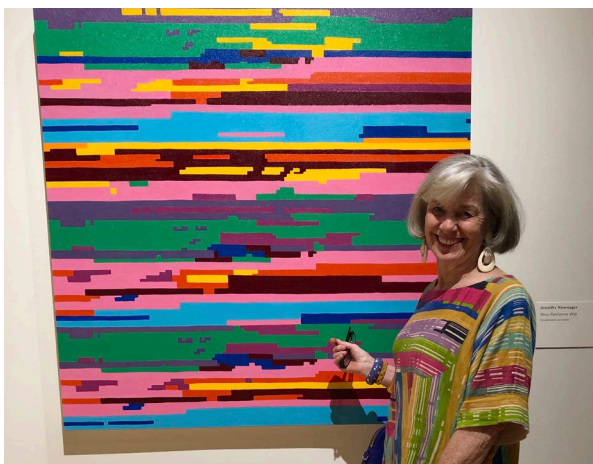
I am a happily retired elementary school teacher. I like Zumba, mindful meditation, and gentle yoga. I enjoy music of all sorts, going to movies, art galleries, theater events, restaurants, I like reading books, going to Farmer's Markets, and taking early morning walks (especially at sunrise on the beach).

How did you get to Athens?

I came to UGA for grad school a few decades ago. I fell in love with Athens and stayed here as a resident.

How long have you been a Simulated Patient?

Started volunteering at the med school about 9 years ago after seeing an ad in the paper and after learning that a couple of my friends had also been simulated patients.



Why did you want to be an SPV?

I had a heightened interest in being a simulated patient because my son-in-law was a med student at Wake Forest, and I was curious about any similar training experiences.

Best thing you witnessed as an SPV:

I can say that there have been some students who were “the whole package” even as first year students—exuding confidence, competence, excellent communication skills. This makes me glad to know that there are top quality doctors in training in Georgia. We need them! I love the way students ask questions of their attending physicians and are given answers, suggestions, and encouragement.

What have you enjoyed about being an SPV?

I find great joy chatting informally with students at volunteer appreciation, and I have thoroughly delighted being present on a few of the Match Days. It's so cool to see all the families and the interactions, reactions, and enthusiasm.

What have you seen that makes you proud?

I am very glad that there are many females in med school!

Why do you continue to be an SPV?

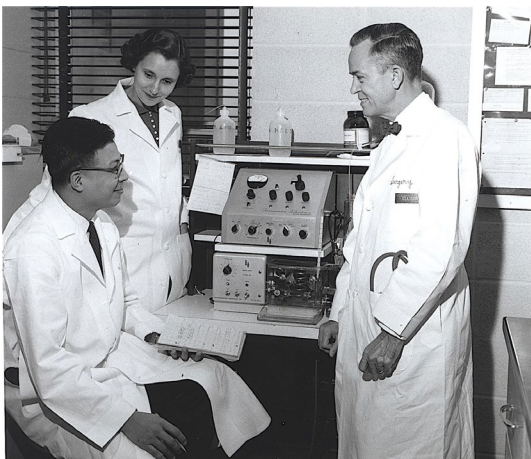
I think med students need a variety of experiences and an assortment of patients, and I am glad to be a small part of their education.

The Legacy of Dr. Lois Ellison

Dr. Lois Taylor Ellison, a clinician, researcher, educator and administrator whose 75-plus-year affiliation with the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) left a lasting legacy on the institution and on health care in general. She was a pioneer as a woman in medicine and science, and is rightfully regarded as the matriarch of the MCG. Dr. Ellison, a native of Fort Valley, Georgia, was the daughter of Robert James Taylor and Annie Maude Anderson Taylor. She was the editor of her high school paper, captain of the basketball and tennis teams and winner of the Georgia State High School Singles Tennis Championship before graduating as an honor graduate and commencement speaker at Athens High School in Athens, Georgia.

She continued her education at the University of Georgia, earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry and zoology in less than three years rather than the standard four. At UGA she participated in many extracurricular activities. She was the president of the Z Club and Mortar Board, secretary of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, staff member and columnist of the Red and Black weekly student newspaper and was named to Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges. In 1943 she enrolled in the MCG School of Medicine, one of four females in a class of 78 students. Her medical education was interrupted by a battle with tuberculosis, but she persevered and graduated in 1950.

