

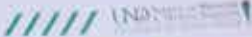


NORTH DAKOTA MEDICINE

University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences



MATCHED! Class of 2024
#MatchDay
IN FAMILY MED
AT UND-BISMARCK



SUMMER 2024
VOLUME 49
NUMBER 2

FOREVER UND: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Together, we are undertaking a \$500 million comprehensive fundraising campaign to build a UND for the future. Thank you to the alumni and friends who give. Your generosity allows the torch of knowledge to be passed on to those who will lead the way.



62 YEARS

A LIFETIME OF GIVING

Dr. Robert A. Kyle, '48, made his first gift to the University of North Dakota in April 1962 – almost 18-months before President John F. Kennedy spoke at UND.

Back then, Kyle was less than a decade into what would become a 70-year career at the Mayo Clinic, where he specialized in a type of blood cancer called multiple myeloma.

Fast forward 62 years and Dr. Kyle remains a strong supporter of UND, having given each year since 1962. His first gifts started small – \$10 a year for the remainder of the decade before keeping with inflation trends – and 40+ years later he and his wife of 70 years, Charlene, established a scholarship endowment.

"I felt that it was appropriate to, quote, 'pay back,'" recalled Dr. Kyle. "I felt this education at UND was very helpful to me. It got me into medical school and obviously without medical school, you don't become a doctor."

Dr. Kyle's 62 years of giving back to UND makes him one of the longest-living benefactors in the University's history.



There is no better time to start giving back to the University of North Dakota. All gifts, no matter the size, will count toward Forever UND: The Campaign for the University of North Dakota.

UNDalumni.org/forever



Jeff Dodson

Senior Director of Development
School of Medicine & Health Sciences
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FOUNDATION
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**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES**

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ON THE COVER: Graduating medical student Waylon L. DeCoteau (left) and family at the SMHS Northwest Campus (Minot) Match Day celebration in March 2024. Dr. DeCoteau is off to Bismarck for a family medicine residency.



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NORTH DAKOTA MEDICINE

University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences

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POMP AND CIR

Tis the season for multiple graduation events! We recently held commencement ceremonies for our graduating students, the first of which was for graduating medical students, held on May 4. Then, a week later, we celebrated our graduating health sciences and graduate students who joined other students from across campus at UND Commencement, with graduate students of all types attending the morning ceremony and undergraduates the one in the afternoon. (As you may know, most of the students at the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences are graduate students, except for those in the medical laboratory science program.) Various programs had additional activities such as receptions and hooding ceremonies for physician assistant studies or occupational and physical therapy students (medical students are hooded during the commencement event). All of the events went smoothly and certainly were exciting for all involved. I still remember my own graduation from medical school over five decades ago with great warmth and fondness.

Also recognized in association with the medical student commencement activities were a number of voluntary clinical faculty members who distinguished themselves as educators and role models. As a community-based medical school that does not own or operate our own hospital, our educational model relies on community-based physicians throughout the state to help teach our students. Of the roughly 1,800 non-federal physicians in the state, over 1,300 are on our voluntary clinical faculty roster!

At the Medical Student Awards Banquet that was held the evening before M.D. Commencement, the students on each regional campus selected one faculty member as the Outstanding Faculty Member on that campus. Those winners for 2024 are:

- **Timothy Pansegrau, M.D.**, Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, Southwest Campus
- **Laura Nichols, M.D.**, Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Southeast Campus
- **Sunil Kartham, M.D.**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, Northeast Campus



- **Virginia Keaveny, M.D.**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Northwest Campus

Another prestigious award is given to an outstanding student in honor of the clinical preceptor chosen by the graduating medical students as the “best” clinical instructor in the state. The Preceptor Recognition Student Scholarship was awarded to Moriah Forness, an outstanding pre-clinical medical student in honor of this year’s chosen preceptor, Dr. Erika Stein. Based at Northwood Deaconess Health Center in Northwood, N.D., Dr. Stein is a clinical instructor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine.

The final group of faculty awards that were bestowed during the commencement ceremony went to eleven faculty members who contribute so importantly to the education of our students. Nine of the recipients of this year’s Dean’s Special Recognition Award for Outstanding Volunteer Faculty went to faculty located on each of our four regional campuses and two went to faculty supporting our Rural Opportunities in Medical Education (ROME) program. They are:

SOUTHWEST CAMPUS (BISMARCK)

- **Erica Hofland, M.D.**, Ob/Gyn, Sanford Health
- **Evan Kastner, M.D., M.S.**, Internal Medicine/Hospitalist, Sanford Health
- **Ana Tobiasz, M.D.**, Ob/Gyn, Sanford Health

CUMSTANCE

SOUTHEAST CAMPUS (FARGO)

- **Rajendra Potluri, M.D.**, Hospitalist, Sanford Health
- **Mallory Skorheim, D.O.**, Psychiatry, Sanford Health

NORTHEAST CAMPUS (GRAND FORKS)

- **Laura Lizakowski, M.D.**, Internal Medicine/Palliative Medicine, Altru Health System
- **Robin Severud, M.D.**, Anesthesiology, Altru Health System

NORTHWEST CAMPUS (MINOT)

- **Virginia Keaveny, M.D.**, Emergency Medicine, Trinity Health
- **Roggie Reason, M.D.**, Internal Medicine, Trinity Health

RURAL OPPORTUNITIES IN MEDICAL EDUCATION (ROME)

- **Robert Ross, M.D.**, Family Medicine, Ortonville Area Health Services, Ortonville, Minn.
- **Joel Schock, M.D.**, Family Medicine, Plains Medical Clinic (Fargo, N.D.)

In addition to faculty members, staff members are vitally important to sustaining the mission of the organization. UND recently recognized staff members who are long-serving employees during a Staff Recognition Ceremony in May. Staff from across campus were recognized for years of service, from five through forty-five years. Apparently next year UND will celebrate a fifty-year employee! This year, the SMHS had 14 five-year, nine 10-year, and five 15-year honorees – and one 20, one 25, two 30, and four 40-year honorees. Well done to all – and thank you!

The passage of time certainly has been on my mind as I get ready to transition out of my administrative roles later this year. Here's an update on the search process for my replacement. An outstanding executive search firm – WittKieffer – has been hard at work for months developing all of the necessary components for the search. And a truly outstanding search committee consisting of 20 members has been appointed by President Armacost, with good representation from the SMHS, UND, the UND Alumni Association & Foundation, the student body, and the community of North

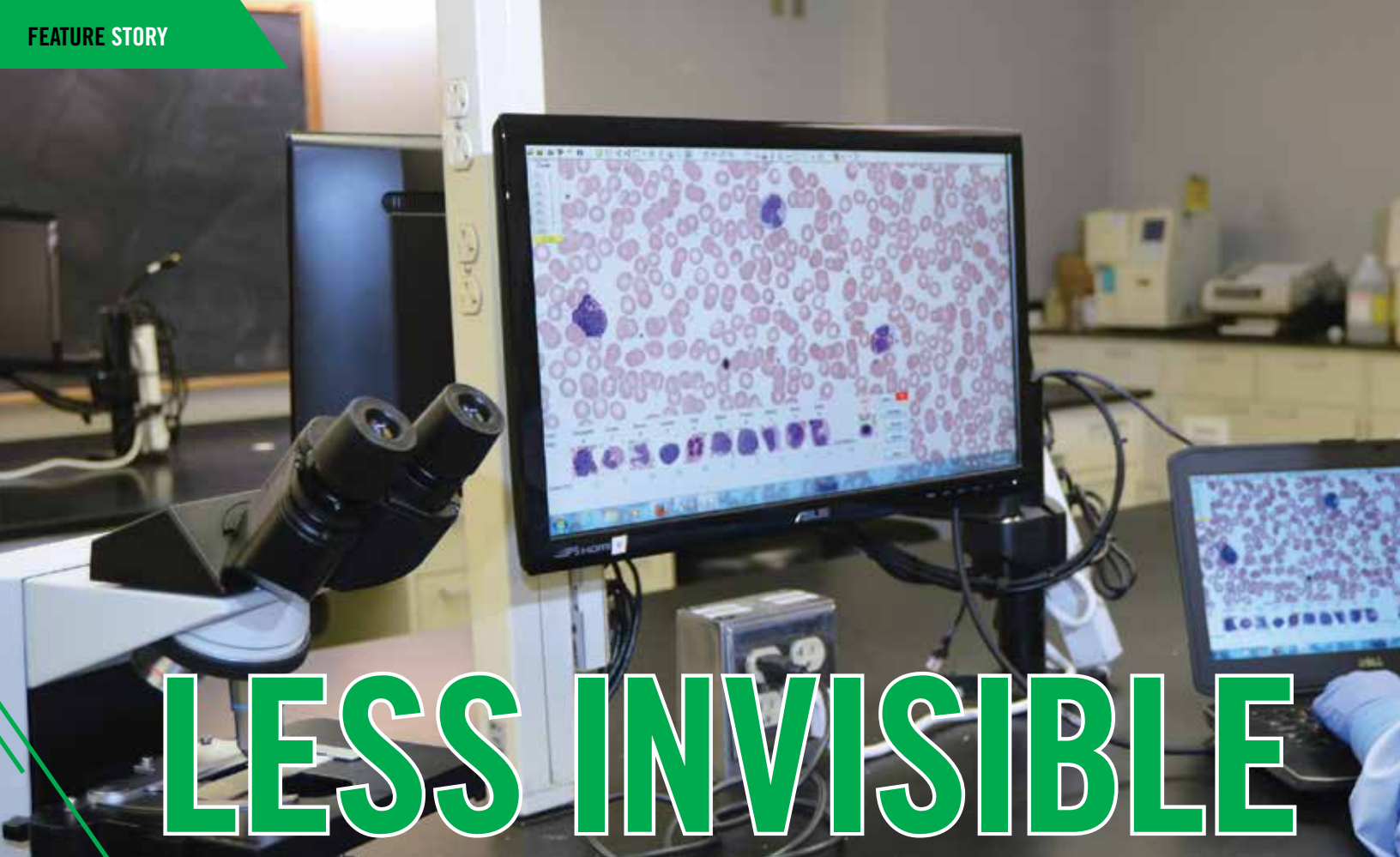
Dakota. Chairing the committee are Art Malloy, Ed.D., vice president for Student Affairs, and Maridee Shogren, D.N.P., dean of UND's College of Nursing & Professional Disciplines. It is anticipated that the search will culminate with the announcement of the next Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the UND SMHS by September 15, 2024, with the actual transition to occur thereafter.

