WIDENING IMPACT IN MEDICINE AND SCIENCE (WIMS) NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026

WIMS MISSION STATEMENT

To champion the advancement, visibility, and fair recognition of faculty within the College of Medicine at The Ohio State University by fostering empowerment, advocacy, and encompassing growth. Through WIMS, we inspire meaningful success by cultivating a welcoming and transformative academic environment where all faculty are valued, supported, and equipped to thrive.

SUPPORT WIMS

To support the advancement of faculty in the College of Medicine, please donate to the Academic Advancement Fund for WIMS (Fund number 315293) at The Ohio State University. Donate to WIMS.

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REFLECTIONS FROM DR. DANA MCTIGUE



DANA MCTIGUE, PHD
Professor and Vice Dean for Research
Director of Research, Belford Center for Spinal Cord Injury
Belford Family Endowed Chair in Spinal Cord Injury
The Ohio State University College of Medicine

DEAR WIMS COMMUNITY AND COLLEGE OF MEDICINE FACULTY,

Since beginning my role as Vice Dean for Research in the College of Medicine this past April, I have spent time meeting with various stakeholder groups across the college to better understand their missions and identify how I can best support them. While some of these groups have been new to me, WIMS is one I know well, and whose mission strongly aligns with my own values. WIMS' commitment to ensuring that all faculty are valued, supported, and equipped to thrive resonates deeply with me.

As a college leader, I want every faculty member to know that they are highly valued. Indeed, our faculty are central to what makes us an academic medical center. I strive to understand what faculty need so that I can help create the conditions in which they can flourish in their respective roles. When faculty are supported in a stimulating and welcoming environment, they are better positioned to mentor trainees, collaborate with colleagues, lead teams, shape the future of our college, and sustain their own well-being.

One powerful way to help faculty feel valued is to recognize their accomplishments. WIMS does this beautifully by highlighting faculty achievements in the newsletter and through awards such as the Buckeye Shining Star Recognition and the WIMS Faculty Advocate Award. Letting people know that we see them and that we recognize the good work they are doing is a meaningful way to affirm their value and impact.

I try to carry this perspective into every interaction I have with my COM colleagues. I want to "see" each person as an individual with a unique background, understand their goals, and appreciate what they may be experiencing. I remember clearly when I was a trainee still finding my way and later a junior faculty member who did not always feel confident approaching leaders. I was deeply grateful when college leaders, such as Dr. Carol Whitacre, took the time to mentor and guide me. I hope to pay that forward by being accessible, honest, and supportive in my conversations with faculty, and by listening carefully to their concerns so we

can identify meaningful ways to strengthen support.

I also recognize that many of us are navigating significant stressors, including funding uncertainties and resource constraints. Despite this, I am excited about the future for science and medicine. I believe we are on the cusp of remarkable new tools that will accelerate discovery, expand our impact, and open new possibilities for our faculty, staff, and trainees. I look forward to helping ensure that our community has the support, resources, and encouragement needed to embrace these opportunities, push boundaries, and thrive. When we value one another, learn together, support each other as we embrace new skills and possibilities, there is no limit to what we can achieve!

– Dana McTigue, PhD

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACCOLADES HIGHLIGHTS

MAYA IYER, MD, MED, FAAP



Maya Iyer, MD, MEd, FAAP, Associate Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, the Associate Dean for Clinical Track Faculty, and the Director of Widening Impact in Medicine and Science (WIMS), received the 2026 Excellence in Advancement of Gender Equity Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Section of Emergency Medicine Women in PEM. She was honored at the October 2026 AAP National Conference and Exhibition.

TASHA POSID, PHD, MA



Tasha Posid, PhD, MA, Assistant Professor of Urology, received a 2026 Student Academic Success Research Grant from the Ohio State Student Success Research Lab for her research titled "Evaluating Early Surgical Mentorship and Research Experiences on Student Career Development: An Ohio State Mixed-Methods Study."

CEREN YARAR-FISHER, PT, PHD



Ceren Yarar-Fisher, PT, PhD, Associate Professor in the Departments of Neuroscience and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Vice Chair of Research in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Phillip Popovich, PhD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Neuroscience, received an NIH T32 grant for the project titled "Interdisciplinary Neurotrauma Research, Innovation, and Scientific Excellence (NEURO-RISE)." The goal is to train the next generation of neurotrauma scientists to lead innovative research that improves the lives of people living with spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury.

