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Digest of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fall 2003)

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

Though our formal education may be completed, each one of us continues to learn and grow, both professionally and personally. PCOM is growing, too – expanding its instructional endeavors, embarking on groundbreaking research and embracing the personal development of its community members.

I am proud to introduce to you the Forensic Medicine master’s degree program at PCOM. You will meet some of its students – a med vac pilot, a nurse and a forensics expert – whose talents contribute to the health and well-being of many people. We are educating professionals who work with the ever more amazing tools of modern science.

PCOM is developing a new vision for osteopathic manipulative medicine research. Micheal Kuchera, DO, is heading a national OMM research project here at the College. Dr. Kuchera writes about his vision for an OMM research center and the groundbreaking study he is conducting to measure effects of OMM treatment on those with multiple sclerosis.

Also important for growth is the ability to have fun, to enjoy life and to experience the beauty that surrounds us. PCOM alumni certainly know how to do that! Join five alumni on their adventures as you read the feature story on alumni avocations.

As always, Digest covers the latest news and accomplishments of the College community and current information on alumni in “Updates” and “Kudos.” We’ve also added contact information for class agents when available. Take a few minutes to share your news with us. I am sure your classmates will be happy to hear from you!

Best wishes for a relaxing and rejuvenating summer.

With warm regards,

Matthew Schure, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer
**THE DOCTOR IS OUT!**
Imagination knows no limits when PCOM physicians leave the office. From beautiful art to a sailing adventure, alumni avocations make life anything but dull!

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**COVER STORY**
*Taking a closer look at Forensic Medicine*

“Who done it?” may be the question of the day, but this is not a mystery movie or a television show. It’s PCOM’s master’s degree curriculum in Forensic Medicine, a new program designed to prepare health care professionals for the ever-growing challenges in this emerging field.

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**OSTEOPATHIC MANIPULATIVE MEDICINE RESEARCH CENTER**
PCOM has strengthened its commitment and expanded its vision for OMM with a new director and a center designed to focus on research.

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**COMPUTER AGE MEETS OFFICE HOURS… THE DOCTOR IS A CLICK AWAY**
PCOM alumna Lynn Carr Columbus, DO ’90, is ahead of the curve in using computer technology that creates accessibility for patients and physician convenience in a cost-effective and timely manner.

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**PCOM UPDATES**
PCOM Board of Trustees welcomes two new members; Murray Zedeck, DO ’62, hosts Florida alumni reception; Brodsky gift aids Alzheimer’s research; Faculty grants; William M. King, DO ’62, hosts reception to benefit Minority Scholarship Fund; Ida Schmidt, DO ’35, named “Family Physician of the Year;” New surgical lecture series and more…

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**CLASS NOTES**
PCOM mourns Dr. Denlinger; Find your class representative and stay in touch with classmates and PCOM!

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**ESSAY**
Cohen and Kearney Join PCOM Board

Lita Cohen, former state representative from Montgomery County’s 148th Legislative District, and John P. Kearney, president of ERICO Corporation; John P. Kearney & Associates, Inc.; McK Corp., Municipal Energy Managers, Inc. and Kearney Real Estate Co., all of Throop, Pa., have been elected to serve on the PCOM Board of Trustees.


A master electrician, Kearney was named “Contractor of the Year” from 1989 through 1994 by the Greater Scranton Electric Council. Among his many awards is an “Outstanding Design Award” from the National Institute of Lighting Engineers for Montage Ski Area. Kearney and his wife, Lois, created the John D. Kearney Scholarship in memory of their son, who was a second-year medical student at PCOM when a 1999 hiking accident claimed his life.

Shake Hands with Osteopathy

PCOM’s chapter of the Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy (UAAO) sponsored “Shake Hands with Osteopathy,” an evening modeled after the American Academy of Osteopathy’s “Evening with the Stars,” in which physicians teach students their favorite techniques and clinical pearls.

Held in February, the event took the teaching of osteopathic manipulative technique (OMT) beyond the lab. “This was a hands-on experience,” explains Charmaine Chan (DO ’05), secretary, UAAO. “We had the opportunity to learn techniques that we are not necessarily shown in class. It was a more realistic setting than lab and more patient-oriented. We had a chance to focus on the art of OMT.”

Some students brought friends and family along to become acquainted with osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM). “We’re hoping next year to invite more people who may not know about OMM,” says Chan. “We also want to bring in more clinicians from the outside. This was our first event of this kind, and we’re hoping to build on it.”
More than 50 alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of PCOM enjoyed a reception at the East Falls home of William M. King, DO ’62, on April 13. The reception honored Leonard W. Johnson, DO ’64, “2003 O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal Recipient,” and also benefited the Minority Scholarship Fund.

The first series of lectures, presented to second-year medical students, was held in March. Speakers included Robert H. Jama, DO ’69, who spoke on abdominal and chest trauma; John Bellis, DO ’77, who discussed general anesthesia; Sherman N. Leis, DO ’67, who talked about plastic, reconstructive, aesthetic and skin surgery; James J. Tayoun, Jr., DO ’90, who covered laparoscopic and endovascular surgery and Arthur J. Sesso, DO ’81, who addressed complications of surgery and chest tubes.

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Surficial Lecture Series honors Alumnus

Carol L. Henwood, DO ’83, created The William R. Henwood, DO ’76, Surgical Lecture Series in honor of her father’s surgical career and commitment to teaching. Dr. Bill Henwood is PCOM’s associate professor of surgery and regional assistant dean for western Pennsylvania.

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Carol L. Henwood, DO ’83, with her father, William R. Henwood, DO ’76 (center) and Robert H. Jama, DO ’69.

Dr. King hosts reception to raise scholarship funds

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Pictured are Jay Rosan, DO ’71, co-chair of the event; Dr. Johnson; J. Steve Blake, DO ’89, co-chair of the event; Dr. King, honorary chair of the event and Matthew Schure, PhD, president and CEO of PCOM. The event raised $25,000 for the Minority Scholarship Fund.

Brodsky gift aids research center

Long-time friends of PCOM Harvey and Bobbi Brodsky have made a gift of $125,000 through The Adolph and Rose Levis Foundation to support Alzheimer’s disease research at PCOM.

President and CEO Matthew Schure, PhD, said, “This contribution for Alzheimer’s disease research is a significant lead gift toward establishing The Center for the Study of Chronic Diseases of Aging at PCOM as a center of excellence.” In recognition of this gift, 308 Evans Hall, the main laboratory in which Denah Appelt, PhD, and Brian Balin, PhD, are conducting their research on Alzheimer’s disease, has been named The Adolph and Rose Levis Foundation Laboratory for Alzheimer’s Disease Research.
KUDOS

Denah Appelt, PhD, associate professor, BioMedical Sciences, and Brian Balin, PhD, professor, Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, attended the first biennial meeting of the Chlamydia Basic Research Society in Memphis, Tenn. Dr. Balin presented on the team’s animal model of Chlamydia pneumoniae triggering Alzheimer pathology in the brains of non-transgenic normal mice.


Katherine Galluzzi, DO, professor, Geriatrics, spoke on “End of Life Care” at the 100th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention. Dr. Galluzzi also presented “Transitions through Pain: Preserving Quality of Life with Palliative Care” and “Treatment of Persistent Pain” at the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians 40th Annual Convention in March. This presentation was made possible through an unrestricted educational grant from Purdue Pharma, L.P. In addition, Dr. Galluzzi’s article, “Training needed to dispel negative stereotype of elderly patients,” appeared in the editorial section of the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association in January 2003.

Frederick Goldstein, PhD, professor, Clinical Pharmacology and BioMedical Sciences, presented “Effects of Preemptive Analgesia on Post-Surgical Pain Following Total Knee Arthroplasty” to the Temple University School of Medicine Department of Pharmacology.

Richard “Jason” Hartman (DO ’05) won the “2003 A. Hollis Wolf Competition” at the American Academy of Osteopathy Convention in March.

Michael Kuchera, DO, professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, authored several chapters to be published in Textbook of Musculoskeletal Medicine, published by Oxford University Press. In addition, Dr. Kuchera was the keynote speaker for the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Conference at the University of Pennsylvania. He also spoke at the Maine Medical Center Family Practice Residency program for a similar NCCAM grant to discuss and demonstrate integration of osteopathic manipulative medicine. Dr. Kuchera was named to a task force of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, where he will represent the international manual medicine research perspective and the interests of the Osteopathic Collaborative Clinical Trials Initiative Conference.

David Kuo, DO ’96, medical director, PCOM Healthcare Center – Roxborough Division, presented a career workshop at the North Light Community Center, which promotes the welfare of the community and the development of its youth.

David Lancaster (DO ’03) placed second in the “2003 A. Hollis Wolf Competition” at the American Academy of Osteopathy Convention in March.

Angela MacIntyre, PhD, postdoctoral fellow, BioMedical Sciences; Christine Hammond, BS, senior research assistant, Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology; C. Scott Little, PhD, researcher, Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology; Denah Appelt, PhD, associate professor, Family Medicine, and Brian Balin, PhD, professor, Pathology, Microbiology and Immunology, coauthored the following: “Chlamydia pneumoniae infection alters the functional complex proteins of human brain microvascular endothelial cells,” FEMS Microbiology Letters, 217:167-172, 2002 and “Chlamydia pneumoniae infection promotes the transmigration of monocytes through human brain endothelial cells” along with R. Abramov, A.P. Hudson and E.J. Arking, Journal of Neuroscience Research, 71:740-750, 2003. The team also submitted “Chlamydia pneumoniae induces Alzheimer-like amyloid plaques in brains of BALB/c mice” to Neurobiology of Aging, February 2003. They submitted a chapter, “Chlamydia pneumoniae in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer’s disease” for inclusion in the book Infectious Agents and Pathogenesis: Chlamydia pneumoniae Infection and Diseases.

Eugene Mochan, DO ’77, PhD, professor and associate dean, Primary Care and Continuing Education, received the “Kathy Ott Award for Outstanding Leadership” for his efforts to educate the community and his students about arthritis and other rheumatic diseases.

Aja M. Montgomery (MS/BioMed ’03) won a travel award from the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology/Minority Access to Research Careers program. She was selected on the basis of scholarship and achievement represented by her abstract accepted for presentation at the 2003 Experimental Biology meeting where she presented her award-winning research, “TGFbeta promotes late stages of chondrocyte maturation.”

Ruth Thornton, PhD, chair, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, received the “Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching.” The Lindback Award recognizes academic excellence and outstanding teaching.
On April 3, over 200 PCOM students went to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress to discuss issues related to medical education. The sixth annual Student DO Day on Capitol Hill, sponsored by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, focused on the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

The panel pointed out various misconceptions about health insurance – who has it, who does not and what happens to those who don’t. For instance, the latest research suggests there are currently between 41 and 44 million uninsured Americans, and that figure could be as high as 75 million. Contrary to what some might think, Medicare does not pay for annual preventive health exams, Medicaid does not offer health insurance to everyone below the poverty level and most people without health insurance are employed.

Dr. Bishop cited an Institute of Medicine report, that reveals that more than 18,000 young adults died last year because they lacked insurance. She made a case for a national health insurance program.