I'm very pleased with how the search process is evolving, and excited to ensure a smooth and seamless transition, just as Andy and I did when I stepped down from the Interim President role I filled in 2019-2020 as Andy assumed the presidency.

Until then, we have plenty of work to do! A new cohort of students will be arriving soon, and I've been updating my lecture materials and presentations for my teaching sessions that begin again in August. We are hard at work on the budget for this coming academic year that starts on July 1, 2024, as well as the preliminary budget for the coming biennium to be submitted to the State Board of Higher Education (SBHE). Additionally, I co-chair (with Dr. Casey Ryan of the SBHE and Dr. Pamela Jo Johnson, professor and chair of Public Health at North Dakota State University) the healthcare education subgroup involved in the North Dakota University System's strategic planning effort called Envision 2035. We, along with the other members of our group, have been working on formulating a vision for the future regarding healthcare education since last year, and we now are entering the final phase as the overall plan is formalized and accepted. The themes of our plan center on further healthcare workforce expansion, additional retention strategies for keeping graduates in-state for practice, and envisioning the future role of artificial intelligence in healthcare education, research, and patient care. Exciting stuff!



Joshua Wynne, MD, MBA, MPH
Vice President for Health Affairs, UND
Dean, School of Medicine & Health Sciences



LESS INVISIBLE

How UND's medical laboratory science program became its own department in the new century and took central stage during a global pandemic

In honor of the 75th birthday of UND's Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program, North Dakota Medicine is running two stories in 2024 that describe the origins and evolution of the behind-the-scenes practitioners who provide an invaluable service to hospitals, clinics, and public health programs. This second of two stories recaps the evolution of the standalone Department of Medical Laboratory Science in the twenty-first century.

To hear Ruth Paur tell it, Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) was hardly on her career radar – at least at first.

Then she spent some time with her sister in Minnesota back in the early-1980s.

“My sister was in MLS, and I sat with her for a couple of hours in the microbiology lab in Mankato,” the Gilby, N.D., resident

recalled over the phone from a vacation stop in Florida. “And I said, ‘You actually get paid for having this much fun?’ I realized I really liked MLS, so I majored in that.”

What made laboratory science so much fun?

“Solving the mysteries,” Paur continued. “You have an organism growing and you had to identify what organism that

Medical Technology (MT) program founded within the former Dept. of Bacteriology & Pathology. Program Director Jean Holland Saumur manages MT program.

Walter Wasdahl appointed Chair of Department of Pathology.

The Department of Pathology adds a Master of Science degree in medical technology and a cytotechnology program.

The Department's long-running histotechnology training program is accredited.

1949

1958

1961

1984

1973

1975

1978

1980

MT curriculum moved officially to UND School of Medicine. Senior students transferred to laboratory programs in affiliated hospitals around the region for clinical training.

The MT program begins a summer laboratory practicum to help to prepare MLS students for clinical rotations.

Wayne Bruce named director of MT program.



UNDER A MICROSCOPE

Chair of the Department of Medical Laboratory Science Brooke Solberg at work in the medical laboratory.

was, and then figure out what antibiotic would fight that bacteria. It was a discovery process and the utilization of science, because a lot of times it can be hard to apply scientific concepts. But you really apply the science in MLS.”

Growing MLS through teaching

Degree in hand, Paur began practicing medical laboratory science in a local laboratory, learning quickly just how much she enjoyed teaching laboratory procedures and analysis to her younger colleagues.

“Those were my favorite days – teaching on the bench, when I’d have a student show up,” she added. “That’s when I realized what I really wanted to do.”

After a decade of teaching at what is today Northland Community & Technical College in East Grand Forks, Minn., Paur eventually hopped over the Red River to become Associate Director of what was by then known as the Clinical Laboratory Science program at UND.

Founded officially in 1949, the little-program-that-could was at the time housed within the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS) Department of Pathology. Having seen its share of financial and enrollment challenges, by the time Paur joined the program it was already on the upswing.

Helping former program director Wayne Bruce – who retired in 2003 and passed away in 2023 – expand laboratory science at UND, Paur spent countless hours helping facilitate both the program’s Western College Alliance for Medical Laboratory Science (WCAMLS), which brought students from twelve midwestern colleges and universities to UND for laboratory training. She also oversaw its original Mayo Clinic partnership, which sent UND faculty to Rochester, Minn., to teach lab professionals whose academic backgrounds were in general science rather than MLS specifically.

Explaining how her team was already coordinating distance courses via WCAMLS, Paur said that the Mayo Clinic partnership was a “natural fit” that really helped grow and diversify UND’s program.

Working her way to director after Bruce retired, Paur helped manage the program’s move to a standalone Department of Medical Laboratory Science, which happened in 2011.

In other words, by the time Paur, now a department chair, retired, UND’s once unassuming program in “medical technology” had grown up.

And grown in general. According to the national accrediting agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, UND MLS produces quadruple the national average of annual graduates amongst accredited MLS programs.

Today, the fully independent Department of Medical Laboratory Science not only still trains students from other colleges – and Mayo

A joint venture finalized between Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and UND’s CLS program to orchestrate an 18-month clinical experience for Mayo Clinic staff.

Ruth Paur retires. Brooke Solberg assumes the role of chair for the Department of Medical Laboratory Science.

1993

2001 2003

2011

2018

2024

The program changes its name from Medical Technology to Clinical Laboratory Science (CLS). The program establishes the Western College Alliance for Medical Laboratory Science (WCAMLS).

Wayne Bruce retires. Ruth Paur named new chair of Clinical Laboratory Science program.

The name Clinical Laboratory Science changed to Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) and the standalone Department of Medical Laboratory Science is created.

UND’s Department of Medical Laboratory Science celebrates 75 years with a revised curriculum and expanded outreach efforts.

Clinic – but maintains its traditional undergraduate and master-level degrees in MLS, as well as asynchronous options for working professionals, including categorical and histotechnology programs.

“I’m proud of the stability of our partnerships,” Paur mused of the role she played in helping UND’s MLS program mature. “And all of those clinical affiliates – my goodness, there were so many. It was a lot of work.”

The new century

Reflecting on the department’s maturation, current chair Brooke Solberg, who was already a faculty member in the program when Paur retired in 2018, admits that her mentor, Paur, drew her into the profession.

“I ended up coming to UND to major in chemical engineering,” smiled Solberg from her office in the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences building in Grand Forks. “Then I found out that calculus wasn’t my thing.”

But she loved chemistry. So, sitting on the bed in her dorm room one night that first college semester, she recalls, Solberg flipped through UND’s course catalog – then a paper document – and found herself drawn to the pages immediately after the listing for chemical engineering: clinical laboratory science.

“It sounded interesting, so that week I ended up going to Ruth’s office. By the end of the conversation, I’d decided, ‘I want to do lab science.’ I changed my major and completed this program.”

After practicing MLS in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area for a few years, the Rolla, N.D., native made her way back up to North Dakota for a role in what was then a “new” department.

Workforce challenges

Since then, it has been Solberg’s job to help raise the profile of a traditionally behind-the-scenes profession that still struggles with the ironic double bind of an “invisibility” that helps contribute to a national workforce shortage.

“I joke that my family still doesn’t know what I do,” Solberg continued, explaining how articulating the laboratorian’s job isn’t as obvious as it seems. “We’re behind the scenes, so many people assume we get their blood sample and voila – you get a test result. But it’s what happens in-between – all those steps – that really define us as medical laboratory scientists.”

Echoing Solberg, assistant professor of MLS Karen Peterson suggested that the interpretation of data points like white blood cell counts and protein deposits in urine is part of the challenge, and can vary among laboratorians and physicians.

“There’s a whole lot of critical thinking and troubleshooting taking place on a daily basis in the lab that we are doing to assure that those

results are accurate,” Peterson explained. “In the public eye, laboratory testing has been simplified, because we have home tests that somebody without a degree can definitely perform. But what many people don’t recognize is just how complex laboratory testing is.”

Consider your everyday pregnancy test, said Peterson. As simple as such tests seem, there’s a glut of science behind their operations, from antibodies to color tagging to quality control.

“So it’s not just a plus or minus on the pregnancy test. You have to analyze all this biochemical information and come up with a best judgment.”

To that point, the growth in home testing that accompanied the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic helped shine a spotlight on MLS – helping it be less invisible.

“Since COVID, there are certainly more people who are aware of testing and how important lab analysis is,” Solberg mused. “I definitely think there is more awareness now, but that doesn’t automatically translate to an obvious boost in enrollment or lessening of the existing workforce shortage.”

Peterson agreed, noting that “according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, roughly 24,000 MLS jobs will become available annually. But we only graduated 6,000 students last year as a profession. So, there’s still a big gap.”

Less invisible

This, then, is the charge for Solberg and her team: maintain – if not grow – a profession that is clamoring, if the reader will excuse the pun, for new blood.

“Health facilities want to hire, but they’re having a hard time,” Solberg said. “We’re getting contacted almost constantly. Employers tell us: ‘Your grads – send them our way.’ So, we definitely see the need for more MLS professionals.”

To help boost not only the profession’s visibility but its workforce for the next 75 years, Solberg’s team is hard at work revising its curriculum and trying to be less behind-the-scenes by getting in front of more potential students and community partners. Part of that latter effort includes expanding interprofessional efforts within the SMHS, sending faculty and students out to participate in community events such as career fairs or blood drives, and creating new program options to reach even more learners throughout the state and region.

It’s all a bit of a test, Solberg concluded. And if it’s anything like the last 75 years, she expects the results will be positive.

