

Ohio State Medicine Alumni

Two Hearts, One Profession

Making marriage
work when couples
are physicians

A Match and
a Mate **P. 18**

Partners in Life —
and Science **P. 22**

Jason Sayat '98, '02
Res, and Linbee Sayat
'99 MD, '03 Res



MEDICAL ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND



Schedule of Events

Friday, Oct. 3

10 a.m. to noon – “Back to Class” Open House

Visit the new home of the College of Medicine at Hamilton Hall and attend various sessions as we welcome you “back to class.”

Noon-1 p.m. – Lunch Celebration

Connect with fellow alumni and learn about the involvements of current medical learners. The luncheon will be hosted in the heart of Hamilton Hall.

1-3 p.m. – Campus Tours

Take a tour of Ohio State’s campus and learn about innovations currently taking place right here in central Ohio. See the impact of our interdisciplinary health sciences collaboration while showing off your Buckeye Spirit!

1-3 p.m. – Continued “Back to Class” Open House

4-5 p.m. – Student Research Poster Session

Meet our current medical learners and see what exciting research is happening at the College of Medicine.

5-6:30 p.m. – State of the College and Alumni Reception

Join fellow alumni and College of Medicine leadership to hear exciting updates from the college.

7-9 p.m. – Reunion Class Socials

Enjoy a fun, social evening with your classmates to reminisce and make new memories.

Saturday, Oct. 4

*Begins 3 hours prior to kickoff – College of Medicine Buckeye Tailgate

Join us for food, fun and a big dose of Buckeye Spirit before the Ohio State v. Minnesota football game.

**All College of Medicine alumni
are invited back to campus for
Ohio State’s Homecoming!**



Visit go.osu.edu/medreunion
to view full details and access
online registration beginning
mid-July.

Ohio State Medicine Alumni

MEDICAL ALUMNI SOCIETY BOARD

President

Eric Altneu '15 MD, '19 Res

President-Elect

Anisha Shomo '10 MD

Past President

Gretchen Hollingsworth '88 MD

OSUAA Alumni Advisory Council Representative

Robert Kopley '75 MD

Members

George Fouras '90 MD; Na Tosha Gatson '07 PhD, '09 MD, '14 Res; Jessica Giffey '19 MD, '22 Res; Kelly Copeland Hall '15 MD, '19 Res; Stephen Hersey '00 MD; Kevin Hollis '12 MD; Maeve Maher '16 MD, '20 Res; Grace Shih '92 MD; Steve Suh '94 MD; and Zachary Smith '22 MD (resident representative)

Director,

Alumni and Constituent Engagement, College of Medicine

Alyssa Grovemiller

Associate Vice President of Operations and Strategic Communications

Amanda Thatcher

Project manager

Lisa Lopez Snyder

Contributing writers

Jessica Behrendsen, Amy McKay,
Jennifer Shaffer, Kelli Trinoskey

Contributing photographer

Wendy Pramik

Design and Operations, University Marketing and Communications

Designer

Betsy Becker

Operations

Richelle Antczak McCuen '00

The *Ohio State Medicine Alumni* magazine is published two times per year for alumni, donors, faculty, staff and students of The Ohio State University College of Medicine, along with current and former residents and fellows of Ohio State's health system. If you wish to contact us about editorial content or a change of address, please send comments to medalum@osumc.edu or:

Ohio State Medicine Alumni Magazine
14 E. 15th Ave.
Columbus, OH 43201

Update your contact information through the college's Alumni Affairs website at go.osu.edu/medalum.

Contents

SUMMER 2025



FEATURES

12 TWO HEARTS, ONE PROFESSION

First comes med school, then comes marriage. Several alumni couples share their personal journeys — and how they make it all work.

18 A MATCH AND A MATE

For these couples who successfully matched in their medical residencies, open minds and adventurous spirits were at the center of their experiences.

24 PARTNERS IN LIFE — AND SCIENCE

A Penn State "meet-cute," a honeymoon in the Poconos and decades of shared purpose led these two top researchers to build a lasting life — and lab — at The Ohio State University.

DEPARTMENTS

2 Message from the Dean

6 College Notes

29 Advancing Care

32 Alumni Notes

33 In Memoriam

35 Our Turn



ON THE COVER: Jason Sayat '98, MD '02 Res, and Linbee Sayat '99 MD, '03 Res, say that meeting each other was the second-best thing about medical school. Read more on page 12.

Dean's Message

“Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity.”

— HIPPOCRATES

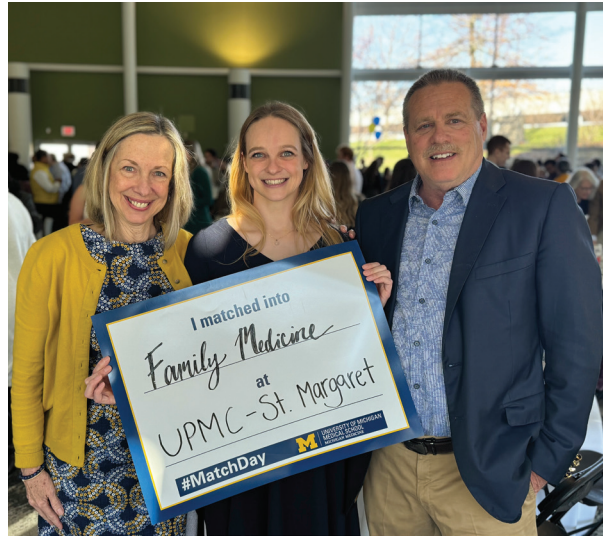
LOVE AND MEDICINE are deeply human endeavors, rooted in compassion, connection and a commitment to the well-being of others. This issue of the *Ohio State Medicine Alumni* magazine explores how love, both personal and professional, shapes the calling to heal.

Love is integral to our mission at the College of Medicine. At the heart of our learning community lies a passion for the medical profession, one that fosters lasting relationships and collaboration. Bonds formed during medical school often evolve into lifelong partnerships, demonstrating the power of a shared purpose. In this issue, you will meet alumni couples whose devotion to each other and to health care illustrates how love enhances their impact.

In my own life, I am reminded of this through my daughter, Morgan, who recently began her residency. Watching her has deepened my belief that the values we cherish as physicians — empathy, integrity and service — are not only taught in classrooms but passed down through families and communities, creating a legacy of care.

At Ohio State, we celebrate these values through events like our Dean's Excellence Awards Gala, where faculty and staff are honored for their dedication to education, research and patient care. Nominated by their colleagues, award winners reflect the mutual respect and admiration within our community. They truly exemplify our shared love of the work we do.

This love was evident this spring as we inducted new members into the Gold Humanism and Alpha Omega Alpha honor societies, recognizing learners who provide empathetic, patient-centered care. The same dedication was palpable on Match Day, as many of our students, including multiple couples, embraced their next chapter together with a shared commitment to healing. Then, at graduation, we welcomed 193 new MDs who chose this sacred profession out of a deep love for humanity and the art of medicine.



Dean Bradford and her husband, Dave, celebrate with daughter, Morgan, at her Match Day celebration in 2024.

These moments remind us that our service in this field is about so much more than a job. Love, care and fellowship have called us to help others. As you read this issue, I hope you find inspiration in the stories that define our community and know that your engagement makes it all possible. We are so grateful for your support as members of our Buckeye family.

Carol R. Bradford, MD, MS, FACS

Dean, The Ohio State University College of Medicine

Vice President for Health Sciences, The Ohio State University
Wexner Medical Center

The Leslie H. and Abigail S. Wexner Dean's Chair in Medicine

Professor of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery

Empower Tomorrow's Doctors



When medical learners are presented with a coat and stethoscope at their White Coat Ceremony, they embrace their commitment to caring for others.

As we welcome our first-year students, we invite you to
donate to the White Coat Fund.

Your gift will provide a future Buckeye physician with a white coat
and stethoscope.