The following are grants that have been awarded since July 1, 2002.

Mindy George-Weinstein, PhD, professor, Anatomy, received a $731,478 grant from the National Institutes of Health — National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for “Origin and fate of myogenic stem cells.”

Barbara Golden, PsyD, assistant professor, Psychology, and Harry Morris, DO ’78, MPH, professor, Family Medicine, received a $7,500 grant from Pfizer for “Survey of mental health disorders and chronic illness in PCOM Healthcare Centers: A pilot study.”

Michael Kuchera, DO, professor, Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, received a $207,150 grant from the Department of Defense subcontract through Neuromuscular Engineering and Technology for “Effect of progressive, maximal effort exercise for deconditioned persons with multiple sclerosis.”

Eugene Mochan, DO ’77, PhD, professor and associate dean, Primary Care and Continuing Education, received a $45,744 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — Health Resources and Services Administration for “Academic administrative units in family medicine.”

The Physician Assistant Program received a $445,744 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — Health Resources and Services Administration for “Physician assistant training in primary care.”

PCOM Sullivan County Medical Center received a $32,450 grant from the Blue Ribbon Foundation of the Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania for its under- and uninsured child well-care initiative for 2003–2004. The grant will be used to provide routine medical care for children within their service area.
IDA SCHMIDT, DO ’35, BECOMES FIRST TO WIN THREE AWARDS

Ida Schmidt, DO ’35, received the rare honor of being recognized with three top awards this spring. She was named “2003 Family Physician of the Year” by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP), while the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Family Physicians Society (POFPS) presented her with the “Teacher of the Year Award” and the “Frederick J. Solomon, DO Award of Merit.” She is the only physician to receive these three awards in one year.

Dr. Schmidt was recognized for her dedication to the profession and to her patients. She has been practicing medicine for 68 years and has been teaching at PCOM for over 30 years.

The local NBC affiliate, Channel 10, produced a segment on Dr. Schmidt that aired on the evening news. Interviewed by veteran broadcaster Edie Huggins, Dr. Schmidt recalled her days as a student at PCOM and spoke of her love of practicing medicine. The news crew followed her as she worked with students in the OMM lab and as she accepted her POFPS awards at the POMA annual convention on May 2.

Dr. Schmidt was presented the “2003 Family Physician of the Year” by former ACOFP president Michael F. Avallone, Sr., DO ’59. In his presentation, Dr. Avallone noted that “Dr. Schmidt’s accomplishments on behalf of her patients, students, the ACOFP and the profession have earned her this prestigious award.”

Dr. Schmidt was surprised to receive two awards at the annual POMA convention. Accompanied by her husband, Dave Williams, she accepts the awards from Dr. Avallone, and Harvey Spector, DO ’63, President, POFPS (right) while a cameraman from Channel 10 News records the event.
The PCOM chapter of the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) hosted the SNMA Region VIII Health Conference, titled “Moving Ahead: Health Care, Knowledge and Prevention.” SNMA is the nation’s oldest and largest medical organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color.

The conference included sessions on global infectious diseases, public health in medicine and spirituality in medicine. In addition, there were practical sessions on reading X-rays, CT scans and EKGs and performing basic osteopathic manipulation treatments. The keynote speaker was William G. Anderson, DO, FACOS, associate dean, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, past president of the American Osteopathic Association and co-founder and first president of the Albany Civil Rights Movement.

Also, SNMA held its 15th annual recognition reception in March celebrating the minority DO. The top honor of the evening is the “Meta Christy Award,” established in honor of PCOM’s first minority graduate, Meta Christy, DO ’21. This award is given in recognition of exemplary practice of osteopathic medicine, service to the community and inspiration to future doctors of osteopathic medicine. This year’s award was presented to Kristi D. Johnson, DO ’97. As a PCOM student, Dr. Johnson was very active in SNMA and received the “Outstanding Third-Year African-American Medical Student” award from the Medical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania in 1996. Dr. Johnson is in private practice in Philadelphia and serves as the assistant director of medical education and as the internship program director at St. Joseph’s Hospital. The guest speaker for the evening was A. Scott McNeal, DO ’88, vice president and chief medical officer for Delaware Valley Community Health Inc. and director of medical education at North Philadelphia Health Systems/ St. Joseph’s Hospital’s Osteopathic Internship, Family Practice and Podiatric Residencies. Dr. McNeal is also an associate professor at PCOM.

Additional awards were presented, including the “Mentor Award,” given to Bernice Garrison, coordinator of student advisement/career planning, Student Affairs and “Special Appreciation Awards” to Maiyen Tran (DO ’06), Uchenna Chukwu (MS/BioMed ’03) and Angel Wilson, Cheney University. Special Recognition Awards went to the former SNMA co-presidents, Chavone Memon-Nelson (DO ’05) and Jasmine Martinez (DO ’04).

Kristi D. Johnson, DO ’97, accepts the “Meta Christy Award” from Rashad Wilkerson, DO ’03.

ALUMNI ACTIVE IN FLORIDA

Murray Zedeck, DO ’62, and his wife, Lila, hosted a reception for PCOM alumni and friends at their home in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. on February 21, 2003. More than 50 medical school alumni, widows and nursing alumnae attended the reception, held in conjunction with the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention.

Dr. Zedeck is a life member of the Alumni Association of PCOM, a member of its Board of Directors and a significant donor to the College through the Zedeck Family Foundation.

President Schure; Florence Zeller, vice president, Alumni Relations and Development; and Lila and Murray Zedeck welcome PCOM alumni to the Zedeck home.
Understanding insurance forms can be difficult and confusing, especially for the elderly and those who are simply frustrated by their complexity. That’s one reason PCOM is training individuals in a North Philadelphia neighborhood to be community health workers.

PCOM Healthcare Center – Cambria Division is the site of PCOM’s Community Health Workers Program. Funded by a grant from the Kynett Foundation and administered by Eugene Mochan, PhD, DO’77, assistant dean, Primary Care and Continuing Education, the course is taught by Dr. Mochan; Oliver Bullock, DO’78, director, PCOM Healthcare Center – Cambria Division and Janie Alston, LPN.

Community members learn how to navigate the local health care resources, manage insurance or the lack of it and take blood pressure and perform CPR. “We focus on health issues important to the black community,” says Dr. Bullock. “What we try to do,” says Alston, the program’s nurse coordinator, “is instill a little bit of knowledge in individuals so they can help their neighbors access health resources.” The course also familiarizes participants with basic health issues and community resources such as homeless shelters.

Because community members often have more frequent contact with neighbors than health care professionals, the program trains them to assist others. “We’ve trained church leaders as well as barbers and manicurists,” explains Dr. Bullock. Participants who complete the course are given a certificate of achievement. “This not only signifies their accomplishment, but it may prompt others to ask about the program,” says Dr. Bullock. The community health workers also receive a blood pressure cuff and stethoscope.

Nine of the 10 members of the first class of community health workers graduated in March. With feedback from this group, the program will be fine-tuned for future classes.

**SELF-STUDY WILL AID IN ACCREDITATION**

In preparation for accreditation by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, PCOM is currently designing a comprehensive self-study. The study, which began in December 2001, comprises a 27-member steering committee, reflecting all aspects of the PCOM community.

Fourteen specific areas of the institution will be examined in-depth. The study aims to identify areas of excellence and areas needing attention, to evaluate outcomes in relation to objectives, to develop a set of recommendations for improvement and growth and to compose a concise and constructive document that will serve as a tool for institutional planning, change and growth.

PCOM achieved its initial accreditation by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools in 1999. This accreditation represented independent affirmation of the quality of the College and allowed us to create new programs. The self-study portion of the accreditation process will be submitted to Middle States in December 2003 in anticipation of an accreditation team visit in spring 2004.
UPDATE ON GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

Talk to most physicians and they will tell you that graduate medical education (GME) was an essential component of their medical training, enabling them to hone the knowledge and skills they learned in medical school. Graduate medical education also helped many new physicians decide the direction of their careers. Aware of its importance, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine works diligently to maintain a solid structure of graduate medical education with varying opportunities and high-quality placements.

Now in its 57th year, PCOM’s GME is one of the oldest and largest osteopathic programs in the country. With an internship program, residency opportunities and fellowship openings, it provides graduate medical education in the osteopathic tradition.

According to Richard Pascucci, DO ‘75, FACOI, senior associate dean of clinical education, primary care positions are most prevalent but training is available in many specialties. Moreover, PCOM’s GME provides a continuation of the osteopathic training, under osteopathic physicians and with the principles and philosophy in mind.

“The goal of the GME program is to provide opportunity for as many osteopathic graduates as available in as many disciplines as possible and to provide them with excellent training,” Dr. Pascucci says. “The clinical exposure, the academic quality of the program and the longevity of the program are all very positive. And we have an outstanding national reputation.”

“Despite challenges in the health care industry in Philadelphia, our GME program is alive and well.” Dr. Pascucci says.

“There are challenges, and sometimes the partners and programs may change, but we will continue to grow. We are fortunate to have an administration that supports graduate education. Our president and dean feel that providing quality graduate medical education is an extension of the medical school education. And we feel that having our own program makes PCOM a higher-quality school.”

PCOM’s interns rotate through four affiliated teaching hospitals – MCP Hospital, Tener–Parkview, Saint Agnes Medical Center, and Chestnut Hill Hospital. This consortium of approximately 1,000 beds offers unparalleled opportunity, as well as a diverse patient population, for the training of students and osteopathic interns and residents.

PCOM residency opportunities are available under the direction of osteopathic physicians in the fields of emergency medicine, family practice, general surgery, geriatrics, internal medicine, neurosurgery, ob/gyn, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, osteopathic manipulative medicine, otolaryngology, plastic and reconstructive surgery, urological surgery and vascular surgery.

PCOM has also developed affiliation agreements with 25 hospitals in the Pennsylvania area, adding to training opportunities. “These hospitals have distinct training opportunities. The interns and residents rotate through the various hospitals, allowing them to learn that there can often be more than one approach to any medical or surgical clinical problem,” Dr. Pascucci says.

These opportunities mean there are now more than 150 graduates in the program, including 30 interns. Moreover, salary increases are again anticipated for the coming year. The future of GME remains bright.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

PCOM’s graduate program in Organizational Development and Leadership (ODL) has entered into an articulation agreement with Pierce College. Through the agreement, Pierce students will receive academic advising and an expedited admissions process, allowing qualified students to enter the ODL program directly from Pierce.

Designed with the working professional in mind, the Master of Science in Organizational Development and Leadership program prepares students in the art and science of managing strategic change and leadership. The program focuses on creating graduates who possess essential competencies and skill sets for improving organization performance and realizing human potential. The 36-credit ODL program focuses on social systems, human relations and field theory.

Members of the Physician Assistant program organized several special events in the spring. In April, they held a raffle to benefit Shriners Hospital and in May they organized the first-ever Physician Assistant Olympics, competing with students from Hahnemann’s program. Members of the class also represented PCOM at the annual American Academy of Physician Assistants conference in New Orleans during the week of May 22.

