Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe how quickly we are approaching the end of the academic year. For me, this has been a year of new and wonderful opportunities. As dean I have been fortunate to meet with Stritch alumni throughout the country, and though your individual stories are remarkably diverse, they share a common theme – the pursuit and practice of your ideals. When I met with Karen Cavanaugh, MD ’10, (featured on page ten) at the Loyola Fast Class event in Scottsdale, I was impressed by her commitment to applying her skills in the area she feels they are most needed. Like so many others who were kind enough to discuss their education and professional lives with me this past year, Dr. Cavanaugh has taken not only the talents, but also the values, she honed at Stritch with her into these first stages of her career.

For our students, this has been a year of remarkable achievements culminating in a resoundingly successful match (see page 13). As our students begin residencies across the country and across the spectrum of medical practice – they are certainly spread far and wide – I wish them all the best. I know they will take with them the variety of knowledge and experiences they earned here, as well as the unique spirit of service that sets Stritch physicians apart. It is no surprise that our graduates go on to become such highly esteemed residents.

I cannot adequately express my gratitude to our entire alumni family. You have offered me support, wisdom, guidance, and expertise. Your stories have reinforced my great expectations and hopes for our current students, and most of all, my profound pride in representing the Stritch School of Medicine. I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Linda Brubaker, MD, MS
Dean, Stritch School of Medicine

LINDA BRUBAKER, MD, MS
Dean, Stritch School of Medicine

RICHARD L. GAMELLI, MD, FACS
Senior Vice President and Provost, Health Sciences Division

MICHAEL J. GARANZINI, S.J.
President and CEO, Loyola University Chicago

STRITCH MEDICINE
Published semi-annually for alumni and friends of Loyola’s Stritch School of Medicine and the Loyola University Health System.

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STRITCH MEDICINE · SPRING 2012 3
First-year students gathered with family, friends, and the Stritch community in August 2011 to don their white lab coats in a ceremony that marks their entry into the medical profession. The class of 2015 is a talented group of 150 students from across the country. Stritch has been publicly marking the rite of passage for more than twenty years.

L-R Ryan Cunningham, ’15; Michael Chiodo, ’15; Eva M. Bading, MD, professor and chair, Department of Family Medicine, Stritch

**White coat Ceremony**

Angel Gray is a biology graduate student doing pharmacological research. She volunteers with Occupy Together, We The People Foundation, Government Track U.S., Chicago Basket Brigade, and the Institute for Positive Mental Health. Fourth-year medical student Aleta Simmons, MD ’12, the first college graduate in her family, is active with the Student National Medical Association, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. national medical fellowships.

Sr. Brenda Eagan, IBVM, who directs the medical school ministry office which oversees the trips, has witnessed the profound effect the trips can have on participants. “Some students have told me it takes long into their practice before they understand what the experience of ISI taught them.”

Loyola University Health System’s 2012 Spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award recognizes members of the Loyola community who embody Dr. King’s positive outlook and his passion for peace, service, and confronting injustice. Two Stritch students were honored this year. Angel Gray is a biology graduate student doing pharmacological research. She volunteers with Occupy Together, We The People Foundation, Government Track U.S., Chicago Basket Brigade, and the Institute for Positive Mental Health. Fourth-year medical student Aleta Simmons, MD ’12, the first college graduate in her family, is active with the Student National Medical Association, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. national medical fellowships.

**International Service Immersion**

Stritch’s International Service Immersion (ISI) teams traveled to eight Caribbean, Central American, and African countries in 2011 to join local providers in serving rural patients. During their debriefing, students were encouraged to reflect on what they learned, how the experience affected their vision of the physician and person they are becoming, and how they see themselves incorporating what they learned about disease prevention and suffering into their worldview. Sr. Brenda Eagan, IBVM, who directs the medical school ministry office which oversees the trips, has witnessed the profound effect the trips can have on participants. “Some students have told me it takes long into their practice before they understand what the experience of ISI taught them.”

Angel Gray

Aleta Simmons, MD ’12
LIFE AT STRITCH

A Reminder of the Sacred

Students in Stritch’s gross anatomy class began one of medical school’s most memorable courses in August with reverence, as Jack O’Callaghan, S.J., led them in prayer and offered a blessing over eighteen shrouded cadavers. Michael Dauzvardis, PhD, director, multifunction laboratories education programs, says of the experience: “It’s a balance between the sacred and the profane. Here they’re doing the most profane thing possible — disassembling the human body. We have to hit the students’ reset button a little bit to remind them there’s the sacred — a spirit, a life, and a body. It’s part of what the ceremony is for.”

ST. ALBERT’S DAY CELEBRATION

Stritch’s annual St. Albert’s Day event showcases research by students, residents, fellows, post-doctoral researchers, and faculty members. Marie Brenner, MD ’12, was first author of this year’s top presentation. With co-authors Pooya Jumadadi, MD; Peter Russo, OD; and Shuchi Patel, MD, Brenner looked at how wearing contact lenses affects glaucoma measurements. In patients with lower refractive errors, better quality measurements were obtained without contact lenses in place. In patients with higher refractive errors, wearing contact lenses could improve measurements. Ms. Brenner plans to pursue an ophthalmology residency.