Support the excellence of medical care and research at The Ohio State University
College of Medicine by donating to the White Coat Fund today:



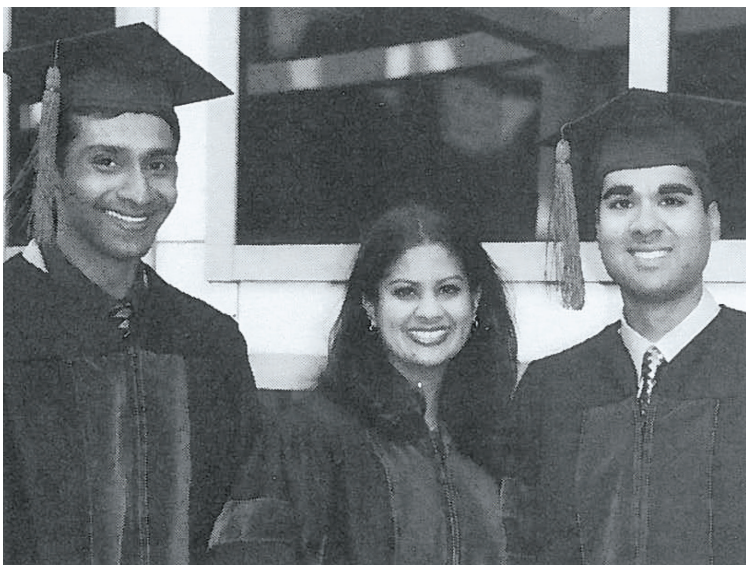
give.osu.edu/whitecoat

Then & Now

Class of 2000 and Class of 2025
Graduation celebrations



2000





COLLEGE NOTES

NEWS | NUMBERS | RESEARCH



Leah Pyter, '06 PhD, appointed Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research director

Leah Pyter, PhD, associate professor in the departments of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health and Neuroscience at the Ohio State College of Medicine, has been named director of the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research. An internationally recognized expert in psychoneuroimmunology and cancer and systems neuroscience, Pyter leads the Pyter Lab for Behavioral Neuroimmunology of Cancer and has served as a principal investigator, co-investigator and collaborator on numerous funded projects. She's presented at conferences around the globe on a variety of topics, including the gut bacteriome and inflammation in cancer treatment-induced behavioral side effects. She's co-chair of the College of Medicine Research Space Committee and served as co-director of the college's Neuroscience Graduate Program.

Gail Besner, MD, receives prestigious recognition for scientific achievement

Gail Besner, MD, professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at Ohio State and director of the Division of Pediatric Surgery and the H. William Clatworthy Jr. Professor of Pediatric Surgery, received the American Surgical Association (ASA) 2025 Medallion for Scientific Achievement for her transformative and seminal contributions to pediatric surgical research on neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC).

Besner's research focuses on eliminating NEC, a debilitating and deadly condition affecting infants born prematurely. The highest honor the ASA bestows, the medallion recognizes leading surgeons and their career-long innovative impacts on the field of

surgery. A principal investigator in the Center for Perinatal Research at the Abigail Wexner Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Besner runs a multidisciplinary research program focused on NEC mechanisms and therapy.

New MRI expands imaging technology and research at Ohio State

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center partnered with Siemens Healthineers to acquire the Siemens MAGNETOM Cima.X whole-body scanner, an advanced magnetic resonance imaging technology that enhances translational research and clinical care at the medical center. The strongest 3T MRI system on the market, the new scanner is only the seventh of its kind, putting the medical center at the forefront of

new discoveries. **Nina Kraguljac, MD**, Dr. Lee E. Shackelford Professor in Psychiatry and Behavioral Health and vice chair of Strategy and Innovation in the department, who also serves as founding director of the new Center for Neuroimaging, Neurophenotyping, Neurocomputation and Neuromodulation at the Ohio State College of Medicine, says the Cima.X MRI fills a critical gap in current research.

AI advances accelerate earlier disease detection, drug discovery and better outcomes

Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) continue to revolutionize scientific discovery and assist researchers' efforts to develop earlier disease detection and drug discoveries. Having massive quantities of data aids this process. **Xia Ning, PhD**, a

professor of Biomedical Informatics in the Ohio State College of Medicine who holds professor appointments in the colleges of Engineering and Pharmacy, and her lab team are developing tools using generative AI to automate research tasks like literature and document review and summarization. These AI tools generate the construction of small molecules, peptides as vaccines and large language models to analyze clinical notes.

“In drug development, the preclinical phase can normally take several years. But this year the first AI-designed drug is to go through clinical trials,” says Ning, who’s teaching the first master-level certification course in AI in Digital Health and developing an undergraduate program on AI in digital health.

LEADERSHIP NEWS

Dean Bradford receives 2025 Buckeye Wellness Executive Leadership Award

Carol R. Bradford, MD, MS, FACS, dean of the Ohio State College of Medicine and vice president for Health Sciences at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center, received the 2025 Buckeye Wellness Executive Leadership Award during the annual State of Health and Wellness in Buckeye Nation event. The award is given to an exceptional leader whose passion for health and wellness has made a significant impact at the university. Bradford was recognized for her unwavering commitment to fostering health and wellness and a culture where everyone can feel supported and valued. Through her leadership, the college has embraced innovative and inclusive wellness initiatives, setting a standard of excellence that benefits faculty, staff and learners.

Five faculty members receive prestigious leadership, health care fellowships

Five faculty members were accepted

into two prestigious health leadership programs, the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) and Executive Leadership in Health Care (ELCH). Both programs, which focus on developing women leaders, are hosted by the Drexel University College of Medicine as one-year, part-time fellowships designed to develop the personal and professional skills required for leadership in academic health care.

Three faculty members at the College of Medicine will join ELAM’s ranks this year: **Maya Iyer, MD, MEd**, associate clinical professor of Pediatrics, the assistant dean for Clinical Faculty, the director of Women in Medicine and Science and a pediatric emergency

medicine attending physician at Nationwide Children’s Hospital; **Jennifer McCallister, MD**, clinical professor of Internal Medicine and the associate dean of Medical Education; and **Jennifer Muszynski, MD, MPH**, associate professor of Pediatrics and associate chief clinical research officer for Research Informatics at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

Two faculty members will join the ELH ranks – **Catherine Quatman-Yates, DPT, PhD**, associate professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences’ Division of Physical Therapy, and **Ellen Chung, MD**, associate clinical professor of Radiology and chief in the Department of Radiology at Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

\$10 million gift supports Ohio State Center for Integrative Health

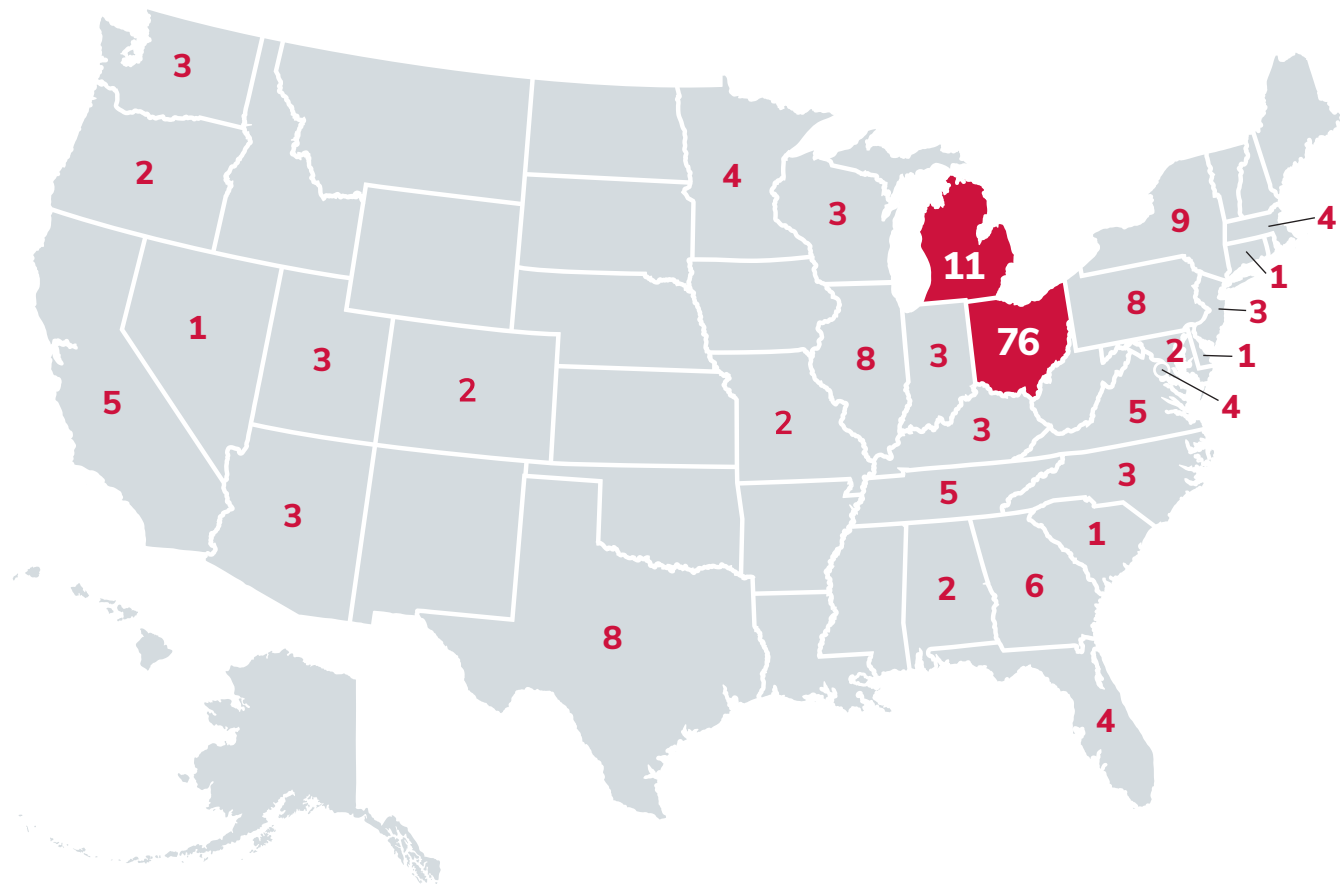
Donatos founder Jim Grote and his wife, Christina, are donating \$10 million to the Center for Integrative Health at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center to establish the center as a national leader in delivering whole-person care to meet the health care needs of the people of Ohio. Formerly known as the Center for Integrative Medicine, the center focuses on a holistic approach to health and wellness that includes acupuncture, mindfulness, massage, ayurveda, yoga and more. The Grotes have committed to giving: \$4.5 million to establish the Endowed Chair in Integrative Health, to be held by center director **Maryanna Klatt, PhD**, followed by an endowed chair in her name, with Board of Trustees approval; \$1.5 million to establish a Professorship in Integrative Health Education; and \$4 million to create the Center for Integrative Health Faculty Recruitment, Education and Innovation Fund.