After completing a cardiopulmonary physiology fellowship under the mentorship of Dr. William Hamilton, Dr. Ellison became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physiology in 1956 and subsequently rose through the academic ranks to become a Professor in Medicine, Surgery and Graduate Studies in 1968. Together with her husband, Dr. Robert G. Ellison, who served as the Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the MCG for 32 years, she developed the cardiopulmonary laboratory, where the first MCG's cardiac catheterizations and blood gas measurements were performed.



These historic advances in the MCG were made possible by the invention of the ingenious Hamilton manometer by Dr. Hamilton, who used an optical membrane to measure



intravascular pressures. Dr. Ellison served as a director of the cardiopulmonary laboratory until 1992. She published 73 articles in scientific journals and made numerous presentations at meetings primarily related to preoperative and postoperative studies, open-heart surgery, alveolar surfactant and cardiovascular and pulmonary physiology.

In the 1970s, Dr. Ellison's career began to shift into administration. In 1974, she was named associate dean for curriculum in the MCG School of Medicine and a year later – a provost and vice-president of academic affairs, second in line to then-president William Moretz, making her the highest-ranking female in U.S. medical schools. As the MCG continued to grow, her next role was to oversee the expansion of clinical facilities (hospitals and clinics) as the associate vice president for planning. Campus additions during her tenure included the Ambulatory Care Center/Specialized Care Center and the Children's Hospital of Georgia.

Dr. Ellison retired as a Professor Emeritus and Provost Emeritus in 2000, but stayed on as the MCG's Medical Historian in Residence until her death in 2019. She meticulously gathered and chronicled materials about the university's heritage, including writing the publication "Moments in History" in observance of MCG's 175th anniversary.

Dr. Ellison's influence extended far beyond the confines of campus. She was a past president of the Georgia Thoracic Society, the American Lung Association of Georgia and the Georgia affiliate of the American Heart Association. She served as the president of the American Lung Association. She was a charter member of the Board of Directors of the MCG Research Institute

and served as a vice president and treasurer. Dr. Ellison was a member of the Board of Directors of the MCG School of Medicine Alumni Association, serving as its first female president in 1988-89. Dr. Ellison was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society and Sigma Xi and served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Oak Ridge Associated Universities, the Widow's Home, the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Augusta, Junior Achievement of Augusta and the YMCA of Augusta.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements, Dr. Ellison has been a recipient of numerous awards, including the Research Career Award from the National Heart Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the MCG Woman of Excellence Award in Health, the MCG School of Medicine Lifetime Achievement Award, the MCG School of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award and the highest honor of the American Lung Association – Will Ross Medal. She and her late husband were jointly awarded the MCG Vessel of Life Award in 2005, the highest recognition offered by the MCG. Dr. Ellison was named a research fellow and established investigator of the Georgia Heart Association and featured in the 2003 NIH National Library of Medicine exhibition “Changing the Face of Medicine – Celebrating America's Women Physicians”. She was recognized by the Board of Regents as the outstanding alumna of the University System of Georgia in 2009 and by the people of Georgia by resolution of the Georgia State Senate in 2016 for her lifetime achievement in Medicine. Dr. Ellison's impressive career will undoubtedly continue to inspire new generations of scholars at Augusta University to persevere in pursuing their goals and achieving professional excellence.



Below is an excerpt from Dr. Ellison's biography page on the NIH's 'Changing the Face of Medicine': Celebrating America's Women Physicians website:

How do I make a difference?

It is difficult for me to judge how I have most made a difference, if indeed I have made a difference. This is for others to judge and, undoubtedly, different groups would have different opinions. I like to think that I have had a positive influence on medical students and in medical education in general, providing the best possible faculty and facilities and an institution that prepares them for practice, research or academic careers depending upon their choice. I hope I have been an inspiration for them to pursue their dreams, achieve excellence, and treat all people with compassion and understanding.

Dr. Lois Ellison is the mother of one of our faculty member and local Athens urologist, Dr. Mark Ellison.

