The Healing TOUCH
Health Advocacy Without Borders
Dear Alumni and Friends:

According to the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners’ Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Competency Domains, the obligation of the osteopathic healthcare provider is “to be accountable to both the public and the profession” and “to advocate for the patient in the context of the needs of society as a whole.” This issue of Digest Magazine highlights three Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine alumni—among many others—who serve as such professional advocates in nations around the world. They resourcefully provide primary and specialty care in the midst of eroding public health infrastructures. They strive to meet the healthcare challenges of children and immigrants with specialized needs and/or of poor and refugee populations displaced by civil strife and economic pressures. And they judiciously combat the emergence and reemergence of infectious diseases and the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Beyond these global advocates, the issue celebrates the service of two longtime PCOM teachers, administrators and student advocates: Oliver C. Bullock, DO ’78, and Joseph A. Dieterle, DO ’70. Ollie and Joe were presented with O.J. Snyder Memorial Medals during the College’s Founders’ Day celebration held in January. During the ceremony, students Valerie L. Moore, MS (DO ’15) and Lauren E. Smith (DO ’16) received Mason W. Pressly Memorial Medals for their outstanding merits and community efforts.

Lastly, this issue recognizes the more than two decades of service dedicated to the College by Paul W. McGloin, CPA, LLD (Hon.). Paul retired from his post as chairman of the PCOM Boards of Trustees in November. John P. Kearney succeeds Paul, who is now trustee emeritus.

I trust you will enjoy the stories that follow, which exemplify the core values that make us PCOM proud.

Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81
President and Chief Executive Officer
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ON THE COVER

Osteopathic physicians’ hands help remove healthcare barriers around the globe. This issue of Digest Magazine highlights three PCOM alumni who serve as professional advocates in Ukraine, India and Haiti.
Primary care docs diagnose, but don’t refer, eating disorders

Existing research has shown that primary care doctors can play an important role in recognizing and diagnosing eating disorders. However, new research suggests that while those physicians can be adept at assessing patients’ signs and symptoms, they may not be sure of what to do next.

In research presented in October at the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies’ annual conference, a team including Stacey Cahn, associate professor, psychology, and Ashley Higgins, MS (PsyD ’17), studied the responses of primary care doctors and residents who watched videos of simulated patient interactions. An actor portraying a patient listed a number of symptoms associated with anorexia (without explicitly mentioning the disease) to another actor portraying a doctor. The viewers then attempted to identify the cause of the symptoms. Dr. Cahn and Ms. Higgins found that the physicians were able to correctly identify that a patient had either an eating disorder or, specifically, anorexia, about 60 percent of the time. Yet less than 40 percent recommended follow-up with a mental health professional.

Ms. Higgins says a larger study is needed to explore why so few physicians recommended follow-up. “Doctors can be very intuitive when someone is reporting symptoms, but the problem might be that they are unsure of where exactly to refer their patient, and whether he or she will go,” she notes.

Ms. Higgins adds that the symptom that most often tipped off the doctors to an eating disorder was the loss of menstruation, coupled with a drastic drop in weight or low weight. “That was a big indicator to the viewers that something was wrong,” she says.

Dr. Cahn says that literature suggests that anorexia in particular is underdiagnosed, and that the best outcomes rely on early detection. To that end, primary care providers can be a powerful asset. However, she says, several factors can make this difficult.

“Primary care doctors receive only a minimal amount of training to recognize anorexia, so they’re not always primed on what to look for, and a patient rarely discloses that he or she has an eating disorder,” Dr. Cahn says. “Patients want to get better, but don’t want to gain any weight.”

PCOM helps fill physician need in Delaware

Parts of Delaware, Kent, New Castle and Sussex counties are federally designated as healthcare provider shortage areas; PCOM has been working to address their needs as the state’s official osteopathic medical school. Since 2001, the College has partnered with the Delaware Institute of Medical Education and Research to receive payment from Delaware to provide osteopathic medical education to its residents. The hope is that after graduation, those newly minted doctors will return to the First State to practice.

Currently, 307 DOs practice in Delaware, according to the American Osteopathic Association. Of those, more than 160 are PCOM alumni.

PCOM Trustee Vincent Lobo, DO ’65, who practices in Harrington, Delaware, worked with former Delaware Governor Ruth Ann Minner (a state senator at the time) to have PCOM recognized as the state’s osteopathic medical school. “This provides more opportunities for [the state to have] primary care physicians,” he explains. “And the PCOM philosophy fits directly with primary care.”

The Class of 2018 includes the largest cohort of medical students from Delaware to date—22, more than double the number in the Class of 2014.

PCOM has strong showing on Diverse’s Top 100 list

In October, Diverse: Issues in Higher Education released its Top 100 list, which compiles data from the U.S. Department of Education to determine the top degree producers for minorities in the country. This year, PCOM had a strong showing; among producers of professional doctoral degrees, the College ranked No. 1 for African Americans receiving a degree in osteopathic medicine, and No. 2 for African Americans receiving a degree in clinical, counseling and applied psychology. The College ranked No. 2 among Hispanics receiving a degree in osteopathic medicine.

Among producers of master’s degrees, PCOM ranked No. 14 for Asian Americans receiving a degree in the category of Homeland Security, Law Enforcement, Firefighting and Related Protective Services (for its Forensic Medicine program); the College also ranked No. 18 for African Americans receiving a degree in the category of Allied Health Diagnostic, Intervention, and Treatment Professions (for its Physician Assistant program).

For more information, visit diverseeducation.com/top100.
UPDATES

Symposium explores infection as a trigger for Alzheimer’s

In a study published earlier this year in *Alzheimer’s Research & Therapy*, researchers reported that the failure rate for drug candidates designed to treat Alzheimer’s disease was staggering: 99.6 percent.

Brian Balin, PhD, professor, bio-medical sciences; director, PCOM’s Center for Chronic Disorders of Aging; and co-director, the Adolph and Rose Levis Foundation Laboratory for Alzheimer’s Disease Research, believes one of the reasons for this high failure rate is that the majority of Alzheimer’s research focuses on the wrong target.

Most trials work off the hypothesis that the cause of Alzheimer’s is primarily the accumulation of beta amyloid, but according to Dr. Balin, that’s only part of the story. “Existing research isn’t wrong, but it’s not a complete picture,” he says. “It focuses on outcomes, not causation.”

For several years, he and his collaborators have been studying environmental factors—particularly infectious agents—as potential triggers of the disease. Thus far, his group has been able to identify a link between a respiratory form of chlamydia and beta amyloid plaques, which are major pathological entities reflecting the damage in Alzheimer’s.

Dr. Balin and his colleagues are among several researchers around the world exploring this link. He hosted a symposium at the Franklin Institute in October that brought together leading neurobiologists and infectious disease researchers to share their expertise and research, in an effort to expand awareness of what Dr. Balin calls an “exciting approach to the Alzheimer’s disease dilemma.

“People may be skeptical of this research path, but I’m skeptical of current research because there’s still no effective treatment,” he says. “We need to start thinking differently by considering how infectious agents can promote the damage found in Alzheimer’s and, hopefully, that will lead to better treatment options.”

PCOM elevates two on Boards

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine recently announced new leadership for its Boards of Trustees following the retirement of longtime chairman Paul W. McGloin, CPA, LLD (Hon.), at the end of 2014.

John P. Kearney has been named the new chairman and Thomas J. Gravina has been named vice chairman.

Mr. Kearney, who serves as president of John P. Kearney Associates, was first appointed to the Boards in 2003; he was elected vice chairman in 2013.

Mr. Gravina, co-founder and executive chairman of GPX Enterprises, LP and its affiliates, has served on the PCOM Boards since 2003. He presently chairs the Boards’ Foundation Committee.

For more about Mr. Kearney and Mr. Gravina’s new appointments, as well as the retirement of Mr. McGloin, please see pages 8-9.

Dr. Balin brought together researchers from around the world to discuss the link between infection and Alzheimer’s.
New role of protein helps “glue” heart together

Congenital heart defects are the most common birth defect, affecting eight out of every 1,000 newborns, according to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. A recent study by Cathy Hatcher, PhD, assistant professor, bio-medical sciences, found that a specific protein—Tbx5—plays an important role in the proper development of the heart.

“The job of Tbx5 is to target certain genes and regulate their function within a cell at a specific point in time,” Dr. Hatcher explains. Her study has “identified new targets of Tbx5 in the developing heart: adhesion and matrix molecules, which act as the heart’s ‘glue,’ binding different types of cells together.”

While existing research has shown that the Tbx5 protein plays a role in the development of various cells in the heart, little was known about its role in the epicardium—the outermost cell layer of the heart, which is also the predecessor to the coronary vessels that supply blood and nutrients to the heart—and the pericardium—the heart’s protective sac and its coronary vessels.

For this study, researchers examined the development of the proepicardium, a group of embryonic cells that give rise to the epicardium, pericardium and coronary vessels. They found that a loss of Tbx5 delayed the “gluing together” of that outer layer to the heart muscle, which can lead to deficiencies in the way the heart is formed.

