COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE
See the college’s history time line in the center of the magazine.

FEATURES
Meet the new Department Chairs ........................................ 2-5
$9 Million Grant for Expansion of Flint Campus ................. 6-7
Students, Staff and Faculty Honored for Medical Work ........ 8-9
Mary Asks for Sparty .................................................. 12

STUDENTS
College of Human Medicine Students Receive
Scholarships on Research Projects .................................. 10-11
Medical Student’s Research: Statin Drugs Work When Taken Properly ...... 13
2014 Commencement ................................................................ 16-17

RESEARCH & FACULTY
Kim Keeper: Increasing Cancer Literacy Saving Lives ............ 14-15
Treatment and Possible Cure for Adenomyosis .................... 18
Grants Awarded ................................................................. 19
Predicting the Unpredictable ............................................. 20-21
2014 MSU College of Human Medicine Faculty Awards ........ 22-23
Faculty News ..................................................................... 24-25
“Ween and Now” Retiring Faculty and Staff ....................... 26-27
Obituaries ........................................................................ 28-29
Alumni
News and Updates ......................................................... 30
Alumni & Students Connectivity Program ......................... 31
Rose Bowl ....................................................................... 32
Alumni Weekend 2014 and Golden Gala .......................... Inside Back Cover

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FROM THE DEAN’S DESK
Since its founding 50 years ago, the College of Human Medicine has been a leader in finding better and more effective ways of teaching. The innovative curriculum that our founders created, incorporating problem solving, small group learning and self-paced study, soon was adopted by other medical schools all over the country.

As we approach our 51st year, the College of Human Medicine again is leading the way in how the doctors of the future will be taught. In the autumn of 2015, we plan to introduce a new curriculum, giving our students more hands-on, practical experience in treating patients beginning the first week of their first year.

Under a traditional curriculum, students spend most of their first two years learning the science of medicine in classrooms and lecture halls, and then applying that knowledge in clinical settings the last two years.

Our new curriculum will take a more integrated approach, teaching our students the science of medicine while they apply that knowledge in the clinic. They also will meet in small groups to discuss the science, ethics and humanities they will need to become excellent physicians.

We believe this method not only will be more engaging for our students and faculty, but it will help them retain more of what they learn by eliminating the gap between the science and the application of medicine.

For example, a student learning the mechanics of giving an injection in the clinic also will understand the anatomical structures, the microbiology, the epidemiology and the method by which the drug treats or prevents illness.

Some of this transformation in how we teach our students is driven by changes in how medicine is practiced. Education, as well as care, should be organized around the patient. Medicine today has a focus on working in teams, on data and on the evidence of the most effective ways for students to attend lectures through live video streaming and access to more information through the Internet.

Starting the clinical experience in the first year will allow our students to take on more advanced clinical work in the second year that previously was taught in the third and fourth years. This, in turn, will free more time in the third year for them to take more elective courses.

We expect other medical schools will again follow our lead. We also expect that, by focusing on the doctor/patient relationship, this curriculum will help our students become better physicians, centering their practices on the care of their patients.

Dean Marsha D. Rappley, M.D.
Michigan State University
College of Human Medicine

WITH GREAT SADNESS WE MOURN THE LOSSES OF W. DONALD WESTON, M.D., the second dean of the College of Human Medicine, WILLIAM B. WEIL, M.D., founding chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Human Development and LESTER “SKIP” BINDER, PH.D., professor in the Department of Translational Science and Molecular Medicine.

(.currentUser)
THE COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE WELCOMES

Richard R. Neubig, M.D., Ph.D., former director of the Center for the Discovery of New Medicines at the University of Michigan, appointed professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, which serves the colleges of Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

Suresh Mukherji, M.D., former director of neuroradiology at the University of Michigan, named professor and chair of the Department of Radiology, which serves the College of Human Medicine and the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Charles “Lee” Cox, Ph.D., an expert in the brain’s ability to adapt, named professor and chair of the Department of Physiology, which serves the colleges of Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Natural Science.

B. Keith English, M.D., formerly associate chair of Pediatrics at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center and chief of pediatrics and infectious diseases at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in Memphis, appointed chair of the College of Human Medicine’s Department of Pediatrics and Human Development.

MEET THE NEW CHAIRS

PHARMACOLOGY AND TOXICOLOGY • RADIOLoGY • PHYSIOLOGY • PEDIATRICS AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
WELCOME

Physiology

CHARLES “LEE” COX, PH.D., an expert in the brain’s ability to adapt, has been named professor and chair of the Department of Physiology, which serves the colleges of Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Natural Science.

Cox comes from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where his research focused on neural plasticity, the brain’s ability to adapt to changes in input, which is essential for brain development and function. His work is aimed at understanding the pathological conditions of neurological diseases, such as epilepsy and Alzheimer’s, as well as developmental disorders, including autism and the related fragile X syndrome. His research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and private foundations.