POORVI HARDMAN, DO AND SABHYA RANA, PHD

The Center for Faculty Advancement, Mentoring and Engagement (FAME) announced the 2025-2026 Career Achievement Award winners. **Poorvi Hardman, DO**, Assistant Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine, and **Sabhya Rana, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, each received Early-Career Achievement Awards.





2026 COM PROMOTION AND TENURE APPROVALS: WIMS EDITION

Congratulations to all the COM faculty members who were promoted in 2026, and a special acknowledgement to the WIMS members below.

Promotion to Professor:
Ryan Nash, Biomedical Education and Anatomy
Carmen Quatman, Emergency Medicine
Catherine Quatman-Yates, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Promotion to Clinical Professor
Rolla Abu-Arja, Pediatrics
Erica Bell, Neurology
Margaret Gatti-Mays, Internal Medicine

Luma Ghalib, Internal Medicine
Valerie Grignol, Surgery
Manoj Iyer, Anesthesiology
Jessica Kaffenberger, Dermatology
Simiao Li-Sauerwine, Emergency Medicine
Abberly Lott Limbach, Pathology
Susan Massick, Dermatology
Archana Pahlaj Hinduja, Neurology
Bethany Panchal, Family and Community Medicine
Melissa Quinn, Biomedical Education and Anatomy
Subhdeep Virk, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health

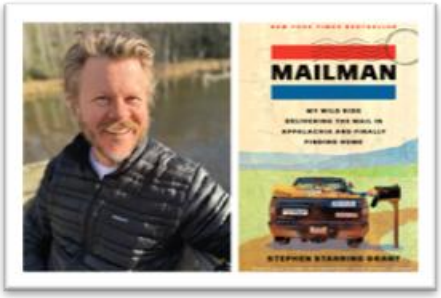
Promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure:
Melanie Bozzay, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health
Laura Chavez, Pediatrics
Jewel Crasta, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Emily Hemann, Microbial Infection and Immunity
Michael Kearse, Biological Chemistry and Pharmacology
Maria Mihaylova, Biological Chemistry and Pharmacology

Promotion to Associate Professor in Advance of Tenure:
Katherine Bline, Pediatrics

Promotion to Associate Clinical Professor:
Asrar Alahmadi, Internal Medicine
Lindsey Byrne, Internal Medicine
Min-Jeong Cho, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
Nora Colburn, Internal Medicine
Laura Hart, Pediatrics
Katrina Johnson, Internal Medicine
Alison MacKinlay, Family and Community Medicine
Patricia Malerich, Dermatology
Meenal Misal, Obstetrics and Gynecology
Namrita Odackal, Pediatrics
Claire Sevov, Internal Medicine
Tracy Shannon, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Renuka Shenoy, Anesthesiology
Carrie Valdez, Surgery

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

WIMS FALL SPEAKER 2026: STEPHEN STARRING GRANT
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2026, FROM 12:00 – 1:00 PM



WIMS will host New York Times bestselling author, Stephen Starring Grant for our annual fall speaker**.** Join us for an engaging presentation titled "Resilience: How to fall apart in the right direction" on reinvention, regrowth, and finding opportunity in life's most challenging transitions. Drawing on his journey from corporate executive to USPS letter carrier and his expertise as a consumer psychologist, Grant will explore post-traumatic growth, the psychological processes behind resilience and career transitions, and how these insights can help healthcare professionals navigate personal and professional challenges. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for navigating change, leveraging life experience as a strength, and building resilience for the second half of life. **RSVP by November 3rd.** A light lunch will be provided to in person attendees.

WIMS EMERGING LEADER IN HEALTHCARE 2026: CALL FOR NOMINATION

The **WIMS Emerging Leader in Healthcare Award** provides up to **$3,000** to support OSU College of Medicine faculty pursuing formal opportunities in health care leadership, professional development, and career advancement. Early- and mid-career faculty are especially encouraged to apply. **Applications are due by November 19, 2026.**

Eligibility Criteria

- A faculty member at OSUCOM and a WIMS member
- Demonstrated interest in leadership
- Identified formal opportunities specific to health care leadership and professional or career development, such as but not limited to the following: OSU Lean Six Sigma Certification; Harvard Macy; Center for Creative Leadership
- Willingness to give a brief presentation to WIMS within one year describing how they used the funds and what they learned.

Nomination Materials

- **Statement (maximum of 2 pages)** containing:
    - A clear description of the opportunity the nominee would like to pursue, how the acquired skills align with the nominee's career goals, and how the opportunity will enable current or future leadership roles.
    - A description of current and prior leadership experience and future leadership aspirations.