“In development, it’s important for proepicardium cells to migrate and make contact with the myocardium to properly form the epicardium,” says Dr. Hatcher. “We show that the Tbx5 protein is not only essential in regulating the development of cells in the proepicardium and epicardium, but it is also important in formation of the coronary blood vessels that are derived from these cells. This is why we believe that genetic mutations in human Tbx5 can cause these coronary vessel anomalies. Studying how this protein contributes to formation of the epicardium/pericardium and coronary vessels will provide us with a new perspective on how to treat individuals with congenital heart defects,” she says.

Championing Health Care

The 2014 Champions of Healthcare awards ceremony, held on October 10 at Gwinnett Center, recognized GA–PCOM educators and programs that impact the health care of Georgians. U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, MD, served as keynote speaker. These were the honorees:

• Champion of GA–PCOM: Houston Healthcare.
• Frontline Champions: Linda Williams, administrative assistant, bio-medical sciences; Skye Bickett, MLIS, AHIP, reference and education librarian; Erica Rosalie, library assistant; Meghan DiRito, library assistant; and Richard Saldivar, MLIS, systems and emerging technology librarian.
• Educators of Excellence: Samuel John, PharmD, assistant professor, pharmacy practice; and Richard W. White, PhD, professor, bio-medical sciences.
• Innovation and Research: Mary P. Owen, JD, PhD, professor, bio-medical sciences; and Avadhesh C. Sharma, PharmD, PhD, chair and professor, pharmaceutical sciences.
• Clinicians of Excellence: Ravi Shekarappa, MD, clinical assistant professor, internal medicine, attending physician, Warner Robins Medical Clinic, PC and Houston Medical Center; and Nojan Valadi, MD, neurologist/neurohospitalist, St. Francis Hospital, St. Francis Neurology.
• Students of Merit: Gulsedef Arslan (MS/Biomed ’15), Joylaina Speaks (PharmD ’16) and Lauren Smith (DO ’16).
Timeline mural displays Georgia Campus heritage

A mural depicting the heritage and timeline of Georgia Campus – PCOM greets all who enter the front door of the campus building, thanks to the support of H. William Craver, III, DO ’87, dean and chief academic officer, osteopathic medical program, and his wife, Kathryn, as well as Skye Bickett and Stephanie Ferretti, library staff.

The project came to fruition when Mrs. Craver, a corporate designer, suggested that a mural would be a tangible way to show the connection between the young Georgia campus and the main Philadelphia campus. The graphic began to take shape with the help of Abigail Harmon, graphic designer, marketing and communications, and Mitzi Killeen, MLS, cataloger and special collections librarian.

“We placed images obtained from various College departments on top of the background image of both campuses to give texture and depth to the mural,” says Ms. Ferretti. “This project took several months, but ended up being a great collaboration between the Georgia and Philadelphia campuses,” she adds.

PCOM signs affiliation agreement with Jefferson

Members of PCOM faculty and staff met with representatives from Thomas Jefferson University’s School of Population Health to sign an agreement that will allow DO students the opportunity to receive a master’s of public health degree from Jefferson while completing their coursework at PCOM. Those embarking on the dual-degree path can attain both degrees in as little as five years.

Through the partnership, DO students can attend Jefferson full-time for the year between what traditionally would be the third and fourth years of PCOM’s osteopathic medical program. In addition to MPH students, PCOM students will study alongside other dual-degree students, including Jefferson medical students, who are also pursuing a graduate public health degree. The master’s portion of the program is completed by combining public health capstone work with a rotation designed by Michael Becker, DO ’87, associate professor, family medicine, at one of PCOM’s Healthcare Centers. The rotation applies public health and clinical competencies to the chronic care management of special needs patients.

Maris selected for Governor’s Teaching Fellow and Biology Scholars Program

Melinda Maris, PhD, assistant professor of biochemistry and learning strategies specialist, Georgia Campus – PCOM, was recently named a Governor’s Teaching Fellow for the 2014–15 Academic Year Symposia Program. She is one of 13 faculty members from institutions of higher education across Georgia to be selected for this honor.

Dr. Maris was also selected as one of 20 biologists to participate in the 2014–15 American Society for Microbiology – National Science Foundation Biology Scholars Program Assessment Residency. The year-long residency guides scholars in developing and refining assessment tools and measurable learning outcomes.

A GA–PCOM faculty member since 2012, Dr. Maris integrates technology and active learning strategies into instruction in innovative ways to enhance learning.
This fall, the DO class of 2018 in Philadelphia and Georgia, along with the pharmacy class of 2018 and physician assistant class of 2016, took their first steps toward careers as healthcare professionals with the receiving of their white coats at ceremonies on both campuses.

At the DO ceremony in Philadelphia, Valerie L. Moore, MS (DO ’15) told the first-year students that medical school would “feel like you’re walking through a cave, in the dark, wondering if this entire structure around you is about to collapse. But then you’ll realize it’s not a cave, it’s a tunnel, and there’s a light at the end. And one day you’ll look back at that tunnel and think, ‘That was pretty amazing.'”

In Georgia, student pharmacist Anthony Alexander (PharmD ’18) told his classmates, “Our stories will be intertwined for the next four years. Let’s all reach our goal—four years from now—together. This is our story to tell. We start working on the future right now.”

The white coat has been a part of the healthcare profession since the 19th century, originating from the operating room’s white coat. It is a visual symbol of the profession that stands for the need to balance excellence in science with compassionate caring for the patient.
President’s Leadership Circle gifts

The President’s Leadership Circle has been updated to reflect today’s economy and the current need for annual giving to support student aid and to enhance academic programs. In order to ensure that the President’s Leadership Circle continues to have a measurable impact on the College, the entry giving level has increased from $1,000 to $2,500.

Georgia Campus – PCOM Student Award Fund

In October 2014, the Champions of Healthcare awards ceremony recognized individuals and organizations who made an extraordinary impact in the Gwinnett County and Georgia healthcare communities and whose acts reflect dedication to excellence in their area of expertise beyond the scope of their profession. And from the success of this event, a GA–PCOM Student Award Fund was established.

The fund was created through a lead gift from Lisa M. McBride, PhD, chief diversity officer, with additional contributions from corporate sponsors, faculty, staff and students. The awards from this fund are designated to students enrolled in any academic program at GA–PCOM and will be distributed annually.

West Allegheny Physicians’ Association Fund

The College was honored by a grant from the West Allegheny Physicians’ Association Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation. Ten PCOM students from Western Pennsylvania were awarded scholarships from this gift. This is the fifth year PCOM has received this support, and many students have benefited from the fund’s generosity.

Dr. John C. Kermode Fund

Simore Afamefuna, PharmD ’14, was the first recipient of the Dr. John C. Kermode Fund award. Through gifts received in honor of the late professor, the Dr. John C. Kermode Fund was established to recognize the work of students enrolled in the School of Pharmacy, GA–PCOM.

Reunion giving

Class reunions are a good time not only for renewing acquaintances with classmates but also for renewing your involvement with your college. Take the Reunion Giving Challenge. If you gave a gift last year, please consider increasing your gift in honor of your reunion. No gift last year? Consider becoming a donor during your reunion year.

Commitments to the Reunion Giving Challenge can be paid immediately or pledged and fulfilled in installments over a period of five years. Another option is consideration of a bequest or other estate planning. PCOM’s Andrew Taylor Still Legacy Society recognizes these donor plans. Please make your special commitment to honor your reunion class today; call 800-739-3939 or go online at pcom.edu/donate.

Independence Blue Cross Foundation awards third Blue Safety Net Grant to PCOM Healthcare Centers

The Independence Blue Cross Foundation recently awarded the PCOM Healthcare Centers a third $50,000 grant through its Blue Safety Net initiative. This one-year grant, to enhance primary care for vulnerable adults through shared medical appointments and complex care support, was inspired by the implementation of the patient-centered medical home. This project was developed for patients with chronic illnesses and psychosocial needs at the PCOM Healthcare Centers at Cambria Street and Lancaster Avenue. The program will positively impact access and continuity of care for the underserved communities of North and West Philadelphia and will reduce inappropriate and costly visits to hospital emergency departments.
After 23 years of bold and visionary leadership that has transformed Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine into a multidisciplinary, multistate health science educational institution, Mr. McGloin has retired as chairman of the College’s Boards of Trustees. John P. Kearney, a prominent Scranton-area businessman and community leader who has served on the PCOM Boards since 2003, has succeeded Mr. McGloin, now trustee emeritus.

The transition comes as PCOM embarks on a new chapter in its history—following the retirement of longtime President and Chief Executive Officer Matthew Schure, PhD, and the appointment of current President and Chief Executive Officer Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81—that builds upon the landmark successes Mr. McGloin realized in his decade as chairman.

“Paul was a highly effective and committed leader. Among his greatest gifts to PCOM was his professional business and financial acumen—and his personal promotion of integrity, objectivity and competence,” says Dr. Feldstein. “Paul leaves the College in good financial health, giving it strength to negotiate any future challenges and meet them with success.”

Mr. McGloin was elected to the PCOM Boards of Trustees in September 1991, and assumed chairmanship in July 2004. He officially stepped down from his post on November 12, 2014, during the College’s Annual Meeting of the Corporation. During his tenure, he served on the Boards’ Executive, Finance and Audit committees.

