

2023 IMPACT REPORT



YOU ARE  
SPARTANS  
OF  
SOMETHING  
BIGGER.



College of Human Medicine  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



Friends,

Now that 2024 is in full swing, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable journey we undertook together in 2023. Your support has been instrumental in our success, and I am delighted to share the significant achievements and advancements that have marked this past year at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine.

In 2023, you played a pivotal role in shaping the college's success through supporting scholarships, research, and programs. Together, along with the tireless dedication of our faculty, staff, and students, we have achieved substantial milestones, elevated our institution's standing, and positively impacted communities on a broader scale.

**YOU HAVE...**

**Expanded Scholarship Support**

Thanks to your support, we've expanded scholarship funding and began chipping away at the debt burden for talented students who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to pursue their dreams in medicine. Your investment in their education is an investment in the future of health care and public health. We've witnessed remarkable growth and achievement among our students.

**Empowered Research Breakthroughs**

Our research endeavors have flourished, leading to groundbreaking discoveries and advancements. Your philanthropy has empowered our faculty and researchers to explore new frontiers in medical science and public health, contributing valuable knowledge to the global community, and positioning the college as a hub of innovation.

**Increased Community Impact**

In keeping with our commitment to community service, your support has allowed us to expand outreach programs that provide essential health care services and public health to underserved populations. Through these initiatives, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most, all thanks to your dedication.

With your steadfast support, we will continue pushing the boundaries of research innovation, and educating the next generation of compassionate medical, scientific, and public health professionals.

As we celebrate our 60th year, continuing the work on our 2023-2030 strategic plan, we are inspired by what lies ahead. We will embrace challenges and opportunities—and do so with the knowledge that together, Spartans are a force for good in the world.

**With heartfelt gratitude,**



**Aron Sousa, MD, FACP**  
Dean, Michigan State University  
College of Human Medicine

## NEW SCHOLARSHIPS EMPOWER MEDICAL STUDENTS TO SERVE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Right now, there are fewer than 10 medical doctors serving indigenous communities in Michigan. One generous donor has established a new scholarship to disrupt this trajectory.

The **Dr. Harry D. Brickley Endowed Scholarship in Human Medicine** was established with a \$100,000 gift from retired surgeon and friend of the college, Dr. Harry Brickley. The scholarship will provide endowed funding support to medical students interested in providing medical care to indigenous populations in Michigan.

To additionally bolster Dr. Brickley's scholarship, and address the gap in care specifically for indigenous populations, a second scholarship, the **Mashkiki Endowed Scholarship in Human Medicine**, has been established to provide an additional \$100,000 in matching endowed scholarship funds.

Mashkiki is the Ojibwe term for medicine—and is close to the donor's heart.

### QUICK FACT

**19% of MSU College of Human Medicine graduates (overall) practice in rural areas**

Research has shown the trauma indigenous peoples have historically experienced—trauma which modifies the body's DNA—passes on to younger generations. Trauma, coupled with other social determinants of health experienced by diverse heritages, causes increased long-term negative health outcomes, like Type II diabetes.

Combined, these two scholarships will provide current medical students with an infusion of tuition support and will be awarded annually beginning in spring 2024.

## YOU INSPIRE GRATITUDE



"As a first-generation college and medical student, I am committed to the values of this scholarship. I wouldn't be where I am without mentors who have encouraged me and helped me see the unique perspectives that I bring to medicine. I am committed to sharing what I have learned with others and uplifting other students who may feel lost or like they don't belong. I believe mentorship is closely linked to academic medicine and look forward to seeing the opportunities my career path brings. **Thank you for seeing value in my story and aspirations. I hope to pay back the generosity you have shown me to other students in the future.**"

**- Melanie Valentin, Arthur L. Foley, II, M.D., Ph.D. Endowed Memorial Scholar**



"Being a father of two sons, I feel privileged to watch them play, learn, and grow in the West Michigan community. After spending the past four years here, I couldn't imagine anywhere else I'd rather be. I am proud to say that after graduating from medical school this year, I'll be practicing medicine in West Michigan, as I matched into emergency medicine at Corewell Health. After completing my residency training, my goal is to become an emergency medicine physician here in West Michigan. The emergency department serves as the place where all community members can access health care, and with the help of this scholarship, I'm committed to providing the best possible care to the members of this community. **Thank you for providing this important gift and assisting me on my journey through medical school.**"

**- Darian Mills, West Michigan Medical Student Endowed Scholar**



"I am excited about the chance to study medicine at an institution that will prepare me for a career geared toward service. I am humbled to know that your gift will allow me to study at this esteemed institution with a greatly reduced financial burden. **I am deeply grateful that you believe in and are committed to supporting students interested in rural medicine.** I promise you that I will give 100% effort in affirming that I was the right choice for this scholarship."