ST. LUKE’S WEEK

Stritch’s annual St. Luke’s Week was held in October 2011. Honoring the patron saint of physicians, the week’s activities included a Mass; Dean Linda Brubaker, MD, MS’s, State of the School Address, medical student service presentations and talks on service in the Catholic, Jesuit tradition; student service Global Health Awards; and a dinner dance. The celebration included keynote speaker Richard Wellington Poley, MD ’57, James Blake Patterson, MD ’57, first met in pre-med classes at the University of Notre Dame, where both were members of the Phi Beta Pi fraternity. Dr. Poley remembers his friend as “a hearty Irishman, a jovial sort of guy who was very well-liked and respected.” Later, both went on to Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

When Dr. Poley passed away unexpectedly, Dr. Poley decided to do something in his honor. “Jim Patterson was someone who epitomized Loyola,” he says. “He took care of people who needed help, which is the cornerstone of medicine and what Stritch stands for. He was a noble guy.” Dr. Patterson served honorably with the U.S. Navy and the Naval Reserves, including a volunteer tour in Vietnam, and retired with the rank of Commander after twenty-five years. He settled in his hometown, Lorain, Ohio, where his father was also a family physician. He joined the staff at the Sisters of Humility’s St. Joseph’s Hospital, which became Mercy Regional Hospital, and served there as chief of obstetrics and president of the medical staff, retiring with the rank of Captain after twenty-eight years. He was a member of the Department of Pathology at the Naval Regional Medical Center and later served as the chairman and residency training program director of the department. He also maintained an academic appointment as assistant clinical professor of health sciences at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Poley went on to become director of ancillary services and commanding officer of the Naval Hospital until his retirement in 1986.

JAMES BLAKE PATTERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

To contribute to the scholarship fund, in honor of Dr. Patterson, or for information on establishing a new scholarships fund, please contact the Stritch School of Medicine’s Office of Advancement at stritch.luc.edu/giving or (708) 216-4607.

A friendship forged in the halls of Notre Dame many years ago became the inspiration for a new scholarship to support Stritch students. Richard Wellington Poley, MD ’57, and James Blake Patterson, MD ’57, first met in pre-med classes at the University of Notre Dame, where both were members of the Phi Beta Pi fraternity. Dr. Poley remembers his friend as “a hearty Irishman, a jovial sort of guy who was very well-liked and respected.” Later, both went on to Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

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PHILANTHROPY

LIFELONG FRIENDSHIP LIVES ON

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Stritch’s 61st Annual Award Dinner in November honored three individuals for their exemplary service to others. The Sword of Loyola, which recognizes notable achievements of outstanding leaders for contributions in a field other than medicine, was bestowed on John F. and Herta Cuneo by Rev. Michael J. Garanzini, S.J., Loyola’s president and CEO. Linda Brubaker, MD, MS, dean of the medical school, presented Terry R. Light, MD, the Stritch Medal for his inspiring leadership, contributions to medical education, outstanding clinical skills, and compassionate care. Dr. Light is the Scholl Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery & Rehabilitation, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. “Terry’s influence on medical students and residents is priceless. He not only demonstrates his masterful skills as a surgeon and clinician but imparts wisdom and passion about the responsibility that comes with being a physician and a teacher,” said Dr. Brubaker in her remarks. Mr. and Mrs. Cuneo are prominent members of Chicago’s business and philanthropic communities. “John and Herta are extraordinary people. Their legendary commitment and service to many in our communities, and in a special way to our neediest students, makes them extraordinarily worthy recipients of the Sword of Loyola,” said Rev. Garanzini. As part of the evening’s events, thirty-one young adults from the Chicago area also were recognized for their participation in the Stritch Junior Service League, a long-standing volunteer organization that carries on Loyola’s tradition of service to the community. Chicago’s longest-running black-tie gala, the event has raised millions of dollars for medical education since it began in 1950. For the first time in its history, the dinner was held at Chicago’s Field Museum.
A SPECIAL BREED
TRAINING PHYSICIANS WITH DEPTH

By Dirk Johnson

EVEN FOR VETERAN PHYSICIANS, RÉSUMÉS DO NOT TYPICALLY INCLUDE WORK IN CLINICS IN THE SLUMS OF KENYA, OR A HOSPITAL IN RURAL UGANDA, OR WITH THE POOR IN GUATEMALA. BUT FOR KAREN CAVANAUGH, MD '10, A SECOND-YEAR PEDIATRICS RESIDENT AT PHOENIX CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL IN ARIZONA, THESE WERE MISSIONS ACHIEVED EVEN BEFORE GRADUATING FROM STRITCH.

Her medical training taught her to treat patients as people, and not simply cases, she says, and that has launched her career with a sense of confidence and meaning.

“Everyone is really nervous when they start residency,” says Dr. Cavanaugh, who served alongside other Stritch students in the International Service Immersion Program. “But coming from Loyola, you realize very early on that you’re equipped with all the tools you need to succeed.”

Stritch has undertaken an annual survey to measure how its graduates are faring in residency programs, and the responses reveal some surprising successes. Program directors overseeing 193 Stritch graduates were asked last year to rank the residents as outstanding, above average, satisfactory, below average, or unsatisfactory. A striking 71 percent of Stritch graduates ranked as outstanding or above average in overall knowledge, while an impressive 85 percent scored in the two highest categories in professionalism.

A survey of eighty-nine Stritch graduates serving residencies, meanwhile, gave the medical school high marks for its preparation. Eighty-three percent of the interns reported that teaching opportunities at Stritch had prepared them very well or well, the two highest categories; 91 percent said they had been prepared very well or well when it came to professionalism and medical ethics; 99 percent said they had been prepared very well or well to be an effective health-care team worker.

The rave reviews, from both residents and their program supervisors, come as no surprise to Kevin Simpson, MD, FACP, FACP, director of Stritch’s General Medicine Residency Program and professor, Medicine, Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine.

“The transition is frankly easier for them,” says Dr. Simpson, noting Stritch’s emphasis on hands-on experience starting in the early days of medical school. “They hit the ground running.”

Dr. Simpson says he asked new residents last fall what surprised them most about their internships. “Those who came from other medical schools said it was the extensive responsibility they were given on the first day,” he says. “You don’t hear that from Stritch graduates. They don’t think twice about stepping into that position.”

Among those who acclimated easily is Mike Ander, MD ‘09, a CA-2, PGY-3 anesthesiology resident at Loyola Hospital. “I felt comfortable presenting to attendings and relating to patients,” he says. Dr. Ander noted that Stritch students are known for “having a life outside the books,” a well-rounded quality that helps them relate to patients. A sports fan who played on a softball team during medical school, Dr. Ander says his visits with patients often lead to “conversations about the Cubs and the Bears, hunting and fishing, and even shows that are playing in Chicago.”