Whether in the arts, entertainment or sports, PCOM alumni pursue their avocations with the same passion they bring to medicine. Clara Higgins, DO ’93, Leroy Kearney, DO ’77, Paul Kushner, DO ’64, Sherman Leis, DO ’67, and Michael Schreiber, DO ’85, are among those who work hard and play hard, bringing balance to their lives through the expression of their creative, intellectual and athletic sides.

WRITING HIS OWN SCRIPT

Imagine a scene in a television medical drama series in which a child suffering from a pulmonary disorder is in respiratory arrest. The doctors and nurses are using all the proper advanced cardiac life support protocols to manage the code, yet the child slips into cardiac arrhythmia. Then a young osteopathic surgeon steps forward and performs an osteopathic medical manipulation on the child’s cardiac plexus, restoring a normal heart rhythm. As her colleagues’ jaws drop, she says, modestly, “I guess the drugs kicked in.”

Michael Schreiber, DO ’85, a Santa Monica–based physician and surgeon, imagined such a scene and saw it come to life in last fall’s PAX Network drama, Body & Soul. The show explored the philosophical clash between an osteopathic surgeon who returns from a two-year fellowship in the Far East to practice complementary medicine—combining alternative therapies and treatments with the traditional practices of Western medicine—and her hospital’s chief of surgery, who strictly adheres to science-based, Western medicine.

The show starred Emmy award–winner Peter Strauss and Larissa Laskin. Dr. Schreiber helped create the show and served as medical advisor. “As a TV series, it was unique in a couple of different ways,” he says. “It was the first medical series to introduce ‘alternative medicine’ into the mix and, in addition, our co-star was cast as an osteopathic surgeon. Each episode featured some form of osteopathic treatment blended into traditional medical-surgical care.”
The show was conceived 11 years ago when one of Dr. Schreiber’s sports medicine patients, successful television writer-producer John Whelpley, asked him to help develop a concept for a new medical drama. “When I met John in 1992, he had had a lot of success with *Trapper John, MD* and wanted to do something updated for the ‘90s,” Dr. Schreiber recalls.

They decided that a DO character would possess all the right attributes to carry the show’s theme. “We have an alternative in this country that nobody knows about,” Dr. Schreiber explains. “Osteopathic physicians are rooted in science-based Western medicine, with qualifications and training equivalent to the MD—and they treat patients holistically.”

Dr. Schreiber, who has also advised writers for *CSI* and *ER*, is a stickler for medical accuracy. He spent hundreds of hours in preparation for the filming of *Body & Soul*, including teaching actors hands-on osteopathic techniques. “This was a wonderful opportunity to be part of the entire creative process,” he says. “We wanted everything to be accurate. If viewers can find a little chink—’ahhh, the X-ray is upside down’—they can discount the whole message. It was especially important because we did not want DOs themselves to be perceived as alternative or, worse, on the fringe.”

Board certified in family medicine, Dr. Schreiber specializes in osteopathic manipulative medicine, prolotherapy, interventional pain management, sports medicine, anti-aging medicine and nutritional medicine. Also an assistant surgeon in orthopedic and spine surgery, he is one of the few doctors in California certified to perform spinal manipulation under anesthesia.

Dr. Schreiber also enjoys the creative process inherent in practicing medicine. “Every patient is a detective novel,” he says.

**A MATTER OF BALANCE**

When Clara Higgins, DO ’93, pulls up at an intersection on her big, loud Harley-Davidson, other motorists often register surprise. And anyone who doesn’t know her would be equally surprised to learn that she is an avid snowboarder who can ski the half pipe with extreme sports devotees half her age.

A general surgeon at Beebe Medical Center in Lewes, Del., Dr. Higgins hadn’t ridden a bike since the mid-’80s when she was a physician assistant in Philadelphia. On a whim, she recently bought a 1999 1200cc Harley Sportster. “I love being out in the fresh air, riding down a country road,” she says.

In fact, motorcycling has made the transition from roughneck to mainstream. “A lot of middle-aged people in the suburbs, including women like myself, are going through a second childhood and buying bikes,” Dr. Higgins says.

Although Dr. Higgins is not fearful, she is not foolhardy. “I have a healthy, respectful fear of things that can hurt me,” she says. “I operated on a man who had been in a bad automobile crash, and on the bumper of his truck was one of those ‘No Fear’ stickers. Well, you need to have some fear when an 18-wheeler is coming at you.”

That’s why Dr. Higgins also wears the right protective gear—from helmet to body pads—when she snowboards, a sport she took up during her residency at the urging of her young nephews. “It was very hard when I first got started, but once I passed that learning curve, I found it even more exhilarating than skiing,” she recalls. “When I’m going down the slopes, I can really play—it’s like dancing in the snow.”

Anyone who has watched the X Games is familiar with some of the more daring moves that can be performed in a snow basin called a half pipe. “Sometimes I ride the rail, a steel bar that goes across the half pipe,” she explains. “But I don’t do it often because obviously I have to protect my body; I don’t go too far out on a limb.”

Dr. Higgins’ passion for adrenaline-fed sports fits with the image of the “heal with steel” surgeon. “It’s absolutely true,” she agrees. “Some people say that all surgeons believe they are at the center of the universe. It’s a very commanding position.”

Yet Dr. Higgins takes a more compassionate, osteopathic approach to her patients. “I listen to my patients and look at the environment that helped put them in the spot they are in,” she explains. “I hold hands, give hugs, wipe away tears and hand out lollipops. It is so rewarding, and a real hands-on way to make a difference in a person’s life.”
So perhaps it is not surprising that Dr. Higgins also enjoys gardening and watching the deer and other wildlife who visit her backyard. “It’s a very peaceful place to be, a real haven,” she says.

In fact, Dr. Higgins strives for balance. “For me, as for many people, 9/11 was a turning point,” she says. “I want to continue to better myself professionally and, at the same time, pay attention to my friendships, family and personal spiritual growth—to have peace every day so that if this day is my last, I’ll have no regrets.”

**FREE AND EXPRESSIVE**

Paul G. Kushner, DO ‘64, remembers the feeling when he first applied oil paint to canvas as a young pediatrics resident at Saginaw Osteopathic Hospital in Detroit. “It felt like I could be as free and expressive as Picasso or Renoir,” he recalls.

Although his style, media and color palette have changed over the past 39 years, the feeling remains the same.

Dr. Kushner took up painting as a creative outlet, teaching himself various techniques by copying the works of icons such as Claude Monet. “Then one of my instructors said I had more talent than that and I should move on, learn by doing my own thing,” he explains. “When I was freed up I felt very good.”

There were many times when Dr. Kushner would work on a painting nonstop for hours. “Sometimes I’d be up late into the night, unable to sleep after a hectic day,” he says.

When Dr. Kushner returned to the Philadelphia area, he established a pediatrics practice in Norristown. Board certified in both pediatrics and family medicine, Dr. Kushner has broadened his practice to encompass family medicine, including treatment for addiction and depression. He participates in phase 4 clinical trials, and he remains involved with PCOM as a preceptor and meets monthly with the family practice department.

Dr. Kushner’s art has evolved over the years. “I have stopped taking formal lessons, but continue to do self-teaching,” he says. “I experiment with all styles, from traditional portrait painting to landscapes to seascapes to impressionist to modern—even to surrealistic. When I look retrospectively at my work, I see that I have gone in so many different directions, through so many different phases and palette changes.”

Recently, a mixed media painting in watercolor and acrylics, titled “A Loft in Chelsea,” was selected for the 2003 Juried Art Show at Philadelphia’s Woodmere Art Museum. “I was thrilled,” Dr. Kushner says. “Woodmere usually has about 5,000 presenters, and they only select 100 to 120 artists. It was really difficult competing with a lot of professional artists.”

Dr. Kushner derives particular satisfaction from sales of his work through one-man shows at various charitable events. “I would invite all my friends to the opening night and we’d have a party,” he says. “I am honored when someone buys my work, and it gives me a great thrill to sell paintings to benefit charity.”

Dr. Kushner’s paintings also are offered for sale through the gallery at his office, which is filled with work from all phases of his career. “When I look around my gallery, I am so amazed,” he says. “There is something satisfying about looking at a work you have created and reflecting on the process that went into it.”

**STILL AT SEA**

Leroy Kearney, DO ‘77, was still a teenager when he fell in love with ships, blue water and navigating by the stars and sun.

“I’m an old sailor,” Dr. Kearney says. “I first went to sea when I was 17 years old, serving for three years aboard a 300-foot Coast Guard cutter on patrol in the North Atlantic during World War II. I have always loved the sea and hoped that one day I would own a yacht.”

For the last 15 years, Dr. Kearney has lived his dream, sailing the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean in his 36-foot Cape Dory, Compass Rose. He and his crew participate in the biennial Ocean Race Chesapeake, from Annapolis, Md. to St. George’s, Bermuda, covering more than 750 miles. Three years ago, Compass Rose came in third among the 10 yachts in its division. “The most exciting thing is when you are out there at night and see the lights of Bermuda on the horizon after you’ve been at sea for six days with nothing around you but water,” he says.

In the most recent race, it was smooth sailing all the way. “Sometimes we run into rough weather and choppy seas, but after my experience at sea in the Coast Guard,” Dr. Kearney says with a laugh, “I don’t get too excited.”

Dr. Kearney began sailing while he was a student at PCOM when he took a weekend course in Havre de Grace, Md. “But you don’t really learn to sail until you buy your own boat,” he says. “When you put your money in a yacht, you’ll soon learn how to sail, that’s for sure.”

Before beginning medical school at age 46, Dr. Kearney was a teacher for 22 years in Detroit. “I had always wanted to become a physician,” he recalls. “After my son was in college, I applied to medical school.”
Dr. Kearney retired about three years ago from his family practice in West Philadelphia, celebrating with a three-month cruise around the world on a German freighter. The trip included stops in New Zealand, New Caledonia, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Italy, France, the Netherlands and England. Throughout the trip, he used his sextant to plot the ship’s course on navigational charts.

It is clear that Dr. Kearney is still in love with ships and blue water. "It’s the thrill of being powered by the wind,” he says. “The boat is heeled and getting up speed, taking blue water waves over the bow and sending salt spray in your face. When you’re at sea, you don’t think of anything else; you’re completely wrapped up in it and away from the rest of the world.”

FOR THE LOVE OF MUSIC

When the conductor’s baton drops and Sherman N. Leis, DO ’67, breathes the first sweet note from his clarinet, he often thinks of the late Anthony Gigliotti, who was the principal clarinetist of the Philadelphia Orchestra and a long-time friend.

“I try to emulate him, although I will never be able to play as well as he did,” Dr. Leis explains. “He was a world-class clarinetist. But in my world, as principal clarinet of the Lower Merion Symphony, I am playing all the parts that he once played.”

Also founder and president of the Lower Merion Symphony, Dr. Leis has played with the Rosemont, Pa.-based community orchestra since 1993 and with its predecessor, the Merion Musical Society, for almost 20 years. He also plays in recital. Indeed, music is an integral part of his life.

“I took up the clarinet at age 6,” Dr. Leis recalls. “My mother, who is a pianist and former student at the Curtis Institute, encouraged all of the children in our family to study music. At that time, the only instrument available in my elementary school in southwest Philadelphia was a clarinet.”