A graduate of Drexel University, Mr. McGloin began his banking career in 1975 at American Bank and Trust Company, Reading, Pennsylvania, a predecessor to Meridian Bank, where he served as chief auditor, branch administrator, credit administrator and then division president for the Philadelphia region. Upon Meridian Bank’s merger with CoreStates Bank in 1996, Mr. McGloin served in various lending capacities, and ultimately as the chief risk policy officer. Later, when CoreStates merged into First Union, Mr. McGloin became a managing director in the Capital Markets Group. In this post, he had responsibility for all credit decisions for the Capital Markets Group in Philadelphia.

In 2001, Mr. McGloin joined National Penn Bank, Boyertown, Pennsylvania, as division president, bringing his vast experience and ardent dedication to customer service. In 2003, he was promoted to executive vice president and chief lending officer, leading the Banking Services Group. It was from this post that he retired in December 2011.

Upon the occasion of his retirement, Mr. McGloin says: “I would like to thank Drs. Schure and Veit [Kenneth J. Veit, DO ’76, MBA, provost, senior vice president for academic affairs and dean] and all members of the PCOM community who have worked so hard to make the College the success it is today. The desire to make PCOM the medical school of choice has resulted in a significant increase in applicants, the addition of a second campus and academic programs that allow students to be taught and mentored by some of the top professors and clinicians in the nation. I know that the College is poised to continue this success under its new leadership of Dr. Feldstein and Mr. Kearney, and through the ongoing support of alumni.”
New Leadership for the PCOM Boards of Trustees

In January, John P. Kearney, a certified master electrician who serves as president of ERICO Corp, John P. Kearney Associates Inc., M&K Leasing Inc. and Kearney Real Estate, was named chairman of the PCOM Boards of Trustees. Mr. Kearney was first appointed to the Boards in 2003; he was elected vice chairman in 2013.

“As chairman, it will be my work to lead the College’s Boards in advancing the College’s commitment to its students by providing a high-quality education, while maintaining the lowest possible tuition,” says Mr. Kearney. “Furthermore, I will work to promote institutional growth—in Philadelphia, in Georgia and beyond.”

In 2001, Mr. Kearney and his wife, Lois, established a scholarship at the College in honor of their late son, John D. Kearney, who passed away while enrolled as a DO student. The couple also hosts an annual reception for alumni, students and prospective students in Moosic, Pennsylvania.

Thomas J. Gravina has been named vice chairman of the PCOM Boards of Trustees. Mr. Gravina has served on the PCOM Boards since 2003.

Mr. Gravina’s service to PCOM has included the chairmanship—from 2005 to 2011—of the College’s annual Golf Classic, which raised more than $1,000,000 during his tenure. Most recently, he led the College’s Presidential Search Committee. Mr. Gravina received PCOM’s President’s Leadership Award in 2010.

Mr. Gravina is co-founder and executive chairman of GPX Enterprises, LP and its affiliates; he is also the co-founder, chairman and chief executive officer of Evolve IP.
The annual observance of Founders’ Day honors the founders of Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine: Oscar John Snyder, DO, and Mason Wiley Pressly, DO. The profiles of the honorees that follow provide examples of those who continue to embody the dedication, loyalty and service that the College’s founders exhibited.
Dr. Bullock's dedication to community health also inspired the College's Boards of Trustees to build brand new facilities for all PCOM Healthcare Centers in Philadelphia. “The boards recognized that we were doing good work, and they wanted our facilities to reflect that,” he says.

Dr. Bullock takes pride in his service on the Pew Foundation Health Commission, which was well ahead of its time in predicting today’s healthcare trends, and as chair of the Pennsylvania State Board of Osteopathic Medicine from 2000 to 2003. Among many PCOM accolades, he was the recipient of the 2014 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award, and served as vice chairman of the PCOM Diversity Council.

Reflecting on his many years of teaching, Dr. Bullock says, “I want our students to learn that no matter what specialty they choose, the most successful doctors are the ones who can communicate the best with their patients and possess that essential combination of caring and competence.”
Dr. Dieterle remembers visiting his family physician’s office as if it were yesterday. “Dr. Robert A. Hibbs was a classic of his day,” he recalls. “He worked alone in his office, the library of a stately old home with stained woodwork, a fireplace and beautiful paintings. He had no nurse or receptionist. If you needed care, you just showed up during office hours. As a child, I had a ‘doctor bag,’ and he would give me old stethoscopes, empty vitamin bottles, head mirrors, and tongue blades to fill it.”

As Dr. Dieterle’s interest in becoming a physician grew, Dr. Hibbs became his mentor. Then suddenly, when Dr. Dieterle was a junior in high school, Dr. Hibbs died. “I was floundering without a compass,” Dr. Dieterle says about that time.

After Dr. Hibbs’ passing, Dr. Dieterle and his family turned to “two young, enthusiastic osteopathic physicians for care—Stuart Baer, DO ’63, and John C. Crawford, DO ’56.” Over time, they became Dr. Dieterle’s new mentors, each writing him a letter of recommendation to Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Dieterle soon discovered a passion for pediatrics. “I really enjoyed caring for children and watching them grow, interacting with parents and observing all the joys and pleasures,” he notes. After graduating from PCOM and completing an internship at Flint (Michigan) Osteopathic Hospital, he became the first osteopathic resident at St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, where he was also named chief resident during his last year.

With encouragement from the late Thomas M. Rowland, Jr., former PCOM president, Dr. Dieterle decided to join the faculty at PCOM. He ultimately became chairman and professor of the Department of Pediatrics—a department that he strengthened and to which multiple subspecialties were added. Dr. Dieterle also started a program that trained 26 pediatric residents.

“The students, interns and residents were so stimulating,” recalls Dr. Dieterle. “They were my mentors. They asked the questions, and I had to be ready for them. They made me learn. I read a lot to stay on top of things.”

During his tenure at PCOM, Dr. Dieterle also served as vice president of medical affairs and dean, as well as director of medical education. He initiated the College’s DO/MBA dual degree program as well as the Minority Student Scholarship Fund.

In 1989, he realized a lifelong dream: practicing in the community where he lived. He took over a private practice in Somers Point, New Jersey, with Dr. Mark Jacobson that grew to include three locations and nine osteopathic physicians; five were PCOM alumni. “It was great fun,” he recalls. “I enjoyed bumping into patients wherever I went.” A number of PCOM students fulfilled rotations within the practice under Dr. Dieterle’s mentorship.

Now retired from pediatric practice, Dr. Dieterle is an emeritus professor and has served on the College’s Boards of Trustees since 2003.

Reflecting on his career, he takes pride in serving as the only osteopathic president of the Philadelphia Pediatrics Society, as well as serving on the Governor’s Task Force for Perinatal Health and the Childbirth Education Association. Among his many recognitions, in 2003, Dr. Dieterle was inducted into the La Salle University Hall of Athletes for his swimming records as a National Collegiate Athletic Association All-American. In 1982, he received the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation Award for Distinguished Teaching. He was the 2012 recipient of Shore Medical Center’s Chairman’s Award.

A distinguished fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians and the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Dieterle was the first pediatric resident in the United States to take both the osteopathic and allopathic boards. “I always hoped that these achievements would bring well-deserved recognition to PCOM,” he says. “I had the best of both worlds during my career—teaching at an outstanding medical school and taking care of children.”
Ms. Moore describes herself as an optimist. “Everyone has within them the possibility not only to survive but to thrive,” she says. “I always try to help people be the best they can be and, at the same time, I try to be the best person I can be.”

Throughout her years at PCOM, Ms. Moore has demonstrated that philosophy in countless ways. She has served in numerous leadership positions and volunteered hundreds of hours to community service projects. Among her many achievements, she takes great pride in serving as chair of her class. “You are elected to this position by your classmates during the first six weeks of class,” she says. “For my classmates to have enough confidence in my ability and to trust me with that position after such a short time was humbling.”

Ms. Moore also coordinated the “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event for Women Against Abuse. “We recruited male PCOM students to walk in high heels on City and Monument Avenues to raise awareness about women and children who are victims of domestic violence and abusive situations,” she says. “I saw this as an opportunity to take a stand that, as physicians, we are responsible for making sure our patients are in a safe environment.”

She is most humbled by her selection as the recipient of the 2015 Mason W. Pressly Memorial Award. “My peers and faculty members who have worked with me know my strengths and weaknesses. With all that knowledge, they still found me a worthy candidate to represent PCOM on such a high level. This is truly an honor,” she states.

Ms. Moore looks forward to a residency and career in pediatrics, noting that she told her mother she wanted to be a “baby medical doctor” when she was just three years old. “I am very excited about using the osteopathic philosophy with our littlest, most vulnerable population,” says Ms. Moore.

“...”

Ms. Smith’s journey to become an osteopathic physician began in an unlikely way: with the study of anthropology. Although she began her undergraduate studies as a biology major, she was drawn to anthropology in her sophomore year. After switching majors, she made several trips to conduct research in Belize, where her passion for underserved communities was ignited.

“I spent a summer working as an intern with the Ministry of Health in Belize amidst one of the most severe outbreaks of dengue fever that country has ever experienced,” she says. “I also volunteered regularly at a local rural hospital; therefore, I was able to see how this outbreak was addressed from both public health and clinical standpoints. I realized there was a severe lack of communication between the public health and clinical sectors of the government, and worked with both parties to make the prevention and treatment plan for dengue fever more feasible and effective.”