“Lee brings a strong neuroscience research portfolio that both complements our current areas of research and also offers fresh opportunities for new investigation into other neurological conditions, such as epilepsy and autism,” said Dean Marsha Rappley.

B. KEITH ENGLISH, M.D., has been named chair of the College of Human Medicine’s Department of Pediatrics and Human Development.

English has received several awards and has authored 65 peer-reviewed publications and numerous textbook chapters. He received the Memphis Business Journal’s “Health Care Heroes” award, the Tennessee Hospital Association’s “Meritorious Service by a Physician” award and was named “Pediatrician of the Year” by the American Academy of Pediatrics, all for leading the community in responding to the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic.

English comes from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, where he was professor and associate chair of the Department of Pediatrics. He also was chief of the Division of Pediatrics and Infectious Diseases at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in Memphis. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, an M.D. degree from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and completed his residency at Baylor and Texas Children’s Hospital.

“Dr. English possesses a compelling vision for improving the health of children,” said Dean Marsha Rappley. “His understanding of children and remarkable collaborative skills for engaging colleagues across disciplines will strengthen our college in areas of medical education, patient care and pediatric research.”

Radiology

SURESH MUKHERJI, M.D., a recognized expert in head and neck imaging, has been named professor and chair of the Michigan State University Department of Radiology, which serves the Colleges of Human Medicine and the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

“I am honored and humbled to be chosen to lead such a successful department,” Mukherji said. “There is an incredible opportunity for collaboration at MSU with its statewide presence, so that clinical care, research and education missions can reach even greater heights. Working together through all disciplines, we will continue to do great things.”

For many years, Mukherji was director of neuroradiology at the University of Michigan. He is a fellow of the American College of Radiology and senior editor of three professional journals. He has served as an investigator on 26 grants and has published 13 textbooks, 74 book chapters and more than 300 scientific papers.

Mukherji earned his bachelor’s degree in 1983 from Duke University and his M.D. degree from the Georgetown University Medical School in 1987. He is pursuing an MBA at the University of Michigan.

Pharmacology and Toxicology

RICHARD R. NEUBIG, M.D., PH.D., has been named professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, which serves the colleges of Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

Neubig, who has been on the faculty of the University of Michigan since 1983, brings extensive research into G proteins and their receptors, which are important targets for nearly half the drugs on the market. His work has established that current models oversimplify the body’s highly complex processes, and his group has identified new drugs that may be useful in treating cancer, depression and fibrosis.

“Dr. Neubig’s experience in academic drug discovery offers exciting new opportunities in several disciplines across the university,” said Dean Marsha Rappley.

Neubig is 2013-14 president of the 5,000-member American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics. At UofM, he was a professor of pharmacology, associate professor of internal medicine and director of the Center for the Discovery of New Medicines.

Neubig earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan, his M.D. from the Harvard Medical School and a Ph.D. in pharmacology from Harvard University. He did his internal medicine residency at the University Hospital in Ann Arbor.
The expansion of the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in Flint, including its public health program, moved a giant step forward with the awarding of a $9 million grant by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

The grant will allow MSU to recruit top health researchers, expand its public health program and increase the number of medical students in Flint.

The College of Human Medicine and faculty physicians from Genesys Health System, Hurley Medical Center and McLaren Flint have been educating medical students in Flint since the 1970s. In 2011, the college received a $2.81 million planning grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

The expansion of the Flint campus and the public health program is part of a larger vision by the university and Mott to increase the number of medical students in Flint, establish a new focus on community-based research and health care delivery, and strengthen collaboration among the hospitals and institutions of higher learning.

“Our partnership with the Mott Foundation is helping MSU do more of what we do best: bringing world-class research to bear on real-world problems,” MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon said. “We are committed to providing much-needed health services for the Flint region, and we’re excited about the new opportunities this expansion creates for our students.”

The College of Human Medicine Flint Campus, including the public health program and researchers, will occupy some 40,000 square feet in the former Flint Journal building now under renovation and scheduled to open in the fall.

“We are looking forward to establishing our presence in downtown Flint with our medical school campus and new public health researchers,” said College of Human Medicine Dean Marsha Rappley.

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“We are looking forward to establishing our presence in downtown Flint with our medical school campus and new public health researchers,” said College of Human Medicine Dean Marsha Rappley.
Thirty-one MSU medical students were inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

Erika Hoenke-McMahon hadn’t given much thought to medical school until she traveled to Ecuador and witnessed first-hand the need for better care. Later, as a nurse, she made five trips to Haiti, including after the 2010 earthquake that killed an estimated 220,000 people and injured some 300,000.

“It’s hard to put into words,” said Hoenke-McMahon, now a fourth-year student in the College of Human Medicine. “We saw such terrible injuries. The hardest thing was the children.”

That commitment to serve, along with her excellent performance in medical school, earned Hoenke-McMahon induction into Alpha Omega Alpha, a medical honor society whose members include 51 Nobel laureates.