Dr. Leis continued to study clarinet throughout grade school, junior high and high school. “I thought I wanted to be a professional musician,” Dr. Leis says.

But when he was offered a music scholarship to Temple University, Dr. Leis turned it down. “I knew of too many excellent musicians who were struggling to make a living,” he says. “It was a very uncertain future.”

At Rutgers University, Dr. Leis gravitated toward medicine but continued to play clarinet, putting together a dance band to play at parties. “I called the band ‘Music by Sherman,’” he chuckles. “We each made 20 dollars a night, which was big money 40 years ago.”

After completing medical school and general surgery residencies in Philadelphia and postgraduate fellowships in plastic and reconstructive surgery in Europe, in 1974 Dr. Leis established the osteopathic profession’s first plastic and reconstructive surgery service in the United States at what was then the Hospital of PCOM. He continues to serve the College as professor and chairman of the division. In 1984 he instituted the country’s first osteopathic graduate training program, a fellowship/preceptorship in plastic and reconstructive surgery, at the College. In 1991 the program became a residency program, of which he remains director. Board certified in general, plastic and reconstructive surgery, Dr. Leis today focuses on cosmetic surgery in his private practice in Bala Cynwyd.

“I have never questioned my decision to refuse the music scholarship,” Dr. Leis says.

Among Dr. Leis’ favorite composers are Beethoven, Haydn and Mozart, who seems to have had a gift for writing for the clarinet. “Mozart wrote perhaps the most beautiful solo piece ever written for clarinet, his clarinet concerto, which I have performed,” Dr. Leis says. “Mozart’s quintet for strings and clarinet is maybe the most beautiful piece of music that I know. You are in heaven just listening to it.”

It is not surprising that Dr. Leis also favors Tchaikovsky and other composers of the Romantic movement. “Sometimes I become so emotional I can hardly play,” he says. “That’s how I know I am in love with music.”
It is 9:34 a.m. Friendly banter among the emergency response flight team ceases as emergency tones erupt from the dispatch radio. The flight paramedic, nurse and pilot listen intently to the voice crackling out vital information. A 39-year-old male has sustained massive injuries to both hands when they were caught in a dough-flattening machine at the commercial baking company where he works in New Jersey. The crew grabs their flight helmets and hurries to the waiting helicopter. Within three minutes, they are airborne, flying over the sprawling horse farms of Chester County and soaring skyline of center city Philadelphia as they make their way to South Jersey. Just 15 minutes later at 9:52 a.m., they land on a makeshift helipad—the cordoned-off entrance ramp to Route 55—where an ambulance is waiting with the patient inside.
Flight paramedic Jim McCans jumps out of the helicopter. Joined by his teammates, he hurries to the ambulance with a gurney and starts firing questions to the ground ambulance crew. What are the patient’s vital signs? What is the extent of his injuries? Was any part of his hands severed? How long ago did the accident happen? What was he doing? How long were his hands caught in the machine?

Since beginning the master’s degree program in forensic medicine at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine last fall, Jim McCans asks a lot more questions. His interest goes beyond just caring for the sick and injured. He wants to figure out how and why the patient became sick or injured and what could have been done differently to prevent it. “The study of injuries and how they occur is the first step in preventing them,” McCans notes.

McCans’ interest in forensic medicine grew out of caring for victims of crime, child abuse and accidents while working as a paramedic for over 20 years. “I want to be able to figure out why people die and what makes them sick,” he says. “If I can look at the types of injuries our patients die from and figure out what could have been done differently, then maybe the next patient will have a better shot at survival. That requires looking at the big picture surrounding the patient, including trauma, disease process, socioeconomic status and lifestyle. In the forensic medicine program, we learn to put it all together and find the correct scientific answer to why a person has a problem and what could be done to bring about a better outcome. The answers are in the details.”

The ground paramedics finish answering McCans’ questions. The patient’s fingers are still attached to his hands but he has exposed bone and multiple fractures. The man’s hands are wrapped with huge wads of gauze, his brown pants and blue T-shirt covered with flour, his face pale and his eyes closed tightly as he fights intense pain. The flight team carefully loads the gurney into the tight quarters of the helicopter and promptly takes off at 10:01 a.m. McCans puts ear protectors on the man to muffle the persistent drone of the propeller. During the flight, McCans asks more questions as he monitors vital signs.

“How long were your hands caught in the machine? “It seemed like 10 minutes,” the man answers.

“Did the machine have a safety guard?” McCans asks. Feeling the effects of a morphine injection, the man has fallen asleep.

At 10:10 a.m., the chopper descends amid the high-rise buildings of center city Philadelphia, finding its target on a hospital roof. The patient and crew are greeted by an escort who takes them to the trauma center. Seven gowned and gloved people are waiting expectantly in a trauma bay at the end of a long corridor. As the crew rolls in with the gurney, the hospital trauma team springs into action. McCans begins rattling off information about the patient to a nurse. “When did the accident occur?” she asks.

McCans refers to the flight log to establish the probable timeline. “Between 9:00 and 9:15 a.m.,” he answers.

A hand surgeon arrives. A resident tentatively unwraps the man’s badly mangled hands and the surgeon surveys the damage. As the crew prepares to leave, the hospital trauma team prepares the patient for the OR. It is 10:37 a.m. “He’s got a long road ahead of him,” observes McCans, who then wonders aloud about things that might have prevented the accident.

Many emergency/trauma specialists such as McCans find themselves drawn to forensic medicine. “It’s another role in the circle of emergency response and trauma where I believe I can make a difference,” he says. “Before this, when I went to a motor vehicle accident scene, for example, I just tried to figure out how to get the person out of the wreckage,” says McCans. “Now I look at it differently. I try to determine what the injuries are by the size and weight of the patient and by any damage to the steering wheel, windows, dashboard and windshield. I can also guess the speed of impact by assessing the damage. By looking at the vehicle’s interior damage, I can determine whether or not the person was restrained with a seat belt. By taking scrapings from the glass, I can figure out where each occupant was sitting. I’ve seen hit-and-run accidents where the vehicle was identified because investigators got the victim’s fingerprints off the hood of the car.”

The field of forensic medicine has expanded tremendously over the past five years, and career opportunities abound, according to Joe Screnci, MS, PA-C, coordinator
of forensic medicine, department of physician assistant studies at PCOM. “Mass media has definitely spurred interest and enthusiasm,” says Screnci. “Television shows such as CSI, while not completely accurate, have increased awareness of the field.”

“The value of forensic medicine is widely recognized because the courts are accepting evidence that has been verified through our investigations,” Screnci continues. “In addition, we now have advanced technology to support our efforts that enables us to work more effectively than ever before.”

PCOM responded to this heightened interest by introducing its forensic medicine program in fall 2002, the first such program to be offered anywhere in the Mid-Atlantic region. Designed for working professionals, the program launched with students who are primarily nurses, physician assistants, paramedics, emergency medical technicians and forensic investigators.

Before the emergency response flight crew takes off, another helicopter lands on the hospital roof. The second crew is bringing in a woman in her thirties who fainted at a local mall, then had seizures and became unresponsive. While rolling her down the hall on a gurney, the paramedics keep asking her questions, but she doesn’t answer. She stares straight up at the ceiling, her brown unseeing eyes wide open. Once again, a hospital trauma team waits expectantly. They cut off her clothing and begin a head-to-toe examination, working together to turn her on each side and completely over. “When someone loses consciousness and remains unresponsive, they leave no stone unturned,” explains McCans. “They have to look at every inch of her body to make sure they don’t miss anything. One thing they may be looking for is a possible bullet hole.”

From years of responding to emergencies involving crime victims, McCans has developed an interest in the specialty area of ballistics, which plays a critical role in forensic medicine.

“Different types of bullets have different properties, each causing unique types of damage.” Trauma physicians often consult him on gunshot wounds. “Once I was called into the trauma bay to review an X-ray of a man with a gunshot wound. It showed a large object inside his body that no one could identify,” he explains. “Because of my familiarity with ballistics, I knew that the object was the plastic cup from a shotgun round.”

McCans also notes that some bullets have a coating that peels back to create razor-sharp edges when they hit the body. Not only does this do a lot of damage to the victim, but it also presents a threat to the surgeon who is removing the bullet. “I advise trauma surgeons to be careful of their hands when they are removing these bullets,” he says.

“Because of my training, I’ve also been able to protect evidence by telling new surgical residents and fellows not to remove bullets with metal forceps because they can destroy imprints on the bullet that show what gun it came from,” he continues. “I advise them to use plastic forceps or metal forceps with rubber sleeving instead.”

McCans’ current job responsibilities include participating on the FBI’s Philadelphia SWAT team as a tactical paramedic, a role he’d like to expand in the future. “The whole time I’m caring for a person during a SWAT team response, I have an eye out for evidence at the same time.”

What EMS people do at the crime scene is extremely important to investigations, according to McCans. “We need to report whether we moved the body, what we smelled, saw and heard,” he relates. “My forensics training has shown me that we’ve been doing things in the field to hamper forensic investigations. For example, we always used to clean up after we cared for a patient, picking up all the trash and throwing it out. Now we leave everything so the crime scene investigators can determine what is trash and what is evidence. Crime scene preservation is extremely important.”

“The forensics field is wide,” says Screnci. “There are many specialty areas where you can concentrate your training. In addition to ballistics, specialties include entymology, accident reconstruction, blood splatter, DNA, sexual abuse and child abuse. Chemical terrorism and bioterrorism are two of the newest additions.”

Shannon Fitzpatrick, RN, BSN, another student in PCOM’s forensic medicine program, plans to become a forensic nurse specialist, acting as a liaison between an emergency medicine/trauma unit and local medical examiner’s office. Currently an interventional radiology nurse at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, she has also been a nurse in trauma and critical care settings. “As a nurse, you’re a patient advocate,” says Fitzpatrick. “The forensic medicine program will help me take that a step further by providing me with in-depth knowledge. By learning about gunshot wounds, for example, I can help to reduce loss of evidence by obtaining what’s needed before the surgeon makes an incision in the wound that could destroy crucial evidence.”

“When caring for rape victims, I’ve learned not to clean or bathe them until we’ve collected the necessary evidence,” she continues. “I’m learning to think routinely about the

(continued on page 18)
• A child suffering from severe burns was being transported from a hospital to a burn center. Family members reported that the child had been exposed to chemicals that burned the skin. The paramedic transporting the child looked at the pattern of the burn and noticed that it was missing some of the classic identifiers of a chemical burn. However, it did have identifiers of a hot water burn, which could suggest child abuse. He passed on this observation to police and they incorporated it into their investigation.

• A brother and sister riding together in the same car were involved in a motor vehicle accident. The sister survived, but her brother died. Both had been pulled from the car and were lying by the side of the road when police investigators arrived. The police determined that both siblings had been drinking alcohol, but didn’t know who was driving. A bystander told police that the sister had been pulled from the left side of the wreckage, which police assumed was the driver’s side. As a result, they identified her as the driver and were planning to charge her with vehicular homicide of her own brother. However, further forensic investigation revealed that the car had flipped over on impact, so the left side of the car, in this case, was the passenger side. In addition, fingerprints obtained from the steering wheel and hair samples from the car roof verified that the sister was not the driver, so she was not charged with her brother’s death.