  - A budget for the proposed activity and availability of any matching funds to cover the total cost of the opportunity, if necessary.

- **Current CV or résumé**
- **Submit application and/or questions to: wims@osumc.edu.**

WIMS ENGAGEMENT AWARD WINNER: MATTHEW AVENARIUS, PHD



Congratulations to Matthew Avenarius, Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Pathology and Associate Director of the Molecular Pathology Laboratory (Genetics) on receiving the 2026 WIMS Engagement Award! This award is given annually to current or past members of WIMS who have significantly impacted the development and progress of WIMS and/or its members. Dr. Avenarius is co-chair of the WIMS Events Committee, where he supports numerous WIMS events and initiatives. His nominators for this award noted that Dr. Avenarius is a "thoughtful contributor who amplifies the goals of the organization [and whose] engagement reflects a deep understanding of the importance of community-building and institutional needs of academic medicine professionals." Congratulations, Dr. Avenarius!

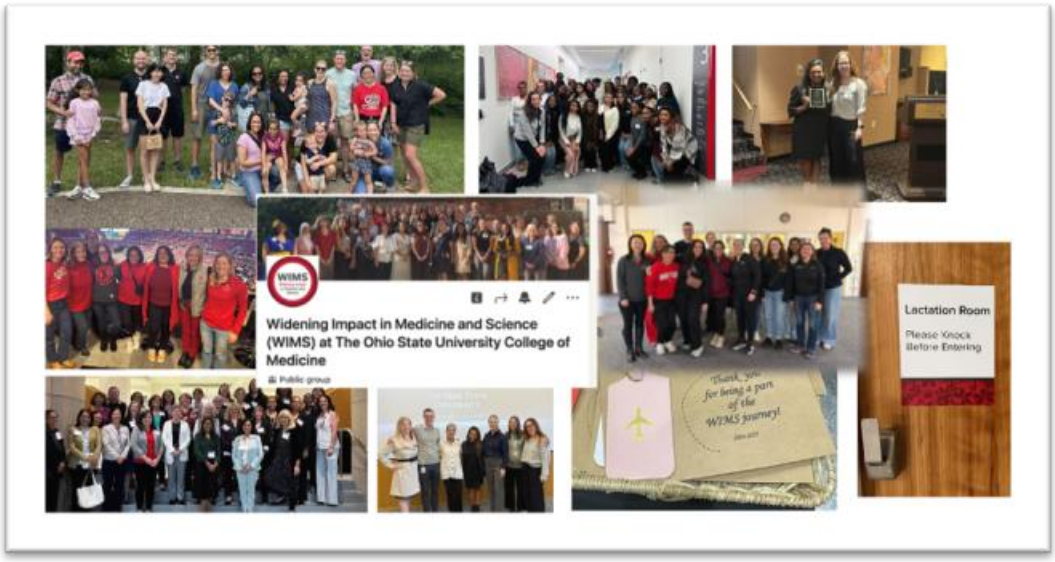
LEARN MORE ABOUT WIMS

WIMS IS…

A dedicated OSUCOM faculty organization that champions the advancement, visibility, and fair recognition of faculty by fostering empowerment, advocacy, and encompassing growth. We inspire meaningful success by cultivating a welcoming and transformative academic environment where all faculty are valued, supported, and equipped to thrive.

WHAT DOES WIMS DO?

- Provide a community for you to thrive
- Advocate for faculty growth and success
- Identify and reduce barriers
- Collaborate on data-driven scholarship to impact change
- Provide resources for mentorship, sponsorship, and career development
- Improve the health and well-being of all faculty
- Foster a positive culture and environment
- Learn more: Ohio State WIMS



WHY JOIN WIMS?

- Exclusive or early access to events and programming.
- Opportunities to meet mentors, colleagues, collaborators, and friends.
- Support WIMS in advocating for programs and policies that advance faculty success.
- Learn about resources, workshops, and trainings on campus and locally that will benefit your professional development.
- Membership Options - General Member, Committee, Alumni.
- Joining is easy and FREE. Scan the QR code or visit the WIMS membership link.

STAY CONNECTED WITH WIMS!

Email WIMS

wims@osumc.edu.

Follow WIMS on X

@OhioStateWIMS.

Join WIMS on LinkedIn

WIMS on LinkedIn.

WIMS SUGGESTION BOX

The WIMS Advocacy Committee is seeking input on COM faculty experiences, challenges, or concerns to guide future committee initiatives. Scan the QR code or follow this link to the WIMS suggestion box to submit your ideas.