She was among 31 fourth-year College of Human Medicine students inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha at a November 21 banquet. All are among the top students in their class, but that alone is not enough to earn membership in the honor society.

“To get into medical school, you have to be smart,” said Henry Barry, M.D., a professor of family medicine and member of the committee that chose the finalists from students nominated by the assistant deans at the College of Human Medicine’s six community campuses.

“To get into Alpha Omega Alpha, that’s not enough.”

Each of the 31 new members distinguished themselves in other ways by conducting research, serving on committees and volunteering their time and skills in their communities and around the world.

Timothy Joseph conducted a couple of research projects, including into the economic benefit of the Mediterranean diet, and he volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, the Guiding Light mission and Catherine’s Health Center in Grand Rapids.

Jillian Geyer took a boat down the Amazon in Brazil, bringing medical care to remote communities.

Andrew Korcal helped organize a program recruiting medical students to provide medical screenings and teach health education in Lansing area schools.

William Jackson already had a degree in engineering and was designing hospital beds and medical equipment when he was drawn to medical school by “the opportunity to interact with people on a daily basis,” he said. “That was very appealing to me.”

More than a few new Alpha Omega Alpha members gave up promising careers in other fields to study medicine, said Heather Laird-Fick, M.D., director of the college’s internal medicine residency program. “We have among us people who have spent years and years serving their communities, whether building houses or working with kids,” she said. “We are lucky to have them all with us here tonight.”

Rachel Holtzman studied cardiovascular risk factors among children in Ecuador and Michigan, and she participated in Leadership in Medicine for the Underserved, the college’s program to bring medical care to vulnerable populations in rural, urban and international settings.

“I’ve always been drawn to work with underserved populations,” said Holtzman, who plans to go into family medicine. “You can help them a lot.”

That’s typical of the commitment it takes to earn membership in Alpha Omega Alpha, said E. James Potchen, M.D., longtime counselor for the MSU chapter and keynote speaker at the induction dinner. Membership in Alpha Omega Alpha is “the best distinction you can have in medicine,” said Potchen, who retired this year as a University Distinguished Professor. “It is a career builder.”

Megan Brown echoed the comments of the other new Alpha Omega Alpha members, calling it “a great honor.”

Added classmate Shiwei Zhou: “I think it’s a very humbling experience. I have so many friends I feel deserve to be here.”
Abigail Wenzlick was not unfamiliar with cancer, although she was only 13 months old when she was diagnosed with a malignant tumor called rhabdomyosarcoma, too young to recall the early days of chemotherapy.

For years, she insisted she wanted nothing more to do with doctors, yet here she was, now 24 years old and a second-year student in the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, describing her research into the side effects pediatric cancer survivors, particularly women, experience years after treatment. “A lot of my physicians gave me a hard time when I told them I was going to medical school,” she said. “but I realized it was all for nothing.”

She was among eight College of Human Medicine students—four in Grand Rapids and four in East Lansing—who received scholarships to spend the past summer immersed in research projects. In October, the students, linked by teleconference, shared their experiences years after treatment.

The students agreed. “Hopefully, in the future when I’m treating a patient, I will treat them as an individual, not just a number on a data set,” said Arjun Dupati, a fourth-year student who studied spirituality in breast cancer patients. “This award definitely enhanced my experience here at MSU,” said Amanda King, a second-year student, who studied gene fusions in lung cancer patients. “I believe research is a critical component of medical education.”

Added second-year student Michael Monterey: “If you’re going to be involved in oncology, you better be involved in research.”

Their research projects covered a range of topics. Deven Patel worked with MSU’s bioengineering research lab to build a device for measuring blood perfusion and stiffness in patients who suffered leg wounds. Cindy Tran spent the summer in Brazil, studying the risk factors for cervical cancer among low-income women. Shailesh Reddy studied concussions among athletes.

“As with Wenzlick, Christine Timmer had a personal interest in cancer. Eight years ago, her older brother, Douglass, was diagnosed with cancer, now in remission. “That made me realize the importance of research,” said Timmer, who studied osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer common in teenagers. “I know it will definitely influence me as a physician. I am very interested in pediatric oncology. It drives me just because I’ve been exposed to it, and I know how important his doctors were to him.”

Wenzlick said she, too, hopes to specialize in pediatric oncology. “It’s the style of medicine I’m most familiar with,” she said. Her research project “has been a huge impact on my career,” she added. “It also confirmed my interest.”

**STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATIONS**

**ABIGAIL WENZLICK** – Patterns of Medical Care in the Treatment of Ovarian Failure in Pediatric Cancer Survivors. Mentor: Albert Cornelius, M.D., Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital (Grand Rapids)

**CHRISTINE TIMMER** – Characterizing the Role of Hypoxia in Osteosarcoma Chemosensitivity. Mentor: Matt Steensma, M.D., Van Andel Research Institute (Grand Rapids)

**CINDY TRAN** – Risk Factors and Epidemiological Aspects of HPV Infection at Marajo Island Population. Mentor: Hellen Fuzii, M.D., Pathology Lab, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Universidade Federal do Para, Belen (Brazil)

**SHAILESH REDDY** – National Sports Concussions Outcomes Study. Mentor: Jeffrey Kutch, M.D., University of Michigan NeuroSport (Ann Arbor)

**ARJUN DUPATI** – Qualitative Analysis of Spirituality in Breast Cancer Using Grounded Theory Methods. Mentors: Janet Osuch, M.D., College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University and Adrian Blow, Ph.D., MSU Human Development and Family Studies (East Lansing)

**AMANDA KING** – Targeting Novel Gene Fusions Involving the Vitamin D Pathway in Lung Cancer. Mentor: Nithya Ramnath, M.D., UMHS Comprehensive Cancer Center (Ann Arbor)

**MICHAEL MONTEREY** – Validation Metastatic Targets in HER2/Neu Mediated Tumors. Mentor: Eran Andrechek, Ph.D., Department of Physiology, Michigan State University (East Lansing)

**DEVEN PATEL** – Responses of Blood Perfusion to Loading in Patients with Wounds. Mentor: Tamara Bush, Ph.D., Biomechanical Design Research Laboratory, College of Engineering, Michigan State University (East Lansing)

**EAST LANSING PRESENTATIONS**

**GRAND RAPIDS PRESENTATIONS**
Coronary artery disease patients who are faithful about taking their statin drugs are more likely to reach the goal of reducing their bad cholesterol than those who fail to follow their doctors’ orders, a study by a Michigan State University medical student found. Margaret Chi was the lead author of the study recently published in the American Journal of Managed Care, a significant accomplishment for a student beginning her fourth year at the College of Human Medicine in Grand Rapids. “It feels like what I’ve been working on the last few years has come to fruition,” Chi said. “Patients and their physicians will see how important it is to be adherent,” specifically to taking their statins as prescribed.

The study points out the importance of counseling patients who are not adherent, Chi said. For those patients who are adherent but still fail to reach the goal of lowering their bad cholesterol, physicians might need to adjust their medications, she said.

The findings are significant because coronary artery disease is the most common type of heart disease and the leading cause of heart attacks. Doctors prescribe statins, such as Lipitor and Crestor, to reduce low-density lipoprotein (LDL), or bad cholesterol, which contributes to the buildup of plaque and the narrowing of the coronary arteries, reducing blood flow to the heart. The typical goal is to lower LDL to less than 100 milligrams per deciliter of blood.

Chi, who has a master’s degree in public health, began the study in 2010 as a research associate at Kaiser Permanente Southern California, a healthcare system. The study included some 67,100 coronary artery disease patients.

Her interest, Chi said, was prompted by earlier studies of how adherent heart failure and HIV patients were in taking their prescriptions. Of the patients in her study, 86 percent were adherent and had reached their goals for lowering LDL, she said. Of the remaining 14 percent, some were adherent but had failed to reach their LDL goal, and some were not taking their statins as prescribed.

Men, Asians and Hispanics were most likely to achieve their LDL goals, as were patients on multiple drugs, such as for lowering blood pressure, Chi said. Black patients were less likely to achieve their LDL goal.

“Those not at goal, those are the patients physicians need to target to make sure they are adherent,” she said.

Chi applied to the College of Human Medicine after taking an emergency medical technician class and realizing she enjoyed patient care as much as research. She already is helping with another study, this one of interventional cardiology led by a Grand Rapids cardiologist.

After graduating from the College of Human Medicine next spring, she plans to begin an internal medicine residency, although she added, “Who knows? Maybe I’ll specialize in cardiology afterwards.” Either way, “Hopefully, I can incorporate research and clinical practice,” she said.
The program, a controlled, randomized study in Detroit and Dearborn, is “built on the way women communicate” in small groups of family and friends in the comfort of their own homes, Williams said. She came up with the idea of using family circles to teach minority women about the importance of early detection and treatment for breast and cervical cancer.

The study, which began in 2010 and is funded by the National Institutes of Health, is designed to overcome cultural barriers that can keep some minority women from receiving proper care.

Typically, one woman in a family—the kin keeper—arranges for a specially trained community health worker to meet with the women in her family to teach them about breast and cervical cancer prevention and control. The study relies on community health workers who already are employed by government or nonprofit agencies. It focuses on African-American, Arab and Latina women, because cultural barriers sometimes prevent them from detecting and receiving early treatment for those kinds of cancers, Williams said.

To overcome those barriers, the Kin Keeper program uses community health workers of the same ethnic background as the women with whom they meet. In initial meetings, the community health worker teaches the women about breast and cervical cancer, and then she follows up periodically. The women become their own support group, reminding family members about the importance of self-examinations and screenings.