By Brian James Schill

Residency matches for our M.D. Class of 2024 students



17

Internal Medicine

Olawale A. Babalola, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, Scottsdale, Ariz.

Ajdin Ekic, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson, Ariz.

Ellen A. Erie, University of Michigan Hospitals, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Hannah M. Ganzel, Creighton University, Omaha, Neb.

Grant R. Gunderson, Billings Clinic, Billings, Mont.

Emily Hao, Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, R.I.

Kole J. Hermanson, UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Fargo, N.D.

Riley W. Larsen, Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation, La Crosse, Wis.

Riley B. Madigan, University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, Madison, Wis.

Austin L. Nickell, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix, Ariz.

Prakash Pathak, Gundersen Lutheran Medical Foundation, La Crosse, Wis.

Stacy Ploom, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson, Ariz.

Carter W. Schimke, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, N.H.

Aishwarya Sharma, Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Ill.

Dakota C. Snustad, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mackenzie M. Wild, UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Fargo, N.D.

Samuel Wilke, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Wichita, Kan.

11

Family Medicine

Waylon L. DeCoteau, UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Bismarck, N.D.

Olivia A. Harris, University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Shiprock, N.M.

Daniel G. Lengowski, Altru Health System, Grand Forks, N.D.

Judge Muskrat, University Hospitals-Columbia, Columbia, Mo.

Ken Ryan, Altru Health System, Grand Forks, N.D.

Zachary D. Sebens, University of Minnesota Medical School, St. Louis Park, Minn.

Theoren M. Solseng, Altru Health System, Grand Forks, N.D.

Morgan Thomas, UPMC Williamsport, Williamsport, Penn.

Tarlynn N. Tone-Pah-Hote, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Morgan Zander, Allina Health, St. Paul, Minn.

Stephanie A. Ziegler, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Wichita, Kan.



5

Orthopaedic Surgery

Tiffany A. Flagtwet, Western Michigan University Stryker School of Medicine, Kalamazoo, Mich.

Zachary A. Mohs, Mount Carmel Health System, Grove City, Ohio

Shivam H. Patel, UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Fargo, N.D.

Tyler J. Safgren, University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, Madison, Wis.

Foley J. Schreier, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kan.

4

Anesthesiology

Nash B. Binagar, Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Ill.

Timothy P. Colwell, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Neb.

Kalli J. Fautsch, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, Rochester, Minn.

Hayden T. May, Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, Penn.

UND BY THE NUMBERS

54%
of UND's M.D. Class of 2024 matched into primary care specialties (internal medicine, family medicine, ob/gyn, pediatrics).

25%
of graduates matched into an internal medicine residency, well above the national average of fourth-year medical students matching into internal medicine.

64
medical students matched with a residency program in 2024.

15
different specialties chosen by the M.D. Class of 2024.

4

Emergency Medicine

Dakota S. Brown, Geisinger Health System, Danville, Penn.

Byrne B. Curl, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, Rochester, Minn.

Kaitlin M. Reitz, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Neb.

Jessica M. Zola, University of Utah Health, Salt Lake City, Utah

4

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Madison R. Burgard, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Neb.

Megan C. Corn, Stanford Health Care, Stanford, Calif.

Megan DeVillers, HCA Healthcare Kansas City, Overland Park, Kan.

Julia C. Dworsky, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minn.



4 Pediatrics

Dianessa G. Dizon, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minn.

Madeline M. Klein, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minn.

Abigail M. Smith, Cincinnati Childrens Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio

Samuel Wilke, University of Kansas School of Medicine, Wichita, Kan.

4 Transitional

Mitchell D. Gullickson, UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Fargo, N.D.; Dermatology, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, Rochester, Minn.

Alexander A. Johnson, UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Fargo, N.D.; Radiology-Diagnostic, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, Rochester, Minn.

McKenzie J. Samson, Ascension St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind.

Covey Wong, Campbell University/Harnett Health Program, Dunn, N.C.

3 Pathology

Andrea V. Kelsch, University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Holly J. Mitzel, University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Neb.

Marissa Wold, University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minn.

2 Surgery: General

Lauren Johnson, Case Western University Hospitals/Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio

Ashlynn D. Krieger, UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Grand Forks, N.D.

2 Surgery: Preliminary

Jonathan D. Roberts
UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences, Grand Forks, N.D.

Nicholas J. Van Horssen
Dignity East Valley, Chandler, Ariz.

1 Family/Rural Medicine

Danielle L. Dearing, Providence Sacred Heart Medical Center, Spokane, Wash.

1 Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Nathaniel J. Albrecht
University of Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, Neb.

1 Psychiatry

Torrin D. Poss, Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minn.

1 Radiology: Diagnostic

Bostin J. Svihovec, University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Iowa City, Iowa

1 Radiology: Interventional/Integrated

Maureen Ikedinobi, Corewell Health East Beaumont, Royal Oak, Mich.

CLASS OF 2024

The UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences hosted an M.D. Commencement ceremony on May 4 and saw many students cross the stage at the UND General Commencement ceremony on May 11, 2024.

The following are graduate class photos for all May 2024 graduating cohorts housed within the SMHS:





DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES



INDIANS INTO MEDICINE



DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY/CASPER



MASTER OF ATHLETIC TRAINING



M.D. / M.P.H. DUAL DEGREE



MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH



MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE



BUONA SALUTE

SMHS professor of anatomy and physiology Amanda Haage takes undergrads to Italy to learn about the history (and art) of medicine.

Leokadia “Leo” Bring was in the mood for a confession of sorts.

“I’d never been really interested in art – I didn’t really see how it applied to medicine,” the senior biology major admitted to *North Dakota Medicine* not long after returning to the U.S. from Italy.

“But this trip really provided me with a new perspective on it. Seeing in-person how there was so much detail in these paintings and anatomical models, and how involved the artists were in the teaching of doctors in the past, was really interesting.”

Bring is referring to the Spring Break trip she took in March 2024, which, as part of the undergraduate biomedical sciences course BIMD 494, took her and a collection of classmates to Florence and Bologna in Italy to study the history and art of medicine.

“This was my first time abroad,” continued Bring, who hopes to begin medical school later this year. “It was uncomfortable and challenging at first. But afterward, I feel more well-rounded as a person and I do think that this will make me a better physician.”

Medicine abroad

Developed and led by the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS) Kaess Endowed Professor of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Amada Haage, Ph.D., the 1-credit course brought a cohort of students interested in the health sciences to the European nation last semester to learn about the history of medicine and see in-person the art that, as Bring said, helped educate medieval physicians.

The ten-day trip sent students not only to the Galleria dell’Accademia in Florence, which houses Michaelangelo’s David, but the Museo Galileo (Galileo Museum), the Uffizi Gallery, and La Specola, which maintains a large collection of anatomical waxes.

“One of my professional societies – the Human Anatomy and Physiology Society (HAPS) – has been helping members with study abroad arts and anatomy trips to Italy for a long time,” explained Haage, a former first-generation college student who studied abroad in New Zealand and has “always wanted to take students abroad.”

“A call came out from UND for study abroad trips, so I talked to Anna about combining anatomy with humanities, and we made it work.”

The Anna in question is Anna Kinney, coordinator of UND’s Writing Center and the UND Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program. A study abroad veteran herself, Kinney brought to the course a humanities background and helped Haage intertwine a variety of disciplines that too often are kept separate from each other in medical and other healthcare training programs.

“Amanda and I have had long conversations about opportunities to collaborate on writing at the medical school broadly,” Kinney added. “Not only about anatomy and physiology, but the value of being able to help students communicate science well to different audiences.”

To that end, Haage and Kinney built a course to be “housed” in the SMHS, recruited students, and flew to Italy – after a number of pre-flight meetings with students.

“There was a writing intensive reflection component of the class,” said Kinney. “It was important for us to help students think about their learning and think about the ways they might advocate for broader understanding of medicine and science.”

The art of medicine

To that end, the course ended up exploring the art of medicine in detail. And the timing of such a course was perfect, given discussions happening nationally about the connection between art and medicine.

In 2020, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) published “The Fundamental Role of the Arts and Humanities in Medical Education,” a report that reiterated the organization’s belief that “integration of the arts and humanities into medicine and medical education may be essential to educating a physician workforce that can effectively contribute to optimal health care outcomes for patients and communities.”

The report came just as UND’s own School of Medicine & Health Sciences put the finishing touches on what it was calling “Curriculum 2.0” – a new medical education curriculum designed not only to give students more elective courses during their first- and second-years, more active learning options in the classroom, and more clinical training sooner, but to better embed the arts and humanities into the curriculum.

Such training can begin at the undergraduate level, Haage suggested.

“The course was focused on art, but we wanted to go a bit outside of that and into culture more broadly – how science influences culture,” she said. “We talked about how astrology used to be considered a hard science, which is much different from how we think about it today. And we discussed things like wine and how winemaking is changing based on the genetic modification of grapes and availability of different breeds.”

All of which, added Kinney, helped students see the often direct connection between culture and the human body – and it’s illnesses.

“We talked a lot about the origins of science and art, about representing bodies,” she said. “To get us started, we discussed art and reproduction and how seeing artworks online, as reproductions, versus seeing them in their context changes our understanding of art and the objects being represented.”



GRATZIE

Anna Kinney (left) and Amanda Haage in Florence, Italy.

As far as the students were concerned, though, the pitch was just about right.

“We saw wax sculptures, which was so cool,” added Nina Johnson, who is also looking to begin medical school after graduating from UND with her Bachelor of Science degree in health studies this year.

Johnson was especially impressed with the Museo di Palazzo Poggi in Bologna.

“I could have stayed there for probably seven days in that same building. I feel like it was definitely a ‘why medicine?’ moment for me. There was this big room with model fetuses everywhere. And that’s how students learned at the time about different orientations of fetuses inside the womb – on these sculptures that somebody made.”

Planning ahead

In the end, the trip was a mission accomplished, said Haage. So it is that she and Kinney are already developing what will become the next iteration of their course.