SGO & Ambassador Officers for 2019-2020

AMBASSADOR OFFICERS

President: Sarah Ellen Williams
Vice President: Devaunsh Thaker
Secretary: Wes Brown
Outreach: Gurshawn Tuteja

SGO OFFICERS

Class of 2022

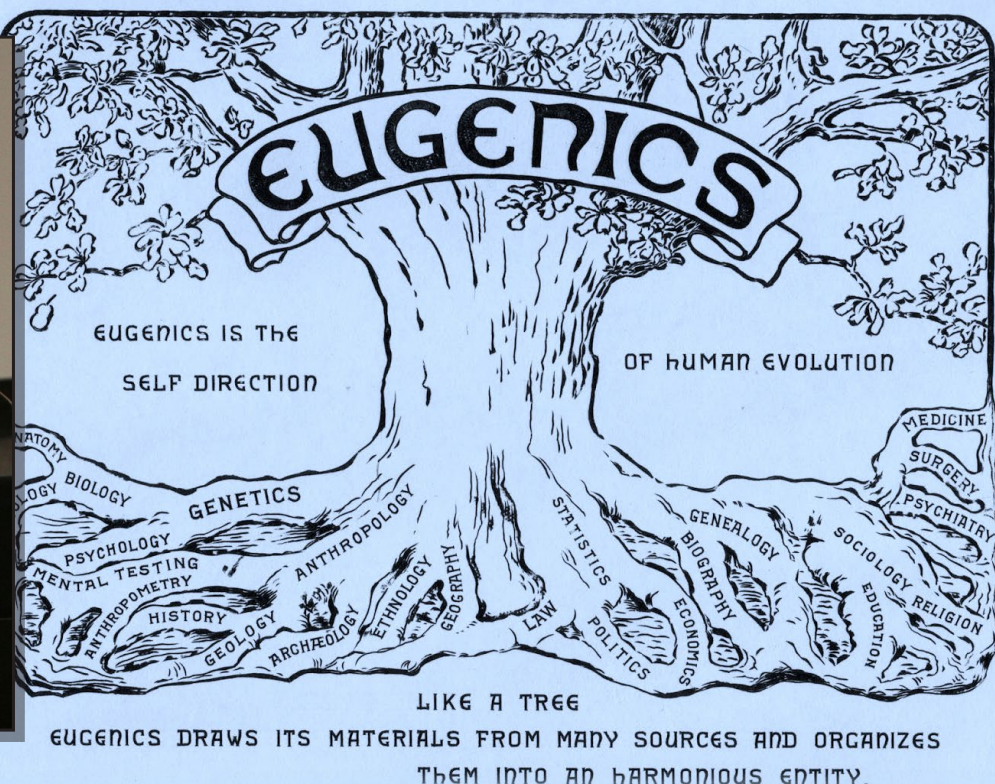
President: Tobi Akindoju
Vice President: Katie Wehrmeyer
Secretary: Bryanna Moppins
Treasurer: Miya Oliver
Community Service Chair: Hamzah Ali
Social Chair: Megan Chesne
Curriculum Chair: Brannon Hicks

Class of 2021

President: Andrew Block
Vice President: Quinn Peragrine
Secretary: James Cho
Treasurer: Wes Brown
Social Chair: Jordi Gaton
Community Service Chair: Kelsey Barber
Curriculum Chair: Wendy Bao
Honor Council: Austin Isaac & Mandy Wachtel

Class of 2020

President: Ben Daniel
Vice President: Nick Austin
Secretary/Treasurer: Jason Jeong
Social Chair: Michael Scott
Community Service Chair: Naser Ibrahim
Curriculum Chair: Silki Modi
Honor Council: Kenneth Hearn & Julia Stephens



Lombardo guest lecture, “The Well Born Science: Assessing the Legacy of Eugenics in America”

The Augusta University/ University of Georgia Medical Partnership was proud to feature a medical ethics guest lecture featuring Paul Lombardo, J.D, Ph.D., Regents’ Professor and Bobby Lee Cook Professor of Law at Georgia State University in Atlanta.

Lombardo delivered the lecture, “The Well Born Science: Assessing the Legacy of Eugenics in America,” on Wednesday, March 20 at noon in George Hall on the University of Georgia Health Sciences Campus. This lecture discussed the history of eugenics and sterilization in the United State while addressing what is learned from the past and how it still applies to today’s world.

“We are honored that Dr. Lombardo joined us to deliver a lecture on this important topic,” said Campus Dean Michelle Nuss. “Medical ethics is an important topic in medical education and is critical for health care workers who face a growing number of ethical dilemmas and challenges. I’m excited that our faculty and students had the chance to learn more on this topic from a world-renowned expert on this subject matter.”

Lombardo is a graduate of Rockhurst College and also holds a master’s degree from Loyola University of Chicago. He received both his Juris Doctor degree and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He currently serves on the Council of the American Association for the History of Medicine and recently completed a term on the board of directors of the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities.