Maryanna Klatt, PhD, leads a Mindfulness in Motion class at the Center for Integrative Health.

Match Day Statistics

The Ohio State University College of Medicine 2025 Graduates Matched by State*



Top 3 Specialties

Internal Medicine
Anesthesiology
Family Medicine



Grads matched in
30
states



194
grads matched
nationwide
49
matched in Columbus



37
grads matched
at The Ohio State
University Wexner
Medical Center

*Based on Post-Graduate Year 1

BY THE NUMBERS

Ohio State College of Medicine Rankings

Academic Excellence

U.S. News & World Report 2025–2026, “Best Medical and Graduate Schools” results:



Tier 1 for Best Medical Schools: Research

Tier 2 for Best Medical Schools: Primary Care



Top 20 Departments*

#7 Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

#9 Surgery

#10 Physiology & Cell Biology

#11 Microbial Infection and Immunity

#15 Emergency Medicine

Top Recognized Graduate Programs, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences



#4 Physical Therapy (DPT)

#9 Occupational Therapy (OTD)



MD Education

8,731

applications received in 2025

Research

#37 nationally for NIH funding*
The Ohio State University College of Medicine received more than **\$477 million** in total research funding in fiscal year 2024, ended June 30.



*Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, federal fiscal year 2024, ended Sept. 30; a compilation of National Institutes of Health funding rankings for U.S. medical schools



Faculty research

Grant to aid study of new therapeutic strategy to prevent colon cancer spread

A five-year, \$2.3 million grant from the National Cancer Institute will support research related to the development of a novel therapeutic strategy that aims to prevent colon cancer from spreading to the liver. The study's lead researcher, **Sujit Basu, MD, PhD**, professor of Pathology and of Internal Medicine in the Division of Medical Oncology at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, says that many patients with colon cancer develop liver metastasis (LM) despite having surgery to remove lymph nodes. The study will examine the role of dopamine D4 receptors and the efficacy of DRD4 agonists on LM in colon cancer in preclinical animal models simulating human patients.

Couple satisfaction linked to fewer cognitive issues with chemotherapy

A new study suggests that having a satisfying intimate relationship may help diminish the chemotherapy-related cognitive problems that are sometimes experienced by patients with breast cancer. The findings suggest that couples therapy aimed at enhancing relationship quality could be a helpful option for partnered patients undergoing chemo. The research was published in the journal *Psychoneuroendocrinology* by lead author **Leah Pyter, PhD**, associate professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health and of Neuroscience in the Ohio State College of Medicine and director of the college's Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research. The team also found that blood levels of the hormone oxytocin, an important player in social bonding, decreased significantly over the course of chemotherapy treatment.



Cardinal Health gifts \$1 million to invest in Ohio's mental health and well-being

Cardinal Health gifted \$1 million to Ohio State's Center for Psychiatry and Resilience, which provides clinical services, educates patients and conducts research to explore the root causes of mental illness and addiction. The center is also home to the SOAR Study, a statewide, multi-generational research project designed to uncover the biological, psychological and social patterns related to mental health. SOAR seeks to identify the innovative strategies to build resilience in workplaces, communities and schools. **K. Luan Phan, MD**, chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, and SOAR Study lead, says Cardinal Health's gift will be directed to the center to turn learnings into practical strategies that prevent mental health disorders, support recovery and build resilience.

Study: No direct link between heavy alcohol use and dilated cardiomyopathy

A study led by researchers at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center and College of Medicine found that heavy alcohol use doesn't directly cause dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), an inherited heart muscle disease. According to the study, published in *Circulation: Genomic and Precision Medicine*, while one-third of DCM

patients and their first-degree relatives were moderate to heavy alcohol drinkers, there was no association found between heavy alcohol use and DCM. Instead, the presence of certain rare genetic variants, commonly termed gene mutations, was strongly linked to the cause of DCM. The study's senior author was **Ray Hershberger, MD**, a cardiologist in the divisions of Cardiovascular Medicine and Human Genetics at the College of Medicine.

Building ‘cellular bridges’ for spinal cord repair post-injury

Capitalizing on the flexibility of tiny cells inside the body’s smallest blood vessels may be a powerful spinal cord repair strategy, say neuroscience researchers with the Ohio State College of Medicine. In mouse experiments, scientists introduced a specific type of recombinant protein to the site of a spinal cord injury where these cells, called pericytes, had flooded the lesion zone. Once exposed to the protein, pericytes change shape and inhibit the production of some molecules while secreting others, creating “cellular bridges” that support regeneration of axons — the long, slender extensions of nerve cell bodies that transmit messages. An experiment involving human cells suggests the results are not restricted to mice, say the researchers, led by senior study author **Andrea Tedeschi, PhD**, and first study author **Wenjing Sun, PhD**, with the Department of Neuroscience. The study was published in *Molecular Therapy*.

Ohio State study reveals new insights into neurodegeneration

Researchers at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center and College of Medicine have discovered a new way that neurons act in neurodegeneration by using human neural organoids — also known as “mini-brain” models — from patients with frontotemporal lobar degeneration (FTLD). Understanding this new pathway could help researchers find better treatments for FTLD and Alzheimer’s. Researchers found the protein GRAMD1B plays a significant role in how cholesterol and lipid stores are managed in neurons. When altered, GRAMD1B changes the balance of cholesterol, lipid stores and amount of modified tau in the cells, all of which are linked to brain diseases. The study is published online in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Abhay Satoskar, MD, PhD, elected to AAAS fellowship

Life-changing research transforming

parasites into needed vaccines has earned **Abhay Satoskar, MD, PhD**, election to the 2025 class of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellows. Satoskar, professor of Experimental Pathology and vice chair for Research in the Department of Pathology, is being elected an AAAS Fellow for his innovative vaccine research and advancements in combating parasitic skin diseases. Satoskar’s research studies include immunology and infectious diseases with a focus on parasitic immunology. He is currently in phase I of human trials for his vaccine development to treat leishmaniasis — a skin condition that affects 12 million people per year and is common in tropical parts of the world; however, due to climate

change, it is beginning to enter southern Texas.

Julie Johnson, PharmD, appointed to National Academies forum

Julie Johnson, PharmD, director of the Ohio State Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI), has been selected to join The National Academies Forum on Drug Discovery, Development and Translation. Made up of a group of government, academia and industry stakeholders, the forum is a collaborative effort to identify critical issues in, and inspire action toward improving, the system of drug discovery, development and translation. Johnson notes the forum will bring together opportunities, address bottlenecks and spur innovation in biomedical research and technology.



Ohio State first in the world to test devices to improve, treat smell loss

Researchers at the College of Medicine are the first in the world to design noninvasive smell aids that improve the ability to smell in healthy people as well as those who have difficulty smelling. The innovations are important for not only a person’s ability to taste and enjoy food, but also to detect dangers like gas, smoke or spoiled food, say the researchers, and for conditions like COVID-19, infections, head trauma, neurological diseases and aging, which can all cause problems with smell. The clinical trial tested the use of a nasal foam plug and a nasal clip to increase the flow of air to the tissue in the nasal cavity responsible for the sense of smell. **Kai Zhao, PhD**, professor in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, published the findings in the journal *BMC Medicine*.

Two hearts, one profession

First comes med school, then comes marriage. Several alumni couples share their personal journeys — and how they make it all work.

By Jennifer Shaffer

It was 1995, and Jason Sayat '98 MD, '02 Res, needed a violinist. Sayat was in his second year of medical school at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, and his cover band — The Congenitals — was gaining traction on campus.

But something was missing. To really perform the popular Dave Matthews Band songs that had late '90s audiences clamoring, the band needed that signature violin sound. When Sayat and his bandmates caught wind of a first-year medical student named Linbee who was classically trained on the instrument, they convinced her to join them.

Linbee Sayat '99 MD, '03 Res,
and Jason Sayat '98, '02 Res





Managing medical careers and family life is challenging, but rewarding, say the Sayats.