That same approach could be used to improve outcomes for other kinds of diseases, including diabetes, prostate cancer and heart disease, Williams said. She has spoken to medical groups in Africa and elsewhere about using the Kin Keeper model, and she hopes to expand the study to six more communities around the country, including to a Native American tribe in Michigan.

“I think what makes it work is it appeals to the practicality,” Williams said. “It’s real-world research. It’s simple, and the best ideas are simple. At the end of the day, if we find a cure for cancer and nobody takes it, it’s no good.”

Monya Marhi, a native of Lebanon who lives in Dearborn, said she was excited when community health worker Ghada Aziz offered to talk with the women in her family about breast and cervical cancer.

Initially, it was not easy to overcome the cultural barriers among Arab women against discussing cancers, particularly those afflicting certain areas of the female anatomy, said Aziz, who is from Iraq.

“Our countries, they don’t have a lot of information about breast and cervical cancer,” she said. “In the beginning, it was very hard for me. They don’t want to mention anything to me about it. Now it’s very normal when I talk with them.”

Marhi, the kin keeper in her family, said her sisters and aunt now are much more comfortable talking about breast and cervical cancer.

“We have a lot of information we didn’t know about before,” she said, as Aziz translated.

For Latina women, one barrier is a fear of government officials and the possibility of deportation if they are undocumented immigrants. Among African-American women, it often is a lack of health insurance and the fear of the unknown that prevents them from practicing early cancer detection, Murlisa Lockett, a Detroit-based community health worker, said.

“As an African American woman, she has been able to establish rapport with her clients,” Lockett said. “Trust is at the top of the list,” she said. “If they don’t trust you, they won’t get any help.”

She has directed some of her clients to others who have helped them apply for insurance under the federal Affordable Care Act. Overall, the program has increased her client’s cancer literacy tremendously, she said.

“I think the program is working fabulously,” Lockett said. “It really has made a difference in the lives of my clients.”

After several years of working in a program to raise cancer awareness among minority women, community health worker Murlisa Lockett is certain of one thing: “Unscientifically on my part, I believe it has saved lives,” she said.

While data that might confirm that opinion still is being compiled, preliminary indications suggest that the program, known as Kin Keeper, is a cost-effective way of increasing cancer literacy among the Arab, Latina and African-American women in the study, said Karen Patricia Williams, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology.
RESEARCH

TREATMENT AND POSSIBLE CURE FOR ADENOMYOSIS

It is a disease whose only cure – hysterectomy – is unacceptable to many women, especially those of child-bearing age.

But researchers at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine recently discovered a protein in uterine cells that causes adenomyosis, a common gynecological disease. Armed with that knowledge, those researchers are turning their attention to finding better treatments and possibly a cure that could help countless women avoid hysterectomies.

“Hysterectomy is not a good solution, because this disease occurs in young women,” particularly those of child-bearing age, said Jae-Wook Jeong, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology who led the study, funded in part by the National Institutes of Health and the American Cancer Society.

Adenomyosis is not well-studied, he said, because many women who have it exhibit no symptoms. In others, it can cause excessive menstrual bleeding, pelvic pain and infertility. About 10 percent of women who undergo hysterectomies have adenomyosis, Jeong said.

The disease occurs when the inner lining of the uterus, called the endometrium, grows into the muscle of the uterine wall. It is similar to endometriosis, except that with adenomyosis, cells from the endometrium only invade the uterine wall, while with endometriosis, those cells grow outside the uterus.

Jeong’s study, recently published in the Journal of Pathology, found that a protein called beta-catenin when significantly increased causes changes in cells in a woman’s uterus, leading to adenomyosis. Beta-catenin also is a well-known risk factor for certain kinds of cancers.

But beta-catenin also is believed to play an important and beneficial role in normal cell development and pregnancy, he said, so eliminating it likely would have undesirable side effects. A better approach would be to find a treatment that interrupts the chain of events triggered by beta-catenin that leads to adenomyosis, Jeong said.

Jeong’s research is significant, not only because it confirmed beta-catenin’s role in the disease, but because it is the result of collaboration with scientists throughout the United States and at Seoul National University in South Korea. Physicians at the Spectrum Health Medical Group also contributed to the study.

This study highlights the impact of the Spectrum Health-MSU Alliance that supports women’s health research and the recruitment of scientists like Jeong. This is the kind of ground-breaking research College of Human Medicine faculty members are doing in collaboration with internationally renowned research centers, said Dr. Richard Leach, chair of the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology.

“This research offers hope to the millions of women who have adenomyosis and holds promise that a cure, besides hysterectomy, is on the horizon,” he said.

ERAN ANDRECHEK, PH.D., assistant professor, Department of Physiology, has been awarded a $1.5M National Cancer Institute grant for a study targeting genes that influence breast cancer.