“This trip really revitalized my love of teaching,” she said. “I love teaching, and anatomy and physiology is a great course. But it’s gigantic. I run a giant system for that course every semester. So, just getting to do something new and creative has really invigorated me. Having a closer, one-on-one relationship with the students for an entire week was great.”

Also revitalized was Johnson, who is already working hard to populate the next travel class in advance for Haage and Kinney.

“I talk about it to everybody in the lab,” said Johnson, who serves as a laboratory teaching assistant for Haage. “I talk about it every Tuesday from 12 to 2 p.m. I’m like, ‘What are you doing next year for spring break? You should go to Italy. It’s going to be really fun, I promise.’ I just feel so fortunate and so lucky to have been able to go on this trip and I would recommend it to anyone.”

By Brian James Schill

SEEKING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH SERVICE LEARNING

UND's medical students and Department of Geriatrics bring care to underserved populations in Grand Forks via the Health Promotion Program



PROMOTING HEALTH

UND medical students at the Grand Forks Housing Authority space The Link, near downtown Grand Forks.

The idea is deceptively simple: what if, to enhance their patient care and communication skills in advance of their clinical training, UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences medical students go to where the patients are . . . and *talk* to them?

This easy-once-you-think-of-it concept is what prompted UND medical students Emilee Ohman and Chloe Bakkum to establish, with assistance from UND's Department of Geriatrics, the Health Promotion Program (HPP) in Grand Forks.

“We felt that if we can equip med students with those communication skills in phase one, before they even get to their clinical rotations, they can just build on those skills in the clinic and really master them when they’re on their own,” explained Ohman, a Grand Forks, N.D., native and head of the medical students’ Geriatrics Interest Group. “Students have responded positively. They feel like they’ve gotten better at communicating with patients, which plays into our focus on being patient-centered – letting patients drive the conversation instead of us talking at them.”

Promoting better health

To be clear, these medical students are not treating human patients.

What they are doing is chatting with residents of Grand Forks Housing Authority (GFHA) apartments about their previous experiences with the health system, their goals for improving their personal health, and strategies for addressing their needs with area providers.

The HPP’s solution to those needs was to establish a free health discussion group at a location closer to those whose health needs are likely going unmet consistently. That location, the Link, is a space within one GFHA complex adjacent to downtown Grand Forks.

Meeting with GFHA residents at the Link weekly since September 2023, student volunteers talk with residents about health and healthcare, answering questions and directing residents to resources as appropriate.

“I worked in a homeless healthcare clinic in Fargo, so I have a pretty good idea of what services are out there,” said Bakkum, who performed inpatient psychiatric care for several years before starting medical school. “A lot of people have had really negative experiences within the healthcare system, so part of this program is trying to bridge that gap in comfort, helping people get comfortable interacting with health providers.”



That is to say: because the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences is a community-based school, meaning it does not own or operate its own hospital or clinic in Grand Forks, students and faculty are limited in how they engage individual patients directly.

What they can do is address community healthcare needs – and disparities between populations – more broadly.

Calling her interaction with patients a type of “motivational interviewing,” Ohman added that she and her colleagues interface with many GFHA residents experiencing mental health and substance abuse challenges.

“We sit with residents and figure out what their health goals are,” she said. “If someone wants to stop smoking, we talk about that

and offer resources. We help make those connections – stopping smoking to improve health – easier, so they can have that conversation with their doctor.”

Not just for senior citizens

To hear the Chair of UND’s Department of Geriatrics Dr. Don Jurivich tell it, the notion of a student-led community health program is hardly new. In fact, he got such a program off the ground in Grand Forks years ago.

Then came the worst global pandemic in more than a century.

Explaining how his Health Resources and Services Administration-funded Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) grant established such a program for senior citizens as early as 2020, Jurivich noted that the program’s rationale was two-fold: 1) introduce medical students to local health disparities and diversity in the patient population; and 2) bring evidence-based health practices to the city’s underserved populations.

In the wake of COVID, however, community needs shifted. So Jurivich agreed to expand his effort beyond eldercare. To that end, Jurivich and his faculty helped the students get their community program rolling – after a lot of planning and development.

“We helped them establish the HPP with the Grand Forks Housing Authority as part of the GWEP,” explained Jurivich. “We invited medical students to build on our original initiative and create a wholly student-led project, which Emilee and Chloe competently navigated with interprofessional faculty.”

The notion of interprofessionalism is key, added Ohman, emphasizing that the program’s next step is to add physical and occupational therapy, physician assistant studies, and maybe even athletic training to HPP “services.”

“We really want the health sciences here,” Ohman reiterated. “Physical and occupational therapy have run programs out of this building before, and the residents have really enjoyed it. A lot of the people who come to the Link have mobility issues, so including PT and OT is perfect.”

Do no harm

Part of the challenge with the population in question, both students noted, is earning residents’ trust.

“We had four [residents] this week, which is a really good turnout,” noted Ohman with a smile. “Similar programs have tried to get started at this location and had to stop. So, Chloe and I have been working really hard to build relationships and help this program last.

It’s getting stronger now and more people are coming in and trying it out.”

In other words, said Bakkum, over and above patient care, the group’s first task is fostering faith in the system itself among members of an underserved cohort. Because part of the challenge in community service and service learning is reliability: If volunteer programs cannot continue to show up for the people they aim to serve, they might end up doing more harm than good when the populations in question start to regard volunteer organizations as just another agency that means well but offers little-to-no authentic aid – or follow through.

“That’s really helping build overall trust in the health system – getting more people to actually come and talk to us now,” she said, noting how increasing trust in health systems improves outcomes and increases patient compliance with physicians’ recommendations. “I think the residents don’t completely view us as being in the same bracket as other doctors, which is okay. The people we’ve seen repeatedly we’ve been able to build closer relationships with.”

Jurivich reiterated this concern, noting how “folks can rightfully get the impression that some community projects are ‘here today and gone tomorrow.’”

This lack of stability can erode people’s trust in existing systems.

Discussing all of this up front with their faculty mentors, Ohman and Bakkum – who are off to their third-year clinical rotations outside of Grand Forks soon – worked hard to formalize a succession plan for the program. This plan, wherein the program will be managed by two second-year medical students, should allow HPP to continue uninterrupted over the next academic year.

“We’ve also invited Dr. Victoria Haynes to join the initiative,” concluded Jurivich of the School’s relatively new Associate Dean for Multicultural Education, who trains students of all professions on the social determinants of health. “Other faculty, including those from PT and OT, provide interprofessional oversight of the program. It’s a good mix.”



Don Jurivich, D.O.

By Brian James Schill



BOOKS, BLANKETS, AND HOT DISH



Two programs in North Dakota for survivors of brain injuries have a special connection

On a cool, rainy afternoon, with the scent of tater tot hot dish in the air (and green beans and rolls), a dozen people sit around a table in a conference room in the former Fargo Police Department building downtown. The building is now the Downtown Engagement Center (DEC), with services offered to those looking for housing, along with harm reduction and other health services.

Some of the individuals in the room are unhoused, others are living in temporary housing in one of several shelters, and still others are in city-funded apartments for people living with a mental or physical disability. They all have one thing in common: they are survivors of a brain injury. And they are attending a Brain Injury Lunch and Learn session, offered weekly in downtown Fargo, through the North Dakota Brain Injury Network (NDBIN).

NDBIN is part of the Center for Rural Health (CRH), housed at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences. It offers support to individuals with brain injury and their families in an effort to assist them with navigating the health and social service systems post-injury.

A resource facilitator from NDBIN dims the lights. (For those with brain injury, fluorescent lights may be uncomfortable or could trigger a negative response.) This is the person who had invited everyone in the common room at the DEC to come to the Lunch and Learn: a participant-focused group to learn about what a brain injury is, what it means to have one, and some strategies to help manage symptoms.

STAYING WARM

Laurie and her door prize at Fargo's Downtown Engagement Center.



“A STROKE IS A BRAIN INJURY.”
SHANNAN STANKE



When is an injury a brain injury?

Not everyone realizes they have a brain injury. Often someone will get hit in the head playing sports as a child, or bump their head in a car accident. Maybe they were in a fight and fell, hitting their head on the ground. If they did not go to the hospital, or hear a doctor say the word “brain injury” often they do not realize they sustained a brain injury.

“A brain injury can lead to a vicious cycle,” said Shannan Stanke, resource facilitator for NDBIN. “Brain injuries can lead to people acting out, changes in temper, substance use, losing housing, and involvement in the criminal justice system. Through our work with the unhoused and those in the prisons and jails, we are seeing the majority of those affected have experienced at least one brain injury throughout their life, and that can

lead to a lack of stability. Without resources, support, and treatment, it becomes easy for the cycle to be repeated.”

Stanke asks people when they may have received their first brain injury and if they have experienced more than one. She lists several potential symptoms, including: difficulty organizing, forgetfulness, and vision and movement problems.

“Once people know what it is they struggle with,” she told the group, “they can share that with doctors or case workers.”

The Lunch and Learn sessions allow people to ask questions about their conditions. Some questions participants asked during one session in April were about how multiple sclerosis and brain injury coexist and how a brain injury can result in Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

One attendee, Laurie, asked, “When you are not able to talk, how can you tell the difference between a stroke or a brain injury?”

Stanke replied, “A stroke is a brain injury.”

Educating people about their disabilities allows them to help advocate for themselves.

Symptoms and suggestions

At the end of the session, Stanke gave away a door prize – a tie blanket made by members of a book club for survivors of a brain injury in Grand Forks.

Stanke shared information on how nutrition and sleep can help calm the inflammation in the brain and asked the participants what other factors may help relieve symptoms. Many people were excited to shout out their own answers (“Exercise!” “No alcohol!”).

Stanke discussed strategies of how to talk to doctors so that patients’ concerns are heard. A symptom

inventory can provide helpful insight into what symptoms are bothering individuals the most. She completed several of these inventories with people who attend the event. NDBIN also has tip sheets available for survivors and providers. These offer tips for dealing with topics such as anger, fatigue, and impulsivity/inhibition, among others.

Alexis, another attendee of the Lunch and Learn, planned to share a tip sheet with her dad to help with their communication. She also equates learning more about her injury with positive changes in her life.