The Congenitals would go on to perform at campus bars, house parties and even the Ohio State Fair.

And Jason and Linbee would go on to build a life together of love, family and medicine.

Today, the Sayats are both obstetrician-gynecologists with Avina Women's Care in central Ohio, where patients sometimes need to clarify whether they're seeing *Mrs. Dr. Sayat* or *Mr. Dr. Sayat*.

Juggling family life with the demands of residency, clinical work, on-call schedules and the unpredictability of labor and delivery hasn't always been easy, but it has made for a rich life and fulfilling career, they say.

"We're proud of each other," says **Linbee Sayat '99 MD, '03 Res.** "Having a spouse in medicine has made it even better."

"The beauty of our relationship is that we're empathetic and knowledgeable about what providers go through in our field," Jason says. "It's been a blessing that we can come home and recount our days and we both have the experience and knowledge to understand each other."

A few years before the Sayats met, **Gregory Eaton '86 MD, '92 Fellow**, and **Mary Alton '86 MD, '89 Res, '92 Fellow**, found themselves in the same cardiology fellowship at Ohio State. The pair had attended Ohio State for medical school, but their paths didn't cross until after residency.

"In our first fellowship meeting, I remember thinking, 'Now, who's this cute guy?'" Alton says.

But he was loud, and not really her type, she recalls. Plus, there wasn't much time for romance. As only the second woman to go through Ohio State's cardiology fellowship program in the male-dominated specialty, Alton knew she'd face extra scrutiny and had little room for error.

But soon she and Eaton realized how much they had in common and began dating. As they chatted in the heart catheterization lab near the end of their fellowship in 1992, they agreed to make it official.

"We decided, 'Hey, do you want to get married?' And we literally drove down to the county courthouse and waited in line with about 10 other couples to get married," Eaton recalls.

Heather Hervey-Jumper '06 MD, and **Shawn Hervey-Jumper '06 MD**, share fond memories of playing a game of darts during study breaks while attending medical school at Ohio State, and of celebrating after a tough test with Graeter's ice cream or Adriatico's pizza.

They'd met while studying biology at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. Shawn knew right away how special Heather was.

"She's super smart," he remembers thinking. "I was like, 'She's killing it.'"

They got married after undergrad, then began the MEDPATH program at Ohio State, a one-year postbaccalaureate program aimed at increasing the number of students from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds who enter medical school and are committed to practicing in medically underserved communities.



“As husband and wife, for the first two years we just kind of studied and hung out,” Shawn recalls.

Their journey has taken them to the University of California, San Francisco, where Shawn is a neurosurgeon specializing in awake brain surgery and Heather is an adult general clinical anesthesiologist and director of the Program in Medical Education for the Urban Underserved.

Making it work

Being married to a fellow physician comes with unique challenges and relies on a delicate and intentional balance, these couples say.

The Sayats had their first child when Linbee and Jason were second- and third-year residents, respectively. They juggled intense clinical demands and navigated on-call schedules so they were never both on call the same night, and handed their son off to one another at the door as they came and went.

“We knew if we could get through that first year — which we did — we can pretty much get through anything,” Jason says.

“We had friends in residency who had children at the same time, and we would go to each other’s homes and take turns taking the children to daycare at 6 a.m.,” Linbee says. “I don’t know how we did that.”

For the Hervey-Jumpers, each has made sacrifices in the interest of their bigger family picture, knowing that there are times to lean in, and there are times to lean back.

“Some things are temporary, and some things are not, and the relationship itself is the constant,” Heather says. “The points of stress and intensity, they don’t last forever. They are the temporary part. Our relationship is more valuable to us than all these stresses combined.”

“There’s never enough time,” Shawn says. “I don’t think there has been enough time in a day, whether we were in undergrad, medical students, residents and now faculty. We try to pull bits of

Retired cardiologists
Gregory Eaton '86
MD, '92 Fellow,
and Mary Alton '86
MD, '89 Res, '92
Fellow, at home in
Mansfield.



After retiring in 2024, Drs. Eaton and Alton now have more time for travel, family and their dogs.

time away for ourselves. Sometimes we're more successful at that than others."

Eaton and Alton always strived to find the right balance in professional roles, work time, family time and location. There weren't a lot of married couples in cardiology for a blueprint. So they had to figure things out on their own.

Alton remembers being pregnant with their third child when she asked to cut back from working five days to four days, to allow one day a week to focus on taking care of the children.

"It was a big step in our relationship and our family life to be able to have Mary spend more time at home, recognizing that there was another piece of our life that she shouldered to help us raise our three kids," Eaton says.

"At the time, in cardiology, everybody had a stay-at-home wife," Alton says. "I was the wife. I was the best cardiologist I could be when I was there, but when I was home, I was there for the kids."

The pair also made the strategic decision to move to Mansfield from Columbus in 2001, where they could make a big impact on patient

care, while raising their children in a smaller community with the help of Alton's family.

"We looked at it as an opportunity to go to a smaller community to build something," Eaton says. "Not just our family, but also our careers. We looked at it as an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy within a smaller community."

Special moments in medicine and marriage

Despite the challenges, marriages in medicine bring many wonderful moments, too.

Occasionally, both Sayats find themselves at the hospital at the same time.

"She won't let me hold her hand," Jason jokes.

But the pair does enjoy grabbing a quick meal together before they go their separate ways.

And sometimes, *one* Dr. Sayat will be on call overnight or on weekends when a patient of the *other* Dr. Sayat comes in for delivery.

"I think patients like it. They feel like they have a connection and some continuity," Linbee says.

After their kids were grown, Eaton and Alton began going to the hospital together overnight

“The points of stress and intensity [in marriage and medicine] are the temporary part. Our relationship is more valuable to us than all these stresses combined.”

HEATHER HERVEY-JUMPER '06 MD

when patients needed them. Alton would help Eaton with writeups when he had to perform cardiac interventions at 2 a.m.

“It felt like a team,” Alton says. “That’s something I look back on fondly, because I could see the work that was happening. I could see the patients coming in with all kinds of pain and then he’d do his thing. I’m so grateful that I got the privilege to really see people at their worst, and then totally cured, at least for the moment.”

Now, the pair is settling into their latest phase: retirement. Eaton and Alton retired last year after expanding OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital’s heart and vascular program over their 20 years there, with Eaton as OhioHealth’s heart and vascular system director of the North Region and Alton as the Mansfield Hospital’s cardiovascular imaging director. The duo has ditched overnight call shifts for better sleep, travel, reading, exercise and more time with their family and their dogs, a German Shepherd and a Cavapoo.

“It’s been great so far,” Eaton says.

The Hervey-Jumpers will send their oldest child to college later this year, and in four more years, they’ll be empty nesters. While that brings some sadness (and for Heather, a sudden urge to look at puppies), it also brings excitement for what the next phase could hold.

“That’s a theme of us, we try to just embrace the various phases as they come,” Shawn says.

“I’m really looking forward to what it’s going to look like for us,” Heather says. “Over the years, we tried so many things to see, ‘How will this work?’ And this is us actually finding out how it worked. So far, it’s just been so much fun to see.”

Jennifer Shaffer is a senior content specialist with The Ohio State University College of Medicine.



Shawn Hervey-Jumper '06 MD, and
Heather Hervey-Jumper '06 MD

With their once young daughters (above) now grown, the Hervey-Jumpers are soon to be empty-nesters, and looking forward to the next stage of their lives.

A match and a mate

For these couples who successfully matched in their medical residencies, open minds and adventurous spirits were at the center of their experiences.

By Kelli Trinoskey

“Give it a try and keep an open mind. I think you’ll like it.”
The year was 1988 and this sage advice came from J. Hutchison Williams, MD, the associate dean of Student Affairs at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.

Williams was encouraging then fourth-year medical students **Gretchen Hollingsworth ’88 MD**, and **Keith Hollingsworth ’88 MD**, to step out of their comfort zone and move to California together to further their training in medicine. Unbeknownst to the couple at the time, Williams’ advice also formed a new prescription for their lives that they still follow today.

When they look back now, it is to reflect on how a new relationship plus big decisions made for a lifetime of adventures.



Gretchen Hollingsworth '88 MD,
and Keith Hollingsworth '88 MD





The Hollingsworths' leap to the West coast for their residencies led to marriage and the start of a life full of even more ventures.

The Hollingsworths met during a chance encounter at a community pool during the summer before Gretchen began her fourth year of studies and Keith embarked on a group of rotations to help guide his residency decision. They started dating when it was time to submit their medical residency applications.

"We just thought matching as a couple was a great idea," Gretchen says. "We liked each other, and we wanted to continue seeing each other."

In 1988, the residency match process was much different than it is today, and they thought matching in the same location was a long shot.

"We thought, 'There's no chance we're both going to get matched in San Francisco, right?'" Keith says. "So, we weren't really prepared when we did."