“When people think you’re a normal person, they’re less likely to worry that you’re going to judge them,” he says, “and they’re more likely to open up.”

Residents from Stritch also come with a breadth of real-world medical experiences. The wide variety of cases seen at Loyola, as a Level 1 trauma center, as well as the broad range of clinical specialties at the hospital, give students an uncommon depth of experience starting in their first year. Perhaps just as important, residents say, Stritch cultivates an ethos of caring that goes beyond the mechanics of medicine, and teaches how trust, respect, and relationships are key in the healing arts.

Medical education at Stritch means “you’re treating the human spirit, and not just a bunch of organs,” says Seth Trueger, MD ’08, a fourth-year emergency medicine resident at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

Dr. Trueger, who has been active in the advocacy group Physicians for Human Rights, says students at Stritch typically join service organizations. “A lot of medical schools give lip service to the importance of humanism in medicine,” he said. At Stritch, however, “the meaning of social justice” begins with “being respectful of a patient as a human being.”

The faculty and administration, he says, help foster the notion that medical treatment does not exist in a vacuum. He recalls a time when a dean learned of medical students debating the proper role of physicians in “enhanced interrogation” by the military. “Before you knew it,” Dr. Trueger says, the school had quickly organized a forum about the issue, even inviting a prominent national speaker. “I think the event drew over 100 students.”

Compassion, curiosity about the

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**Survey Results**

- **83%** of program directors surveyed ranked Stritch residents outstanding or above average in overall knowledge.
- **71%** of program directors surveyed ranked Stritch residents outstanding or above average in professionalism.
- **85%** of surveyed graduates reported that teaching opportunities at Stritch had prepared them very well or well.
- **91%** of surveyed graduates said they had been prepared well or very well when it came to professionalism and medical ethics.
- **99%** of surveyed graduates said they had been prepared well or very well to be an effective health-care team worker.
Students, along with their medical skills, is now a hallmark of Stritch’s curriculum.

In a personal way about his disease,” recalls Murray, MD ’93, professor, Department of the Stritch student, according to Amy Murray says the poise of Stritch students receive, something that was just beginning to take root in the early 1990s while she was at the medical school. Among the faculty members who inspired her was Ralph P. Leischner Jr., MD 88, who, during his 30 years at Stritch, is credited with spearheading curricular changes designed to help students become more competent, particularly attractive candidates for residency programs. “They interview very well,” she says. “They’re polished, but not insincere.”

She notes that residency programs today place a high premium on communication skills, since effective doctors must be able to communicate clearly with patients, staff, and other physicians. As studies have increasingly shown, patients tend to experience better medical outcomes when they perceive that a physician is treating them with kindness and respect, and truly listening to what they have to say.

In earlier days, the medical culture typically regarded the physician as the focal point of the health-care world, says Gregory Gruener, MD ’79, senior associate dean of medical education, Stritch. That perspective has changed markedly. Training at Stritch today is distinguished by its Patient Centered Medicine (PCM) philosophy, a break from the old-fashioned mold.

“Doctors play only one part in a patient’s life,” says Dr. Gruener. The PCM course splits students into groups of 10 or fewer, each guided by two facilitators who serve as mentors/coaches throughout their four-year terms. The course includes real and simulated patient encounters, shadowing, discussions, and workshops.

One of the most distinctive and powerful components of Stritch’s medical education is the two-hour chaplain-shadowing experience required of first-year students during which, explains Rev. Ron Galt, S.J., a pastoral care chaplain at Loyola Hospital, “there is no agenda nor any ‘no-go’ areas.”

The imperative is serving the needs of the patient and loved ones, “Whether it is to bring a Bible to a patient, talk to family members, or to provide support in an end-of-life situation,” says Fr. Galt.

Pastoral Care Director Marie Coglianese says Stritch students characteristically learn profound lessons about care when they “leave their clinical skills at the door and reach out to patients” on a human level. “That’s when they realize treating patients goes far beyond making a clinical diagnosis.”

This awareness comes out in the post-shadowing reflection papers written by students. Mr. Coglianese recalls one student describing how she knelt down to be at eye level with a patient and softened her voice to address his concerns. “When that student becomes a physician, there will be times when her patient needs a chaplain, but none will be there,” she says. “She’ll have to respond instead. That’s the foundation of what it means to be a physician.”

Doing any job well, especially medicine, “depends on how well you know yourself,” says Assistant Dean for Student Affairs James Mendez, PhD. He counsels students to be introspective and brutally honest on how you performed,” he says. That introspection continues throughout the four years at Stritch, and beyond.

For Stritch graduates who have gone on to residencies, such as Dr. Cavanaugh, “there is no agenda nor any ‘no-go’ areas.” She says it certainly wasn’t money that drew her to the practice. “It’s probably the lowest paying field I could choose” she said, with a soft laugh. But that isn’t most important. What matters, she says, is that many of those children are now lacking adequate medical attention.

“Once you leave Stritch, you recognize how unique it is,” she says. “I keep in touch with my classmates. And I would trust everyone of them to care for my family.”
CHILD NEUROLOGY

Ana Chile
U of Chicago Med Ctr-IL

Christopher Owsaik
Loyola U Med Ctr-IL

Jason Pollack
Story Brook U Med Ctr-NY

Alison Russo
MacNeal Hosp IL

Patrick Suberlak
MacNeal Hosp IL

Kelli Thompson
Northwestern McGaw/NMH/VA-IL

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Michael Galante
Barrow Jewish Hosp-MD