• A woman’s body was found in a bathtub. The medical examiner began his investigation to determine cause of death. Most of the body was underwater, but some parts had risen to the top. Flies had laid maggots on the water. The medical examiner scooped off the maggots, put them in a blender, analyzed the resulting liquid and found it to be high in narcotics. He surmised that the maggots had ingested narcotics when they ate the woman’s flesh. Therefore, she must have ingested narcotics, lost consciousness, slid underwater and drowned.

• The wife of a building contractor disappeared. The builder claimed not to know her whereabouts. During the same time frame, the builder was working on a construction site. Police detectives began tracking his movements and noticed that he was going to the construction site at odd times of the day and night. They interviewed people who lived and worked near the site who verified this. They began to suspect a link to his wife’s disappearance. Forensic investigators began X-raying walls of the construction site for density and noticed greater density that was unexplainable in one particular spot. They called police, who brought a cadaver dog to the scene. The dog went wild, indicating that he had found a body. Investigators had the walls broken open and discovered the wife’s body amid the concrete walls. Further investigation led to the husband’s arrest.

• An Arizona furniture store owner noticed a foul odor in his building. He called the water and electric utility companies, who investigated and found no source for the odor. Then the air conditioning unit on the roof began vibrating. An HVAC specialist said the problem seemed to be an obstruction in the huge exhaust pipes on the roof. At that point, the medical examiner’s office became involved, launching its own investigation. A forensic specialist discovered a man’s body in the exhaust pipe. The evidence indicated that he had tried to break into the furniture store by coating his body with Vaseline® and sliding down the HVAC tubing. Instead of sliding all the way down into the store, he got stuck because of a metal crosspiece in the tubing. The investigation showed that he died of positional mechanical asphyxia and his body quickly decomposed in the Arizona heat, causing the foul odor.

• A man took his wife fishing by a stream at the edge of their property. Soon people noticed that his wife was missing. Police investigators combing the property for signs of her noticed a woodchipping machine. At the same time, they observed that there were very few trees on the property. When asked about the woodchipper, the man offered no plausible explanation for having one. The police began to suspect that the man had killed his wife, cut her body into small parts and put them in the woodchipper. Forensic investigators began combing the area near the woodchipper for evidence. They found part of a crown from the wife’s tooth among the leaves. This discovery eventually led to the man’s arrest for the murder of his wife.

Case Closed!

Forensic medicine often helps to solve crimes and resolve legal cases. Here are a few actual cases that demonstrate its effectiveness.
careers abound in forensic medicine

- Medico-legal death investigators discover, collect, prepare, identify and preserve evidence.
- Clinical forensic specialists play a complex role in the trauma circle, focusing on investigations of the living as well as the deceased and serving as a liaison between medical care facilities and medical examiners, coroners and law enforcement agencies.
- Legal consultants offer expert opinions and findings related to cases.
- The Transportation Security Administration and commercial airlines send forensics teams to crash scenes.
- Insurance companies need forensic medicine experts to review and verify claims, review medical charts and combat fraud.
- Other careers for specialists in forensic medicine include physicians, nurses, physician assistants, law enforcement officers, coroners, medical examiners, dentists, crime scene investigators, forensic scientists, crime lab technicians, pathologists, toxicologists, epidemiologists, forensic anthropologists, and others.

an academic program for working professionals

Through a curriculum of weekend didactic lectures once a month, small group interactions and online coursework, PCOM makes it possible for students to complete a master’s degree in forensic medicine while remaining in their full-time positions.

PCOM’s Forensic Medicine program is one of few in the country that focuses on the forensic aspects of both medico-legal death investigation and clinical forensics of the living, and it is the only program of its kind in the Mid-Atlantic region. It provides a solid foundation in the theory, concept and principles of forensic medicine, the medico-legal and technical aspects of death scene investigations and clinical pathology skills.

The curriculum includes three components: core classes, a concentration within forensic medicine and a clinical residency, also within forensic medicine. The four foundation courses are: Professional Practice Issues, Research Design and Methodology, Ethical Issues in Professional Practice and Evidence-based Approaches to Professional Practice.

(continued from page 16)

forensic aspects of patient care. Understanding more about pathology, the intricacies of the disease process, gunshot wounds, how the body reacts to various poison substances and how to assist in rape crime investigations puts me in a better position to recognize problems and advocate more effectively for my patients.” Fitzpatrick is also interested in becoming a legal consultant, offering expert opinions in cases where crimes may have been committed against patients that she and others treat.

Some PCOM forensic medicine students are already working in the field but want to advance to the next level. John Garnett is a forensic investigator with the Philadelphia Coroner’s Office who is confident that the training he’s receiving at PCOM will help him understand and interpret what he sees with greater depth. This, in turn, will help him perform his job more effectively. His certification as a forensic investigator will also enhance his career advancement opportunities.

“It was like a miracle when a colleague gave me the brochure about the program at PCOM,” Garnett exclaims. “I had been wanting to pursue a master’s degree in forensic medicine, but no program was offered in this area and I couldn’t afford the time to go away to school since I work full-time.”

“This program is designed for people like me who have a family and a full-time job,” notes McCans. “I really like the fact that we only have classes one weekend a month and we do a lot of work on our own time. And PCOM has an outstanding reputation. I’ve worked with several physicians who are alumni and they’re all great docs.”

Fitzpatrick says the program instructors and curriculum are phenomenal. “You think you’ve seen a lot and know a lot when you’ve been working in health care for a while,” she relates. “But through this program, I’m finding out that there’s so much more to learn!”
OMM RESEARCH TO TAKE CENTER STAGE

OSTEOPATHIC MANIPULATIVE MEDICINE (OMM) RESEARCH & BIOMECHANICS LABORATORY

In the 1930s PCOM made history by becoming the first college to engage in osteopathic research. Fast-forward to the 21st century and PCOM is building on this distinguished osteopathic medical research tradition as by forming a center that will result in unique osteopathic manipulative medicine research and hiring a leader in the field, Michael L. Kuchera, DO, FAAO, to head the charge.

The Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) Research & Biomechanics Laboratory will open the door for exciting and vital research that delves into the effectiveness of OMM and demonstrates its use in relation to wellness and specific diseases, such as multiple sclerosis (MS). The creation of the lab also strengthens PCOM’s commitment to excellence in osteopathic education, research and practice.

The lab was designed to support the mission of the osteopathic profession through the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, American Osteopathic Association (AOA), Osteopathic Research Center, and other College of Osteopathic Medicine research consortia. It also supports OMM undergraduate fellows and residents in the consortium Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution. In addition, the facilities and the expertise of the OMM research staff are available for collaborative research with members of basic and clinical science faculty. The ultimate goal of collaborative efforts in research is to improve approaches to study and enhance health within individuals and health care for patients with certain disorders. PCOM also seeks to support international efforts to advance the evidence-base for manual medicine and a standard glossary of terminology for describing and recording research findings.

The lab will serve as a central clearinghouse and resource for researchers and clinicians in nearby colleges of osteopathic medicine, as well as other sites interested in osteopathic research. By pooling resources and expertise and standardizing protocols, measurement tools and approaches whenever feasible, osteopathic researchers will become more competitive in the pursuit of scarce research dollars while also being able to conduct larger, more definitive studies.
THE BIRTH OF THE CENTER

As with any new program or project, securing resources was essential. Dr. Kuchera joined PCOM in August 2002 and within two months had attracted research funding from the U.S. Department of Defense.

As a first step, Dr. Kuchera obtained and consolidated equipment. A significant number of resources were secured at no expense to the College when Dr. Kuchera was named the primary investigator of a multisite multiple sclerosis study. Dr. Kuchera brought measurement tools, including his electromyographic equipment, from his prior laboratory, while other instruments stored throughout the College were moved to the laboratory.

Also significant, external funding was used to hire Claire Wagenhoffer, an experienced research coordinator, making the laboratory an institutional resource for faculty members seeking to perform clinical neuromusculoskeletal research.

Good planning, skill and a bit of luck have also brought multi-purpose equipment to the lab. For example, a Gait Analysis System (GAITRite) obtained for Dr. Kuchera’s multiple sclerosis study can be used to study details of one of the most common and pervasive activities of daily living—walking. Thousands of pathway sensors in the system provide computerized documentation of numerous components of gait, including aspects of speed, symmetry, footstrike and pathway characteristics. Documenting the role of OMT in improving functions like gait is a major objective of the laboratory.

Dr. Kuchera and colleague W. Thomas Crow, DO, FAAO, have been working with a local engineer to create new instrumentation to measure certain physiologic characteristics of skin associated with spinal somatic dysfunction. Dr. Kuchera was previously funded by the American Osteopathic Association to computerize the process but now a grateful patient is underwriting these costs.

Another prototypic measurement device that will gauge tissue characteristics important in healing is being designed specifically for OMM research. This second device will measure the viscoelastic properties of dysfunctional soft tissues that have been stressed or injured in ankle sprains.

THE RESEARCH

PCOM was named lead institution in a multi-site MS study after Dr. Kuchera made a successful bid as the principal investigator. Dr. Kuchera will conduct a multi-center research project for deconditioned persons with multiple sclerosis.

The project is a joint endeavor of the United States Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. It was funded to build upon work performed earlier at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine and published by Drs. Yates, Vardy and Kuchera in the Journal of the American Osteopathic Association.

Research outcomes in that study using OMT and a custom-designed non-aerobic exercise machine, known as the IsoPump, resulted in a significant increase in strength with-
Class of 1944
Harold S. Goldberg, DO, Hawthorne, N.J., was featured in an article published in The D.O. titled “Resurrected threat” about smallpox.

Class of 1954

Class of 1956
Charles P. Pritchard, DO, Bellendorf, Iowa, was granted honorary membership in the Iowa Osteopathic Medical Association.

Class of 1962
CO-CLASS AGENT: JAMES H. BLACK, DO
PHONE: 757-489-5450
E-MAIL: FITSUGR@SPYNET.COM

CO-CLASS AGENT: ROBERT S. MAURIELLO, DO
PHONE: 732-494-6685
E-MAIL: BMAURIELLO789@AOL.COM

Burton Marks, DO, Scranton, Pa., was named chief of radiology at Community Medical Center.

Class of 1963
CLASS AGENT: HARVEY M. SPECTOR, DO
PHONE: 215-745-4111
E-MAIL: DOG63@AOL.COM

Robert J. McNulty, DO, Ocean View, N.J., joined the emergency department staff at Kessler Memorial Hospital.

Class of 1966
William Vilensky, DO, Margate City, N.J., published an article in The DO Net Guide titled “Pain management: The changing environment for opioid prescribing.” Dr. Vilensky is clinical associate professor of psychiatry at New Jersey Medical Center.

Class of 1967
CLASS AGENT: SHERMAN LEIS, DO
PHONE: 610-667-1888
E-MAIL: DRSHERMANLEIS@AOL.COM

Ronald R. Blanck, DO and his wife, Donna, Fort Worth, Texas, were the honorees of the 2003 Super Hero Heart Ball benefiting the American Heart Association.

Class of 1968
CLASS AGENT: ALFRED J. POGGI, DO
PHONE: 814-443-3637

David H. Kiner, DO, Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., was listed in the “Top Doctors in South Florida” issue of South Florida CEO.