Ms. Smith returned to Belize a few months later to conduct her own anthropological-based study, during which she interviewed the community to understand their cultural conceptions of dengue fever. “My research provided key data for improving future prevention and control strategies, and highlighted the importance of community integration and education in public health interventions,” she explains. “For me, this was more than just a ‘third world’ aid experience. I became passionate about educating the community in order to make them healthier and safer. Seeing the impact that medicine can have on a community inspired me to pursue medicine as a career.”

After learning about osteopathic medicine, she instantly saw it as “a natural fit for me. Anthropology looks at ‘the whole’ of what it means to be human,” she says. “It examines the physical, social and cultural aspects of humanity. My belief in this system of thought strongly coincides with the holistic approach to health care offered by osteopathic medicine, as wellness encompasses the physical, mental and spiritual realms of a person.”

Her passion for osteopathic medicine and teaching led to an osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) teaching fellowship at Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. “Going into OMM during my first year of medical school, I loved working with my hands, and the practice really made sense to me. I love OMM, and I think it serves a place in every aspect of medicine.”

Ms. Smith plans to pursue a residency and career in general surgery and also plans to continue teaching OMM as a preceptor for other medical students and by giving lectures. “I see a strong need for OMM to be incorporated into the field of surgery,” she emphasizes. “In terms of pre-op and post-op care, I think it could really improve outcomes.”
UKRAINE

The Healing TOUCH
Health Advocacy Without Borders

“Make a career out of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.
INDIA

HAITI
For decades, Dr. Chernyk has been a remarkably efficient advocate for Ukrainian children with specialized healthcare needs. Working with Ukraine’s embassy and government, the U.S. Congress, and her sprawling personal network of organizations and individuals throughout the Philadelphia area, the United States, and abroad, she has brought scores of children to this country for treatments that would be impossible for them to receive at home, and has enabled treatments to be provided for many others in their home country.

The fulcrum of Dr. Chernyk’s work is the Ukrainian Federation of America (UFA), a Jenkintown, Pennsylvania–based nonprofit organization staffed entirely by volunteers and, with the exception of an occasional government grant, run exclusively on donations (and through the old-fashioned efforts of carnivals, fashion shows and similar fundraisers). Dr. Chernyk is president of the UFA and is serving a second term as chair of its board of directors, of which she has been a member since the organization’s founding in 1991. She directs the UFA healthcare program; it also has vigorous programs in advocacy and information, arts and culture, education, humanitarian aid, and social services, each developed and run by its own director. For example, the UFA has “the largest Ukrainian social service program in the Philadelphia area for new immigrants,” Dr. Chernyk says. The Philadelphia area has about 180,000 Ukrainians, most densely concentrated in the Northeast section of the city.

The logistics of helping Ukrainian children with serious healthcare problems are daunting, even after the best course of treatment has been determined. “The children who come to the United States may need chemotherapy; they may need repeated surgery,” says Dr. Chernyk. Some stay in this country for up to a year, and host families must be found to accommodate them. Obtaining visas for the Ukrainians requires satisfying the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine that the UFA assumes financial responsibility for the costs of the child’s (and accompanying family...
and counseling for their parents. Nasha Rodyna also runs the camp, which treats between 11 and 17 children each summer, providing medication for them and support and counseling for their parents. Nasha Rodyna also connects Ukraine to the MS International Federation, works to establish an MS research center, obtains wheelchairs and hospital beds, helps finance hospital supplies, develops and implements training programs to care for MS patients, and assigns social workers to families of MS patients.

The UFA has also been a partner—with the International Fund Ukraine 3000 and the Ministry of Health of Ukraine—in Project Lifeline, a healthcare initiative focusing on Ukrainian children and adolescents. Working with institutions in the United States, Ukraine and around the world, Project Lifeline provides healthcare professionals with a teleconference education and information network. It also helps laboratories, clinics and hospitals with equipment maintenance, medical supplies, and the standardization of procedures and inspections, as well as social service, counseling and drug rehabilitation for a range of diseases. Epidemiology efforts include screening, genetic testing, database management, and disease tracking (funded by the U.S. Department of Defense).

A new undertaking of the healthcare program involves upper-extremity prosthetics. Ukrainian prosthetists will come to Shriners Hospitals for Children to learn how to make light, durable prostheses and how to prepare limbs for the devices. “Lower-extremity prostheses in Ukraine are fairly adequate, if not optimal,” says Dr. Chernyk. “But they feel they need to improve the functionality of hand and arm prostheses.”

The UFA was founded, shortly after Ukraine became an independent state in 1991, by Dr. Chernyk’s late husband, Alexander Chernyk, DO ’65, PCOM professor of surgery from 1969 to 1989 and director of medical education from 1969 to 1971. Among the UFA’s first efforts was to organize help for victims of the Chernobyl disaster, which had begun on April 26, 1986. The worst nuclear power plant accident in history, the Chernobyl explosion resulted in radioactive particles entering the atmosphere and spreading over much of the western

**Chernobyl’s generations of suffering**

In 2012, Dr. Chernyk arranged to bring a four-year-old girl and her mother to the South Jersey area. The child had deformed kidneys that left her prone to recurrent infection and loss of kidney function. A pediatric urologist and Virtua Voorhees Hospital donated their services, sparing the little girl from having to begin dialysis. Dr. Chernyk speculated that the girl’s problem could be linked to the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster, as children exposed to radiation then are now having children of their own, perhaps passing along damaged DNA.
A severe lack of medical facilities and technologies

In June 2013, Dr. Chernyk accompanied two pediatric urologists from Temple University—Gregory Dean, MD, and Michael Packer, MD—to Western Ukraine, where they held a clinic for local pediatric urologists and surgeons—“prepared and knowledgeable,” says Dr. Chernyk, “but they just don’t have the technology.” The clinic reviewed more than 20 difficult cases from throughout the region, performing surgery on a dozen children and scheduling others for later treatment in the United States. “We visit children who we’ve seen treated, and we do follow-up on old cases and consultations for new cases, so they will be prepared for the surgery we will do the next year,” explains Dr. Chernyk. The American doctors introduced their Ukrainian colleagues to techniques including advanced microscopic hypospadias repair and minimally invasive treatment of an obstructed ureteroceles. They also lectured on advances in robotic surgery and the management of pediatric neurogenic bladder. A similar trip planned for the fall was postponed because of political unrest; Dr. Chernyk plans to return with other colleagues this spring.

U.S.S.R. and Europe. “Very little could be done while the Soviet Union was still in existence,” says Dr. Chernyk. “And they were so unprepared for this calamity, and for the severity of the injuries.”

Today, Dr. Chernyk’s “normal work” is complicated by the plight of those who have been wounded in Ukraine’s political conflict. When that conflict escalated at the end of December 2014, Ukraine’s military hospitals were flooded beyond capacity. Patients typically suffered from gunshot wounds and extensive burns, the latter requiring specialized care that is in limited supply. By January 2015, Dr. Chernyk had about 20 such patients currently receiving U.S. treatment; ten had already been treated and returned home. Another 30 awaited assignment to trauma centers, as Dr. Chernyk sought the help of her colleagues around the country and in Philadelphia (three of the wounded, for example, were treated at Wills Eye Hospital).

“Many Ukrainian organizations help tremendously with humanitarian aid, but the UFA is the only organization that brings the Ukrainian wounded to the United States,” says Dr. Chernyk.

When U.S.-bound patients are well enough to fly from Ukraine on commercial air flights, the airlines may cover the cost. Those with more serious injuries may need to be evacuated by special medical planes, equipped with an emergency room, doctors and nurses. Even if professional services, including those of pilots, are provided pro bono, the fuel alone may cost $100,000. Any uncovered costs must be raised by Dr. Chernyk’s group.

Born in what was then the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and educated in Poland, Dr. Chernyk arrived in the United States in 1964; her mother’s family had been here since after World War II. She had been invited to do surgical research on kidney and pancreas transplants at Hahnemann University, and she later conducted research in renal pharmacology at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. When, in the 1970s, Dr. Chernyk decided to become a clinician, she realized that much in the practice of medicine had changed since she had completed her medical education. “I was interested in new ways of treating patients,” she recalls, joking that after her time spent in pharmacology, she “wanted to stay away from chemicals!”

Admitted to a one-time-only PCOM program tailored to working people, Dr. Chernyk became one of 24 DO students, the others PCOM faculty members from across the disciplines who had basic science degrees. “We were to go through medical school in five years, taking afternoon and evening classes,” says Dr. Chernyk. “But we decided we would graduate in four years, and we did.” During the time she attended school, Dr. Chernyk had three children under the age of four. Yet she considered this seemingly daunting period “a breeze,” comparatively speaking. That’s because when she studied medicine in Poland, students were required to undergo military training. “I was in boot camp
in the summer and in training on the weekends. I was in the Air Force; we had to do parachute jumps."

After graduating from PCOM, Dr. Chernyk did her internship and a residency in internal medicine at Suburban General Hospital in Norristown, and then a nephrology fellowship through Lankenau Hospital Nephrology, conducted at Montgomery Hospital in Norristown. She has served as clinical associate professor of internal medicine at PCOM since 2009, and was chairman of the division of nephrology at Mercy Suburban Hospital in East Norriton, Pennsylvania, from 1982 to 2006. She continues to maintain her long-time nephrology practice.