“Doing the assessment [the NDBIN’s Cognitive Symptom Inventory] has changed my life,” she said. “Interacting with certain friends of mine, or my psychiatrist, my therapist, my case workers. It helps me when I am having issues, stressors, and emotional dysregulation. I can read over the tip sheets and I realize what I can do to help in that situation. It gives me a sense of hope.”

Words matter

That same week, a book club for survivors of brain injury was held in Grand Forks. The small group meets monthly, beginning in the fall and throughout the spring. They select a book to read and go through a couple of chapters each month. Often a speech language pathologist student from UND is able to join the group and work through questions like vocabulary, meaning, and actions that take place in the book, which can help people who are living with a brain injury.

Tom Cariveau, a family medicine doctor, suffered a stroke while he was on duty over 15 years ago. He was able to notice the symptoms immediately and tried to notify clinic staff, but his speech was already impacted, making it a challenge to communicate. He was able to show that his right arm was not working correctly and immediate treatment saved his life, but his life changed from that day forward.

Cariveau recovered physically fairly quickly, though still suffered from expressive aphasia, making speaking difficult.

He has found that being active in the NDBIN book club, and other group activities, helps with his aphasia and especially strengthening his vocabulary. He speaks in a slow, measured, and thoughtful manner as he reaches for words. But he gets his point across. He looks forward to coming to book club and is still an enthusiastic reader, using his tablet to keep his library of books.

Carly Endres, senior project coordinator for NDBIN, also plans activities to occur at book club meetings.

“Often after a brain injury,” Endres said, “attention can be the most impacted area of cognition. To help hold everyone’s attention I like to have multiple forms of activities group members can transition to. Making blankets, going for a walk, and crafts are things most utilized. Tie blankets are cost effective and a simple hands-on activity that the majority of our participants can do.”



Carly Endres

Ties that bind

Endres, who started the Fargo Lunch and Learn, thought about the unhoused participants in that group and how they sometimes need to sleep in inconsistent locations and need to stay warm. The blankets help with that and are age appropriate. Donating the blankets as a door prize for those who stay through the entire session made perfect sense. And it was a great way to connect the two groups, who will likely never meet each other, but have experienced similar injuries.

“Having a purpose and a place to feel belonging are both basic human needs that are often areas that survivors of brain injury struggle with,” said Endres. “Having both the Lunch and Learn and book club gives our survivors time to interact with other survivors, ask a professional informed on brain injury questions, and become aware of new ideas, research, and strategies to help with brain injury symptoms.”

Both programs are having a positive outcome in the lives of the people they serve. And the lunch provided, along with the blanket door prize, encourages individuals to return.

Laurie, who won the blanket, said, “I like coming back weekly because you learn more about how to communicate, and you get to sit and relax.”

Zach, another attendee who is currently looking for housing, smiled and asked, “What’s for lunch next week?”

Answer: Salisbury steak.

By Jena Pierce

‘FINDING WAYS WE CAN ALL GROW TOGETHER’

Late in 2023, Victoria Haynes, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC, FNP-C, joined the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences to serve as its Associate Dean for Multicultural Education. Despite her busy schedule, Dr. Haynes sat down with North Dakota Medicine to discuss her new role at UND, what medical colleges across the U.S. can do to help produce more physicians of color, and the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., in the U.S.



Welcome to UND, Dr. Haynes! Although it’s now almost summer, when we met last January during the week of the Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday, it was about minus five degrees outside in North Dakota – a bit cooler than you’re used to.

It’s definitely been an adjustment. But I came prepared. I brought my parka, gloves, scarves, all my cold weather essentials. The only thing I was missing was ski goggles. I had no idea how cold our eyes can get.

Yes! The wind here blows in your eyes, making them water – and then your tears freeze! What sort of MLK Day things were you involved with?

I had the pleasure of attending my first MLK brunch here and it went really well. We had a great speaker, there was good energy, a packed house, and we all got good information on not only MLK’s legacy, but how we might act on that vision. During and

after the brunch, there were opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to help serve the community and to have that servant leadership mentality that MLK demonstrated for us. It was really positive to be a part of that experience and I look forward to future MLK celebrations.

You’re coming to UND to do this work after a long career in nursing – and you’re still practicing, I know. Give us a sense of what attracted you to a career in healthcare, and then how that career led to your interest in cultural awareness initiatives?

I’ve been an advocate for change throughout my career in nursing. I had my first role as a Director of Diversity for small nursing school back in Missouri. Since then, I have worked in different academic settings for several years doing diversity work, along with consulting work for local organizations. I’m really passionate about promoting awareness on diversity topics, and, as a person

of color, I'm able to share my unique experiences and my journey. I've really always been drawn to this type of work. I remember one of my first nursing teaching positions: after I was in that role for a year or two I was appointed to a new role because throughout my teaching role I'd been incorporating a lot of cultural competency and a lot of promotion of diverse topics. I always helped advocate for students' clinical sites to be more diverse and really worked with a lot of my clinical preceptors. From there, it was a natural transition into a new role that developed into a position as director of diversity and cultural competency. I continued to gain more experience and continued to work on more initiatives, and so it's been exciting to bring both of my passions – the importance of diversity and healthcare – together.

As you know, UND has done a lot of work over the past few years to focus on being an inclusive campus, including the conference that we hosted on campus previously. Give us a sense of how you want to build on those successes. What would you like to see UND and the SMHS do more or more of in this arena?

We have some great people here who are really committed to making UND more inclusive, and to helping prepare our clinicians to serve diverse populations. I really just plan to assess what we have and build on our strengths to make sure that we're not reinventing the wheel. If there are things we can build on, we can do that and make sure that we're collaborating with UND so that the School of Medicine & Health Sciences can be a part of the university's inclusion and affinity initiatives as well. I would also like to see more opportunities for meaningful dialogue. This will help us build more intentional relationships with each other, because if we can understand each other, we can better understand the diversity we have within school. I plan to have regular workshops and educational opportunities that all faculty, staff, and students can attend. I also think it's important that we prepare our healthcare workers to serve those diverse populations. They need to be comfortable with that, so I'd like to see more opportunities for students to experience diverse populations in the clinical setting and to see a lot of diversity awareness content threaded throughout the curriculum in every department.

To that point, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has been upfront about wanting to produce more black and Latinx doctors, nurses, and therapists across the U.S. Is there literature that suggests outcomes can improve if, say, an African American population is treated by more African American physicians?

Absolutely. The literature has supported that idea for several years. And anytime that we're providing culturally responsible

care, the literature shows that health disparities can decrease, meaning we're helping promote health equity. So, it's very, very important that we are training our clinicians to serve the diverse populations that our world is producing – we're becoming more and more diverse globally. We also know that people of color are a missing population in healthcare. I want to say that's getting better – I'm definitely seeing more diversity in healthcare in our country compared to 20 years ago. But we still have a long way to go. The AAMC reports that most active physicians right now are white males over the age of 60. And we're still lacking in racial, ethnic, gender, and even age diversity. So even though things are a little better than they had been, we still have a ways to go, and we know that the literature supports that when we have people of color treating people of color, outcomes improve.

Insofar as we still lack physicians of color, what are some of the barriers that have kept people of color from entering medicine, even two decades into the 21st century?

This is a very complex question. Some of the obvious barriers would be financial barriers – making sure that you can afford higher education – because we know that the cost of higher education has increased. Another barrier is that prospective physicians often don't have examples – they don't have that mentor. So, if you don't have any family in higher education, or that have completed a college degree, you don't know how to navigate the education system. And we've also found that when you do have people of color in higher ed who don't have those mentors, they're less likely to stay in the program when they hit some of those roadblocks – retention rates are lower. Mentors can help you navigate that system, and we see an increase in retention with mentors.

Your role is primarily administrative, but will you be having any direct contact with medical or other students to talk about diversity and equity?

Absolutely. I am all hands-on. I've already met with a group of medical students, and that meeting went well. I also am meeting with the health sciences students and look forward to getting their perspective and ideas on how they see multicultural education here at UND and how we can improve it. My position entails helping teach SMHS students about issues relating to the effective interaction in a healthcare setting with people from different cultural backgrounds, and I do really plan to be hands-on and plan to be a face that you recognize and see on campus. I plan to be intentional about building those relationships with the students – along with faculty and staff – and finding ways we can all grow together.

*Interview conducted and edited by
Brian James Schill*

THE ECHO EFFECT

Project ECHO aids North Dakota healthcare professionals by providing free virtual educational sessions



ECHO ECHO ECHO

Faye Seidler (fourth from left) and crew at the North Dakota LGBTQIA2S+ Summit 2024.

Rural North Dakota is home to dedicated healthcare professionals who provide exceptional healthcare services. However, given the very nature of rural communities, accessing resources and support systems can be a challenge for providers living in rural areas.

Recognizing this disparity within rural healthcare, Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) strives to share the wealth of information and resources with rural North Dakota healthcare providers.

The idea for Project ECHO originally began at the University of New Mexico's School of Medicine in 2003. The goal of the program was to increase access to knowledge in rural and underserved areas by connecting providers to support systems and subject matter experts virtually.

Project ECHO became a part of the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS) Center for Rural Health (CRH) in 2017.

All teach, all learn

While there are several Project ECHO hubs around the U.S., and around the world, the Project ECHO program located at CRH focuses on reaching providers within North Dakota and the surrounding areas. This allows ECHO sessions to address unique needs and challenges healthcare professionals face in the state.

Nicole Crouch, project coordinator with Project ECHO, explained the program's philosophy.

"The main idea is: 'all teach, all learn,'" Crouch said. "We heavily encourage participation during the sessions and having a back and forth in terms of questions and answers. That's the best way to learn from one another."

Each ECHO session is different, with different topics, speakers, and learning strategies showcased within the program. However, the foundational aspects of Project ECHO stay consistent: free access to virtual presentations.

"The most participation we get is generally from hospitals, nursing homes, rehab facilities, and other similar organizations throughout North Dakota. Our goal is to connect providers across the state to help them provide the highest level of care and to have access to resources outside of their immediate community," said Crouch.