Erin Ge
WW/Detroit Med Ctr MI

Joseph Lady
Casi Western/MetroHealth Med Ctr-OH

Eric Lese
Cock County-Stрогer Hosp-IL

Eleanor Maletta
Christiana Care DE

Eric Meagher
U Massachusetts Med School

George Ploamootil
Northwestern McGaw/NMH/VA-IL

Michael Pleasants
Alara Jewish Hosp-IL

Ashley Sanello
UCLA Med Ctr CA

Alan Sielaff
U Michigan Hosps Ann Arbor

Timothy Toole
Resurrection Med Ctr-IL

FAMILY MEDICINE

Candace Asiedu
West Suburban Med Ctr IL

Leah Betcher
Allina Fam Res Prgg MN

Chandra Campbell
Group Health Coop WA

Salam Farukhi
Kaiser Permanente-Riverside, CA

Jason Howell
West Suburban Med Ctr IL

Lindsay Jackson
John Peter Smith Hosp-TX

Stephanie Low
West Suburban Med Ctr IL

Julie Miazynski
Hinsdale Hosp-IL

Andrew Ow
Wake Forest Baptist Med Ctr-NC

Timothy Partridge
UMM/Farlschar Allen VT

Nicole Reizine Evanko
U Iowa Hosp and Clinics

Jacquelyn Skerrett
Northwestern McGaw/NMH/VA-IL

Erin Stratton
Contra Costa Reg Med Ctr-CA

KEY:

C Categorical - training for specialty
P Preliminary - 1 or 2 years of prerequisite training for entry into advanced training
A Advanced - training after preliminary

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Ryan Bohl
Loyola U Med Ctr IL

Andrew Bowen
Hennepin Co Med Ctr-MN

Lorna Campbell
Med College Wisconsin Affil Hosps

Kelly Carlson
Barnes Jewish Hosp-MD

Thomas Casmiri
UC San Francisco-CA

Emily Davat
Northwestern McGaw/NMH/VA-IL

Alexandra Frogaemi
Northwestern McGaw/NMH/VA-IL

Christine Garcia
U Nevada School of Med Reno

Jessica Johnson
Med College Wisconsin Affil Hosps

Jeff Liao
U Mary Med Ctr SF-CA

Adam May
Mayo School of Grad Med Educ-MN

Daniel Modaff
U Wisconsin Hosp and Clinics

Dana Monzo
Loyola U Med Ctr IL

Elizabeth Pappano
Loyola U Med Ctr IL

Arunje Patel
Loyola U Med Ctr IL

Daniela Pellegrini
U Wisconsin Hosp and Clinics

Stephen Phillips
Loyola U Med Ctr IL

Daniel Roberts
B Deaconess Med Ctr-MA

Daniel Silverman
Loyola U Med Ctr IL

Edward Villa
Loyola U Med Ctr IL

Ross Vm
Loyola U Med Ctr IL

Sarah Zelisnoff
Loyola U Med Ctr IL

MEDICINE/PEDIATRICS

Lawrence Molloy
Loyola U Med Ctr IL

NEUROSURGERY

Danai Esfahani
U Illinois College of Med Chicago

Timothy Kovanda
Indiana U School Of Med

Daniel Modaff
U Wisconsin Hosp and Clinics
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<td>Kaiser Permanente-Santa Clara, CA</td>
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<td>Tufts Med Ctr-MA</td>
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Researchers at Stritch have launched a project designed to use genetically modified T-cells to battle metastatic melanoma, which the American Cancer Society says kills nearly 12,000 people annually in the United States.

The project to fight melanoma is just the first experiment to be conducted by the new Immunotherapeutics Program at the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center, funded through a five-year, $16.3 million grant from the National Cancer Institute. Immunotherapy is a relatively new treatment for cancer, and Stritch’s Immunotherapeutics Program is among a small but growing number of immunotherapy programs nationwide. The clinical trial involving melanoma will be the first of its kind in the Midwest.

“Immunotherapeutics holds great promise in treating cancers. It is an area of cancer research receiving more attention across the country. Loyola is investing in immunotherapy research because we want to expand our portfolio of cutting-edge treatments for cancer,” says Paul C. Kuo, MD, chairman of the Department of Surgery and director of Stritch’s Oncology Institute. Stritch’s Immunotherapeutics Program is directed by Michael I. Nishimura, PhD, who is leading a team of researchers at the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center. Dr. Nishimura recently was recruited from the Medical University of South Carolina, where he was scientific director for its Center for Cellular Therapy.

Stritch’s growing research enterprise is part of the strategic vision for the school and integral to its educational mission, says Linda Brubaker, MD, MS, dean, Stritch School of Medicine.

“Our medical students are learning a great deal about the immune system and the development of new treatments. Our students have opportunities to actively participate in the research with our immunotherapeutic investigators,” Dr. Brubaker says.

Dr. Nishimura’s experience with immunotherapy research dates back more than two decades, to his time as a post-doctoral research fellow at the California Institute of Technology (CalTech) from 1989–92. At CalTech, Dr. Nishimura worked with Leroy Hood, MD, PhD, whose research focused on molecular immunology and genomics. Dr. Hood and his fellow CalTech researchers developed the DNA sequencer and synthesizer, instruments that helped lead the way to the eventual mapping of the human genome.

Dr. Nishimura later was a staff scientist in the surgery branch of the National Cancer Institute, where he worked with Steven Rosenberg, MD, PhD, the chief of Surgery and leading researcher in cancer immunotherapy. Dr. Nishimura also worked at the University of Chicago from 2000–06, where he conducted research into immunotherapy while serving as an associate professor of surgery.

Dr. Nishimura is excited about his new position at Stritch for a number of reasons. “Chicago is one of the most renowned medical research centers in the world. And I sensed a commitment from Loyola that it really wanted to develop some new therapies for the treatment of cancer,” Dr. Nishimura says.

The first step for Dr. Nishimura was supervising the completion of a GMP or “current good manufacturing practices” laboratory, where researchers can work in a contaminant-free environment with near-sterile conditions and purified air. Now that the lab is completed, Dr. Nishimura and his team can begin the Immunotherapeutic Program’s first project into immune system therapy for metastatic melanoma.

When the protocol begins in spring/summer 2012, T-cells from a patient will be genetically modified by injecting two genes into them so they can identify cancer cells as abnormal. Meanwhile, the patient will receive chemotherapy to kill the remaining T-cells in the body, making space for the genetically modified T-cells. The hope is that when the modified T-cells are reintroduced to the patient, they will attack and kill the cancer cells.

“The key is engineering the T-cells to recognize the cancer. It is tricky because cancer cells are from our own tissue; they’re not really foreign. We have to modify the T-cells to distinguish the cancer cells from normal cells,” Dr. Nishimura says.

A Phase I clinical trial is expected to begin in 2012, involving up to fifteen patients. In this phase, researchers hope to confirm that the treatment is safe and the right amount of T-cells to be modified.

Dr. Nishimura will be assisted on the project by Patrick Stiff, MD ‘75, director of the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center; Joseph Clark, MD ‘89, MRES ‘92, professor, Division of Hematology/Oncology; Constantine Godellas, MD, associate professor, Division of Surgical Oncology; Kelli Hutchens, MD, assistant professor, Department of Pathology; and Caroline Le Poole, PhD, professor, Department of Pathology.

“What we’re hoping to do is make Loyola a strong center for cancer immunotherapeutic research,” Dr. Nishimura says. “We believe that creating novel therapies to treat cancers will attract patients and make Loyola an even more renowned leader in cancer research.”
FACULTY IN FOCUS

Redefining Multitasking

GREGORY GRUENER, MD ’79

BY CATHERINE RATEGAN

P

HYSICIAN, TEACHER, ADMINISTRATOR, HEAD OF A MAJOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE, AND STUDENT WORKING ON HIS SECOND MASTER’S DEGREE, GREGORY GRUENER, MD, MBA, Rises at 3:30 Each Morning and Works Sixty to Eighty Hours a Week. In the Few Hours Each Day When He’s Not Working, He Prefers to Be at Home with His Family, Helping His Seven-Year-Old Son with His Math Homework.

Dr. Gruener, MD ’79, is professor and associate chair, neurology; senior associate dean, Office of Medical Education, Stritch; and director, Leischner Institute for Medical Education, Stritch. One of the most gratifying parts of his work is the ten to fifteen hours he spends on patient care. “I’ve never felt burned out caring for patients. It’s satisfying talking to them, finding out about their lives, explaining what’s going on. It’s really not work at all,” he says.

In addition to seeing patients, Dr. Gruener currently teaches courses at Stritch in neuroscience and in patient-centered medicine designed to help students develop their skills in taking patient histories and performing clinical examinations. He also teaches how to test for neuromuscular disease and how nerves and muscles work together. “My neurology work runs the gamut,” says Dr. Gruener, “from carpal tunnel syndrome all the way to muscular dystrophy and Lou Gehrig’s disease.”

As the director of the Ralph P. Leischner, Jr., MD, Institute for Medical Education, Dr. Gruener has responsibility for developing a core of academicians committed to medical education and educational research. “My role is bringing the institute up to the next level, encouraging institute members to write about what they do, and eventually to make sure there’s someone to replace me.”

Dr. Gruener also is heavily involved in Loyola University Chicago’s recently formed Health Sciences Division, working closely with colleagues from the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing and the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Programs to improve health care and more effectively educate students across disciplines.

On the administrative side, Dr. Gruener oversees all four years of the student curriculum at Stritch, as well as student health and wellness, student life, and the bursar’s office. The student affairs group also reports to him.

His own education began at a Chicago public school on the near northwest side of Chicago in what he calls “the poor part of town.” Neither of his parents attended high school, but when he graduated from Lane Technical High School, he enrolled at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Following his undergraduate training, he says, “I was totally surprised when I was accepted at Stritch. In those days, nobody thought of borrowing money to pay for school, so I worked part-time as a draftsman to help pay my tuition. A week after I graduated, I started my internship.”

Dr. Gruener’s choice of specialty was heavily influenced by Frank Rubino, MD, who chaired the Department of Neurology at Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital adjacent to Loyola’s Maywood campus. “He was the consummate clinical teacher,” Gruener recalls. “He knew all his patients in his huge neurology wards, and he listened to their problems. It was thanks to him that I stayed with clinical neurology, where I can be at a patient’s bedside. He taught us a humanistic approach to medicine, and he personified it.”

To satisfy his interest in how medicine is managed, Dr. Gruener earned an MBA in econometrics and business strategy at the University of Chicago. Just as he was completing it, he was hired as associate dean at Stritch. “I accepted this opportunity to teach because I thought it would be interesting and enjoyable. And when I did, I found that what I’m doing now in patient education and administration is where I belong and where I hope to wind up my career.”

In his time at Stritch, Dr. Gruener has developed a profound appreciation for fellow clinician/teachers. “They have a deep compassion for students and an appreciation for the university. It’s an electric place to be, with a lot of challenges and a lot of support.” As he got more involved in education, he felt the need for more formal training in the field. So about three years ago, he enrolled in an online program in Health Professions Education at the University of Illinois at Chicago. “I’m finishing that up now,” he says. “It’s filled in many of the gaps in my knowledge, and I really enjoy stretching my mind. It fits the job I’m doing, and it comes in handy.”

As for the future, Dr. Gruener says, “It’s critical to teach and model for students the ‘soft’ stuff - working as members of a team, developing relationships, behaving and acting with the highest sense of ethics.” He believes that when students leave Stritch they must be adept at developing a relationship with each patient. “The primary thing in medical care is touch. Students must be able to put their hands on patients, look into their eyes, and help them feel comfortable with us. And students must feel sure that when they graduate, they will have the skills they need to meet society’s goals for physicians.”

With all the responsibilities competing for his attention, how can Dr. Gruener be sure he’s allocating his time to his best advantage? “I’m supposed to be if I keep moving forward.” —
Members of the class of 1961 (1); members of the class of 1986 at the Pub (2); Edward Lee, MD ‘48, and Randall Lee, MD ‘86 (3); and members of the class of 2001 (4).

ALUMNI from class years ending in “1” and “6” came together to celebrate another successful Stritch Reunion in September. Events for the weekend included a CME lecture on the changing landscape of medical education, a luncheon for the class of 1961’s 50th anniversary, lunch with Dean Brubaker, a student panel featuring a discussion on medical student life in 2011, and a “Back to School” seminar presented by the Leischner Institute, among others. One of the highlights of the weekend was the Return of the Pub. Stritch faculty and staff joined alumni from all years as the second floor atrium in the Stritch School of Medicine was transformed into “The Pub,” the hottest spot on campus for nearly twenty years, for a night of food, stories, and fun. The culmination of the weekend’s events took place at the Reunion Celebration and Awards Presentation Dinner held on Saturday night at the InterContinental O’Hare Hotel. Classes gathered to celebrate their successes, reconnect with former classmates, and honor fellow alums receiving Stritch Alumni of the Year Awards.

Connections are an integral part of a physician’s life. We build relationships with patients and their families. We match symptoms with diagnoses. We partner with other members of the patient-care team. It’s also important to continue to connect with our alma mater, our fellow classmates, and with the next generation of physicians.

Connecting with classmates

Last fall, I reconnected with my fellow graduates from the Class of 1986 during Reunion Weekend 2011. As the reunion pictures in this issue of Stritch Medicine show, we had a great time catching up, hearing from the dean, enjoying the return of the Pub, learning more about what classes are like for current students, and honoring fellow alumni. Reunion Weekend is a great opportunity to get back in touch with your classmates. Mark your calendars for Reunion Weekend 2012. We will be honoring class years ending in “2” and “7” during the weekend of September 14-16.

Connecting with students

The Alumni Association is focused this year on sponsoring programs that provide opportunities for Stritch students to interact with alumni while enriching their educational experience. At Ask Night, a three-night panel series, students hear from alumni practicing surgical sub-specialties, primary care, or pursuing non-traditional medical careers. Ask Night is held in conjunction with second-year coursework focused on researching potential residencies. During the sophomore dinners, second-year students dine in small groups with area alumni and learn about balancing work and life as a physician. We’re also piloting a shadow program where students will have an opportunity to follow an alumnus for a day and learn more about private practices.

Connecting with the Stritch community

There are many ways to stay informed about the happenings of the Stritch community. Learn more about Loyola’s newly formed Health Sciences Division at hsd.luc.edu. The alumni Web page, stritch.luc.edu/alumni, and Facebook page, facebook.com/StritchAlumni, provide all the latest Stritch news and make reconnecting with friends, faculty, students, and colleagues easy. We also encourage you to tell us if you have changed jobs, share your e-mail address to receive Stritch updates, and submit class notes. We want to hear from you!

Connect with the Stritch Alumni Association today. If you are able to contribute your time and talent, please contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni-SSOM@lumc.edu or (708) 216-6576.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL KOLLER, MD ’86
Steering a major managed-care company is a long way from intubating a heart-attack patient, observes Robert Lufrano, MD ’76. But working with the medical community to improve care for eight million people on a daily basis is a pretty rewarding way to spend your time. And he should know.

Before he retired recently, Dr. Lufrano served as chairman and CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield Florida (BCBSF), where he started in 1990 as chief medical officer and by 2000 had been named chief operating officer.

His experience in management has taught him that, “We badly need senior management teams in hospital administration to have direct clinical experience.” Case in point: “It’s a whole lot easier for me as president of an HMO to be heard in contentious contract talks when I’m seen to understand the physician’s point of view.” To achieve that level of training is going to take a decade, he believes. But in the managed-care environment we’re entering, it will be more critical than ever. So he sees an avenue of opportunity there for medical students with an interest in organizational management.

Dr. Lufrano’s own non-traditional career path started traditionally enough. He grew up in the Chicago suburbs, attended Purdue University as a pre-med, and was accepted to Stritch in his sophomore year. At that time, he planned to go into internal medicine and specialize as an OB. Although his career trajectory changed a few times with the twists and turns that followed, he notes that Stritch’s Jesuit-inspired focus on values was key for him. “Why are you in health care? What do you want to get out of it?”

Being trained to routinely reflect on these questions has had an enormously positive effect on his life and career.

Rather than moving directly into an OB residency, Dr. Lufrano decided to move instead just a bit west from Stritch and begin an internship at Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital. Like a county hospital, he says, at a veteran’s institution you see every sort of malady and patient. During his time there, Hines patients were often vets in very bad shape returning from Southeast Asia — so there was a lot to learn. “Hanging out” on the TB wards, he also spent time trying to convince patients to stop smoking. In all cases, he saw clearly what it was like to be sick without any money and, he says, learned how “patients there are just grateful you’re making rounds.” Including his own hospitalization to treat a class IV melanoma, during which he witnessed many terminal cases, this internship period “toughened me up even more than the usual internal growth process of internship.” Following this experience, he took an OB residency at Beth Israel Hospital at Harvard but soon found his true calling and completed his residency in emergency medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles.

The natural trajectory from there would, of course, have been a full-time position in EMS. Surgery for spinal stenosis got him thinking more broadly about his career, so he took the opportunity a friend offered to learn commodities trading and returned to Chicago and pursued that track for two years. Recovery from the spinal surgery then raised the question: keep going the commodities trading route, or go back to medicine? Medicine won, and he practiced EMS in Chicago at Lutheran General Hospital for five years. A series of concurrent administrative positions there revealed his affinity for the business side of medicine and led to completion of a MBA at Northwestern University.

Career path twists and turns: reflection on experience. Valuing lifelong learning. This background served Dr. Lufrano well in his tenure at BCBSF (the first job he took fresh from the MBA), where he held a new job every eight - twelve months. He was growing as a manager, cultivating his people skills rather than relying on technical expertise in any one area, and was gratified to be part of a not-for-profit organization committed to diversity and philanthropy. “Administration can make anyone crazy, but managing can be a lot of fun,” he says. “System thinking is key. You’re responsible for getting common alignment, getting agreement, and moving forward — and that can be very gratifying.”

ROBERT LUFRANO, MD ’76

By Joel Super
ALUMNI OF THE YEAR

Each year at the annual Stritch Reunion, five alumni are recognized for their excellence in research, education, community service, service to patients, and early career achievement. Award recipients are leaders in their respective fields while maintaining the values of integrity and compassion inherent in a Stritch education.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

MARY CHIARUTTINI BOYLE
BS ’78, MD ’81

Dr. Boyle serves as clinical associate professor of emergency medical services at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, where she is course director of Patient Centered Medicine 2 and also serves on both the Committee on Admissions and the Student Progress Committee. She teaches courses in end-of-life issues at various training levels. Dr. Boyle completed her residency in emergency medicine at Christ Hospital, Chicago, and then became the first board-certified emergency medicine staff physician at Loyola University Medical Center. Her board certifications include Emergency Medicine and a National Board Diplomate, and she is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians. She and her husband of twenty-five years, John, have four children.

To nominate fellow alumni, visit alumni.luc.edu/stritch_alumofyear

EARLY CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

MELISSA GERDES
MD ’96, ABFM, FAAFP

Dr. Gerdes serves as chief medical officer of outpatient services and accountable care organizations strategy at Methodist Health System in Dallas, where she leads an employee patient-centered medical home pilot program emphasizing intensive management and outcomes changes for patients with conditions including diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and obesity. Dr. Gerdes’ previous practice, Trinity Clinic Whitehouse, was the only clinic in Texas selected to participate in one of the first medical home pilot programs—the $8 million “proof of process” TransforMed National Demonstration Project. She is a national speaker on the Patient-Centered Medical Home, and has been featured in numerous medical and trade journals and newspapers. Dr. Gerdes serves on the Commission on Quality and Practice for the American Academy of Family Physicians and has served as the president of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians. She lives with her husband, Cory, and their three children in Mansfield, Texas.

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

JOHN A. PETROS
MD ’86

Dr. Petros is a board-certified urologic surgeon recognized for his expertise in cancer genetics, particularly mitochondrial genetics in prostate cancer. He serves on the faculty of Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta; holds an appointment at the Atlanta Veterans Administration Medical Center; and has received research grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Veterans Administration. In addition to his clinical, teaching, and research work in the U.S., Dr. Petros has served on medical missions to El Salvador, Mexico, and Ghana, where he was the mission’s medical director. Most recently, Dr. Petros and sixty-five other volunteers from Atlanta provided medical care in the University of Illinois Metro Residency. He has written extensively, primarily on trauma and gastric bariatric surgery, which he pioneered with Dr. E.E. Mason at the University of Iowa. He has served as president of the Chicago and Illinois State Medical Societies and of the Midwest Surgical Association. Currently retired, he devotes his time to reading, writing, and helpingenny, his wife of fifty years, keep tabs on a family that includes five children and ten grandchildren.

EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE TO PATIENTS

KENNETH J. PRINTEN
MD ’61, FACS

Dr. Printen, a Milwaukee native, was raised in Chicago and educated at Loyola Academy and Loyola University Chicago before entering medical school. He completed his internship and residency at Chicago’s Cook County Hospital and then served in the U.S. Army, with two years of army service in the Far East, retiring as a Brigadier General in 1984. Dr. Printen has served as professor of surgery at the University of Iowa College of Medicine and on the teaching staffs at Stritch, Northwestern University, Chicago Medical School, and the University of Illinois Metro Residency. He has written extensively, primarily on trauma and gastric bariatric surgery, which he pioneered with Dr. E.E. Mason at the University of Iowa. He has served as president of the Chicago and Illinois State Medical Societies and of the Midwest Surgical Association. Currently retired, he devotes his time to reading, writing, and helpingenny, his wife of fifty years, keep tabs on a family that includes five children and ten grandchildren.

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

DANIEL R. SALOMON
MD ’76

Dr. Salomon is a professor of molecular and experimental medicine at the Scripps Research Institute where he is also program medical director of the Center for Organ Transplantation and director of the Laboratory for Functional Genomics and Gene Therapy. His research focuses on the search for biomarkers in the diagnosis of acute and chronic rejection, the personalized management of immunosuppression, and prognostic markers for transplant outcomes using genetics, transcriptional profiling, and proteomics. He also is interested in the multidimensionality of transcriptional regulation. Previously, Dr. Salomon served as the medical director of the Kidney and Heart Transplant Programs at University of Florida and also conducted research at the National Institutes of Health. He has published more than 110 peer-reviewed manuscripts, thirty-nine chapters, and edited three books; he has served on numerous national and international committees; and he continues to serve on multiple NIH Study Sections and Special Emphasis Panels.

CLASS NOTES

1950s

William Rock, MD ‘53, received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science from Edgewood College, Madison, Wisconsin, for the compassion, service to others, and dedication to teaching that he has demonstrated throughout his career and personal life. Dr. Rock was one of the founding volunteers of HospiceCare Inc., serving as a pro bono medical director of the organization for several years. He has taught generations of nursing students, residents, and physicians how to care for the terminally ill by educating them about death, dying, and end-of-life care. Dr. Rock continues to make house calls to terminally ill patients.

1960s

Don V. Romanaggi, MD ‘60, was recently honored during the dedication ceremony for the newly named Don V. Romanaggi, M.D. Hall, formerly Old Science Hall, on the University of Portland campus. Dr. Romanaggi’s practice in Portland specialized in treatment of allergy, asthma, and immunology. In 1997, he retired from active practice after thirty-one years. While practicing medicine, he also was an associate professor of the volunteer teaching faculty at Oregon Health Sciences University. Dr. Romanaggi and his late wife, Agnes, have been generous donors to the University of Portland and to the field of medicine in general.

CONTINUES
William C. Anderson, MD '69, founder of the Sleepy Hollow Medical Group, was featured in an article in the Laguna Beach Coastline Pilot. Dr. Anderson began his career as a flight surgeon and worked as the director of student health services at UC Irvine. In 1980, he opened Sleepy Hollow on South Coast Highway in California as a private practice. In 1991, he opened a walk-in family clinic and named it Sleepy Hollow in honor of his first location. The clinic celebrated its 20th anniversary on Sept. 8, 2011.