Dr. Chernyk’s contributions toward strengthening ties between Ukraine and the United States and toward improving health care in Ukraine are attested to by numerous commendations and medals from the Ukrainian government. In 2008, she was honored by the U.S. House of Representatives “for her tireless efforts and service to Ukraine and the Philadelphia area Ukrainian-American community.”

A dry sense of humor—“My new research project is inventing a 36-hour day”—overlays Dr. Chernyk’s commitment to and immersion in her work. When her dedication is characterized as remarkable, she politely but firmly disagrees: “It’s necessary, so it’s not remarkable.”

Today, Dr. Chernyk’s “normal work” is complicated by the plight of those who have been wounded in Ukraine’s political conflict. When that conflict escalated at the end of December 2014, Ukraine’s military hospitals were flooded beyond capacity.

Faces of the Ukraine

The images included within this article were taken by Tania Mychajlyshyn-D’Avignon, a freelance photographer and member of National Union of Photo Artists of Ukraine, PSA and FIAP. Ms. Mychajlyshyn-D’Avignon was born in Lviv, Ukraine, and came to the United States in 1950 with her parents. She is a graduate of Maryland Institute, College of Art, and has been photographing in Ukraine since 1964. She was a Fulbright Scholar to Ukraine from 2003 to 2004.

Ms. Mychajlyshyn-D’Avignon’s photography experience includes work for National Geographic Magazine and Film Studio Dovzhenko, Kyiv. Her images have been published in over 80 books, including her own Simply Ukraine (1998) and in hundreds of magazines and newspapers. And her work has been shown in galleries in Ukraine, Poland, Belarus, Slovakia, Germany, China, Uzbekistan, Canada and the United States. Most recently, she has had two exhibits at Harvard University: “Kaleidoscope of Cultures: Contemporary Ukraine and the East” and “The Day the Ferris Wheel Stood Still.”
When Dr. George was growing up in Bombay, India, he knew nothing of the city’s lurid red light district, located about eight miles from his childhood home.

Decades later, Dr. George has joined a cadre of Western professionals who travel to the city, now called Mumbai, for weeklong medical missions. They volunteer to treat hundreds of patients who throng the Bombay Teen Challenge’s medical tent, set up on a street in the heart of the Kamathipura neighborhood, the home of the city’s sex trade since the British colonial days in the 19th century.

It’s a squalid life for the young women lured to the brothels as they struggle to overcome a host of medical and mental-health issues. An estimated 70 percent carry the HIV virus.

Dr. George is headed back this spring for his third trip since 2012. “Our medical outreach is a way to encounter sex workers and their children, and allows us a foot into the door of their lives,” says Dr. George, whose family emigrated to Rockland County in New York City’s northern suburbs when he was six. “Compassionate care has earned us credibility, and the girls see us as a valuable asset. And through our relationships, we’re able to begin to change their hearts.”

Dr. George, who works in the Bryn Mawr Family Practice at Main Line Health Center in Broomall, Pennsylvania, also serves as a faculty member with the center’s medical residency program, where he received his training. The dually accredited program takes four residents a year—two from osteopathic medical schools and two from allopathic medical schools.

One of the program’s third-year residents, Timothy Mack, DO ’12, will accompany Dr. George on his 2015 mission. He knows what to expect. Dr. Mack traveled on a medical mission to Recife, Brazil, in his final year at PCOM in 2012.

“It’s going to be serious work,” says Dr. Mack, who grew up in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and has accepted a position with Main Line Health Care in 2015. “We’re going to see some scary stuff. It will be ‘follow-the-leader and see where I can help.’”
‘It seemed absurd to consider medical schools and accrue more student loans,’ he says. ‘But I was interested in medicine. I applied.’ On the day he celebrated his doctoral degree at RPI’s graduation ceremonies, he received his acceptance from PCOM.

‘I had liked what I’d heard about the osteopathic principles,’ he recalls. ‘And my medical practice, in many ways, has ended up being an extension of my engineering career.’

During his doctoral studies, Dr. George had delved deeply into biomechanics, which provided a firm foundation for the practice of osteopathic manual manipulation. ‘I understood the relationships between structure and function,’ he says. ‘And those concepts apply to many medical issues.’

It turned out, however, that family practice, not orthopedics, would become Dr. George’s specialty. His residency in family medicine at Bryn Mawr Family Practice solidified this change.

‘As much as I grew up studying the science of medicine, I became drawn to the art of medicine, the relationship side of the holistic treatment of patients,’ he recalls. ‘I fell in love with family medicine, where you get to do everything.’

He brings that same approach to the streets of Mumbai. ‘It’s not just the medical side; there’s the bio-psycho-social side that needs to be addressed,’ he says. ‘When we intervene, we can help change the life trajectory for those children.’

The free health services in the medical tent augment the health care delivered by the lone staff physician at Bombay Teen Challenge, a Christian-based agency founded in the early 1980s to address the needs of the sex workers and rescue some of them from what has been called 21st-century slavery. Dr. George’s sister and brother-in-law, Leena and Tom Varghese, both work for BTC.

For Dr. George, his work in Mumbai is part of a family medical practice that is grounded in the relationships he develops with his patients. He now hopes to make it an annual event with his medical residents at the Bryn Mawr Family Practice.

‘An international experience like this reminds you of the heart of family medicine,’ says Dr. George, who lives in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, with his wife and three children. ‘It opens you up to the needs of the underserved in your own community. There’s human trafficking in the United States as well.’

Patients who come to the free medical tent present with a broad range of diseases. Many of the sex workers suffer from sexually transmitted diseases, joint pain and mental-health issues associated with their plight.

‘You see how traumatized these girls are when you look into their eyes,’ he says. ‘They are soulless. They’ve been exploited, raped, broken in so many ways. This is all they know. And that’s where Bombay Teen Challenge enters in, to show them avenues for change.’

Dr. George was not headed for medical school when he graduated with an undergraduate degree in engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 2000. He went on to earn a doctorate at RPI in biomedical engineering in 2005, planning at the time to pursue a career in academia, focusing on the science involved in bone fractures.

But then he decided to dive into medicine. He had an idea that a career in orthopedic surgery would satisfy his desire to become a healer.

An international experience like this reminds you of the heart of family medicine.
On one of the many medical aid trips that Dr. Chvotzkin has made to Haiti, a seven months’ pregnant woman came to see her at the Haiti Clinic, where Dr. Chvotzkin volunteers. The Haitian woman reported she did not feel well. Then, to the surprise of Dr. Chvotzkin, an obstetrician-gynecologist at HealthPark Medical Center in Fort Myers, Florida, the woman suddenly suffered a seizure and became unresponsive.

Because the clinic, then located in Cité Soleil near Port-au-Prince, is not equipped to treat such emergencies, she accompanied the expectant mother to the local hospital. As they drove through dangerous, gang-ridden slums, Dr. Chvotzkin feared more for her patient’s life than her own safety.

“It was scary,” she recalls. “I’m not sure what would have happened if she hadn’t come to the clinic.”

Dr. Chvotzkin suspected hypoglycemia and encouraged the hospital staff to test the patient’s blood glucose. Indeed, the woman’s glucose level was dangerously low, and she received lifesaving treatment.

Several months later, on another trip to the Haiti Clinic, Dr. Chvotzkin saw the woman again. The patient returned with her newborn infant to say thank you to “Baby Doc,” as the Haitians call her.

**Making a difference**

Success stories like these are why Dr. Chvotzkin says she uses all her vacation time to travel to the poor Caribbean country every other month, recently making her 24th trip. “It is very rewarding. You feel like you can make a difference,” she says. Photos of a beaming Dr. Chvotzkin with her Haitian patients show her joy in being there.

The Philadelphia native explains her dedication to this often difficult work: “Sometimes the doctor-patient relationship gets lost in the United States. In Haiti, you don’t have to worry about relative value units or making a quota. It’s getting back to the humanity of medicine. You realize what’s important and what’s not.”

About 40 percent of Haiti’s population, or more than 3.5 million people, are without medical care because of poverty and lack of access, according to the Pan American Health Organization. UNICEF reports that Haiti has the highest rates of infant and maternal mortality in the Western hemisphere.

People who cannot afford medical care can be seen at the Haiti Clinic for less than $1, according to Dr. Chvotzkin.
With only a physician, nurse and dentist permanently on site, the clinic relies on bimonthly visits from volunteer healthcare providers like Dr. Chvotzkin, now a board member of the Haiti Clinic. The nonprofit facility depends on donations of money, medications and supplies. It aims to train Haitian community members to operate the health clinic, with volunteer specialists visiting less frequently.

**PCOM connection**

In May 2010, Dr. Chvotzkin made her first trip to the Haiti Clinic five months after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake devastated the area. She says she learned of the clinic’s work from friend and fellow PCOM alumna Britt J. Parvus, DO ’03, who posted photos on Facebook of her own recent medical mission trip to the clinic that her father, Dirk Parvus, MD, founded in 2007.