**- Halle Ciganick, Daniel and Debra Edson Endowed Scholar**



"My journey to medicine has not been easy; my experiences have shaped my passion for creating health equity and caring for underserved populations, particularly where I grew up. My circumstances taught me the resilience necessary to fight for my education, and while my family provided me with as much support as they could, I faced different financial struggles through my academic career. During my post-baccalaureate education, I worked simultaneously while facing constant threat of eviction. Today, I try to maintain financial independence to not contribute to the financial burden on my family. **I am so appreciative, this scholarship aids with my academic and personal costs to help me remain financially stable.**"

**- Jasmayne Hudson, James Potchen, M.D. and Geraldine Potchen Endowed Scholar**

## YOU TRANSFORM RESEARCH

Three MSU College of Human Medicine faculty received named endowed funds through the generous support of donors and friends. These are faculty who represent MSU's commitment to academic excellence and innovation, as well as donors who make a difference through supporting these esteemed, actively engaged research positions. The 2023 honorees are:



**Nick Kanaan | Maibach Smiley Alzheimer's Research Professor**

Nick Kanaan, PhD, is a professor and a leading expert in aging-related neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal dementias, and the tau protein which

forms hallmark brain pathologies (tangles) of these diseases. Dr. Kanaan's goal is to improve the lives of people affected by devastating neurological diseases. He is world-renowned for his work on the underlying mechanisms of degenerative diseases and for creating novel antibodies. These antibodies have great potential to transform the clinical landscape. The Maibach Smiley professorship is made possible through the generosity of alumni couple Ben Maibach ('69, Engineering) and Barbara Maibach ('68, Natural Science), and will allow for Kanaan to hire top faculty, pursue ideas, and access resources.



**Steve Ondersma | C.S. Mott Endowed Professor of Public Health**

Steve Ondersma, PhD, is a clinical psychologist and professor at Michigan State University's Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health, with a secondary appointment in the

Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology. His research focuses on promoting maternal and child health and healthy birth outcomes using high-reach technology-delivered brief interventions. Dr. Ondersma has led multiple NIH and CDC studies focusing on developing, validating, and implementing novel screening techniques and electronic/mobile (mHealth) interventions in health care settings. The endowed professorship is supported by a generous gift from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, whose investments in the Flint community have changed countless lives.



**Kurt Zinn | Hickman Family Endowed Chair in Oncology**

Kurt R. Zinn, PhD, is a professor in the Departments of Radiology, Biomedical Engineering, and Small Animal Clinical Sciences. Dr. Zinn is also the director of nuclear medicine and investigator at the

Institute for Quantitative Health Science and Engineering (IQ). Zinn conducts research in the field of molecular imaging, including as part of cancer diagnosis and therapy and neuroimaging of drug delivery to the brain. With experience in more than 12 Phase 1 clinical trials, he expects to conduct clinical trials in both human and veterinary medicine. The Hickman Family Endowed Chair in Oncology was established by their Spartan family—daughter Stephanie Hickman Boyse (College of Communication Arts and Sciences, '90); daughter Tracy Hickman (Interior Design, '88); and Tracy's spouse, Chad Munger (College of Arts and Letters, '88)—to advance the standards of cancer care and fuel cutting-edge research.



## BY THE NUMBERS

**FY23 Goal \$12M**  
**Total raised \$16,542,243**

- 595 MSU Alumni
- 509 Friends
- 86 Faculty, Staff, Retirees
- 97 Corporations, Foundations, Organizations



## Charles Stewart Mott Department of Public Health **Rx KIDS**

Led by Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha (CHM, '02), over \$43 million has been raised for Rx Kids, an innovative initiative to provide cash prescriptions to mothers in the City of Flint during pregnancy and throughout the first year of a child's life. The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation provided the inaugural \$15 million challenge grant. A \$55 million total investment is needed to fund five years of Rx Kids, with over 80% of funds going to cash prescriptions.

**Many joined our founding donors and helped to close the funding gap. Thank you!**

With a village of support, Rx Kids launched in January 2024. Rx Kids positions Flint and MSU as national leaders—sparking a powerful vehicle for health, hope, and opportunity.



**FORCE FOR GOOD**  
**Scholarship Campaign**  
**Goal \$50M**



■ **Total raised \$7,362,872**  
*FY21 to FY23*

## CrowdPower **CAMPAIGN RESULTS**

**GIVE GREEN DAY 2023** \$48,365 raised • 122 gifts

**WHITE COAT 2023** \$18,210 raised • 124 gifts

### GIVING TUESDAY 2023

**Alumni Association Endowed Fund**  
 \$12,175 raised • 47 gifts

**MPH Student Fund**  
 \$2,525 raised • 18 gifts

## NEWLY-ESTABLISHED FUNDS\*

### Supporting scholarships, research and programs

- Kathryn Lovell, Ph.D. ABLE Endowed Scholarship
- College of Human Medicine Class of 1972 Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Jacqueline E. Bayley Foundation Ovarian Cancer Clinical Research Award
- Peter F. Secchia Endowed Scholarship for Human Medicine
- Williams Human Medicine Scholarship
- Dr. Harry C. Brickley Endowed Scholarship in Human Medicine
- Meaningful Journeys Scholarship
- Janet R. Osuch, M.D. Endowed Scholarship in Human Medicine
- Dr. Alan D. Neiberg Expendable Scholarship in Human Medicine
- Saksena and Dewan Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Human Medicine Established by Drs. Ashir and Kusum Kumar
- David A. Peters, M.D. Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Human Medicine
- John and Val Hickner Endowed Scholarship
- Mashkiki Endowed Scholarship in Human Medicine
- Robert L. Peterson, MD and Candice S. Peterson Endowed Scholarship in Human Medicine

*\*Fund names reflect endowment agreements.*

**For more information, contact the College of Human Medicine Advancement team at (616) 234-9616 or [chm.development@msu.edu](mailto:chm.development@msu.edu).**



College of Human Medicine  
 MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY