

Widening Impact in Medicine and Science NEWSLETTER

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An Unexpected Professional Journey*

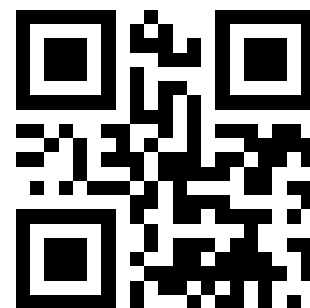
Each year around this time, many people ask the question – where did the year go? Winter weather is now upon us, the days are shorter, the Buckeyes football team (at this writing) is looking unstoppable, and there are exciting things happening in the College of Medicine and across Ohio State. It's great to be a Buckeye – a sentiment that is particularly true for me. I joined Ohio State (or as some point out – joined for the third time) in October 2023 to lead the NIH CTSA grant and the Clinical and Translational Science Institute. My previous two entry points to Ohio State were for my B.S. in pharmacy and my postdoc. But I left Ohio State in 1989, eventually spending 9 years at the University of Tennessee, Memphis and 25 years at the University of Florida. Though I had left my native Ohio, I never stopped being a Buckeye. So, it is a joy, honor and privilege to be able to come back and serve the university I love.

My professional journey has been one that played out differently than I expected, and some find it interesting, so I will share. My time at Ohio State almost certainly represents my last stop on what has been, for me, an incredible journey – and one where, without setting out to do so, I had many “female firsts”.

(Continued on Page 2)

CONTENTS

To support the advancement of faculty in the College of Medicine, please donate to the WIMS development fund # 315293 or use the QR code below to donate to WIMS.



IN THIS ISSUE

- Cover Letter
- Accomplishments and Accolades
- Announcements and Opportunities

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.

(Continued from Page 1)

At the University of Florida, I was the first female tenured full professor in my department, the first female chair of my department, the first female in my college to earn the title “Distinguished Professor” (the equivalent to OSU’s Distinguished University Professor), the first female dean of my college (Pharmacy), and the first female from UF elected to the National Academy of Medicine. And on my appointment at Ohio State, reporting to Dean Carol Bradford, I had my first female supervisor. That’s a long list of firsts that, to be honest, have always made me a bit uncomfortable.

I continue to feel that I am too young to have had all those firsts – that it should have been women 10-20 years older than me. But those are the realities in our society, in the academy and in academic medicine. And though less true than in earlier days in my career, there remains a large body of evidence that points to the fact that women are still achieving firsts like the ones I experienced. So, it remains critical that current leaders identify and address barriers, real and hidden, to advancing opportunities for all of those who have potential to be exceptional leaders in science, practice, education and titled leadership roles.

I have also learned over time the importance and power to the unspoken message of me being in the roles I have had, especially as people learned I have two daughters. It is not uncommon for women to think they must choose between a family and their career, so knowledge about my family and my career has often been a point of interest. It is important that people see others who are like them in positions of leadership – so they can feel empowered to the idea that “this might be me.” For those in leadership roles, women and men, know that people see you, and the more they know about your story, the more they might be able to see themselves – and thus be inspired to lead.

There is one more piece to my story. Someone looking at my CV might assume that I was on a very intentional leadership journey – but this was not the case. In fact, my goal was only to be a successful clinician scientist and educator. But multiple leadership opportunities presented themselves because senior leaders in my organization saw something in me and pushed me to think beyond my own vision of my professional journey. I remain grateful to them for their confidence in me, pushing me to think outside my own box, and presenting opportunities that facilitated my continual growth.

Thus, my message to those who are early and mid-career is to be open to unexpected opportunities that might not be on your 5- or 10-year individual development plan, but that might take you places you’d never imagine. And to current leaders - keep your eyes open. Create opportunities for and push those potential future leaders. I am doing that all the time.

Go Bucks!

Dr. Julie Johnson, PharmD

*The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of OSU COM or WIMS.

Faculty Accomplishments & Accolades



Ann Scheck McAlearney, ScD, associate dean for Health Services Research, distinguished professor of Family and Community Medicine and executive director of CATALYST, the Center for the Advancement of Team Science, Analytics and Systems Thinking, received the [2025 Association for Clinical and Translational Science \(ACTS\) Distinguished Educator Award: Mentorship Innovation](#). The award honors outstanding innovations in mentorship that lead to significant scientific accomplishments by the next generation of clinical and translational researchers.

Catherine Quatman-Yates, PhD, DPT, PT, associate professor in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, was selected by The Ohio State University to participate in the next cohort of the [Provost's Midcareer Scholars: Scarlet and Gray Associate Professor Program](#). The program supports tenure-track faculty who have recently been appointed as associate professors with tenure and who have demonstrated exceptional excellence in scholarship, teaching and service. ***WIMS Member**

Gail Besner, MD, professor of Surgery and Pediatrics and director of the Division of Pediatric Surgery and the H. William Clatworthy, Jr. Professor of Surgery at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, was the 35th recipient of the [American Surgical Association's 2025 Medallion for Scientific Achievement](#) for her transformative and seminal contributions to pediatric surgical research on neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC). Dr. Bessner was also elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). Election to NAM is considered one of the highest honors in the field of medicine and recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement and commitment to service.

Katharine Collier, MD, assistant professor in the Division of Medical Oncology at Ohio State and member of the Translational Therapeutics Program at the OSUCCC – James, is the second recipient of the annual [Mason Fisher Grant](#), a research award funded entirely by Pelotonia dollars. Dr. Collier's research will address critical gaps in understanding the genetic underpinnings of urothelial carcinoma, the fourth most common cancer in men and sixth overall.

Faculty Accomplishments & Accolades

Dr. Julia Coleman, MD, MPH, assistant clinical professor of Surgery in the Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Burn, was awarded a prestigious five-year K08 to fund her groundbreaking research on sex differences in platelets and how we can improve blood products by treating them with estrogen. This is Dr. Coleman's first K08 grant and awarded on first submission. ***WIMS member**

[Two faculty were honored with the 2025 College of Medicine Dean's Excellence Award.](#) **Dario Palmieri, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Cancer Biology and Genetics, received the Distinguished Foundational Science Educator Award. **Arwa Shana'ah, MD**, clinical professor of Pathology, received the Inclusive Excellence Award. ***Dr. Shana'ah - WIMS Member**

Kristin Kuntz, PhD, associate clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, was recently honored at the [World Transplant Congress with the Distinguished Senior Career Award by the American Society of Transplantation.](#) ***WIMS member**

Lisa Hickman, MD, associate professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, has been selected as a recipient of the [2025 Early Career Award by the Cleveland Clinic Alumni Association Board of Directors.](#) ***WIMS member & Co-Chair of Advocacy Committee**

Triparna Sen, PhD, Professor of Internal Medicine at The Ohio State University, Director of the Lung Cancer Preclinical Therapeutics Platform at the OSUCCC – James, and the Associate Director of Research for the Division of Medical Oncology, was elected to the [Board of Directors of the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer \(IASLC\).](#) Dr. Sen will have a unique opportunity to help shape its strategic direction and represent Ohio State in an organization that has defined the global standards for lung cancer staging, screening, and treatment. ***WIMS member**

Four faculty were awarded [2025 College of Medicine's Research Innovation Career Development Awards](#): **Julia Coleman, MD, MPH**, assistant professor in the Department of Surgery and the Division of Trauma, Critical Care and Burn at the College of Medicine; **Natalie Lee, MD, MSHP, MPH**, assistant professor of Internal Medicine at the College of Medicine; **Lingbin Meng, MD, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and the Division of Medical Oncology at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center – Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC - James); and **Zachary Risch, MD**, assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine and the OSUCCC – James. ***Dr. Coleman-WIMS member**

Announcements & Opportunities

2025 WIMS Engagement Award Winner Sarita Maturu, DO

Congratulations to Dr. Sarita Maturu, DO, the WIMS Engagement Award Winner for 2025. Dr. Maturu is an Associate Clinical Professor of Neurology and Director of Neurology Specialty Clinics. Dr. Maturu has also been an active member of WIMS since 2019 and has served as the Co-Chair of the WIMS Events Committee since 2023. She was nominated by Dr. Patti Malerich, MD, and Dr. Matt Avenarius, PhD, who commented on her commitment, passion, and leadership in carrying out the WIMS mission. To quote her nomination letter, “Dr. Maturu is a core leader within the WIMS organization. She has actively championed many events aimed at empowering our faculty to achieve professional success, making her work impactful to all those in the OSU College of Medicine.” Congratulations again, Dr. Maturu!



Announcements & Opportunities

WIMS Faculty Advocate Award – Call for Nominations

Applications are due by Thursday, February 19th 2026 to wims@osumc.edu

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Widening Impact in Medicine and Science (WIMS) Faculty Advocate Award! This award is given to a COM faculty member who has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the success and advancement of faculty. Any COM faculty member is eligible for nomination.

- A complete nomination for this award requires: at least two nominators. This can be provided by colleagues, mentees, trainees, and/or staff members. Nominations that include endorsement from at least one person outside the nominee's division or department, and that include junior faculty or trainee perspectives will be particularly valued, especially if they demonstrate impact beyond the nominee's division/department.
- Successful nominations should describe the impact that this faculty has on their field, organization, or community. Please include specific examples consistent with the nominee's career stage on how they have:
 - Championed the advancement and professional development of faculty;
 - Created environments where all faculty feel welcomed, valued, and empowered to succeed;
 - Completed actions or initiatives to support the advancement of their field, organization, or community;
 - Addressed/corrected barriers to faculty advancement within their field, organization, or community.

Nominations should be no more than 3 pages and may be submitted as (i) a single letter co-written and signed by multiple nominators or (ii) separate nomination letters written by individual nominators.

Please email nominations in a single pdf to wims@osumc.edu by **February 19th, 2026**.

A maximum of one award will be given at the discretion of the WIMS Awards Committee.

WIMS Annual Outreach Event – Open to all WIMS members

Saturday, February 21, 2026, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon

Join your WIMS colleagues for a morning of volunteering. We will work with Mid-Ohio Food Bank x MyProjectUSA to help stock up their food pantry for guests! As a volunteer, you'll help restock and set up the pantry prior to its opening at 10:00 AM, then assist guests and with pantry operations until 12:00 PM.

[Click here](#) to learn more and register.

Widening Impact in Medicine & Science (WIMS)

All COM Faculty Welcome



WIMS is...

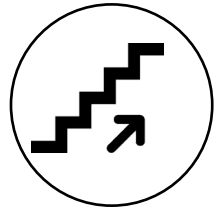
- A dedicated OSUCOM faculty organization that champions the advancement, visibility, and fair recognition of faculty by fostering empowerment, advocacy, and encompassing growth. We inspire meaningful success by cultivating a welcoming and transformative academic environment where all faculty are valued,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

Why Join WIMS?

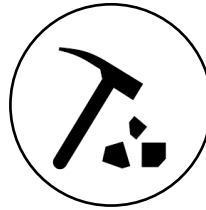
- Exclusive or early access to events and programming.
- Opportunities to meet mentors, colleagues, collaborators, and friends.
- Learn about resources, workshops, and trainings on campus and locally that will benefit your professional development.
- Support WIMS in advocating for programs and policies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

What does WIMS do?

Advocate for faculty growth and success



Identify and actively reduce barriers



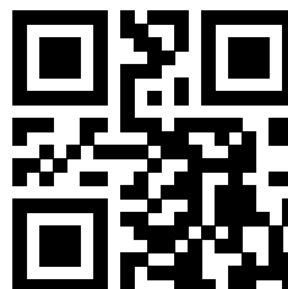
Support promotion and leadership

Provide resources for mentorship, sponsorship, and career development



Improve the health and well-being of all faculty

Foster a positive culture and environment



@OhioStateWIMS



WIMS@OSUMC.edu



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COLLEGE OF MEDICINE