Charles A. Mauriello, DO, Villanova, Pa., was granted life membership by the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

James N. Stengel, DO, York, Pa., was granted life membership by the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

Class of 1969
Robert D. Ligorsky, DO, Scottsdale, Ariz., was appointed associate dean (Arizona Region) of Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Class of 1972
CLASS AGENT: JOAN M. WATKINS, DO
PHONE: 813-615-7755
E-MAIL: JWATKINS@MAIL.UCH.ORG

James W. Sillaman, III, DO, Derry, Pa., was appointed chief of the department of family medicine at Latrobe Area Hospital.

Class of 1973
CLASS AGENT: HERBERT J. ROGOVE, DO
PHONE: 949-574-6058
E-MAIL: HRGOV@HOGHOSPITAL.ORG

Robert C. Denny, DO, Bryn Mawr, Pa., co-authored an article published in Cosmetic Dermatology titled “Case Report: Eyelid ptosis after Botox injection.”

Class of 1974
Anthony V. Benedetto, DO, Springfield, Pa., co-authored an article published in Cosmetic Dermatology titled “Case Report: Eyelid ptosis after Botox injection.”

Class of 1975
Jeffry A. Lindenbaum, DO, Ivyland, Pa., was named president-elect of Sigma Sigma Phi for 2002-2004. He has a family medicine practice in Yardley, Pa.

Class of 1976
William R. Henwood, DO, Sharon, Pa., was granted life membership by the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.

Class of 1977
CLASS AGENT: H. SPRAGUE TAVEAU, IV, DO
PHONE: 806-212-5750
E-MAIL: GLORYSIX@AOL.COM

Lee Herskowitz, DO, Renton, Wash., was named president-elect and vice president of the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians, of which he is a fellow.

Class of 1978
CLASS AGENT: LORRAINE M. DISIPIO, DO
PHONE: 610-623-7230
E-MAIL: DRDISIPIO@RCN.COM

David R. Tomazic, DO, Forest City, Pa., was appointed medical director for the new inpatient unit at Marian Community Hospital in Carbondale, Pa.

Class of 1979
David M. Callahan, DO, Landenberg, Pa., was appointed medical director of Jenner’s Pond, a continuing care community.

Anthony J. Cerone, Jr., DO, West Chester, Pa., joined the medical staff at Chester County Hospital.
Richard T. Leshner, DO, Warrington, Pa., was appointed chief of cardiology at St. Mary’s Medical Center. He was also appointed to Pennsylvania Medical Society’s Patient Advisory Committee. Barbara A. Vilushis, DO, Drums, Pa., was elected chairman of the family practice department at Greater Hazleton Health Alliance. She also serves as associate medical director for the Alliance.

Class of 1980
Brooks Betts, II, DO, Easton, Pa., was board certified in geriatrics by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians. He is currently with Muhlenberg Primary Care. David A. Bitonte, DO, Paris, Ohio, was elected second vice president of the Ohio Osteopathic Association. He currently serves as medical director for Ohio KePRO, Ohio’s Medicare quality improvement organization. Joseph D. Piarowski, Jr., DO, Great Falls, Va., was selected by the Washingtonian as one of the “75 Best Lawyers in Washington.” He practices aerospace medicine on a part-time basis in the Naval Reserves.

Class of 1981
Christopher F. Connelly, DO, Harrisburg, Pa., had an article published in Consultant titled “Psychosocial overlie and low back pain.” James Fanning, DO, Lambertville, Mich., co-authored an article published in The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association titled “Delay of hospital discharge secondary to postoperative fever—Is it necessary?” Martin E. Kanoff, DO, Cherry Hill, N.J., joined the medical staff at Kessler Memorial Hospital. He is board certified in obstetrics and is clinical assistant professor at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, School of Osteopathic Medicine. George L. Weber, DO, Philadelphia, Pa., was re-elected to serve on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Osteopathy. Robert N. Yanoshak, DO, Plains, Pa., was the recipient of the “Victor J. Marks, MD, Award for Service Excellence” presented by Geisinger Health System. He is board certified in family practice and geriatrics.

Class of 1982
CLASS AGENT: ANTHONY J. SILVAGNI, DO
PHONE: 954-262-1407
E-MAIL: AJSILVAGNI@AOL.COM
Bruce A. Feinberg, DO, Decatur, Ga., was listed in Atlanta (GA) Business Chronicle’s “Who’s Who in Healthcare.” His specialty is oncology/hematology.

Class of 1983
CLASS AGENT: MARY ANN DIBIAGIO, DO
PHONE: 724-758-7559
E-MAIL: MBDIBIAGIO@HRHS.ORG
Daniel F. Battafarano, DO, San Antonio, Texas, coauthored “Heterogeneity between men and women in the influence of the HLA-DRB1 shared epitope on the clinical expression of rheumatoid arthritis” published in Arthritis Rheumatism 2002 and “Validation of the Diesse Mini-Ves ESR analyzer using the westergren ESR method in patients with systemic inflammatory conditions” published in the American Journal of Clinical Pathology 2002. In addition, he has written four book chapters dealing with arthritis/rheumatology and connective tissue disease, and has made many presentations on this topic as well as about the military experience.

William J. Marenic, DO, Mifflintown, Pa., joined Geisinger Medical Group – Juniata. His specialty is family medicine. Robert S. Muscalus, DO, Hummelstown, Pa., was appointed acting secretary of health for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by Governor Edward Rendell. Alfred M. Sassler, DO, Foster, Ky., was elected president of the Kentucky Society of Otorhinolaryngology. David J. Sevitski, DO, Holland, Pa., is physician advisor to the CVS Pharmacy Health Connection Education Program in Northeast Philadelphia. Cary B. Shames, DO, Littleton, Colo., was named senior medical director at PacifiCare of Colorado.

Class of 1984
Ricky Lockett, DO, Clearwater, Fla., opened his second office in Pinellas County, Fla. He is a diplomat of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Class of 1985
Robert Hostoffer, Jr., DO, Highland Heights, Ohio, was named “Top Doc” in Northern Ohio LIVE. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Immunology and the Clinical Immunology Society and a trustee of the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians.

Robert H. Schmidt, DO, Emmaus, Pa., joined the medical staff at St. Luke’s Hospital–Bethlehem Campus. Michael Schreiber, DO, Marina Del Rey, Calif., became a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians. He also co-created and is medical advisor for the new PAX television series titled “Body & Soul” about a DO. He was reappointed chairman of the department of family medicine and sub-specialty chief for the division of surgery at Century City Hospital.

Class of 1986
James G. Berlin, DO, Landenberg, Pa., was voted one of the “Top Primary Care Doctors” in Delaware Today.


Paul D. Williams, DO, Harrisburg, Pa., was featured in an article published in the Review titled “Some medical terminology is troublesome.” His specialty is family practice.

Class of 1987
CLASS AGENT: THOMAS J. DAGNEY, III, DO
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Kevin R. Clark, DO, Hickory, N.C., was appointed medical staff chairman for the Frye Regional Medical Center – Alexander Campus. He is certified by the American Board of Osteopathic Emergency Medicine. Anthony E. DiMarco, DO, Kennett Square, Pa., was re-elected to serve on
the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association.

Katherine C. Erlichman, DO, Bedford, Pa., was the recipient of the “Source of Life Award for Community and Service Advocacy” presented by Magee Women’s Hospital.

Stephen J. Petteruti, DO, Warwick, R.I., and his wife Cheryl are the proud parents of their fifth child, Joshua George, born June 13, 2002.

John R. Scranton, DO, Water Mill, N.Y., was appointed attending physician in the emergency medicine department at St. Catherine of Siena Medical Center in Smithtown, N.Y. He recently received a master’s degree in fine arts in English and writing from Long Island University.

**Class of 1988**

**CLASS AGENT: ERIC M. LIPNACK, DO**

PHONE: 856-784-0444

E-MAIL: DVMPA@EROLS.COM

Jerry R. Balentine, DO, Rye, N.Y., was featured in an article published in *The D.O.* titled “Emergency physicians learn how to recognize abuse.” He is a fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians.


Wayne T. Jones, DO, Erie, Pa., was named “Emergency Physician of the Year” by the Pennsylvania Emergency Medical Services. He is the Medical Command Facility medical director for Saint Vincent Health Center and medical director for the Erie Bureau of Police SWAT Medical Support Team. He is also medical director for LifeStar and Emergycare, Inc.

Richard Knebel, DO, Charleston, W.Va., joined the medical staff at Charleston Area Medical Center. He is an anesthesiologist with General Anesthesia Services.

Ronald M. Lieberman, DO, University Place, Wash., joined South Sound Neurosurgery’s new Brain and Spine Center. He is an interventional pain specialist and physiatrist.

**Class of 1989**

Patrick J. Colarusso, DO, Pottstown, Pa., was featured in the Fall 2002 issue of *Potstown Regional Healthcare Network*’s publication, *The Center Post.* He is medical director at Potstown Memorial Regional Cancer Center, an affiliate of Fox Chase Cancer Center.

Charles H. Durmis, DO, Corry, Pa., has joined the medical staff at Corry Memorial Hospital. In addition, he has recently opened a private general surgery practice. He is a diplomate of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners and the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery.

Gregory McDonald, DO, Philadelphia, Pa., was featured in an article published in *The D.O.* titled “Emergency physicians learn how to recognize abuse.” His specialty is pathology.

Elisra M. Pina, DO, Cincinnati, Ohio, was inducted as president of the Ohio Thoracic Society. She is secretary-treasurer for the Cincinnati Academy of Osteopathic Medicine and is a member of the Alumni Association board of directors of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Margot L. Waitz, DO, Chadds Ford, Pa., was elected secretary-treasurer of the American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine. Her specialties are family and adolescent medicine.

**Class of 1990**

Robert J. Bulgarelli, DO, Glen Mills, Pa., was highlighted in an article published in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* titled “Heart doctor says poets are right.”

Bernard F. King, DO, Wilmington, Del., was elected president of the Delaware Academy of Family Physicians.

Emil P. Lesho, DO, was selected to participate in a three-year infectious disease fellowship training program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is on active duty assigned to Germany.

Mary T. Martucci, DO, Haddonfield, N.J., has been named director of the Breast Cancer Program at the Fox Chase Cancer Center at St. Francis Medical Center.

Jennifer L. Waxler, DO, Freehold, N.J., was named chair of emergency medicine at Monmouth Medical Center.

**Class of 1991**

James C. Greenfield, DO, Lehighton, Pa., joined Nesquehoning Family Practice, a new satellite office of St. Luke’s Miner Memorial Hospital. He and his wife, Susan, have three children: Tim, 8, Amanda, 6 and Matt, 4.

Brian S. Kahan, DO, Annapolis, Md., was board certified in pain management by the American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology and the American Board of Medical Specialties.

Patrick A. Kane, DO, Charleston, W.Va., joined the medical staff at Charleston Area Medical Center. His specialty is emergency medicine.

Nancy J. Lobby, DO, West Palm Beach, Fla., joined the medical staff at Jupiter Medical Center and John F. Kennedy Hospital. Her specialty is neurology.