SCOTT E. COUNTS, PH.D., associate professor, Department of Translational Science and Molecular Medicine, received three grants, totaling $2.38M from the National Institute on Aging for Alzheimer’s disease research. Studies include neurofibrillary tangle evolution in mild cognitive impairment; neuroprotective microRNA pathways; and tangle propagation in preclinical Alzheimer’s disease.

ERAN ANDRECHEK, PH.D.

NICHOLAS M. KANAAN, PH.D., assistant professor, Department of Translational Science and Molecular Medicine, received a $1.8M grant from the National Institute on Neurological Disorders and Stroke, and $250,000 from the Bright Focus Foundation. Dr. Kanaan’s Alzheimer’s disease studies include Tau conformation in tauopathies and neuronal function and Tau oligomers and their potential role in toxicity leading to Alzheimer’s disease.

CARLY E. SORTWELL, PH.D.

ERAN ANDRECHEK, PH.D.

ERAN ANDRECHEK, PH.D.

CARYL E. SORTWELL, PH.D.

TOM TOMLINSON, PH.D.

NICHOLAS M. KANAAN, PH.D.

SCOTT E. COUNTS, PH.D.

GRANTS AWARDED
Little progress has been made in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of NEC over the past 40 years, and the clinical incidence of NEC has remained constant. This reality is a source of great frustration and motivates me on a daily basis. I am truly hopeful that our results from this biomarker study will change this reality.

I received my M.D. from the College of Human Medicine and my Ph.D. from the Department of Biochemistry as part of MSU's Medical Scientist Training Program. I fell in love with pediatrics during my pediatric clerkship as a medical student in Grand Rapids and it was during my pediatric residency in Cleveland that I decided to become a specialist in neonatal-perinatal medicine. As a pediatric resident, I had a heart-breaking experience which changed my professional life. While working in the NICU, I saw twin infant girls suddenly become severely ill with bloody stools and black discoloration and distension of their abdomens. Their clinical status worsened and one infant had complete cardiovascular collapse and died. The other twin survived. The twins were born preterm but both were doing reasonably well clinically prior to the onset of these symptoms. This was my first encounter with an awful disease called necrotizing enterocolitis, or NEC.

NEC is an acute inflammatory disease of the intestine which almost exclusively affects preterm infants. Unfortunately, NEC can also be difficult to diagnose and its sudden onset and unpredictable clinical course makes it difficult to manage. Having a way to definitively recognize NEC at the earliest sign of trouble would be extremely helpful to the medical team and could possibly result in better outcomes for these infants.

For this reason, I have recently teamed up with Dr. Leanne Nantais-Smith from the Wayne State University College of Nursing to identify “biomarkers” of NEC. These biomarkers might allow us to make an early and accurate diagnosis of NEC and may predict its severity. We are collecting urine and stool samples from preterm infants at both the Sparrow Hospital NICU as well as Flint Hurley Children's Hospital, in collaboration with Dr. Ranjan Monga. The urine and stool samples are being analyzed in my lab for the presence of specific intestinal inflammatory molecules.

Performing a clinical study like this has been challenging and requires a lot of help, including key contributions from pediatric residents, dieticians and nurses. For their help and dedication, I am extremely grateful.
DEAN MARSHA D. RAPPLEY has announced the recipients of the College of Human Medicine’s 2014 Faculty Awards, recognizing outstanding college faculty for their contributions to medical education and research, academic contributions and achievements.

**Distinguished Faculty Award**

JANE TURNER, M.D., FAAP, professor, Department of Pediatrics and Human Development.

**Teacher-Scholar Award**

ERIN SARZYNISKI, M.D., MS, assistant professor, Department of Family Medicine.

**Outstanding Community Faculty Award**

PAULA KLOSE, M.D., community assistant dean, Midland Regional Campus, Department of Family Medicine.

**Outstanding Clinician Award**

HEATHER LAIRD-FICK, M.D., MPH, FACP, associate professor, Department of Medicine.

**Outstanding Community Volunteer Faculty Award**

RICHARD ROACH, M.D., associate professor, Department of Medicine.

**Lester J. Evans, M.D., College of Human Medicine Distinguished Service Award.**

**Harvey V. Sparks, Jr., Ph.D., University Distinguished Professor, Department of Physiology.**

**William B. Weil, Jr., M.D., FAAP, Endowed Distinguished Pediatric Faculty Award.**

**Renuka Gera, M.D., community assistant dean, Lansing Campus, Department of Pediatrics and Human Development.**
FAculty APPoinTments

The Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology has appointed

WALTER J. ESSELMAN, PH.D., assistant professor and JESSICA LYNN GENGLER, D.O., assistant professor.

J’NELLE YOUNG, PH.D., has been appointed assistant professor in the Department of Radiology.

The Department of Physiology has appointed WILLIAM FREDERICK WONDERLIN, PH.D., assistant professor and JOSEPH A. BEATTY, PH.D., assistant professor.

ROBERT L. OSMER, M.D., has been appointed assistant professor in the Department of Surgery.