Although most series are designed for professionals to attend, anybody can sign up for an ECHO that interests them. The diversity of Project ECHO stems from the ability of outside stakeholders to commission ECHO events on topics they've identified as important.

"If there's an external audience that has the desire to run an ECHO, they can approach us about hosting an ECHO on their topic," said Rebecca Quinn, associate director at CRH.

Life-long learning

Currently, the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services Health Equity Office is hosting an ECHO series on Behavioral Health in Primary Care. As part of the series, a three-part session was held on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ+) populations and suicide prevention. Faye Seidler, who has been providing education on LGBTQ+ populations and suicide prevention for 10 years, presented at these ECHO events.

"I got into this work because I personally experienced the many ways kids can fall through the cracks," Seidler said. "I'm a survivor

of suicide, and I've dedicated my life to doing everything I can to making sure people have hope."

The conversation to have Seidler host a series began when she reached out to Quinn to thank Project ECHO for its work with rural health and community engagement.

"A lot of my work is networking with professionals, uplifting them, and asking how I can help," Seidler said. "As it turned out, I was asked to provide professional development training to the Project ECHO series. There was an identified interest in improving comfort around LGBTQ+ topics, as well as outcomes."

Seidler's presentation created a lot of buzz for participants.

"Faye is the premier resource within North Dakota related to LGBTQ+ populations and suicide prevention," said Crouch.

"People really enjoyed her presentation. It's a very important topic, especially within a healthcare setting, and the information was very well-received."

Seidler emphasized the importance of what she shares.

"What we don't measure doesn't get addressed. I think a lot of providers don't see LGBTQ+ identity as being something to worry about within healthcare. However, if you don't know your patient is LGBTQ+, you won't know they have an increased likelihood of suicide, substance use, or adverse childhood experiences."

As Seidler put it, her presentation "doesn't teach providers a completely new system of medicine." Admitting that most physicians don't need one hundred hours of exposure to be competent with the LGBTQ+ population, Seidler adds that most docs "just need a short training to realize all their current tools are adequate, that it isn't that difficult to incorporate LGBTQ+ inclusion within daily work, and a person doesn't need to be an expert on the topic to provide great care to patients."

Living in North Dakota is also a strength Seidler uses to connect with her audience.

"People especially appreciate that I'm also a North Dakotan. I live here and understand our culture. I spend my time not shaming them to be better, but instead telling people to be kinder to themselves because we all do our best."

Impacts 'ECHOing' out

What makes Project ECHO unique is its plethora of benefits, for both audiences and presenters. The format of the program ensures that everyone involved takes away something from the experience.

"We try to focus on different aspects of the topic for each session, so you learn something new each time you attend," Crouch said.

"We don't want it to be repetitive or redundant from month to

month. Participants also fill out evaluations during the sessions to give them an opportunity to give feedback on what sort of topics they might be interested in hearing about in the future. So, we take those into consideration as well."

These evaluations provide valuable feedback to presenters, to help them hone their skills and finely tune their presentations.

"I liked the evaluation process and the many meaningful questions asked of the participants following the completion of the training," Seidler shared. "So often there is not much measurement for the effectiveness of any given presentation, but the evaluation for the ECHO series also judged metrics of improvement on the topic, ascertained if the learning goals were actually met, and what commitment to improving services each participant would declare."

Participants of ECHO sessions also have the option to gain continuing medical education credits for attending the events. ECHO coordinators at CRH are cognizant of the busy schedules with which many healthcare professionals work. Keeping that in mind, ECHO events always take place virtually from noon to 1 p.m. (Central), giving working professionals an opportunity to get credit for learning applicable information over their lunch break.

Currently, Project ECHO at the UND SMHS is hosting virtual learning networks around the topics behavioral health in primary care, geriatric care, and pediatric mental health. The pediatric mental health and geriatric care topics are ongoing, with no set end date for these series and clinics held at least monthly.

Previous topics covered by Project ECHO include Stroke Rehabilitation, Opioid Use, Oral Health in Primary Care, COVID-19 in Nursing Homes, and Diabetes Care, among others.

Project ECHO is founded on the idea of actions echoing out into greater impacts. Not knowing where such reverberations will lead is one of the reasons Seidler encourages everyone to consider participating in Project ECHO, regardless of the role they may play.

"I think any opportunity for training, especially from subject matter experts, is very valuable. What I love about the principle of ECHO is how holistic the vision is," she said. "Philosophically, we have this idea of the butterfly effect, that small changes thousands of years ago could lead to a different world today. What we sometimes fail to account for is that what we do today also affects the course of our future. Our impact echoes out in profound ways we can never really fully measure."

By Jessica Rosencrans

Lloyd A. Bakken, M.D. '86, age 76, of Alto, Mich., passed away on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. He will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 53 years, Patricia; children, Bradley Hartman Bakken and Anne Bakken, and her husband Tom Boutrous; grandchildren, Rocco and Dillon Boutrous; siblings, Paul and Shirley Bakken, Rebecca and Barry Mason, Owen and Deanna Bakken, Patty and Steve Schiermeister, and David and Pia Bakken; and brother-in-law, Mike Finck. Lloyd was preceded in death by siblings, Dennis Bakken and Anita Finck. Lloyd earned a Bachelor of Science, Master of Business Administration, and a Medical Doctorate from the University of North Dakota. He proudly served his country in the United States Air Force for nine years. He first served at Lowry Air Force base in Denver where he was trained in military intelligence. He eventually completed ICBM missile training at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California before being assigned to Grand Forks Air Force Base. Following his military service, Lloyd began his medical training at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine, graduating in 1986. He then went on to complete his residency in Ob/Gyn at Blodgett/St. Mary's Hospitals. He was a board-certified physician, practicing in Michigan from 1990-2002, after which he relocated to Marshfield Clinic in Minocqua, Wis., practicing until his retirement in 2017. During his career, Lloyd delivered an astounding 6,327 babies.

Judy L. DeMers, B.S. Nursing '66, age 79, of Glendale, Ariz., Grand Forks, N.D., and Grace Lake, Minn., died on March 12, 2024, at Banner Thunderbird Hospital in Glendale. Judy Lee Prosser was born on June 27, 1944, in Grand Forks, the daughter of Robert Lee Prosser and V. Margaret Harming (Prosser). She lived on the 900 block of Belmont Road until she graduated from Central High School in 1962. She enrolled in nursing at the University of North Dakota and graduated four years later, summa cum laude, and as valedictorian from the University North Dakota's College of Nursing. In the interim she married Donald E. DeMers and welcomed the birth of her only child in 1965, Robert M. DeMers. Judy worked as a nurse in Grand Forks until she divorced and left Grand Forks in 1972 to pursue higher education. She both worked and raised her son until 1977 when she obtained her Master of Education degree from the University of Washington in Seattle and ultimately returned to Grand Forks where she maintained a residence until her death. Her work history included working as a faculty member at UND in 1969 as an instructor in public health and then with the Medex Project, which later became UND's physician assistant (PA) program. In 1977, upon her return to UND, she worked for five years in the Nurse Practitioner Program and then in 1983 she was promoted to Associate Dean of Student Affairs for what was then called the UND School of Medicine. While carrying the weight of all of her students' academic and personal issues, Judy was also a representative in the North Dakota Legislative Assembly from 1983 to 1993, and then a

senator from 1993 to 2000. This was another example of her working for all of the people of North Dakota, particularly those suffering hard times or lacking an ability to fend for themselves. Judy walked her entire district and knocked on every door every time she ran for office. Judy was extremely proud to have worked with people who were on the leading edge of healthcare. She knew she had found her true passion when she was hired as the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at the UND School of Medicine. She worked there for 27 years until she retired to spend time with family and travel between Arizona and her cabin at Grace Lake. She is survived by her son, Robert M. DeMers, and daughter-in-law Dawn R. DeMers (Nybo), Peoria, Ariz.; grandson and joy of her life, Tyler J. DeMers, Phoenix, Ariz.; and her niece, Mary Balliett, of Florida. Not to be forgotten is her Chiweenie Maddie, who lived a good life with her momma Judy and is still taking care of Bob's house with her cousins. Judy was preceded in death by sisters Bobbie Horton and Joan Coats.

Betty Lou Manning Stone, PA '98, age 78 of New Tazewell, Tenn., was born on October 19, 1945, and slipped peacefully into the arms of her Savior on March 8, 2024. Betty was baptized at a young age at New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church near her childhood home in Caney Valley, and later moved her membership to New Tazewell United Methodist Church where she loyally raised her children in faith. Upon her graduation from Claiborne County High School, she enrolled in Fort Sanders School of Nursing at the young age of 16, graduated in 1965, and then married Lee Dan (Danny) Stone, III, in September of that same year. As a registered nurse, she first worked at Claiborne County Hospital and soon began her 31-year career in public health at the Claiborne County Health Department where she made a positive and lasting impact on many families. Upon her retirement in 1997, she enrolled in the Physician Assistant program at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences where she earned her PA-C credential. She returned home in 1998 to continue to serve her community full-time at Heartland Medical in Harrogate and New Tazewell until March 2004 when she chose to semi-retire, and later fully retire. Betty is preceded in death by her parents, G. C. (Cleve) and Vera Manning; brothers, Clifford Manning, Gerald Manning, Bailey Manning, and Bruce Manning; and sister Dot Manning Lewis. She was also welcomed into heaven with open arms by her granddaughter, Loren Grace McAfee. Left to celebrate her memory and carry her light are her children, Leigh Anne Stone McAfee and husband, John, and Wesley Daniel Stone and wife, Suzanne; along with her grandchildren, Thomas McAfee, Emma Stone, Abby Stone, and Cooper Stone; her brother, Woodrow (Woody) Manning; and a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and colleagues.