Post-earthquake conditions in Cité Soleil (“Sun City”) were “horrendous,” according to Dr. Chvotzkin. Many roads were still impassable, debris was widespread, some residents had untreated injuries and nonhealing wounds, and poor sanitation had caused diarrheal illness, she reports.

Inspired by the Haitian people’s resilience, Dr. Chvotzkin repeatedly returns to help. During a deadly outbreak of cholera that began after the earthquake, Dr. Chvotzkin helped establish cholera treatment centers and trained Haitian staff on the proper use of personal protective equipment and infection control guidelines.

On each three-day trip to the Haiti Clinic, she and one to four other practitioners see from 150 to 550 patients each day, not even stopping for lunch. Conditions uncommon in the United States that she has encountered include syphilis of the breast, infant malnutrition, typhoid fever, and undiagnosed malaria or tuberculosis in pregnancy.

“You can’t learn this type of medicine in a textbook,” says Dr. Chvotzkin, who encourages PCOM medical students to travel to Haiti on a medical mission trip. She also has made two humanitarian trips to a refugee camp in Jordan.

Another problem in Haiti is HIV. Dr. Chvotzkin had to tell an HIV-positive mother that it was not safe to breast-feed her baby because she could give her child the virus. The woman started crying because she could not afford infant formula. Unfortunately, the limited amount of formula that team members bring with them cannot meet the needs of all the women there.

**Focus on women’s health**

The demand for internal medicine is so great in Haiti that Dr. Chvotzkin lends a hand wherever needed—from diagnosing inguinal hernias to removing minor keloids. Her passion, however, is women’s health.

Dr. Chvotzkin hopes to develop a comprehensive women’s center that would include a birthing center. She says the local women currently must give birth at home or walk several miles down a mountain to the hospital. Already, the Haiti Clinic offers prenatal care and classes preparing for home birth, along with a vaginitis program and education about breast self-exams.

In 2013, the Haiti Clinic relocated to the rural mountainous area of Baocia because of gang violence in Cité Soleil. Even having an AK-47 assault rifle held to her head in Cité Soleil has not stopped Dr. Chvotzkin from returning to care for the Haitian people.

“The Haitian patients are very appreciative,” she says. “They give hugs. They want to give you things like artwork or pictures of their child or something they cannot afford to give. Sometimes they try to give you farm animals!”

What Dr. Chvotzkin is most grateful for is that the Haiti Clinic has improved the community members’ chronic diseases. On her most recent weekend visit, the line of patients stopped hours earlier than usual on the final day.

“We were smiling from ear to ear,” she says, “because it shows we’re making a huge difference in their health care.”

For more information about the Haiti Clinic, visit haiticlinic.org.
CLASS OF 1968
L. George Hershey, DO, Flagstaff, AZ, closed his private practice after 44 and a half years. Dr. Hershey is now employed as medical director and a full-time provider at the Native Americans for Community Action Family Health Center. He is also starting his 44th year as team physician for Northern Arizona University athletics.

CLASS OF 1969
Clyde A. Winter, DO, was named to the board of trustees at the Lankenau Hospital Foundation in Wynnewood, PA. His term began in 2014 and will end in 2017.

CLASS OF 1970
Thomas J. McLaughlin, DO, is the president of the Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine. He also serves as the medical director for the Pennsylvania Podiatric Medical Association.

Class of 1971
Patrick J. McAndrew, DO, Pleasant Mount, PA, retired after 42 years of serving the Forest City area. Dr. McAndrew was honored with an event on December 4, 2014, sponsored by Wayne Memorial Community Health Centers.

CLASS OF 1972
Jeffrey C. Northup, DO, Show Low, AZ, joined the executive team at Knox Community Hospital as chief medical officer.

CLASS OF 1973
Robert C. Luderer, DO, Clarion, PA, was featured in the article “Long-time Clarion Oncologist Has Helped Many Patients,” published in the Clarion News (October 28, 2014). Dr. Luderer has been the medical oncologist in charge of the Clarion Hospital Cancer Center since it opened in 2003.

CLASS OF 1974
Joseph W. Bell, Jr., DO, Salt Lake City, UT, joined the obstetrics and gynecology department at Mayo Clinic Health System.

CLASS OF 1976
David V. Condoluci, DO, Moorestown, NJ, was featured in the article “Early Warrior Against AIDS Still Fighting the Good Fight,” published in the Philadelphia Inquirer (December 5, 2014). In 1989, he founded the annual HIV Medical Update conference—which held its 25th annual meeting on December 10, 2014—so that healthcare professionals dealing with AIDS could network and share information.

Kenneth J. Veit, DO, MBA, Lafayette Hill, PA, appeared on WHYY Radio’s “The Pulse” to discuss the growth of osteopathic medicine (October 3, 2014).

CLASS OF 1977
Warren M. Cohen, DO, Wynnewood, PA, was featured in the article “Dr. Cohen Comes Back,” published in the Review (November 19, 2014). Dr. Cohen recently re-established his family practice at Jamestown Medical Building in Roxborough.

Robert B. Goldberg, DO, New York, NY, received the Dr. Stephen Levin Award from the International Workers’ Compensation Foundation. The award recognizes a healthcare professional whose contributions significantly support the Workers’ Compensation Board’s goals of providing employees who are injured on the job with effective medical care, and covering lost wages until they can work again.

Ronald L. Pope, DO, Lansdale, PA, was installed as a fellow of the American College of Neuropsychiatrists on October 26, 2014, at the American Osteopathic Association Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar in Seattle, Washington.

CLASS OF 1978
Fizul H. Bacchus, PhD, DO, Dover, DE, was named to Delaware Today’s 2014 Top Doctors for pediatrics.
range of experience in practicing with a uniquely osteopathic point of view.

Robert J. Aitken, DO, Haddonfield, NJ, was featured in the article “Dr. Bob Aitken Retraces Vietnam War Footsteps After 45 Years,” published in the Retrospect (November 7, 2014). Dr. Aitken recently paid a visit to Vietnam, where he once served in U.S. Army military intelligence during the heated part of that conflict.

Class of 1982
Reid Gentile, DO, Waverly, PA, joined the medical staff at Windber Medical Center.

Class of 1983
Susan Guttenplan Manella, DO, Weston, FL, became director of medical education and program director of family practice at Community Health of South Florida, Inc.—Teaching Health Center.

Wiley Sanford, DO, Nashville, TN, retired from Tennessee’s Department of Health on September 9, 2014, after 10 years of service. Dr. Sanford previously had a private practice near Reno, Nevada.

Class of 1984
Dyanne Westerberg, DO, Glen Mills, PA, had her articles “Exercise Plan, Healthy Diet, Keys to Losing Weight,” “Summer Time Brings Ticks that Cause Lyme Disease” and “Injuries from Activity May Require Medical Imaging” published in Gloucester City News (July 31, 2014, August 28, 2014, and October 30, 2014).

Class of 1985
James E. Sioma, DO, York, PA, was presented the 2014 Award for Primary Care Excellence—Patient Choice Award from the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers.

Class of 1986
John M. Kauffman, Jr., DO, Buies Creek, NC, was named the 2014 Educator of the Year by the American Osteopathic Foundation.

Class of 1987
Elliott Bilofsky, DO, Everett, PA, joined the staff at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Altoona in the department of specialized surgery’s clinical service of oropharyngology.

Lisa J. Finkelstein, DO, Jackson, WY, was featured in the article “Funny Ads, Serious Doctor,” published in the Jackson Hole News & Guide (October 15, 2014).

Dianna Hannigan Glessner, DO, Alpharetta, GA, was installed as president of the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association on November 8, 2014.

Craig I. Schwartz, DO, Overland Park, KS, was awarded the prestigious Patients’ Choice Award 2014 from leading patient review site Vitals.com.

Robert J. Aitken, DO, Haddonfield, NJ, was featured in the article “Dr. Bob Aitken Retraces Vietnam War Footsteps After 45 Years,” published in the Retrospect (November 7, 2014). Dr. Aitken recently paid a visit to Vietnam, where he once served in U.S. Army military intelligence during the heated part of that conflict.

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With the number of women in the medical professions on the rise, Dr. Latterman, Pittsburgh, PA, knew that she needed to bring an idea she had many years ago to fruition. With input from other female doctors, residents and interns, Dr. Latterman took on the challenge of redesigning the old-fashioned lab coat to better fit a woman’s body and her needs as a physician, thereby creating Designs by Dr. Leslie (www.designerlabcoats.com).

Dr. Latterman began by making a list of things women hated in their current coat and created solutions. She designed a new fabric that’s soft and has one-way stretch for comfort. She replaced the holes in the sides with zippered pockets to secure personal items, epaulettes to hold and secure the stethoscope, and even added a small, stylish wallet to hold money and a credit card. She also added a touch of color under the collar, either pink or tan, as a fashion statement.

“I get excited to show other female doctors the lab coat and see how their eyes light up. I like to think of it as smart fashion,” says Dr. Latterman, a hospitalist at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh.

The “Dr. Leslie Designer Lab Coat” has been featured on WomenYouShouldKnow.net and in the Pittsburgh Tribune, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Whirl Magazine, among other media outlets.

LESLIE BONDY LATTERMAN, DO ’90

Redesigning lab coats to better benefit female physicians

by Colleen Pelc

Craig A. Sullivan, DO, York, PA, joined WellSpan Orthopedics as a surgeon.

Class of 1988

Joseph Heck, DO, Henderson, NV, received the American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians’ Bruce D. Horton Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes an osteopathic emergency physician who “made contributions to the College and/or emergency medicine through his or her actions, dedication and devotion over his or her career.”

Brian A. Nester, DO, MSc ’94, Center Valley, PA, was appointed president and chief executive officer of Lehigh Valley Health Network.

Class of 1989
Steven J. Halm, DO, Summerfield, NC, was recognized as a physician of distinction in the field of internal medicine by being selected as a fellow of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Halm is also a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Gregory McDonald, DO, Philadelphia, PA, had his article “What Are Signs of Elder Abuse?” published in the health section of the Philadelphia Inquirer (September 14, 2014). Dr. McDonald also appeared in USA Today to discuss differing autopsies in the high-profile Michael Brown case and on Discovery.com to discuss the origins of some of Hollywood’s most famous movie monsters.

Class of 1990
David A. Forstein, DO, Greenville, SC, was elected to serve on the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education’s Board of Directors as a representative of the American Osteopathic Association.

Emil P. Lesho, DO, Silver Spring, MD, has been appointed a fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Class of 1991
Dominick J. Zampino, DO, Oceanville, NJ, was named medical director of academic affairs and program director for the internal medicine residency program at AtlanticCare Regional Medical Center.

Class of 1992
Gary J. Della’Zanna, DO, MSc ’98, Woodbine, MD, was appointed by the Governor of Maryland and confirmed by the State Senate to be a member of Maryland’s Board of Physicians in July 2013. Dr. Della’Zanna serves as a program director in the division of cancer prevention at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). His duties include designing and implementing Phase I, II and III clinical trials designed to evaluate cancer risk and response to investigational agents. Prior to joining the NCI, he was director of the division of scientific investigations at the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) and served as a senior scientific reviewer in the FDA’s division of gastrointestinal products. Dr. Della’Zanna also works part-time as a surgical hospitalist at Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis.

Sarah P. Towne, DO, MSc ’95, Bolivia, NC, was featured in the article “Sarah Towne, MedNorth’s Head Doctor, Talks Health Care,” published in the health section of wilmontoday.com (December 2014). Dr. Towne is chief medical officer of MedNorth Health Center in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Class of 1993
Clara Marie Higgins, DO, Lewes, DE, was named trauma medical director for Beebe Healthcare.
Paul W. Horchos, DO, Waverly, PA, earned his subspecialty board certification in brain injury medicine. Joseph W. Stauffer, DO, Skillman, NJ, was appointed chief medical officer of Cara Therapeutics, Inc.

CLASS OF 1994
Robert S. Dolansky, Jr., MBA, DO, Breinigsville, PA, was inducted into the Northern Cambria Community Hall of Fame at their 4th annual Hall of Fame banquet on October 18, 2014.
Brent M. Nickischer, DO, Bath, PA, joined the healthcare employees at Senior LIFE Lehigh Valley in Bethlehem.

CLASS OF 1995
John B. Bulger, MBA, DO, Danville, PA, was installed as president-elect during the annual meeting of the American College of Osteopathic Internists.
Arthur J. DeMarsico, DO, Altoona, PA, received his continuous certification in vascular surgery from the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery through September 2024.

W. Allen Fink, MS, DO, Tacoma, WA, accepted a position as physician executive-chief medical officer of the MultiCare Good Samaritan Hospital.

CLASS OF 1996
David Kuo, DO, Blue Bell, PA, completed the Association of American Medical Colleges’ Graduate Medical Education Leadership Development Course.

CLASS OF 1997
Phananh R. Nguyen, DO, Fort Myers, FL, joined Lee Physician Group as an obstetrician/gynecologist.
Daniel R. Taylor, DO, Philadelphia, PA, was honored with the Civic Engagement Award at Drexel University’s eight annual President’s Awards (November 2014). The event honors faculty and staff who contribute to the richness and diversity of the Drexel community; Dr. Taylor serves as an associate professor at Drexel’s College of Medicine.

CLASS OF 1998
Brent E. Angott, DO, Washington, PA, joined the medical staff at Southwest Regional Medical Center in Waynesburg.
Jonathan M. Gusdorff, DO, Bryn Mawr, PA, and his wife, Jaime, opened their fourth CareSTAT Urgent Care Center in Springfield.

CLASS OF 1999
Aaron R. Weiss, DO, Falmouth, ME, was honored as the 2015 recipient of the Dr. Randy Siegel Pediatric Cancer Medical Humanitarian of the Year Award.

CLASS OF 2000
Dolores R. Hocoy, DO, Philadelphia, PA, joined the active medical staff at Pottstown Memorial Medical Center, department of emergency.

CLASS OF 2001
Michael G. Benninghoff, MS/Biomed ‘98, DO, Newark, DE, was named to Delaware Today’s 2014 Top Doctors for critical care medicine.
Vasilios P. Lazos, MS/Biomed ‘97, DO, Manchester, NH, was featured in the article “Understanding the Osteopathic Approach to Medicine,” published in the Seacoast Sunday (January 4, 2015).

CLASS OF 2003
Craig N. Czyz, DO, Columbus, OH, was inducted in October as a fellow in the American College of Surgeons. He becomes the first orthopaedic surgeon trained in an American Osteopathic Association (AOA) residency program and boarded by the American Osteopathic Board of Orthopaedic Surgery (AOBOS) to achieve this distinction. In November, Dr. Czyz became the first AOA residency trained and ABOO boarded orthopaedist to be granted membership into the American Society of Osteopathic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery.

CLASS OF 2004
Norrell Kristin Atkinson, MS/Biomed, Farmington, CT, joined the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect program at Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.
Jay R. Colbert, Jr., DO, Fairhope, AL, joined the medical staff at Robertsdale Medical Specialists.
Lisa D. Held, DO, Radnor, PA, was named to Main Line Today’s 2014 Top Doctors for anesthesiology.

CLASS OF 2005
Mark G. Evans, DO, Dallas, PA, joined InterMountain Medical Group in Nanticoke.
Jocelyn R. Idema, DO, Frederick, MD, was named one of the “36 spine surgeons under 40” by Becker’s Spine Review. Dr. Idema is a spine surgeon with a special interest in minimally invasive techniques and motion preservation at Mid-Maryland Musculoskeletal Institute.
Marcin A. Jankowski, Jr., DO, Chester, PA, was named medical director of the trauma program at Crozer-Chester Medical Center, a state-designated Level II trauma center that has served Delaware County for over 25 years.
Chayonne D. Momon-Nelson, MBA, DO, Carlisle, PA, was honored by the Brownsville Area Schools Alumni Association at its 11th annual awards banquet. Most recently, Dr. Momon-Nelson began a new chapter in her life as the owner of her own practice, Carlisle OB/GYN.
Catherine M. Porter, DO, West Chester, PA, was featured in the article “Connecting with Patients Is What It’s All About,” published in the Daily Local News (October 23, 2014).

CLASS OF 2006
Christopher J. Buzas, DO, Mountain Top, PA, joined Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center, in Wilkes-Barre, as a colorectal surgeon.

Kevin A. Copeland, DO, Hockessin, DE, joined Cardiology Physicians in Wilmington.
Lisa Duffy-Reckner, DO, Warminster, PA, joined Ryder Barnes and Associates Pediatrics in Mechanicsburg.

CLASS OF 2007
Robert Carman, Jr., DO, Harrisburg, PA, joined the staff at Fulton County Medical Center in McConnellburg as a general surgeon.
Laura A. McGowan, DO, Nazareth, PA, joined Buffalo Medical Group’s primary care department.

CLASS OF 2008
Allison A. Aggon, DO, Harrisburg, PA, joined the Delaware County Memorial Hospital Center for Breast Health in Drexel Hill.
Nicholas C. Avitabile, DO, New York, NY, is now director of emergency ultrasound at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx.

Left to right: Golf Chair James Bonner, DO ’96; PCOM President and CEO Jay S. Feldstein, DO ’81, and Joshua Goldberg, DO ’96

22ND ANNUAL PCOM GOLF CLASSIC

In September, the College held its 22nd Annual Golf Classic, title sponsored by Independence Blue Cross (with platinum sponsors Arthur Jackson Company, Blank Rome LLP and the Karen and Herbert Lotman Foundation), at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club in Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania.

Through the event, over $110,000 was raised for PCOM’s Healthcare Centers. These funds will provide critical health services to underserved and at-risk populations in North and West Philadelphia, Roxborough, Wynnewood Heights and Laporte, Pennsylvania. Many families who visit the Centers are underinsured for the care they need, and with few healthcare options, they depend on the Centers for essential medical and mental health needs.

Cara M. Dellegrotti, DO, State College, PA, joined Mount Nittany Physician Group’s family medicine practice.

Mae Jann, DO, Webster, MA, joined the department of internal medicine at Reliant Medical Group.

Matthew J. Kaplan, DO, Bradley, IL, is a gastroenterology fellow at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Andrew L. O’Hara, DO, Orchard Park, NY, joined Buffalo Medical Group’s department of orthopedic surgery.