The Department of Translational Science and Molecular Medicine has appointed SCOTT COUNTS, PH.D., as associate professor and KATRINA LEE PAUMIER, PH.D., as assistant professor.

KEFEI YU, PH.D., has been promoted to associate professor in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics.

The Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics has appointed HECTOR M. GONZA-LEZ, PH.D., associate professor, CLAIRE MARGERISON-ZILKO, PH.D., assistant professor and HAO-WANG, PH.D., assistant professor.

CAROL PARKER has been appointed executive director of Academic Affairs. In addition to her role as director of continuing medical education, Parker will work to improve core functions of Academic Affairs and participate in projects in accreditation, curriculum and outreach.

The Department of Pediatrics and Human Development has appointed MELISSA BENBOW, M.D., assistant professor and JESSICA LYNN GENGLER, D.O., assistant professor.

COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

JAMES C. ANTHONY, PH.D., professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, has been elected to membership in the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars.

MARK SPOOLSTRA, M.D., FACP, associate professor, Department of Medicine, has received the American College of Physicians 2013 Laureate Award.

HEATHER LAIRD-FICK, M.D., FACP, associate professor, Department of Medicine, has received the Raymond H. Murray Governor’s Award.

GARY FERENCCHICK, M.D., professor, Department of Medicine and chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine, has received the Ruth Marie E. Fincher, M.D., Service Award from the Clerkship Directors of Internal Medicine for 2013.

ANDREA WENDLING, M.D., FAAFP, associate professor and director of rural health curriculum, has been awarded $175,000 from the Dow Foundation to fund the Rural Community Health Program.

WILLIAM C. WADLAND, M.D., chair emeritus of the Department of Family Medicine, has become the new Deputy Editor of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine (AJPM).

KAREN PATRICIA WILLIAMS, PH.D., associate professor, Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Biology, and FRANCESCA COLECRAFT DWAMENA, M.D., acting chairperson of the Department of Medicine, were selected to join the Hedwig Van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program at Drexel University’s College of Medicine.

ELAHE CROCKETT, PH.D., associate professor, Department of Medicine, was honored at the 2014 All University Excellence in Diversity Awards Ceremony in the category of Sustained Effort Toward Excellence in Diversity.

JERRY KOOIMAN, MPA, assistant dean for external relations and government affairs, has been appointed to AAMC Group on Institutional Advancement Steering Committee as public affairs representative.

VED V. GOSSAIN, M.D., professor, Department of Medicine and chief of the Division of Endocrinology, and MICHAEL ZAROUKIAN, M.D., professor, Department of Medicine and chief medical information officer at Sparrow, have been elected Masters of the American College of Physicians for 2014. This select honor is bestowed on internal medicine specialists to recognize the excellence and significance of their contributions to the field of medicine.

An article authored by CLAUDIA HOLZMAN, DVM, MPH, PH.D., professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, “Mononuclear Leukocyte Infiltrate in Extraplacental Membranes and Preterm Delivery” has been selected among the 2013 Articles of the Year by the American Journal of Epidemiology and the Society for Epidemiologic Research.
**Retirements Then and Now**

**Dale D’Mello, M.D.**, associate professor, Department of Psychiatry, and director of inpatient psychiatry at Sparrow Hospital, St. Lawrence Campus, has retired from Michigan State University after 30 years of service.

**Margaret Holmes-Rovner, Ph.D.**, professor and chief of the Division of Health Services Research and Professor Emerita, Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences, Department of Medicine, retired after 34 years of service to Michigan State University.

**Ronald Patterson, Ph.D.**, professor and researcher retired from the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics after 41 years of service to Michigan State University. His scientific interests included molecular biology and nucleocytoplasmic RNA transport.

**E. James Potchen, M.D.**, University Distinguished Professor and chairperson emeriti of the Department of Radiology, retired from MSU after nearly 30 years of service to Michigan State University. Dr. Potchen often refers to himself as “an insatiable scholar.” Among his many accomplishments, he holds a medical degree, a law degree and a master of management degree. Potchen, who joined MSU in 1975 as chair of the new department of radiology, retired from reaching the end of last year (2013), but not from the pursuit of knowledge. “I teach the art of thinking,” he said. In addition to his position in the Colleges of Human and Osteopathic Medicine, he held appointments as a professor of management in the College of Business and professor of MSU’s Lyman Briggs College. In 1990, he was awarded the title of University Distinguished Professor.

**Suzanne B. Sorkin, M.D.**, assistant professor and associate director of the Sparrow Family Medicine Residency in Lansing, retired from the Department of Family Medicine after 25 years of service to Michigan State University.

**Harvey V. Sparks, M.D.**, University Distinguished Professor and professor of physiology, retired from 35 years of service to Michigan State University. After 40 years of research concerning the cardiovascular system, in recent years, Dr. Sparks focused his scholarly interest on medical education, particularly the development of a competency-based curriculum in cardiovascular pathophysiology.