Whitney Morgan (Tingle) Temple, MD '20, born August 17, 1990, died May 6, 2024, after her long battle with cancer and other complications. Before she left us, she asked her family to thank some folks. First, she wanted to thank everyone who supported her benefit on April 13, 2024. Unfortunately, she just ran out of time to personally thank everyone. The community's kindness meant the world to her, especially the outpouring of well-wishes from her patients. She says the benefit was a celebration of not just her life, but of everyone who participated from near and afar. Whitney also wished to thank her friends and colleagues at Altru and Sanford and the medical communities in Grand Forks, Rochester, and Minneapolis who came to her aid. She gave a special thank you to the Community Violence Intervention Center as well as the Grand Forks Police Department. She also asked us to make sure we thanked the team at Altru's Sunshine Hospitality Home, who provided housing for her out-of-area family. Finally, she asked us to thank UND's medical school and the Altru Family Medicine Residency Program for preparing her for the great privilege to care for her patients. Under the circumstances, she likely missed someone. We hope you understand. Contributions are requested for the Community Violence Intervention Center and Altru's Sunshine Hospitality Home.

On Monday, March 4, 2024, **James John Stein, MD '95**, of Springfield, Va., passed away peacefully at home after a 12-year battle with brain cancer. He was 57. A graveside service and burial will be held at Arlington National Cemetery on a date to be determined. Jim was born on May 12, 1966, in Dickinson, N.D., to John and Ann Stein. He attended Trinity High School, and after a year at Dickinson State University, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and became a medic. He continued his military career in the North Dakota National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserves while completing his undergraduate studies at the University of Minnesota and then attending medical school at the University of North Dakota. After medical school, Jim returned to active duty as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Then, he completed residencies at William Beaumont Army Medical Center and Johns Hopkins and was board-certified in pediatrics and preventive medicine. While at Johns Hopkins, he met his wife Audrey Hackman, and they were married at Fort Meade, Md., on May 25, 2002. After 30+ years of service, Jim retired from the U.S. Army as a Colonel in 2022. Jim is survived by his wife Audrey and two daughters, Lexi and Abby; his mother, Ann Stein; his mother-in-law, Kitty McKinney; his three sisters and brothers-in-law, Judy & Dave Holstad, Jane & Walter Botts, and Jacky & Jeff Herauf; his two sisters-in-law, Karen Stein and Ruthanne Hackman; his uncle and aunts, Leo and Tillie Stein and Mae Stein; as well as several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father John Stein, his father-in-law Lowell Hackman, his brother Jerry Stein, his uncle Ray Stein, and his nephew Andrew Botts.

ADOPT-A-STUDENT IN 2024!

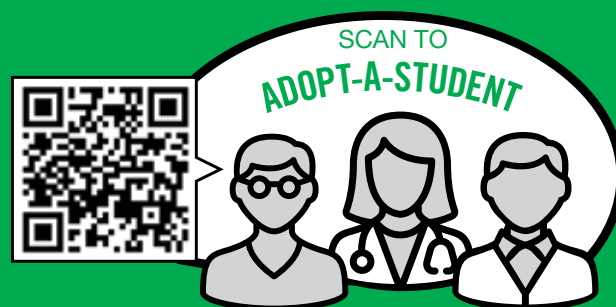
School of Medicine & Health Sciences Adopt-a-Student campaign continues to expand in 2024

For a minimum gift of \$100 for health sciences students or \$250 for medical students, sponsors can provide students with a valuable tool of the trade or help them secure professional association memberships for continued educational opportunities.

"Adopting" a student from one of the programs below provides:

- **Athletic Training:** Membership in the National Athletic Trainers Association
- **Medical Students:** A Littmann Stethoscope
- **Medical Laboratory Science:** A student membership in the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science
- **Occupational Therapy:** Physical copies of Willard & Spackman's *Occupational Therapy* and the fourth edition of *Occupational Therapy Practice Framework: Domain and Process*
- **Physician Assistant:** An embroidered white coat
- **Physical Therapy:** A durable gear bag for holding tools useful to the practicing physical therapist
- **Public Health:** A student membership in the American Public Health Association

Gifts of \$100, \$250, or any amount can be 1) mailed to the UND Alumni Association & Foundation, 3501 University Ave., Stop 8157, Grand Forks, ND, 58202 (Include "Adopt" and the program in question in the memo line); or 2) submitted online at the QR code below:



Letters of support to students can be included in option 1 above, added to the "Leave a comment" box when giving online via option 2, or emailed to kristen.peterson@UND.edu.

School of Medicine & Health Sciences celebrates annual Frank Low Research Day, announces awards

In April, the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS) hosted its 44th annual Frank Low Research Day. Named in honor of the former SMHS anatomy professor who came to UND in the 1960s and pioneered a series of new techniques for the electron microscope, Frank Low Research Day is the culminating event of the academic year for many area researchers working in the biomedical and health sciences.

Featuring a keynote presentation by Susan Amara, Ph.D., scientific director of the Intramural Research Program at the National Institute of Mental Health, this year's FLRD featured oral and/or poster presentations by more than 180 faculty members, postdoctoral fellows, medical residents, and students on a wide range of biomedical, health sciences, translational, and clinical topics.

Poster winners and Honorable Mentions included the following:

Basic Sciences Category

Graduate Students

Best Posters

Matthew Johnston

M. Johnston, S. Rakoczy, A. Irion, M. Murphy, H. Brown-Borg; Department of Biomedical Sciences: "Skeletal Muscle Characteristics of Long-Lived Dwarf Mice"

Eloho Ighofose

Eloho Ighofose, Aaron Mehus, Scott Garrett, Donald Sens, Sarmad Al-Marsoum, Seema Somji; Department of Pathology: "Cisplatin-Induced Nephrotoxicity in Renal Progenitor and Differentiated Cells"

Postdoctoral Fellow

Best Poster

Geetika Verma

Geetika Verma and Kumi Nagamoto-Combs; Department of Biomedical Sciences: "Prolonged allergen consumption sustains neuroinflammation independent of allergen-specific IgE levels in mice with subclinical food allergy"

Undergraduate Students

Best Poster

Odele Rajpathy

Odele Rajpathy, Maggie Dervis, Emily Lygre, Emilie Vomhof-DeKrey; Departments of Pathology/Surgery: "A novel drug-like small molecule FAK activator poses epithelial skin healing possibilities"

Clinical Sciences Category

Medical Students

Best Posters

Lauren A. Blum and Sarah D. Streed

Lauren A. Blum, B.S., Sarah D. Streed, B.A., James R. Beal, Ph.D., Abe E. Sahmoun, Ph.D.: "Association of Screen Time and Utilization of Mental Health Services in School-aged Children in the United States"

Brenna Hanson and Courtney Hanson

Brenna Hanson, B.S., Courtney Hanson, B.S., Megan Miller, M.D., and Parag Kumar, M.D.: "Delayed Diagnosis of Congenital Imperforate Hymen resulting in Obstructing Hematometrocolpos"

Claire Diede

Claire Diede, B.S., David R. Carr M.D., M.P.H., Kathryn T. Shahwan M.D.: "Impact of Completing Away Rotations During Dermatology Residency on the Mohs Fellowship Match"

Health Sciences Category

Occupational Therapy

Best Posters

Monicah Nyakoe

Monicah Nyakoe, OTS, and Jessa Hulteng, Ph.D., M.O.T., OTR/L, CLT: "Addressing Classroom Behaviors through Sensory-Informed Design and Instruction to Support Performance and Participation"

Jace Allard

Jace Allard and Jane Loscheider, O.T.D., OTR/L, ATP, CLT: "Addressing Psychosocial Factors in Upper Extremity Injuries to Improve Outcomes and Quality of Life"

Emmalee Burtsfield

Emmalee Burtsfield and Jessa Hulteng, Ph.D., M.O.T., OTR/L, CLT: "Promoting Physical and Psychosocial Wellness for Individuals with Neurological Impairments"

Makayla Tucker

Makayla Tucker and Karrianna Iseminger, O.T.D., OTR/L, CHT: "An Occupational Therapy Approach to Chronic Condition Self-Management"

Event organizers also presented awards to a number of participants whose posters or presentations caught the attention of a panel of judges organized by Dr. Masfique Mehedi, assistant professor in the SMHS Department of Biomedical Sciences.

“We were excited as always about Frank Low Day,” said Jamie Foster, Ph.D., associate professor in the SMHS Department of Biomedical Sciences, who helped organize the event. “Not only was participation back to what it was pre-pandemic, but we’re expanding. There were more health sciences participants than ever and we’re already looking forward to our 45th year in 2025.”

Medical Residents

Best Posters

Ramiz Kirmani

Ramiz Kirmani, Arman Saied, Edjay Hernandez, Dane Breker: “Clinical Reasoning: Elderly male with isolated bitemporal hemianopsia”

Hallie Thompson

Hallie Thompson, M.D., Anu Gaba, M.D., and Abe E. Sahnoun, Ph.D.: “Incidence and Risk Factors of Brain Metastasis in HER-2 Positive Primary Breast Cancer: A Retrospective Analysis”

Physician Assistants

Best Posters

Justis Caldwell

Justis Caldwell and Jay Metzger, Ph.D., PA-C: “Viral Bronchiolitis: High Flow Nasal Cannula versus Non-Invasive Ventilation Management’s Effect on Length of Stay, Prevention of Mechanical Ventilation, and Mortality”

Chelsea Scheil

Chelsea Scheil and Julie S. Solberg, M.P.A.S., PA-C: “Probiotic Therapy for the Treatment and Prevention of Bacterial Vaginosis”

Rachel Kisse

Rachel Kisse and Mindy Staveteig, M.M.S., PA-C: “Efficacy of Platelet Rich Plasma Injections to Combat Chronic Tendinopathies”