As they absorbed the shock, second thoughts seeped in. Keith made an appointment for them to meet with Williams to tell him they didn't want to leave Ohio. He encouraged each of them to keep an open mind and give the West Coast a try. So, they did, beginning their lifetime of experiencing unfamiliar places, food and cultures and learning new ways of practicing medicine.

Gretchen began her residency in internal medicine at Pacific Presbyterian, a private hospital just down the road from the University of California, San Francisco, where Keith started his residency in orthopedics.

"We got out there and within a few weeks, we were enamored with living in California," Gretchen says. "It was a wonderful choice."



That "wonderful choice" launched their medical careers and created a solid foundation on which to build their family. After their residencies, they said yes to fellowships in Eugene, Oregon, where their daughter was born and then took positions in Denver and Boulder, Colorado, where they welcomed their son. In 1997, the strong job market in the Midwest nudged them to consider returning to their roots.

Today Gretchen is an anesthesiologist with the Columbus Institute of Plastic Surgery, where she has been for 18 years. Keith is an orthopedic surgeon and CEO with a surgery center in Lancaster.

"We had the urge to come back to be closer to family," Gretchen says. "We had our hands full but tailoring our work around the kids and our family was a priority and we made it work."

They moved to Granville, just outside of Columbus, where they raised their children and have enough land to keep a small group of sheep and miniature donkeys. Their small farm also offers a nice break from the rigors of medicine, they say, and they treasure it as they have come full circle to where their life together began in Ohio — so much that they were inspired to contribute to a scholarship at the college in Williams' name.

Intentional planning and new possibilities

Austin Oslock '21 MD/MPH, and Wendelyn Oslock '21 MD/MBA, also have a unique couple's match story. Their journey started when they



Austin Oslock '21
MD/MPH, and
Wendelyn Oslock
'21 MD/MBA



In their off-time, the Hollingsworths enjoy life on their small farm.

met and began dating during high school in Beckley, West Virginia. Austin followed Wendelyn on to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri (WUSTL), where they completed their undergraduate studies, and where their priority to support each other through intentional decision making took hold.

College graduation ushered in the beginning of life as a married couple for the Oslocks, and the end of the arduous task of “couples applying” to medical school. They were both ecstatic to receive acceptance letters from the Ohio State College of Medicine. Soon after they were accepted, they were offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and decided to delay the start of medical school.

“We got married graduation weekend, then deferred our acceptance and went to work in India for a year,” Wendelyn says. “We were offered the chance to help Washington University launch an executive MBA program in Mumbai. We couldn’t pass that up!”

In addition to their time working for WUSTL, they also spent months volunteering at a rural hospital in Gujarat, north of Mumbai. There, they learned a great deal about offering care to diverse populations and how to tackle the next phase of their 10-year plan.

“2015 was a busy year. We came back to the states, had a baby, bought a house and started medical school,” Austin says. “We each pursued dual degrees at the same time, expanding our access to advocacy and research.”

Wendelyn explored her passion for environmental sustainability in medicine and Austin furthered his work in public health and health policy. Luckily for them, when they had their second child, Wendelyn’s mom was newly retired and moved in with them to help.

Juggling so much at once taught them to lean on each other and get organized. They developed schedules to divide their study time and parenting. They applied this collaborative approach to the residency process and couples match, creating a spreadsheet to rank their top choices for medical residency, tracking their application progress and — with fingers crossed — increasing their odds of matching as a couple.

It worked.

“We matched at The University of Alabama Birmingham,” Austin says. “I’m in a combined internal medicine and pediatrics program and Wendelyn is in general surgery.”

Wendelyn is now a PGY4, finishing a year of research examining the impact of air pollution

To keep their family close, the Oslocks extend their conferences away from home into vacations with the family.

on surgical outcomes. For her next step, she'll be applying to a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery. Austin is finishing his residency training and has accepted a combined med-peds academic medicine position at UAB. He'll continue to teach internal medicine and pediatrics resident physicians-in-training. He'll also work with UAB House Calls, delivering care to homebound adults. He says he never feels more like a doctor than when he's taking care of a patient in their home environment.

"A visit to a patient's home can tell you more about them and their health than a year's worth of clinic visits," Austin says.

Wendelyn credits their success to some sound advice she received from a colleague during the residency match process: Take advantage of any opportunity to reach back out and communicate with the faculty and staff at the programs where they'd applied.

"If one of us received an invitation for an interview somewhere, then we would email our respective program and say, 'Hey just an update, my partner just got an invitation to interview here,'" Wendelyn says. "We're so excited about this and I'd love the opportunity to interview too."

They both say these communications helped move their applications through the process, creating genuine touch points that led to their applications getting a few extra minutes of review.

"It led to more interviews," Austin says. "Frequently, within a day, we would receive an invitation to interview for that program."

How dual-physician families succeed

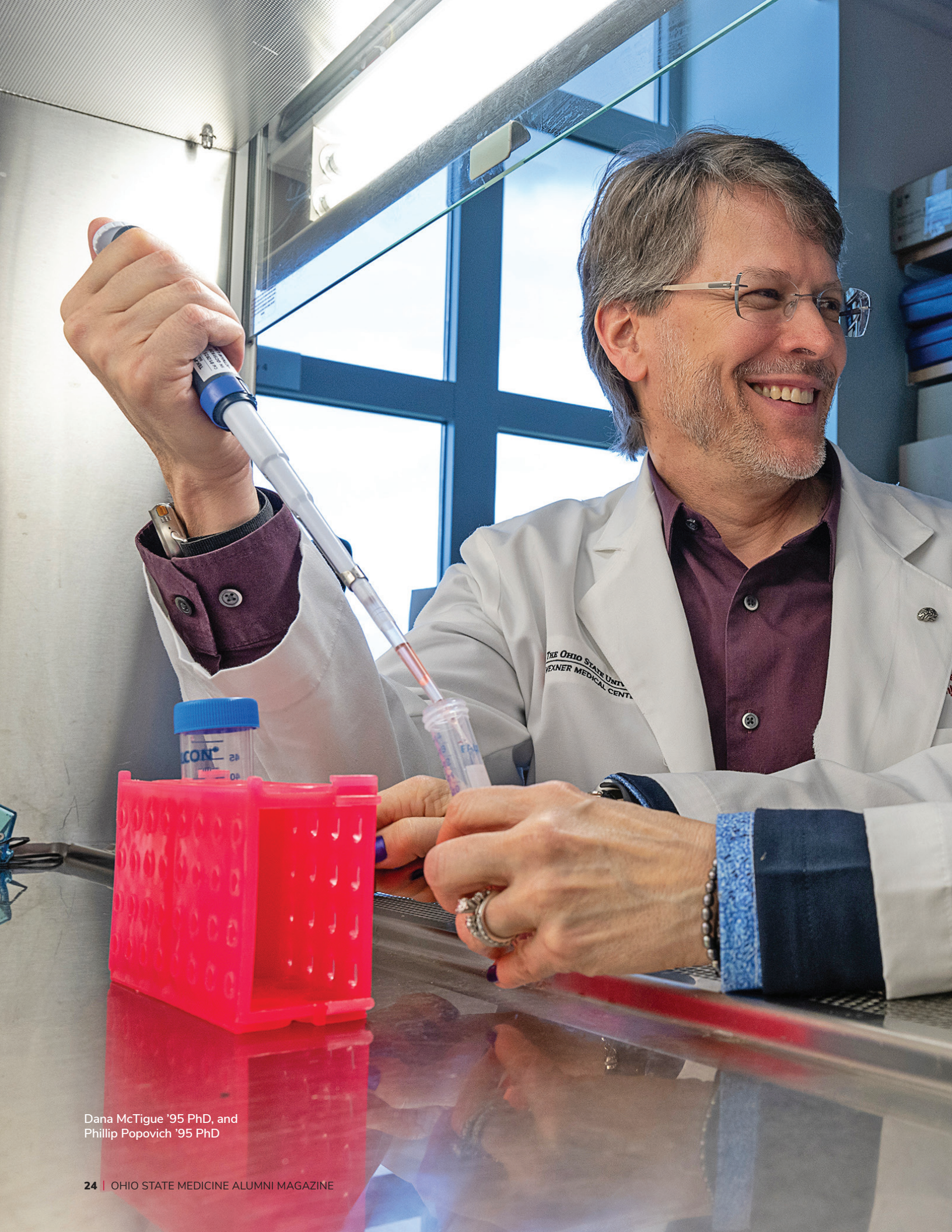
According to the American Medical Association, the overall match rate for couples is 93%. Combined with the varied options for how, when and where you can practice, many couples are able to balance their life priorities and career goals. The Hollingsworths never doubted that they could successfully multitask as parents and practitioners.

"If you're enjoying your work, enjoying your kids and enjoying your life, you'll kind of move the pieces around to make it work," Keith says. "We still bike and ski together with our grown children — sports we got into when we were out West."



The Oslocks have perfected translating time away at conferences into extended vacations. They recently went to a conference in New Orleans where they celebrated the 10th birthday of their son who was born right before they started medical school. Gone are the days of attending conferences with a baby in a wrap, as their kids are now five and 10 years old. However, their commitment to involving them in new opportunities and adventures continues.