**Karlene Torres**, community administrator for the College of Human Medicine Lansing campus, retired from Michigan State University after nearly 45 years of service to the College of Human Medicine. She started in 1970 when the college started its first third-year class and became community administrator in 1974, where she remained until her retirement in 2013.

**Professor James Trosko, Ph.D.**, retired from the Department of Pediatrics and Human Development after a distinguished career at MSU spanning five decades. Professor Trosko was the longest serving faculty member in the College of Human Medicine. Professor Trosko published more than 430 research articles during his career, including pioneering studies of the mechanisms of repair of UV-damaged DNA, studies of the activity of the anti-cancer drug, cisplatin, and studies of the mechanisms of actions of many carcinogens and other toxins. Professor Trosko discovered that many tumor-promoting chemicals act by inhibition of gap junctions and coined the term “epigenetic toxicology.” Dr. Trosko also made many important observations regarding the functions of stem cells in health and disease.

**Christopher B. Reznich, Ph.D.**, professor, retired from the Office of Medical Education Research and Development after 22 years of service to Michigan State University. Dr. Reznich was director of the college’s second-year problem based learning basic science course, and the assistant Block II (year 2) director for the College of Human Medicine East Lansing campus.
W. DONALD WESTON, M.D.

William Bachrach Weston, Jr., M.D., passed away December 21, 2013, at the age of 89 years, with his family at his side. He was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and graduated from the University of Minnesota with his undergraduate and M.D. degrees. He completed his residency at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia where he was chief resident. He was a captain in the U.S. Army for three years.

Dr. Weston taught medical education at Case Western Reserve, the University of Florida and Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Dr. Weston was the founding chair of the Department of Human Development, now the Department of Pediatrics and Human Development, at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. He was a professor of pediatrics until his retirement in 1994.

Among his contributions to the health of children, Dr. Weston developed and directed the first fellowship program in the United States devoted to children with chronic illness.

Dr. Weston was honored with the Michigan State University Distinguished Faculty Award in 1976 and the Lester J. Evans M.D., College of Human Medicine Distinguished Service Award in 2011. An endowed Distinguished Pediatric Faculty Award was also created in his name. A scholarship was also established by an anonymous College of Human Medicine alumnus to honor Dr. Weston on the occasion of his retirement from the college. Preference is given to financially deserving students who have an expressed interest in becoming a primary care physician and have made a significant contribution to infant and child care or development as evidenced through volunteerism or professional experiences.

“Dr. Weston was truly a giant of pediatrics. Perhaps Bill’s most profound contribution was his dedication to children with chronic disease and their families. He shaped the lives of literally thousands of physicians by helping us to understand that the needs of these children and their families cannot be separated from the science of their condition and their treatments. He lived this vision through founding the Department of Pediatrics and Human Development. I share this personal side with profound gratitude and sense of honor that lies with being a student of William Weston.”

— Dean Marsha D. Rappley, M.D. (CHM ‘49)

LESTER “Skip” BINDER, PH.D.

Lester “Skip” Binder, Ph.D., passed away Friday, November 15, 2013, at the age of 63. Dr. Binder had recently joined Michigan State University College of Human Medicine as professor in the Department of Translational Science and Molecular Medicine. He was a world-renowned expert in the Alzheimer's disease field, where he primarily studied a protein called tau – a protein that is thought to play a role in Alzheimer’s disease and a number of other disorders.

Dr. Binder was often referred to as “the godfather of tau” because of his unmatched understanding of the intricate nuances of this protein and his contributions to the field. Among his numerous prestigious accolades and awards, Dr. Binder received a MERIT award (1997-2007) from the National Institutes of Health for demonstrating distinctly superior research competence and productivity. He received sustained funding from the NIH and other foundations throughout his career and his contributions to the field of neuroscience research were significant with more than 100 publications.
Dear College of Human Medicine Alumni,

My name is Nandita Anand and I am a student representative on the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Alumni Board.

The college’s Alumni Office and I have created the Alumni & Students Connectivity Program, which I hope you will be a part of. Through this program, we will build and strengthen the alumni relationship with the student body by creating a platform for communication and mentorship.

For me, it will be an invaluable resource to speak with a College of Human Medicine graduate about his or her residency experience, research interests or clinical practice. Having the opportunity to interact and connect with college alumni will greatly enrich my learning experience as well as that of the entire student body.

It will be greatly appreciated if you could take just a few minutes to complete the connectivity program form by going to http://adobe.ly/1tX4aKx. The information provided will be placed in a secure directory maintained by the Alumni Office for student use.

I hope that you will be part of the College of Human Medicine’s Alumni & Students Connectivity Program and share your stories, experiences and wisdom with current students.

— NANDITA ANAND
MSU CHM Class of 2015
College of Human Medicine Alumni Board
Student Representative
MSU COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE
SPARTANS CELEBRATE!

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