Joseph J. Stella, DO, Pittston, Pa., was appointed chairman of the surgical department at Mercy Hospital in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. He is board certified in general and cardiovascular-thoracic surgery.

James M. Williams, DO, San Antonio, Texas, was appointed medical director of the emergency department at Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital, chairman of the Resuscitation Committee for Methodist Healthcare System and vice president of Alamo Area Emergency Physicians. He and his wife, Rebecca, welcomed a third son, Alexander.

**Class of 1992**

**CLASS AGENT: DANIEL J. KUPAS, DO**

PHONE: 724-478-2999

E-MAIL: DJKUPAS@KISKLNET

Gregory M. Christiansen, DO, Chesterfield, Va., received the “Wyeth Emerging Leader Award” presented by the American Osteopathic Foundation. His specialty is emergency medicine.
Class of 1993
CO-CLASS AGENTS:
CLAIRA M. HIGGINS, DO
PHONE: 302-644-9644
E-MAIL: CMHDO5@OL.COM

LARISSA FERNANDO-DOMINY, DO
PHONE: 215-361-5882
E-MAIL: LD.DOMINY@VERIZON.NET

Christopher W. Bolich, DO, Egg Harbor Township, N.J., joined the medical staff at Shore Memorial Hospital.
Matthew Messina, DO, Needham, Mass., joined the medical staff at Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital—Needham and Needham Orthopedics and Sports Medicine.
Michael J. Reihart, DO, Columbia, Pa., was appointed regional medical director for the Emergency Health Services Federation. He practices at Lancaster Emergency Associates at Lancaster General Hospital.
Brian Willman, DO, Erie, Pa., married Thidaporn Tanpattana, DO, on July 13, 2002. He is a staff physician in the emergency department at Saint Vincent Health Center.

Class of 1994
Eric S. Holender, DO, Allentown, Pa., joined the ear, nose and throat/plastic surgery practice of Andrew Waksstein, DO, in Palmerton, Pa.
Joseph M. Micchia, Jr., DO, Sharon, Pa., was highlighted in an article that appeared in the New Castle News titled “The thinker.” His practice, Micchia Family Practice in Hermitage, is affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.
Raymond H. Stone, DO, New Gloucester, Maine, was named “Family Physician of the Year” by the Maine Family Physicians.
Maria V. Vasiadis, DO, Upper Darby, Pa., joined the adult practice of Great Valley Health. Her specialty is family medicine.

Class of 1995
R. Keith Felstead, DO, Niagara Falls, N.Y., joined a family practice group, Primary Care of Western New York. He was named adjunct clinical professor at the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine of New York Institute of Technology.

Francis J. Forno, DO, Sandy Hook, Conn., opened a family practice in Newtown, Conn.
Anthony W. Freda, DO, Clarks Summit, Pa., and his wife, Tamara, are the proud parents of Alexis Makayla, born June 1, 2002.
William D. Schumacher, DO, Ocean City, N.J., joined the emergency department at the Atlantic City Medical Center.

Class of 1996
Malorie Budman-Traub, DO, Huntingdon Valley, Pa., opened a practice at the Fox Chase Family Medical Center.
Gregory S. Gaborek, DO, Washington, Mich., joined the medical staff at Mount Clemens General Hospital as a vascular and general surgeon. He practices at Macomb Surgical Associates.
Johnny S. Gomes, DO, Tom’s River, N.J., joined the emergency department at Atlantic City Medical Center.
Robert G. Masci, DO, Kingston, Pa., joined Geisinger Medical Group in Tunkhannock, Pa. His specialty is family medicine.
Daniel T. Mulcahy, DO, Allentown, Pa., joined the hospitalist program at Pocono Medical Center. His specialty is family medicine.
Brian S. Saracino, DO, Upper Marlboro, Md., was board certified by the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians, and he was promoted to Major in the United States Air Force.
Frans Zetterberg, DO, Lewistown, Pa., joined Geisinger Medical Group — Lewistown where he specializes in family medicine.

Class of 1997
CO-CLASS AGENTS:
DANIEL W. MATKIWSKY, DO
PHONE: 908-353-7949

JESSICA OTTO, DO
PHONE: 276-628-5246
E-MAIL: JESSICAOOTTO@HOTMAIL.COM

Karen R. Banks-Lindner, DO, Norwich, N.Y. and her husband, Richard, are the proud parents of Tyler Marie, born September 21, 2002. Dr. Banks-Lindner was appointed chairman of the medical department at Chenango Memorial Hospital.
Jennie M. Campbell, DO, Willow Grove, Pa., joined the department of internal medicine at Abington Memorial Hospital. She will join Springhouse Internal Medicine.
Curtis E. Clark, DO, Hamilton, Ga., is an emergency physician and internal medicine attending physician at Columbus Regional Medical Center. He is completing a family practice residency at Columbus Regional Medical Center.
Scot A. Currie, DO, Harrisburg, Pa., joined Central Pennsylvania Surgical Associates, Ltd.
Jacqueline M. Fignar, DO, Conowingo, Md., published a “Medical Update” in The Journal of the POMA titled “Rhabdomyolysis: A clinical syndrome.” Her specialty is internal medicine.
Edward Firouztale, DO, Farmingville, NY, joined the department of internal medicine at Southampton Hospital and South Shore Neurologic Associates.
Marc A. Greenstein, DO, Mount Laurel, NJ, received the “Resident Achievement Award” in Urological Surgery presented by the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons.
Bert C. Hepner, DO, Kittanning, Pa., joined the medical staff at Armstrong County Memorial Hospital. His specialty is orthopedic surgery.
Ronald A. Mack, DO, Cressona, Pa., joined the Geisinger Medical Group, Schuylkill Pediatrics, in Frackville, Pa.
Leslie N. Madrac, DO, Voorhees, N.J., was appointed assistant professor in the department of psychiatry at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey — School of Osteopathic Medicine.
B. Lee Peterlin, DO, Hershey, Pa., co-authored an article published in The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association titled “Use of intravenous immunoglobulin in Lambert-Eaton myasthenic syndrome.” Her specialty is neurology.
Jennifer M. Schmidt, DO, Avenue, Md., joined St. Mary’s Medical Associates in family medicine. She also serves as assistant medical director of hospice in St. Mary’s County.

Armando C. Sciullo, DO, West Middlesex, Pa., joined the medical staff at United Community Hospital. He is a board eligible general surgeon and has joined David I. Rothman, MD, in his general and vascular surgical practice in Grove City.

Neal S. Walker, DO, Norristown, Pa., was highlighted in an article that was published in The Philadelphia Inquirer titled “A start-up finds the formula with new-drug ‘e-submissions’.”

Class of 1998
CLASS AGENT: JAMES V. LIEB, DO
PHONE: 412-578-4355
E-MAIL: IMJIM98@POL.NET

Gary Giordano, DO, and Deborah A. Gondek, DO, both of Phoenix, Ariz., joined the IPC Hospitalist Group, where former classmates Nicholas J. Caputo, DO, and Daren J. Sott, DO, practice.

Wendy R. Kaufer, DO, Wheeling, W.Va., joined Pediatric Associates, LLP at Wheeling Hospital.

Scott D. Menet, DO, Egg Harbor Township, N.J., joined the emergency department at Atlantic City Medical Center.

Ronald L. Moscillo, Jr., DO, Arundel, Maine, was board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine. He is on staff at University of New England Health Care in Kennebunk, Maine.

Lynn Ann Norris, DO, Rossiter, Pa., opened a family medicine practice in Punxsutawney, Pa.

Michael J. Starr, DO, Lewisburg, Pa., joined the medical staff at Evangelical Community Hospital. He specializes in emergency medicine.

John J. Tomchuk, DO, Naples, Fla., was board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine. He is planning to open a specialty practice in Naples, Fla., in summer 2003.

Scott M. Urban, DO, Egg Harbor City, N.J., joined the emergency department at Atlantic City Medical Center.

Tara Vogles, DO, Cape May Court House, N.J., serves as a volunteer at Cape Volunteers in Medicine, providing health care for needy people.

Class of 1999

Anthony X. Baroni, DO, Pittsburgh, Pa., was named chief resident at Western Pennsylvania Hospital and was appointed clinical instructor at Temple University School of Medicine.

Kathleen M. Benning, DO, Hillsborough, N.J., joined the practice of Drs. Lisa Jordan-Scalia and Joseph Scalia in Raritan, N.J.

Susan Bryan, DO, Cherry Hill, N.J., married Scott D. James, DO, PCOM general surgery resident, on Sept. 1, 2002.

Shannon M. Conrad, DO, Delhi, N.Y., joined the department of family medicine at Bassett Healthcare—Delhi. She also is on staff at O’Connor Hospital.

Gerald P. Falkenstein, DO, Beaver, Pa., was appointed medical director of the Beaver Meadows Assisted Living Community in Brighton Township.

Stephen J. Goss, DO, Strong, Maine, was board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. He works at Pine Tree Internal Medicine in Farmington, Maine.

Stacy L. Hershfeld, DO, Strong, Maine, was board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine in Farmington, Maine. She works at Pine Tree Internal Medicine in Farmington.

Maria J. Hoertz, DO, was appointed medical director and assistant family medicine residency director at Center City Family Health, Community Health Services at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center.

Noel M. Kramer, DO, Moscow, Pa., co-authored an article published in the International Journal of Radiation titled “Biochemical failure rates in prostate cancer patients predicted to have biologically insignificant tumors treated with 3D conformal radiation therapy.”

Karl O. Luxardo, DO, Catawissa, Pa., joined the medical staff at Geisinger Medical Group in Bloomsburg, Pa. His specialty is family medicine.

David L. Nelson, DO, Benton, N.H., joined the medical staff at Ammonosuc Community Health Services at the Mt. Moose Lauke Health Center in Warren, N.H. His specialty is family medicine.

Christopher A. Pomrnik, DO, Bethlehem, Pa., joined the hospitalist program at Pocono Medical Center.

Sally A. Reibson, DO, Weber City, Va., joined Holston Medical Group. Her specialty is family medicine.

Jeanne M. Sandella, DO, Norristown, Pa., joined the Colonial Medical Group in Plymouth Meeting, Pa.

Kenneth D. Shank, DO, Albemarle, N.C., joined Norwood Medicine Services and Stanly Memorial Hospital. His specialty is family medicine.

Paul E. Shields, DO, Erie, Pa., was named associate medical director of Priority Care. HC is board certified in family practice.

Jason G. Tronetti, DO, Port Allegheny, Pa., joined the medical staff at Charles Cole Memorial Hospital. He will be practicing at the Bowman Health Center in Smethport and at the Port Allegheny Community Health Center.

David G. Tomich, DO, Phoenix, Ariz., joined the IPC Hospitalist Group, where other alumni practice.

Class of 2000

John Chovanes, DO, Narberth, Pa., received a citation from the State House of Representatives for his efforts at Ground Zero on 9/11.

Matthew G. Pinto, DO, Pembroke Pines, Fla., was elected chief resident of North Broward Hospital District’s Family Medicine Residency Program.