Bhavin M. Patel, DO, Lyndhurst, NJ, joined Lee Physician Group as a cardiologist.

Nicholas C. Purdy, DO, Danville, PA, joined Geisinger Medical Center as an otolaryngologist.

Andrea L. Read, DO, Avondale, PA, was featured in the article “Doctor Leaves NASA Research for Underserved Area,” published in the Jonesboro Sun (December 7, 2014).

CLASS OF 2009

Christopher J. Alexander, DO, La Crosse, VA, joined the medical staff at Virginia Commonwealth University Community Memorial Hospital in South Hill.

Adam M. Buerk, DO, Hummelstown, PA, joined the staff of Sunbury Community Hospital and Outpatient Center.

Kristin Lee Etzkorn, DO (GA–PCOM), Murrells Inlet, SC, joined the medical staff of Georgetown Memorial Hospital and Waccamaw Community Hospital. Dr. Etzkorn also practices at Carolina Rheumatology and Neurology Associates.

Bianca F. Gray, DO, Sierra Vista, AZ, joined Copper Queen Medical Associates’ Palominas Clinic in Bisbee.

Joshua L. Hare, DO (GA–PCOM), Dalton, GA, joined Hamilton Neurosurgery and Spine Center. Dr. Hare specializes in pain management.

Ali Reza Kadkhoda, MS/FM ’08, DO, Philadelphia, PA, joined Main Line Health City Line Family Medicine in Bala Cynwyd.

Philip V. Knick, MBA, DO, New York, NY, is chief resident of child and adolescent psychiatry at Columbia University Medical Center.

Amanda M. Schell, DO, Boalsburg, PA, joined J.C. Blair Memorial Hospital Primary Care Center as an internal medicine physician.

Steven A. Sluck, DO, Dalton, PA, joined Geisinger–Mount Pleasant in Scranton as a family medicine physician.

Kelly E. Williams, DO, Kingston, PA, joined Northeastern Rehabilitation Associates, P.C., in Scranton.

CLASS OF 2010

James W. Bailey, Jr., DO, Mantua, NJ, was hired as assistant professor in the departments of physical medicine and rehabilitation and osteopathic manipulative medicine at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Timothy Peter Lowney, Jr., DO, Westwood, MA, joined Family Medical Associates of Canton and Seekonk, the practice founded by his father, Timothy P. Lowney, DO, MBA ’77, some 35 years ago.

Megan Marie Moran, DO, Bloomsburg, PA, joined Geisinger-Bloomburg Pediatrics.

Crystal Ann Terrill, DO (GA–PCOM), Macon, GA, joined the staff at the Longstreet Clinic’s Center for Women’s Health in Gainesville.

Lyndsay Bass Claroni, DO (GA–PCOM), Rome, GA, joined the Floyd Primary Care Network in Taylorsville.

CLASS OF 2011

LeeAnna M. Roberts, DO, Williamsport, PA, joined Susquehanna Health Family Medicine at Loyals Stock.

Jenna C. Stokes, DO, Duncansville, PA, joined Blair Medical Associates in the Hollidaysburg and Bellwood offices.

Ashley E. Toole, DO (GA–PCOM), Aiken, SC, joined the medical staff of Aiken Regional Medical Centers as an internal medicine physician.

Kelene Tuitt, MS/Biomed ’07, DO, Summerville, SC, joined Regional Medical Center Primary Care of Bamberg.

Damaris S. Wessel, DO, Ardmore, PA, joined Main Line HealthCare Family Medicine in Bryn Mawr.

CLASS OF 2014

Eddie L. Williams, Jr., PharmD (GA–PCOM), McDonough, GA, joined Kaiser Permanente as an outpatient pharmacist.
Aアウト to wear the white coat

by Barbara Myers

While still a student at Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (GA–PCOM), Dr. Vinyard, Augusta, GA, fought hard for the privilege of wearing a white coat. Her journey had several twists and turns that made her an excellent choice to speak to first-year students about “What It Means to Wear the White Coat” at the campus’ 10th annual White Coat Ceremony this past fall.

In the first month of her fourth year at GA–PCOM, Dr. Vinyard noticed a painful lump in her breast. Her doctor suggested that it was most likely benign and to come back in six months. Instead, Dr. Vinyard had the lump removed on a Friday and learned that she had invasive breast cancer on the following Tuesday. Feeling betrayed by her own body with the disease having spread to her lymph nodes, Dr. Vinyard found her life disrupted. “It was difficult to become the patient,” she says, as she took a five-month leave of absence from school to complete four months of chemotherapy and six weeks of radiation. “I cried more the day I found out I had to pull out of medical school than the day I found out I had cancer,” she recalls.

With no family history of cancer, Dr. Vinyard bravely took on the attitude of “why not me?” She decided to tackle cancer head on, never losing her sense of humor along the way. She says she “never stopped living” and feels that her positive attitude helped her heal.

Toward the end of her cancer journey, Dr. Vinyard put on her wig and completed her surgery rotations. Today, she is a general surgery resident at Georgia Regents University in Augusta, with plans to seek a fellowship in breast surgery oncology. “I feel this is my calling,” she says. “I’m passionate about surgery and more driven in the field due to my own breast experience.”

Today, Dr. Vinyard believes that wearing the white coat means “giving life.” She says, “An osteopathic medical career provides opportunities to save lives, and that’s a good feeling.”

In Memoriam

Stephen S. Levin, DO ’68

Penn Valley, PA, November 9, 2014

Dr. Levin retired from practice with Metropolitan Nephrology Associates, P.C., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in March 2013, after a long and distinguished career (his son, Michael Levin, DO ’01, remains a partner in the practice). At the time of his retirement, he had been a founding partner of the practice for more than 40 years. He also served as medical director and founder of Fresenius Medical Care Cambria Dialysis Unit and Fresenius Medical Care Northwest Dialysis Unit.

As a clinical internist and nephrologist, Dr. Levin maintained staff privileges at Jeanes Hospital, Albert Einstein Medical Center – Moss Rehab, Roxborough Memorial Hospital and Frankford Hospital.

In 1972, he began work as an instructor at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. In 1990, he was appointed full professor in the department of internal medicine, division of nephrology and hypertension, and director of the College’s course on nephrology. He served in this capacity until 2013. He additionally formed and created the first osteopathic fellowship in nephrology, which was in existence for over 15 years, and trained numerous osteopathic fellows throughout the nation.

A pioneering osteopathic physician, he was among the first osteopathic nephrologists to practice in the United States.
Integrating Youth Volunteers into International Osteopathic Medical Education

by Kathleen Hua (DO ’16), GA–PCOM

During the summer after my first year of medical school, I joined four other Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine students on a medical mission trip to Kathmandu, Nepal. The trip was largely organized by Alok Shrestha (DO ’16), president and founder of GA–PCOM’s International Medicine Club. Alok was inspired to run a free clinic in the rural village of Jhor Mahankal after seeing and experiencing that underserved area on a previous visit. Together, we prepared for the trip by fundraising, collecting pharmaceuticals and medical supplies and developing our primary care skills.

On our first day at the clinic, we met Lions Club youth volunteers, or “Leos.” Acting as translators, the club members were instrumental in helping us overcome language barriers and learn more about rural Nepalese attitudes toward modern medicine. The female volunteers were great assets for acquiring female patient cooperation, particularly since gynecological health issues are still considered taboo. Our GA–PCOM group was able to work intimately with both Nepali volunteers and physicians to effectively conduct patient interviews, record research data and manage clinic budgets.

We taught the volunteers basic clinical skills, which enabled them to acquire more hands-on clinical experience and greater awareness of healthcare challenges unique to Nepal. By integrating youth volunteers in our medical mission work, we gained meaningful teaching responsibilities that further reinforced clinical competency, medical professionalism and a positive learning environment.

Over the course of two weeks, our team provided health care and therapeutics at no cost to 650 patients from Jhor and neighboring communities. The volunteers’ deepened interest in medicine and outreach efforts were demonstrated by their continued involvement in off-site projects such as health checkups at a remote nursing home and hygiene initiatives at a village grade school.

The success of our trip would not have been possible without the integration of local youth volunteers as medical translators and cultural experts. They added a novel teaching dimension to our international osteopathic medical education, while also promoting more culturally sensitive care. We were able to optimize collateral learning and leadership by functioning as both apprentices and educators for physicians and volunteers, respectively. Likewise, youth empowerment has implications for long-term impact, including continued commitment to service and increased motivations to pursue healthcare careers.

After I returned to the United States, I submitted the methodology and results of our trip to the Bureau of International Osteopathic Medical Education and Affairs (BIOMEA) student poster competition. To my great excitement, our poster placed second in the Outreach category, and I was invited to present at the BIOMEA International Seminar in Las Vegas. I was thrilled at the opportunity to share our experiences as well as hear about other global advocacy efforts by fellow members of the osteopathic medicine community.

We at GA–PCOM hope to continue a tradition of partnering with local youth to generate immediate outcomes on-site and further develop this platform for progress in osteopathic medical education abroad.
Through Health Career Academy, some 30 PCOM students volunteer to teach a health curriculum to high school students. This educational mixture shapes a unique, academically rigorous, hands-on experience, providing a springboard for future studies in osteopathic medicine and other healthcare fields.