Kelli Trinoskey is associate director of Marketing and Communications at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.



Dana McTigue '95 PhD, and
Phillip Popovich '95 PhD

A woman with shoulder-length brown hair, wearing a white lab coat over a blue patterned top, is smiling and looking to her left. She is in a laboratory setting. In the background, there are shelves with boxes labeled 'M' and a large white refrigerator with a digital display and a 'WARNING' label. The text 'Partners in science — and in life' is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

Partners in science — and in life

A Penn State “meet-cute,” a honeymoon in the Poconos and decades of shared purpose led these two top researchers to build a lasting life — and lab — at The Ohio State University.

By Jessi Behrendsen



When it comes to long-term partnerships, Dana McTigue '95 PhD, and Phillip Popovich '95 PhD, have cracked the code — twice. Not only have they built a nearly 40-year marriage grounded in mutual respect, humor and breakfast rituals, but they've also forged a powerhouse scientific collaboration that's advancing our understanding of spinal cord injury and its wide-ranging effects on the body.

As co-leaders of the McPop Lab at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, the two neuroscientists have made it their mission to uncover how spinal trauma impacts not just mobility, but the entire body — from the immune system to gut and liver function. Their combined expertise is helping shape a more holistic understanding of spinal cord injury, shifting the field's focus beyond paralysis to the full scope of systemic recovery.

And to think — it all started with a simple question in an undergrad biology class.

A shared path — by chance

The couple met as undergraduates at Penn State in the late '80s.

"I sat next to somebody who was making all these weird noises during class — very distracting," McTigue says. "So, I'm like, OK, I'm sitting in the back."

That's where she found Popovich.

"I just sat down next to him. He was so smart and so nice."

While they didn't start dating right away — McTigue was seeing someone else at the time — by her sophomore year, the two were inseparable.

Graduate school took them to Ohio State, unintentionally but serendipitously. They'd applied to different programs, but when both were offered interviews, they decided to check it out together.

"Everything just kind of aligned," Popovich says. "We interviewed, we loved the program — and we got married during our first year and then came back and had finals."



The honeymoon? A thrifty off-season trip to the Poconos.

Buckeyes for life

When McTigue and Popovich started graduate school at Ohio State, they assumed their time in Ohio would be temporary.

“We thought we’d do our postdocs here and then move on,” McTigue says.

But the opportunities kept coming – and staying started to make sense. After both secured positions with the university, they began to put down roots. Then came their daughter.

“We decided to have a family, so we got pregnant and had a baby at the same time Phil got offered a position to stay,” McTigue says.

Staying a little longer turned into decades. Their careers advanced, their daughter grew up in Columbus and their families came to Ohio. McTigue’s mother now lives in Grove City, and Popovich’s father moved to the area a few years ago.

“We’re Buckeyes for life,” McTigue says.

Research that evolves — and matters

McTigue and Popovich also didn’t set out to work in the same field, let alone merge labs. But over time, their paths — like their lives — aligned.

With more flexibility, the couple began co-mentoring trainees, co-writing grants and finally merging their physical lab space, where McTigue is associate dean for Foundational Research at the Ohio State College of Medicine, professor in the Department of Neuroscience, director of Research at the Belford Center for Spinal Cord Injury and the Belford Family Endowed Chair in Spinal Cord Injury.

Popovich is professor and chair of the same department, executive director of the Belford Center for Spinal Cord Injury and director of the Center for Brain and Spinal Cord Repair.

While they continue to lead separate research programs — McTigue’s focused on tissue repair and organ-level responses, Popovich’s centered



Dana McTigue '95 PhD,
and Phillip Popovich
'95 PhD, at the BRT Lab

on neuroinflammation — their interests are now deeply intertwined.

“We’ve developed a lab culture where students know they can come to either of us,” McTigue says. “Kind of like a mom and dad. They know who to go to depending on the problem.”

Their complementary approaches have led them to investigate how spinal cord injury disrupts the entire body, not just the nervous system. McTigue has focused on liver and gut inflammation. Popovich brings deep expertise in immune system response. Their work has helped shine a light on complications like gastrointestinal issues and chronic pain that were once considered secondary.

“We just stuck with it,” McTigue says. “At first, people didn’t get it. They’d ask, ‘Why are you studying the liver?’ But we knew the whole system was involved.”

That persistence is paying off. The field is catching up to their long-held view: that real recovery requires more than restoring movement — it requires restoring total health.

A team in every sense

For all their professional success, what shines brightest is their affection for each other.

These days, they start most mornings with avocado toast and coffee. On the weekends they take peaceful walks with their dog through nearby trails, and unwind on their land in Powell, surrounded by woods, a little stream and the quiet rhythm of a life they’ve built together.

“I think we’ve been successful because we’re just so supportive of one another,” McTigue says. “Phil’s my biggest cheerleader.”

Popovich smiles at that. “We just like each other. We want each other to succeed,” he says. “And I think that’s made all the difference.”

Jessi Behrendsen is a writer with more than 15 years of experience in content creation and storytelling. She currently serves as a contract writer for the Advancement team at The Ohio State University. Born and raised in northern Ohio near the shores of Lake Erie, Jessi now lives in Columbus, where she enjoys reading, writing, traveling and exploring history.

Smarter space for advanced care, education

By Amy McKay

SET TO OPEN IN FEBRUARY 2026,

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's new hospital tower will transform health care delivery in Ohio and offer a leading-edge environment for the development of future health care professionals. The 26-story, 1.9-million-square-foot facility will enhance patient care while reinforcing Ohio State's critical role as the region's only academic medical center.

Innovation in every detail

Designed with a patient-first philosophy, the inpatient tower will blend advanced medical technology with thoughtful design to improve patient outcomes and comfort. Key features will include:

- ▶ **820 private patient rooms** with smart beds, integrated telehealth technologies and abundant natural light
- ▶ **Expanded specialty services**, including care for birthing parents, 51 NICU bassinets in partnership with Nationwide Children's Hospital and high-acuity areas like trauma, transplant, stroke and orthopedics
- ▶ **State-of-the-art procedural areas**, including 24 operating rooms, 10 interventional radiology suites and comprehensive imaging



The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center's new 26-story hospital tower will provide leading-edge opportunities for patient care and clinical education.

ADVANCING CARE

- ▶ **A pandemic-ready ICU** with specialized airflow systems
- ▶ **A rooftop helipad** with advanced safety features and capacity for rapid transport
- ▶ **A large parking garage** with nearly 1,900 spaces
- ▶ **Convenience features**, like two coffee shops, a retail pharmacy, a gift shop, 24/7 dining access with mobile ordering options and a 400-seat dining area with an outdoor terrace

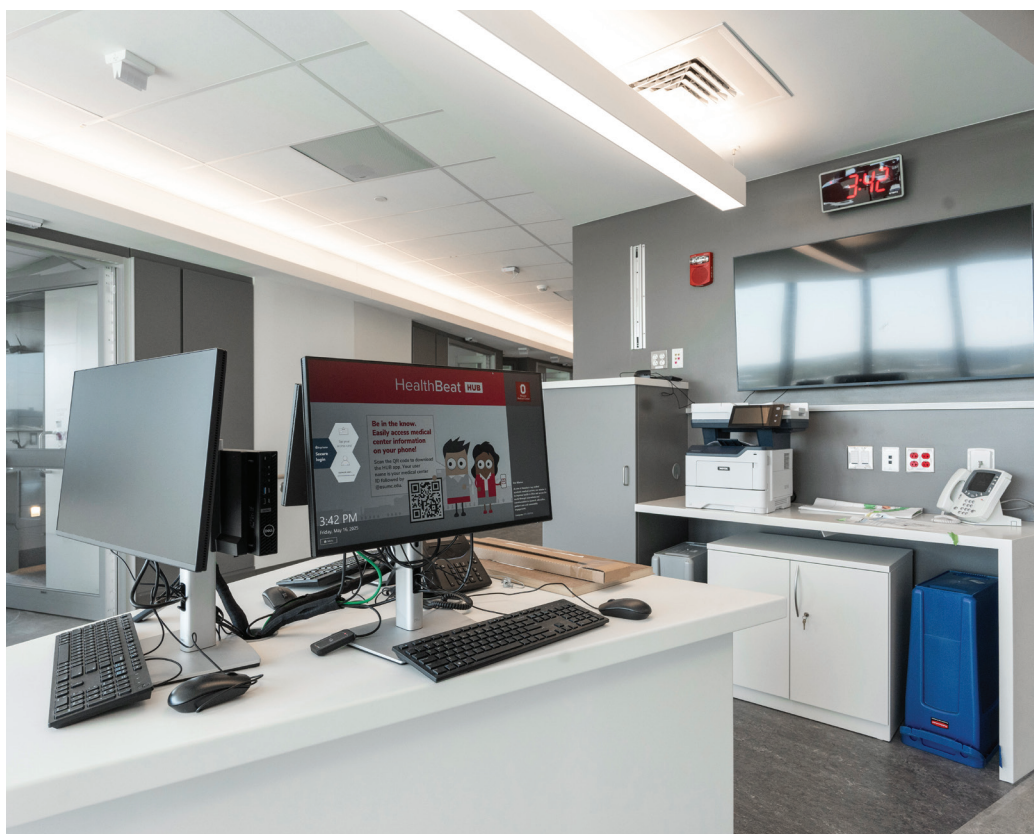
Built for learning, designed for teams

The inpatient tower will raise the bar for how future health professionals are taught. Medical students, residents and fellows will be immersed in a dynamic setting that reflects real-world health care – team-based, interconnected and patient-centered.