Andrew M. Weinberg, DO, Narberth, Pa., received the “American College of Gastroenterology/Centocor IBD Abstract Award 2002” for an article he co-authored titled “Strictures and response to infliximab in Crohn’s disease.” His article “Lessons in financial health and debt management for the young physician: Loan consolidation programs, loan deferments and tax savings,” was published in The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association.
The Doctor is a Click Away

“Progress” is often a double-edged sword. In the health care delivery system, for instance, managed care has made office visits more affordable for many, but it has reduced the amount of time physicians can spend with their patients. Progress has also introduced new modes of communication and great advances in the electronic transfer of information. Lynne Carr Columbus, DO ’90, has embraced technological progress to fill in the gaps created by managed care. Dr. Columbus is one of a growing number of physicians using online consultations to communicate with her patients.

For three years, Dr. Columbus has had a Web site through which her patients can set up appointments, have their prescriptions refilled and ask brief questions. Last spring she was chosen by Medem, a for-profit Internet company, to be among the first 1,000 physicians to participate in its online consultation service. Today, Medem, which is HIPAA-compliant and backed by the American Medical Association and other physician groups, is open to any physician who chooses to participate. Dr. Columbus maintains both her original site and a Medem site. Medem enables her to charge patients for online “visits.”

“Patients can still schedule appointments, get their prescriptions refilled and ask brief questions for free,” explains Dr. Columbus. More involved consultations cost the patient $30, with $2.50 of that going to Medem. “Patients love this service; it really helps them feel connected with me as a physician.” And, since Dr. Columbus’ specialty is pain management, she feels her patients especially appreciate the ease of e-mail for medication consults. “It’s often difficult for patients with back pain, for example, to sit and wait in the office. So I let them do two online consults, and then come in for the third one to be seen in person.” The online consult service is available only for established patients – never for initial consultations. Online consults are useful for patients’ family members as well. “If patients sign a waiver, I can correspond with their family members who may not live in the area. This really helps give everyone peace of mind.”

Dr. Columbus says she spends about a half hour in the morning and a half hour in the evening reading and answering her office e-mail. “It really doesn’t take that much time,” she insists. “And,” she adds, “I’m always accessible. I recently answered e-mails from Budapest.”

Dr. Columbus estimates she spends about $1,500 a year to maintain the site, which includes paying for the domain name and to be included in search engines. In return, the Internet brings her two to three new patients a week. She also uses the sites to introduce herself to referring physicians.

“It’s just a matter of time,” Dr. Columbus believes, “before patients are going to expect this of their doctors.”
Janice A. Knebl, DO ’82, Fort Worth, Texas, was named “2002 Internist of the Year” by the American College of Osteopathic Internists.

Joseph P. Olekszyk, DO ’85, Seaford, Del., was installed as president of the Medical Society of Delaware.

Richard A. Goldberg, DO ’86, Willow Grove, Pa., was elected president of the American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Sheila E. Davis, DO ’87, Philadelphia, Pa., for her selfless efforts and dedication in providing free medical care to uninsured people in the Germantown neighborhood of Philadelphia.

Michael B. Carney, DO ’94, Triadelphia, W.Va., was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

The following alumni were inducted as fellows of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians:

James J. Manlandro, Jr., DO ’63, Dennisville, N.J.
Donald R. Furci, DO ’64, Grove City, Ohio
Richard A. Steiner, DO ’76, Moorestown, N.J.
John F. Manfredonia, DO ’78, Tucson, Ariz.
Alice J. Zai, DO ’89, Narberth, Pa.

The following alumni were inducted as fellows of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons:

George J. Mack, DO ’84, Richland, Mich.
Christopher W. Schmidt, DO ’89, Lansdale, Pa.
Mary T. Martucci, DO ’90, Haddonfield, N.J.
Richard Rodriguez, DO ’90, Largo, Fla.
Susan M. Baro, DO ’92, Danville, Pa.

Donald E. Braunlich, DO ’54, Lake Forest, Ill., October 1, 2002.
Newton F. Miller, DO ’52, Roslyn, N.Y., May 20, 2002.
Harvey N. Mogul, DO ’44, Levittown, Pa., December 12, 2002.
Herbert A. Scolnick, DO ’60, East Blue Hill, Maine, November 30, 2002.
Daniel J. Smith, DO ’73, Hanson, Mass., September 1, 2002.

Fairman L. Denlinger, DO ’53, of Berwyn, Pa., died April 11, 2003. A 1994 recipient of PCOM’s highest honor, the “O.J. Snyder Memorial Medal,” Dr. Denlinger was professor and the first full-time chairman of the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at PCOM from 1974 through 1982. Under his guidance, the department began an exponential growth in both faculty and deliveries. In 1982, he became PCOM’s director of Corporate Health Services.

Named PCOM professor emeritus in obstetrics and gynecology in 1982, Dr. Denlinger earned several awards for his teaching prowess during his career, including the “Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching” at PCOM. In his 1991 retirement letter, he wrote, “I am a very fortunate individual. I have been doing the only thing I ever wanted to do – being an osteopathic physician. Thanks, PCOM.”
Reflections on the Emerging Role of Public Health

If you graduated from PCOM more than 10 years ago, chances are that your career is much different today than what you may have envisioned. All of us have had experiences that shape the way we utilize our training in osteopathic medicine.

Over the past several years, I have gained incredible insight into our public health infrastructure—Pennsylvania, and the nation. I believe nearly all health care professionals as well as many citizens have gained a better understanding of the role of public health, especially following September 11. From anthrax to recent smallpox vaccinations and bioterrorism preparedness, today’s public health officials have vast responsibilities.

As chief executive officer for the Department of Health, I am responsible for defining the department’s mission, establishing its strategic goals and directing overall policy. This requires a great deal of cooperation and support from local, state and national governments as well as health care professionals. The fact is, we are a global society. As a result, diseases and infectious agents that at one time were known only in remote areas of the world are now being recognized closer to home. Our ability to identify, monitor and track these occurrences, along with treatment, is critical to protecting the health of all citizens. Since September 11, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, in concert with federal and local partners, has significantly improved the state’s ability to respond to a bioterrorist attack. We are making great strides, strengthening our collaborations and communications and continually refining our strategic operational plans.

These achievements include the following:

- The Department initiated a powerful DNA fingerprinting system that provides rapid identification of a wide variety of infectious diseases including critical bioterrorism agents, reducing the time it takes to identify critical agents from three days to only 40 minutes.
- The Department established a 24/7 “Health Alert” communication system that enables local and state health authorities, law enforcement, emergency medical services and professional health organizations to seamlessly connect with each other and other key organizations in the event of a major health threat.
- The Department has enhanced rapid disease investigation capabilities, allowing epidemiologists to initiate field investigations within six hours of receiving an urgent disease report from any and all locations statewide, 24/7.
- The Department is developing an early warning system, using symptom data from emergency departments, which will allow for the detection of unusual patterns of disease and automatically alerts hospitals and public health agencies when incidence of the disease exceeds a critical threshold, enabling the earliest possible response and intervention before an outbreak.
- The Department created the Public Health Institute to provide a public health workforce development curriculum that includes emergency preparedness and management and response training for public health professionals statewide. Since its inception, more than 300 annually have received this three-to-five-day training. Future trainings will include skills needed to respond to large-scale emergency situations or bioterrorism events.

All of these accomplishments required much hard work not just by public health professionals, but also by outside health care organizations, health plans, providers and a host of partners.

The way I see it, the Pennsylvania Department of Health is an essential building block of the state’s infrastructure that supports a diverse spectrum of activities of modern health care. Our successes usually involve identifying and resolving issues before they affect large numbers of individuals. It is for this reason that the vast majority of people get to see only a small portion of Pennsylvania’s overall public health system.

But in this new ague of uncertainty, public health, as would be expected, is becoming more visible and offering extraordinary leadership at the state and national levels. In many areas, we have become recognized as a “working” model for the country. Even though we have accomplished much, there is still more that needs to be done. However, I am confident that if we are vigilant, we can make certain that Pennsylvania continues to be a healthy state and a leader among states for many more years to come. Regardless of where we practice osteopathic medicine, all of us must continue working together and remain extremely committed to promoting good health and healthy communities for all citizens of this great nation.

Robert S. Muscalus, DO ’83, Acting Secretary of Health and Physician General, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Readers: We welcome your ideas for essays that would be of interest to the PCOM community. Please submit ideas in writing to Mercedes Ott, fax: 215.871.6307; e-mail: mercedesot@pcom.edu; PCOM Marketing & Communications, 4180 City Ave., Phila., PA 19131.
For over a century, many individuals have had the foresight and generosity to plan for the future support of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. Their thoughtful gifts have helped to strengthen PCOM’s commitment to quality education, patient care, scientific research and community service. Each new generation is called upon to follow in the footsteps of those who have gone before by continuing the legacy of philanthropy.

Membership In The Society

Named in honor of “the father of osteopathic medicine,” the Andrew Taylor Still Legacy Society recognizes alumni, parents and friends who continue the tradition of support for Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine through their estate plans.

Society members are those who have made provisions to benefit PCOM and have informed the College of this commitment. These provisions include wills or bequests, charitable trusts, annuities and life insurance gifts.

In recognition of their generosity, Still Legacy Society members are published in selected College publications. Members may receive periodic mailings of estate and tax planning information.

If you have already made a planned gift provision for PCOM and have not yet notified us, please consider letting us know so that we may include you as a new member of the Still Legacy Society. We would like to thank you for your thoughtful gift which will inspire, encourage and support others to make a lasting legacy at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Because this tradition is so important, The Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine Foundation established the Andrew Taylor Still Legacy Society to acknowledge those inspired people who have made the commitment to help the College secure its future.

To All Of Our Charter Members, we thank you for your ongoing support:

Anonymous (5)
J. Weston Abar, DO ’47
Joan Abar, DO ’63
Walter K. Bradley, DO ’58
Mrs. H. Trebing Burnard
Rodney H. Chase, DO ’44
Richard B. Esack, DO ’80
Roy L. Gorin, DO ’72
William M. King, DO ’62
Albert S. Kroser, DO ’58
Murry E. Levyn, DO ’46
Barbara and Arnold S. Lincow, DO ’76
Madeleine L. Long, DO ’78, MD
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For more information about becoming a member of the Andrew Taylor Still Legacy Society, or to learn more about planned giving as an effective and satisfying way to achieve your philanthropic goals while significantly reducing your tax burden, contact:

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SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

The PCOM community came together in April in a great show of support for our troops overseas as volunteers donated items to send the troops, packed boxes, wrote letters, made yellow bows and lapel pins and tied ribbons to the trees on campus.

Pictured are AMOPS members Courtney Dawley (DO ’05) and Brian Green (DO ’05).

PCOM EVENTS

August 18
Fall term begins

August 20
PCOM Board of Trustees Meeting

September 6
PCOM Healthcare Center–Cambria Division Community Health Fair

September 12
PCOM Healthcare Center–City Avenue Division Community Health Fair

September 20
CME seminar: Holistic Medicine–Primary Care for the 21st Century at PCOM

September 22
11th Annual PCOM Golf Classic, Chester Valley Golf Club, Malvern, Pa.

PCOM Healthcare Center–Roxborough Division Community Health Fair

PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
4180 City Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131-1695

Address service requested