Lombardo has published on topics in health law, medico-legal history, and bioethics and has been cited in media outlets such as USA Today, NPR, and Anderson Cooper 360. He also works as a historical consultant for the film industry.

He taught, lectured and completed research at dozens of universities in the United States and in Italy, Russia, Pakistan, India, Austria, the Netherlands and Canada. He joined the Georgia State Law faculty in 2006 and currently teaches courses in Genetics and the Law, the History of Bioethics, Mental Health Law and the History of Public Health Law.

This lecture was sponsored by a generous donation to the AU/ UGA Medical Partnership by Dr. and Mrs. Lonnie Herzog.

Join us in welcoming our new Faculty & Staff



Sarah Gibbs, MS
Simulation Laboratory Coordinator
Office of Curriculum



Kristie Sartain
Administrative Specialist
Office of Finance & Operations



Tina Powers
Program Coordinator for Standardized Patient Program
Office of Curriculum



Sandeep Jalli, DO
Chief Resident,
Instructor of Medicine
Internal Medicine Residency Program



Scarlett Schneider, MD
Associate Program Director,
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Internal Medicine Residency Program



Dee Vodicka, MEd
Program Coordinator for Clinical Skills and Community & Population Health
Office of Curriculum



Zachary Jones, MASS
Administrative Associate II
Office of Curriculum



Catherine Snapp, PhD
Campus Director of Behavioral Health,
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Office of Behavioral Health



Leslie Watters, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Office of Curriculum

New MCG Chairs & Department Heads



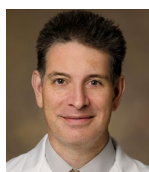
Dr. Jeffrey A. Switzer, Neurology Chair

Switzer earned his medical degree at Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2001 and completed his neurology residency in 2005 and vascular neurology fellowship in 2006, both at MCG and AU Health. He earned a master's degree in clinical and translational science from Augusta University in 2011. Switzer began his new position on January 1 of this year.



Dr. Loretta Davis, Dermatology Chair

MCG's newest department, the Department of Dermatology, named Davis its new chair, effective since February 1. Davis was named section chief of the division in 2011, after serving as interim for a year. She has been on the MCG faculty since 1992. Davis is a graduate of The Ohio State University College of Medicine, where she also completed her internal medicine and dermatology residencies.



Dr. Terence O'Keeffe, Chief of the Section of Trauma/Critical Care/Acute Care Surgery

O'Keeffe joined MCG on April 1 after serving as a professor in the University of Arizona Division of Trauma, Critical Care, Burn and Emergency Surgery. He earned his bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, completed postgraduate medical training at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Salisbury District Hospital in England and Western Infirmary in Glasgow. O'Keeffe completed a trauma/critical care fellowship at Ryder Trauma Center of Miami's Jackson Health System while also completing a master's in public health at the University of Miami.



Dr. Brian H. Annex, Medicine Chair

Annex is currently the George A. Beller/Lantheus Medical Imaging Distinguished Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine and chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine. Annex is a 1985 graduate of Yale University School of Medicine, completed his internal medicine residency at Tuft's-New England Medical Center in Boston, a cardiology fellowship at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., and an interventional cardiology fellowship at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan. He will begin his new position at MCG on August 1.



Dr. Lee Ann Merchen, Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum

Merchen is a 2000 graduate of Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio, and completed an internal medicine residency, including a year as chief resident, at the University of Cincinnati. Merchen was previously the director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at the Medical College of Georgia and Augusta University Health. She has been a faculty member since 2007.



Dr. David L. Mattson, Physiology Chair

Mattson earned his doctorate in physiology at MCW and completed a postdoctoral fellowship there before joining the faculty in 1992. He is an honored educator, an eight-time recipient of MCW's Outstanding Medical Student Educator Award, and in 2016, was elected to the MCW Society of Teaching Scholars. Mattson came to MCG from the Medical College of Wisconsin on July 1.



1. Is there a better way to combat stress than playing with cute puppies and dogs? Paws & Dawgs was held in Royar Square on April 24. Everyone got to come by and pet a dog, and of course, watch their stress be lifted away.
2. Match day 2019: Dr. Shelley Nuss hugs Cinthana Kandasamy, Thomas Beckworth holds up his gold envelope, and the students gather at Carnegie Library before the ceremony.
3. Dr. Block (striped vest) starred as the bartender in the UGA Opera Theatre production of Don Pasquale in February. Photo: University of Georgia Opera Theatre and Wingate Downs Photography.