“This facility will give our learners – whether they are medical students just starting their clinical rotations or residents already leading care teams – the space, tools and interprofessional exposure they need to thrive,” says **Carol R. Bradford, MD, MS, FACS**, dean of The Ohio State University College of Medicine and vice president for Health Sciences at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. “It is a tremendous opportunity for us to elevate medical education at every stage. In this exceptional patient care setting, we will be able to provide a learning environment that even more seamlessly integrates the education and clinical missions of our college and medical center.”

Equipped with larger workrooms and enhanced learning technologies, the tower will make real-time teaching easier. Each workroom is designed to support bigger teams of care providers as well as impromptu case discussions, “chalk talks” and lectures on various medical topics.

Case managers, social workers and other care coordinators will also be embedded with clinical care teams.



Key features include advanced technology in patient rooms, surgical suites and support spaces throughout the new hospital.



Streamlined technologies will support learners in managing services for complex patient cases.

This integration will give learners a more comprehensive understanding of each patient's journey, from treatment through discharge planning.

Enhanced continuity, better learning

Another major benefit of the facility's layout — for patients *and* learners — is the enhanced continuity of care. By clustering patients geographically, care teams will move *less* between units, making rounds easier, streamlining communication and increasing bedside time. Learners will be able to follow patients more closely throughout their hospital stay, resulting in fewer handoffs and more consistent patient care.

Christine Cassidy, MD, '25 Res, a recent chief resident at Ohio State who participated in planning discussions for the new tower, says this change will be particularly impactful for internal medicine. In this setup, patients will remain with the same care team as they transition between medical/surgical and

progressive care units, only switching teams if intensive care or ICU-level treatment is needed.

"Following patients through different stages of care — without handing them off — will allow residents to build deeper clinical insights and stronger patient relationships," Cassidy says. "It's a more cohesive way to learn and it will boost their confidence in managing complex cases."

Streamlined unit layouts, combined with expanded care capabilities in every patient room, will improve efficiency. Learners will spend less time navigating between hospital buildings and more time engaged in meaningful clinical experiences. Every floor is designed to bring people — and information — closer together.

Looking ahead

As Ohio's population grows, so does the need for high-quality, innovative care. Ohio State is uniquely positioned to meet this need, with the new tower poised to improve access to care and

prepare the next generation of health professionals to lead that care.

"The tower will be transformative in so many ways," says **Andrew Thomas '95 MD, '98 Res, '00 MBA, FACP**, the Robert F. Wolfe and Edgar T. Wolfe Foundation Chief Clinical Officer at the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center. "Its patient-centered design and advanced technologies will enhance patient outcomes, elevate the experience for patients and their families and provide unparalleled clinical learning opportunities. It will really be a testament to our commitment to excellence in academic medicine."

With flexible spaces and a strong team-based approach, the tower will embody Ohio State's commitment to compassionate care, life-changing discoveries and real-world education — solidifying our position as a leader in the future of medicine.

Amy McKay is associate director of Executive Communications at The Ohio State University College of Medicine.

ALUMNI NOTES

NEWS | IN MEMORIAM



Classes of 1980s



John Raymond Sr. '82 MD, will transition from president and chief executive officer of the Medical College of Wisconsin to a faculty position

on June 30, 2026. Raymond has served in his previous positions for nearly 15 years, while also teaching nephrology at the school.

Carol Burke '88 MD, received the Distinguished Alumnus Award at the 2024 fall Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association Awards reception. Burke is the director of Hereditary Polyposis in the Sanford R. Weiss MD Center for Hereditary Colorectal Neoplasia

and the program director of the Carol A. Burke MD- Sheetz Family Endowed Fellowship in Hereditary Gastrointestinal Cancer Syndromes in the Weiss Center and Department of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at the Cleveland Clinic.

Classes of 1990s

Manoj Sharma, MBBS, '97 PhD, received the 2025 Barrick Distinguished Scholar Award at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The award recognizes faculty with 10 or more years of service in an academic environment and whose research is judged to be extraordinary and distinguished. Sharma's work in preventive medicine was judged to push the boundaries of knowledge in this field.

Classes of 2000s

Joel Kammeyer '02 MD, was appointed division director of Infectious Diseases and associate professor of Medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine and the Detroit Medical Center. He previously held the same leadership role at the University of Toledo College of Medicine. He also recently completed his term as president of the Infectious Diseases Society of Ohio.



Roly Kanard '02 MD, completed the Lake Placid Marathon in June 2023. In doing so, he completed a marathon in all 50 states and the District

of Columbia three weeks shy of his 50th birthday. He began his quest as a second-year medical student in the Columbus Marathon. He's an internal medicine hospitalist in Aspen, Colorado, and surrounding areas, as well as in Belfast, Maine.

Peter Wung '03 MD, started a new role as senior vice president at Candid Therapeutics to lead the development of novel biologic therapies with T-cell engagers for autoimmune diseases. In his 15-year pharmaceutical industry career, including stops at Sanofi and AbbVie, he's led the development of several blockbuster drugs (Taltz, Dupixent, Kevzara, Rinvoq) across multiple therapeutic areas.

Cedric Pritchett '09 MD, joined the Board of Trustees of the Oberkottter Foundation in early 2025. The Oberkottter Foundation helps children who are deaf or hard of hearing to reach their full potential. Pritchett is a pediatric otolaryngologist at Nemours Children's Hospital in Orlando, Florida, and associate professor at the University of Central Florida College of Medicine.

Classes of 2010s



Antoinette Pusateri '18 MD, '21 Res, '24 Fellow, was appointed to the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Board of Directors of the Southern

Ohio and Kentucky Chapter. Pusateri is assistant clinical professor of Internal Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition at the College of Medicine. Her work to advance gastrointestinal research focuses on inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), including the psychosocial factors that impact adolescents with IBD as they grow into adulthood. She has also explored strategies to prevent hospital readmission in patients with decompensated cirrhosis.

In Memoriam

2025

April

Lawrence Eugene "Gene" Arnold, '63 MD MD

March

Jay Richard "Dick" Gold '61 MD
Kenneth D. Webster '62 MD
Charles F. Mueller, MD (Faculty, Department of Radiology)

February

Norman Davis '62 MD
George Robert Fitz '62 MD
Robert S. Bar '70 MD
Paul S. Fekete '79 MD
Gene Wai Doo, MD, '70 Res

January

Gerald Wesley Steiner '67 MD
Daniel Ducatt, MD, '71 Res

2024

December

Ronald M. Backus '56 MD
Robert E. Chapman '61 MD
Robert Nelson Ludwig '64 MD
Therese Marie "Theresa" Franko-Holstein '80 MD

November

John "Spike" Kennedy '57 MD
Larry W. Shoemaker '65 MD
Tianna Xia, MD, '13 Res

October

Richard Reed Johnston '61 MD
Gordon B. Snider '54 MD
Robert D. Wagar '69 MD

September

Asegedech "Segy" Shimellis '15 MD



To view obituaries in full, please visit go.osu.edu/notesandobits.

Former Faculty News



Charles Camisa, MD, former professor and director of the College of Medicine's Division of Dermatology, 1981–87, received

the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Collier County Medical Society in Florida, honoring his commitment, leadership and excellence in medical practice spanning his career. Camisa is the author of three textbooks, 130 peer-reviewed articles and 30 book chapters and has received 23 research grants.

Correction

In the Winter 2025 issue of the *Ohio State Medicine Alumni* magazine, John Burkhart is incorrectly listed as Class of 1966 in the In Memoriam list. He was a distinguished member of the Class of 1968.

Share Your Story



The Ohio State Medical Alumni Society wants to hear from you! Share your news, including wedding announcements — 80 words or less. Tag us on social media or email us at medalum@osumc.edu by October 2, 2025, for the Winter 2026 issue of *Ohio State Medicine Alumni* magazine.

ALUMNI NOTES

Robert F. Kepley '75 MD, named to Alumni Advisory Council



We're happy to congratulate **Robert Kepley '75 MD**, who will be serving as the College of Medicine representative on The Ohio

State University's Alumni Advisory Council. A native of Columbus, Ohio, Kepley spent his career advancing orthopaedic practice and operations in northern Ohio.