Public Health Students

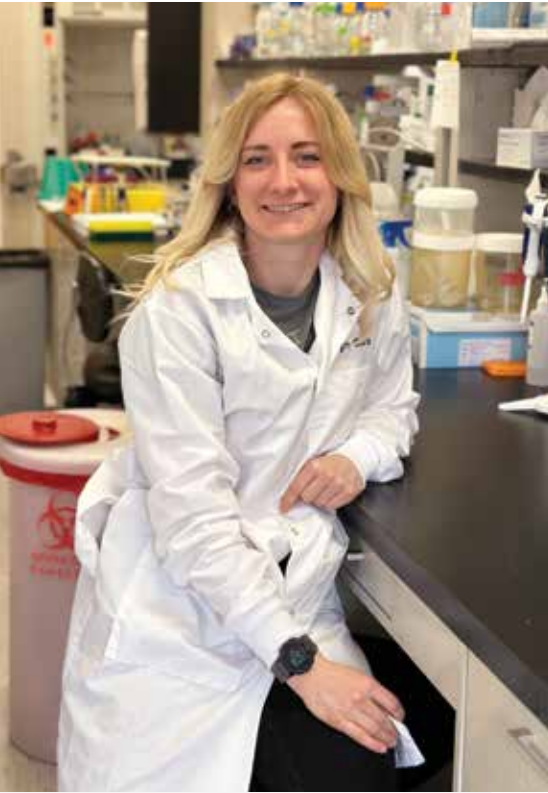
Best Poster

Mary Labuhn

Mary Labuhn and Andrew Williams, Ph.D., M.P.H.: “Adverse Childhood Experiences and Utilization of Preventive Healthcare among Children in Rural Communities in the United States (NHIS 2022)”



UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences graduate student selected for prestigious National Science Foundation fellowship



Kaitlyn Gura, a doctoral student in the UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS) biomedical sciences graduate program, has been selected to receive an award from the National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF-GRFP) for 2024. The highly competitive NSF-GRFP is among the oldest graduate fellowships of its kind and was first awarded in 1952.

"I was extremely excited to share the news with both my advisors, particularly Dr. Dhasarathy, who made me revise my research statement for the award around 15 times," said Gura with a grin. "She and her husband [Dr. Sergei Nechaev] constantly pushed me to start writing for this fellowship in the first place."

That lead advisor is Archana Dhasarathy, associate professor in the SMHS Department of Biomedical Sciences, whose research focuses on epigenetics and cancer.

"It's truly a privilege to be a teacher and mentor to Kaitlyn," said Dhasarathy. "She is a remarkable student, who embodies persistence and determination. Kaitlyn is a friendly colleague, and her commitment to mentoring and helping her peers underscores her desire to make a positive difference in the world. Her willingness to explore new questions and resolve to find answers underscore her potential as a researcher, and as a future leader in the field of epigenetics."

A second-year doctoral student who serves as a Company Commander with the North Dakota Army National Guard, Gura graduated magna cum laude from North Dakota State University with an undergraduate degree in life sciences. At UND, Gura's doctoral project involves a collaborative venture between the laboratories of Dr. Dhasarathy and Dr. Catherine Brissette, professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences who studies Lyme disease.

"As a first-generation college student, Kaitlyn managed to graduate with honors from NDSU while serving in the North Dakota National Guard, working as a certified nursing assistant, and pursuing undergraduate research experiences," added Brissette. "She is an incredibly hard worker, and as one of the first female Recruitment Sustainment Program Company Commanders with the Guard, Kaitlyn is an excellent role model for other young women. She is a delight to have in the lab."

The NSF program helps fund outstanding undergraduate and graduate students in the United States who are pursuing graduate degrees in STEM disciplines supported by the Foundation. Gura's award extends over a three-year period, including an annual stipend of \$37,000, support for

her tuition and fees of \$16,000, and access to multiple professional development activities sponsored by the NSF.

Through the fellowship, Gura will investigate epigenetic mechanisms that enable cells to memorize prior exposure and respond robustly when they re-encounter the stimulus in the future. This ability of cells to remember and respond to a previously encountered stimulus is an important adaptive response in animals and plants termed "transcriptional memory." The proposed research will advance understanding of how cells respond and remember exposures to stimuli in the environment, which is a fundamental concept in the biological sciences.

This work is expected to be of general interest to molecular biologists, microbiologists, and ecologists.

"This fellowship is a truly huge deal: only about 16 percent of applicants across the U.S. receive this award," Dhasarathy concluded. "In addition to the research funding, Kaitlyn will have the opportunity to take advantage of some unique professional development programs offered by the NSF that are specifically tailored to GRFP recipients. These programs will help her network with other award winners and will help immensely with her future career prospects."

UND's Department of Biomedical Sciences first among similar departments to receive National Institutes of Health grants



The Department of Biomedical Sciences, housed within UND's School of Medicine & Health Sciences (SMHS), has been listed as the No. 1 recipient of National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant dollars among comparable departments nationwide in fiscal year 2023.

As noted by federal grant tracking agency, the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, the biomedical sciences team at UND came in first overall for NIH dollars awarded out of nearly 40 biomedical and basic sciences departments nationwide between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.

Pulling in more NIH funding than similar departments at institutions such as Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Minnesota, UND is the only Midwestern university listed in the Blue Ridge top five.

"We'd ranked highly on the Blue Ridge list for a few years now, and making it to number one is exciting," said Chair of the SMHS Department of Biomedical Sciences and the School's Associate Dean for Research, Colin Combs, Ph.D. "Hopefully we can keep the top slot this year as well."

The biomedical sciences notwithstanding, SMHS-based researchers pulled in more than \$34 million in 2022-23 from all external sources. Funding was used to support projects focused not only on neurodegenerative conditions like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, but cancer, Indigenous health, age-related illness, and various infectious diseases, including influenza and SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19).

Calling the report evidence of the hard work ongoing across the institution, School of Medicine & Health Sciences Dean Joshua Wynne, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., commended Combs and his group on their accomplishment.

"I am tremendously proud of how our team of researchers has continued to grow our School's research portfolio, punching well above our weight class in many ways," Wynne said. "This work not only helps us better understand the health conditions that afflict North Dakotans – it helps us get closer to more effective treatments and even potential cures."

■ '20s

Sasha Harm, MPAS '23, a certified physician assistant (PA-C) specializing in otolaryngology (ENT), has joined the Essentia Health-South University Clinic in Detroit Lakes, Minn. "I chose to join Essentia Health because I had many clinical rotations here during PA school, and I was able to see the collaborative and supportive work environment," said Harm. "Essentia's mission and core values align with what I strive to achieve and practice every single day." Harm received her medical education from the University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences in Grand Forks. She is certified by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. "I choose the ENT specialty because it incorporates many different aspects of medicine, which makes this field intellectually challenging and rewarding," added Harm. "It also has a diverse patient population with countless opportunities for learning and professional growth."

■ '70s

J. Michael Hatlelid, B.S. Med '75, retired from active clinical practice of neurology on April 1, 2024, after 43 years. Dr. Hatlelid remains an associate professor of Clinical Neurology at Washington University in St. Louis.



Sasha Harm, PA-C



J. Michael Hatlelid, M.D.

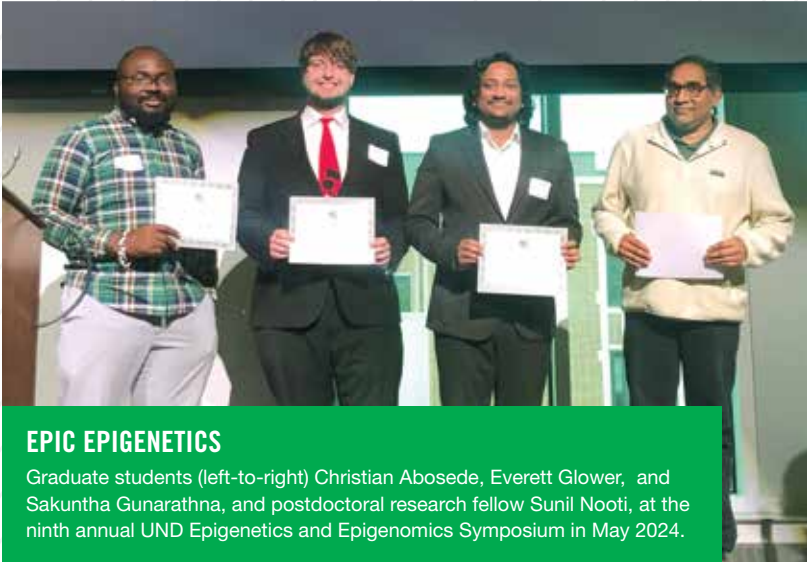


GLAUCOM-WHAT?
 Physician and social media personality Will Flannary (center, AKA Dr. Glaucomflecken) with SMHS students at the Fargo Theatre in April 2024.



PARTING SHOTS

Did you attend an event related to the UND SMHS? Share it with your colleagues. UND SMHS alumni, faculty, staff, students, friends, and family are welcome to send a high resolution photo to kristen.peterson@UND.edu for possible inclusion in the next *North Dakota Medicine*.



EPIC EPIGENETICS
 Graduate students (left-to-right) Christian Abosede, Everett Glower, and Sakuntha Gunarathna, and postdoctoral research fellow Sunil Nooti, at the ninth annual UND Epigenetics and Epigenomics Symposium in May 2024.



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION
 OTD students Anna Jones (left) and Madison Thomas at the Occupational Therapy poster session at the SMHS, April 2024.



RISE ABOVE
 Graduating medical students Aishwarya Sharma (left) and Dakota Snustad at the AAMC RISE Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., in April 2024.



A DIFFERENT 'ARREST'

Graduating medical student Sam Wilke (third from left) after a ride-along with the Bismarck Police Department. Sam helped perform life-saving care to a patient in cardiac arrest during the ride-along, which was part of his "EMS and Community Medical Direction" elective.



NEW BLOOD

Team MLS celebrates National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week with a blood drive at the SMHS in April 2024.



READY STEADY

Members of UND's Cardiac Ready Campus committee at the Cardiac Ready Campus sign in front of UND's Wellness Center.

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**SAVE
THE DATE**

UND Night at Target Field
July 22
Minnesota Twins VS. Philadelphia Phillies
Alumni Association & Foundation pre-game reception
Cowboy Jack's | 4-6 p.m. | Minneapolis, Minn.
twins.com/UND | UNDalumni.org

UND
Homecoming
Sept. 27-28
UNDalumni.org