A Look Back



5. Hendershots was packed on May 7th due to the big crowd for Doctor Rock—a band made up of Medical Partnership students (Hannah Barney, Max Green, Danny Steinberg, and Mateo Villa) and faculty (Dr. Scott Richardson and Dr. Don Scott). The band performed songs for two hours and also collected donations for the Athens Community Council on Aging.



4. Our annual Teddy Bear Clinic was held in May at Alps Road Elementary. Students spoke to second graders at about exercise and good hygiene. They also explained to students why going to the doctor doesn't have to be a scary experience.



6. This summer marked the beginning of the renovations to Russell Hall on the University of Georgia Health Sciences Campus. Russell Hall, where medical student learning occurs on the UGA Health Sciences Campus, had some initial renovations on the 1st floor in 2011/12. Enhancements include a new, state-of-the-art simulation center and clinical skills lab, renovated large classroom spaces for active learning, a larger library with natural light, 5 additional small group rooms for student learning, and additional office spaces for the increase in faculty and staff. The renovations will be complete by August 2019.



FACULTY & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Julie K. Gaines, MLIS, AHIP, campus director of the AU/UGA Medical Partnership Library, presented the commencement speech for the hooding ceremony at her alma mater, University of South Carolina - School of Library and Information Science on May 9th.



Amy Medlock, PhD, assistant professor of biochemistry, published:

Piel RB III, Dailey HA Jr, **Medlock AE**. The mitochondrial heme metabolon: Insights into the complex(ity) of heme synthesis and distribution. *Mol Gen and Metab*. 2019 Jan 17. pii: S1096-7192 (18): 30634-6. doi: 10.1016/j.ymgme.2019.01.006.



Michele Monteil, PhD, professor of immunology, published:

Monteil MA. Primary antibody deficiency. Essential Evidence Plus. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2018.



Tina Powers, standardized patient program coordinator, presented at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at UGA on Monday, May 13th.



Keith Anderson, program coordinator, received the Special Presentation from the Class of 2019. It is an awarded voted on by the class and given to someone who has helped them during their medical school career.

- "Since the beginning of our third year, our class continuously leaned on Keith for any question or concern," said Dr. Hannah Childs, a graduate from the 2019 class. "He always replied so quickly with answers and calmed many of our worries. Basically, he rocks, and we love him!"
- "It's pretty cool!" said Anderson of receiving the award. "One of my favorite parts about working in medical education is getting to know the students personally, and it means a lot to me that they thought enough of me to make a mention at graduation."



John Norris, MD, PhD, FAAP, assistant professor of medicine, published:

Norris, J. Bottle vs Breast: Make the Best Choice for You. *Athens Oconee Parent*. 2019; 21 (3): 10-11.

Dr. Norris also presented "Grandparents Parenting Grandchildren" in both Athens and Monroe.



Matt Boegehold, PhD, chair of basic sciences, published:

Tang J-M, Shi N, Dong K, Brown S, Coleman AE, **Boegehold MA**, Chen SY. Response gene to complement 32 maintains blood pressure homeostasis by regulating a-adrenergic receptor expression. *Circulation Research*. 2018 Oct 12. 123(9):1080-1090.



Jaroslava Halper, MD, PhD, professor of pathology, published:

Sarbacher, CA, **Halper JT**. Connective tissue and age-related diseases. *Subcell Biochem*. 2019; 91:281-310. doi: 10.1007/978-981-13-3681-2_11.

Young M, Moshood O, Zhang J, Sarbacher CA, Mueller POE, **Halper J**. Does BMP2 play a role in the pathogenesis of equine degenerative suspensory ligament desmitis? *BMC Res Notes*. 2018 Sep 18;11(1):672. doi: 10.1186/s13104-018-3776-9.



Jean Chin, MD, MBA, FACP, FACHA, assistant professor of medicine, presented "Understanding Your Competitive Advantage" at the American College Health Association 2019 annual meeting in Denver.