After completing a residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at Akron City Hospital, Kepley returned to Ohio State in 1980 for a fellowship in Joint Replacement Surgery with **Thomas H. Mallory '65 MD**, a pioneer in orthopedic surgery. He returned to Akron to begin private practice in orthopaedic surgery, focusing on joint replacement surgery, and teaching residents in the Orthopedic Residency program at Akron City Hospital.

Kepley went on to join the Crystal Clinic, a single specialty Orthopaedic Group in Akron, helping to guide the transition of the clinic to become the Crystal Clinic Orthopaedic Center (CCOC). He became the inpatient surgery director at CCOC and helped plan, open and operate a new inpatient hospital specializing in orthopaedic and plastic surgery reconstruction. CCOC is one of the few physician-owned and -operated hospitals in America, and ranked #1 in its market for Overall Surgical Care, Joint Replacement and Spinal Surgery.

Kepley retired in 2022 and served as a consultant to the CCCO.

Kepley replaces **Joel Goodnough '79 MD, '83 Res.** Goodnough completed his second term on the Advisory Council in April. Thank you for your dedicated service!

Christopher Alvarez-Breckenridge '11 PhD, '13 MD, continues to represent the Ohio State Wexner Medical Center on the Council.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Medical student commits to education, research, philanthropy

Matthew Marquardt, a fourth-year medical student at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, approaches life as both a dedicated learner and as a professional Ironman triathlete.

And it's his commitment to getting closer to one of his main goals — figuring out how to end cancer — that influences his focus on three research projects at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center — Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (the OSUCCC – James).

The first project, created under the mentorship of **Carmen Quatman, MD, '16 Res, PhD**, associate professor of Orthopaedics at the Ohio State College of Medicine, looks at how to translate the lessons related to sports science and human performance to apply to surgery for improving performance.

Project No. 2 is working with **Kyle VanKoeveering, MD**, associate professor in the Department of Otolaryngology — Head and Neck Surgery, who also leads the Medical Modeling, Materials and Manufacturing (M4) Lab within the Ohio State College of Engineering, where researchers are using 3D printing technologies to improve cancer surgery outcomes. VanKoeveering says that Marquardt's unique blend of Ironman training and his translational science experience has been a valuable bridge between the clinicians and engineers.

For his third project, Marquardt works



with **David Cohn, MD, MBA**, professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in the Division of Gynecologic Oncology. Together, they explore using continuous glucose monitors to assess any changes in blood glucose regulation during chemotherapy.

As Marquardt trains, studies and conducts his research, he has his eyes set on the Pelotonia ride in August. He says the triathlon and battling cancer are too hard to do alone. "There is incredible power in tackling challenges with others and having a purpose beyond oneself that can positively impact the lives of others."

— **Kelli Trinoskey**

First-of-its-kind faculty gift made to Ohio State's new hospital



Driven by a profound sense of gratitude, **Mark Landon, MD**, a professor and the Richard L. Meiling Chair of the Department of

Obstetrics and Gynecology in the College of Medicine, is the first faculty member to name a space in the medical center's new inpatient tower

— a visitor lounge within the top three floors, which will be dedicated to obstetrics and gynecology.

The space will welcome and comfort patients' loved ones during some of life's most profound moments. Pending approval by the university's Board of Trustees, the space will be named the Mark B. Landon, MD, and Jane A. Landon Visitor Lounge.

"Being part of the evolution of one of America's premier OB/Gyn departments has been one of the great joys of my career," says Landon who joined Ohio State in 1987.

Shining a light

By Beth Weinstock '95 MD

IN 2021, MY SON ELI WEINSTOCK died on a chilly March day in Washington D.C., not far from the campus of American University where he was a sophomore.

Several hours passed before the chaplain and police arrived at our home in Columbus to relay the news. Several blessed hours, when my husband and I went to work, the kids went to school, the dogs lay in their usual spot in the yard, and all of us were standing on the ‘impossibly unknowing’ earth that was soon to crumble under our feet.

Those first few months after Eli's death required every effort to just exist. Survive, really. We didn't yet know the final cause of death, and I awoke every morning to this obliterative pain, the scale of which I had never previously imagined.

Time had jumped the track — nothing was linear, nothing existed in the past or the present and the future was inconceivable. The only clarity was found in Eli's possessions — his clothes, his childhood books, his skateboard and the precious photos that became more sacred and life-affirming than any religious ritual or symbol.

A staggering toll

Three months after Eli died, the coroner let us know that Eli had fentanyl in his body at the time of his death. He'd been getting ready to go out that evening with a few of his new fraternity brothers, and he must've taken a pill that he thought was something else, collapsing immediately from the lethal dose of fentanyl hidden in the substance.



Beth Weinstock '95 MD, co-founder and executive director of BirdieLight

Six months later, my oldest daughter, Olivia, and I sat by Eli's gravesite and talked at length about the staggering number of drug overdose fatalities in America, particularly in young people.

Everyone seemed to ‘know someone,’ and so many deaths were due to an unintentional ingestion of fentanyl. The more we researched, the more convinced we became that no one

person or organization was really getting in front of high school or college students to teach them about the dangers of accidental fentanyl ingestion — that pills such as counterfeit Xanax, Adderall and oxycodone can be laced with fentanyl.

We decided to hold several ‘salons’ — or gatherings — in our living room, inviting young people and parents

MY TURN



Named after Eli Weinstock, above, BirdieLight has brought fentanyl education programs to thousands of students in high schools and colleges nationwide.

to share their own experience or knowledge of fentanyl, and we quickly discovered that really no one knew what fentanyl was, where it was found or how to stay safe from it. This despite the fact that more than 200 people a day in our country were dying from fentanyl.

Creating hope with outreach

So with little nonprofit experience and a whole lot of emotion, we launched BirdieLight in 2021, an educational 501(c)3 providing fentanyl safety education (and other drug adulteration awareness) to young people ages 12–25, their parents/caregivers, health care providers and many other groups that are touchpoints for adolescents.

We named the organization after Eli's childhood nickname, Birdie. Our logo is a canary wearing a miner's helmet with a headlamp. Eli's name is spelled out in the middle.

With BirdieLight, we committed to an approach that's data-driven, nonjudgmental and honest. To date, we've educated more than 75,000 students in high schools and on

college campuses across the country.

In our first year, BirdieLight was honored to participate in the HEALing Communities grant via the National Institutes of Health, providing harm-reduction supplies and educational materials, including a digital curriculum, posters, stickers and teacher guide, to central Ohio and reducing stigma in the process.

In our third year, we were awarded a State Opioid and Stimulant Response 4.0 Grant through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Ohio Department of Health, allowing us to expand fentanyl education into previously unreached areas of northeast Ohio. This year, we introduced an education effort for middle school children which has already been implemented in Northeast Ohio through this grant and is now set for broader outreach.

Additionally, in 2025, we were awarded an Integrated Harm Reduction grant to launch our new health care professionals program, which will ensure that primary care and pediatric

providers in central Ohio will have easy access to educational materials, acting as hubs to dispense lifesaving information and tools to their patients and parents. Our vision is to expand this primary care program across the state, so all offices are equipped to keep their patients safe.

I certainly didn't imagine, as an Ohio State College of Medicine student in 1991, that I would be fighting this devastating public health crisis, nor could I have imagined that the impetus to do so would be the loss of my son, sweet Eli Weinstock.

Life can and will be devastating at some point for most of us. Also fabulous, joyful and sad. I'm honored to have lived it all with my son and my family, and honored to prevent another family from experiencing such a profound tragedy.

Beth Weinstock '95 MD, is co-founder and executive director of BirdieLight, which works to educate young people about the dangers of fentanyl through community outreach and resources. For more information, see Birdielight.org.



A gift that supports your future and ours

Give back to the College of Medicine and receive income in return

A charitable remainder trust is a unique giving vehicle that helps you provide for your family and have a lasting impact on future Buckeyes. With this type of gift, you-or other beneficiaries if you choose-receive income (for life or for a period of up to 20 years). At the end of the trust term, the balance of the trust supports your areas of interest at the College of Medicine.

Why consider a charitable remainder trust?

- Income to you or designated beneficiaries
- Current income tax charitable deduction
- Immediate capital gains tax savings if funded with long-term appreciated assets
- Potential estate tax savings
- Ability to diversify highly appreciated assets including real estate, stocks and other complex assets
- Helps support the many students, innovative programs and research breakthroughs making an impact at Ohio State and around the world

Contact us to discover more about the benefits of a charitable remainder trust.

614-292-2183

giftplan@osu.edu

give.osu.edu/giftplanning



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

The Ohio State University Foundation does not provide legal, tax or financial advice to its donors or their advisors. We encourage you to review your gift plans with your legal and tax advisor to determine the best plan for you.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

The Ohio State University
College of Medicine
P.O. Box 183112
Columbus, OH 43218-3112

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Columbus, Ohio
Permit No. 711



**Congratulations,
Class of 2025!**