Ed Sperr, MLIS, AHIP, clinical information librarian, published:

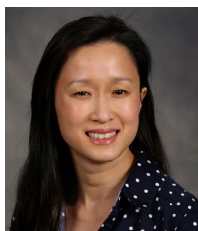
Sperr E. Mind the gap: identifying what is missed when searching only the broad scope with clinical queries. *Journal of the Medical Library Association*. 2019; 107 (3): 333-340. doi: <https://doi.org/10.5195/jmla.2019.589>

Sperr also presented:

- Refining PubMed searches with interactive visualizations at the Georgia Health Sciences Library Association Annual Meeting in March.
- Word Trees for Visualizing PubMed Search Results, Sieving Your Search: Semi-Automated Citation Screening for Search Strategy Refinement, and Using Improvisation to Enhance Communication Skills for Librarians at the Annual Meeting of the Medical Library Association in May.



Brett Szymik, PhD (M1 class), **Ellen House, MD** (M2 class), **Alan Morgan, MD** (M3 class), and **Michele Monteil, PhD** (M4 class), were named Educators of the Year. They were selected by the class mentioned with their name.



Rami Arfoosh, MD, and **Kimtuyen Nguyen, MD**, pulmonary preceptors, published:

Arfoosh R, Nguyen K, Fish AL, Wells V, Rebeor D, Seger A, Beggs M, Allen GG, El-Bizri R, Torricelli R, DeBault D, Vallejo A, Medina J, Hasan R, Melby K,

Miller D, Cowgill B and DeMarini T. Risk assessment of indeterminate lung nodule characterization by a novel plasma-protein multiplexed assay in current smokers: Results of a clinical experience program. *Biomedical Research Reviews*. 2019; 3(3): 1-4. doi: 10.15761/BRR.1000128.

STUDENT & ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS



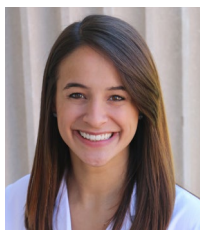
Arishna Patel published: Yang X, Xu B, Mulvey B, Evans M, Jordan S, Wang YD, Pagala V, Peng J, Fan Y, **Patel A**, Peng JC. Differentiation of human pluripotent stem cells into neurons or cortical organoids requires transcriptional co-regulation by UTX and 53BP1. *Nat Neurosci*. 22(3):362-373, 2019.



Michael Scott was inducted into the UGA chapter of the Blue Key Honor Society. Blue Key Honor Society is a premiere honor society that recognizes college students at senior institutions of higher education for balanced and all-around excellence in scholarship, leadership, and service. Blue Key Honor Society bases its eligibility for membership on all-around leadership and integrity in student life, high scholastic achievement, and service to others.



Bess Matlock, MD, won the E.J. McCranie Award. The award is given by the Medical College of Georgia Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior to a graduating medical student who excelled both clinically and academically.



Hannah Childs, MD, and **Cinthana Kandasamy, MD**, were both nominated and accepted for the Graduation Awards (Glasgow-Rubin Citations for Academic Achievement) with the American Medical Women's Association. They were accepted for the awards based on graduating in the top 10% of their class.

Faculty, Staff, Students & Alumni:

*Did you win an award, have an article published, or an abstract accepted to a conference?
Let us know so we can share the good news!*


Email the Medical Partnership's Office of Communications & External Affairs at mpmedia@uga.edu. Please include all pertinent information related to the award, publication, or conference, such as the journal name or professional association, publication citation, and a brief description of the award or article.

AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

UGA Health Sciences Campus
108 Spear Road
Athens, Georgia 30602



In 2010, the White Coat Scholarship Initiative was launched with a goal of increasing access to public medical education in Georgia. The fundraising teams at Augusta University and the University of Georgia are working together on this critical program, and we need your help.

Among the first academic priorities of the White Coat Scholarship Initiative is to increase scholarships to attract talented students while also removing the burden of student debt, which can discourage students, especially those of limited financial means, from entering the medical profession. For those who do enter and complete medical school, high levels of student debt are a disincentive to serve in medically underserved areas or to choose specialties where the need is greatest, such as primary care. We need your help to ensure that financial obstacles don't deter students from serving a state with an urgent need for more physicians.

Donations can be made online or with the enclosed envelope, and all donations are tax-deductible.

GIFTS MATTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar!

**New Student
Orientation:**

Monday, July 29th – Friday,
August 2nd

Open Houses:

September 28,
October 26, November 16,
February 1 & 29

**Student & Resident
Research Symposium:**

Monday, September 30th

**Russell Hall Renovation
Grand Opening:**

Monday, October 14th

White Coat Ceremony:

Saturday, October 19th in
Augusta

Keep a look out for more upcoming events on our social media!