1970s
Louis U. Bigliani, MD '72, a physician with Columbia Orthopaedics in New York City and founding member of the American Shoulder and Elbow Surgeons, was named one of “Sixty-five Outstanding Shoulder Surgeons and Specialists” by Becker’s Orthopedic and Spine Review. Dr. Bigliani is a former president of the American Orthopaedic Association.

Thomas L. McKiernan, MD '74/75, professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology at Stratford School of Medicine, director of Loyola’s Cardiac Care Unit, and medical director of the Center for Heart & Vascular Medicine, was appointed by President Barack Obama as a member of the Board of Visitors to the United States Air Force Academy, of which he is an alumnus. Dr. McKiernan served for fourteen years in the Air Force, including periods as Chief of Internal Medicine at Scott United States Air Force (USAF) Medical Center and Chief of Cardiology at Keeler USAF Medical Center before resigning from the Air Force in 1984 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Loyola University Physician Foundation from 1989 until 2001 and served on the Board of Directors of the Chicago American Heart Association from 1983 to 2003 and served on the Board of Directors of the Mayo Clinic and Chief of Cardiology at Keesler USAF Medical Center and Chief of Cardiology at Keesler USAF Medical Center before resigning from the Air Force in 1984 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Loyola University Physician Foundation from 1989 until 2001 and served on the Board of Directors of the Chicago American Heart Association from 1983 to 2003.

Ed Kaye, MD '75, has been appointed chief medical officer for RNA-based therapeutic developers AVI BioPharma, Inc. Dr. Kaye joins AVI from Genzyme, where he served as group vice president for Clinical Development and therapeutic head for Lysosomal Storage Disorders and Neurodegenerative Diseases since 2007. He held vice president-level leadership roles at Genzyme in Clinical Development and Medical Affairs over the last ten years, helping build an industry-leading company in rare genetic diseases. Dr. Kaye also has specific experience with pediatric neuromuscular conditions. He played a leadership role in gaining Myozyme’s approval for Pompe disease, and he oversees all of Genzyme’s collaborations in this field, including the development of ataluren for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

1980s
Thomas R. Arndt, MD '80, a gastroenterologist, recently joined the staff at Silver Cross Hospital in Joliet, Illinois.

Michael Kuglisitsch, MD '80, a board-certified urologist with Southwestern University in Lawton, Texas, commented on the causes of kidney stones in a recent article printed by The Times Record News. The article includes the following about Dr. Kuglisitsch: “Dr. Kuglisitsch joined Southwestern Urology one year ago. He earned his PhD in Albany, N.Y., before attending medical school at Loyola University Chicago. His residency was at the University of Wisconsin where he was on the faculty from 1985-1997. He has been in private practice in the Dakotas, Montana, and Wisconsin before coming to Oklahoma.”

Stephen M. Gryzlo, MD '85, professor of orthopedic surgery at Northwestern University, was named one of “Sixty-Five Outstanding Shoulder Surgeons and Specialists” by Becker’s Orthopedic and Spine Review. Dr. Gryzlo also serves as a team physician for the Chicago Cubs.

2000s
Cristina E. Vega-Barrera, MD '03, a pediatrician at Loyola University Medical Center, was listed as one of several bilingual pediatricians in the Chicago area. Jonathan T. Nasses, MD '03, an orthopaedic surgeon with G&H Sports Medicine Orthopaedics’ Elmhurst, Illinois, office, is engaged to Jenee Pulko, a star of Bravo’s Flipping Out.

Anthony J. Carino, MD '04, was recently married to Kiran Jeet Singh, a Manhattan district attorney. Dr. Carino currently serves as a psychiatrist, instructor of clinical psychiatry at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, and an assistant medical director for Clinical Operations at the Project for Psychiatric Outreach to the Homeless, a part of the Center for Urban Community Services.

Amy A. Henning, MD '05, is a physician at Chicago Lakeshore Medical Associates, the largest private medical practice at Northwestern University’s medical campus. Dr. Henning specializes in internal medicine.

Kristin Manteuffel Jensen, MD '05, became the sixth faculty member and the first assistant professor to join the staff of the Linda Clinic Institute for Down syndrome at the University of Colorado. Dr. Jensen has done extensive research on Down syndrome, including completing a research fellowship through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars program at the University of Michigan. She is currently focusing on establishing a model of care that will improve the transition from adolescent to adult health services for Down syndrome patients.

John Burger, MD '07, and Danielle C. Burger welcomed their son, Wolfgang Alexander, on April 9, 2011.
HARRY L. MESSMORE JR. MD

Dr. Messmore, 89, longtime Loyola physician and Stritch faculty member, died November 26, 2012 at home in Indian Head Park, Illinois. Dr. Messmore’s loss of vision due to macular degeneration did not derail his research into blood diseases or his ability to help patients. He remained active in research and consulting after his retirement from Stritch even as his eyesight failed.

A decorated veteran of World War II, Dr. Messmore was honored in 2010 by France, which noted his wartime service to the country by awarding him its prestigious Legion of Honor medal.

Dr. Messmore was born and grew up in Atkinson, Illinois, and married Marilyn Anderson in 1943, just before he was sent overseas by the Army to lead artillery units in Europe. After the war, Dr. Messmore attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on the GI Bill. He went on to medical school at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago, graduating in 1952.

He began his career as a general practitioner in rural Illinois before moving on in 1964 to pursue a specialty in internal medicine and to study blood diseases and cancer at Edward Hines Jr. VA Hospital. He became a researcher and educator at Stritch even as he safeguarded himself from ethically questionable actions. Rev. O’Rourke began his career as an academic bioethicist in 1958 at Aquinas Institute of Philosophy and Theology in Dubuque, Iowa. He was dean of the institute from 1969 to 1999. He finished his career as a lecturer at the Neiswanger Institute for Health Care Ethics at St. Louis University from 1979 to 1999. He was a leader in promoting “principles of cooperation” for Catholic health-care facilities to help them safeguard themselves from ethically questionable actions.

Kevin O’Rourke, OP, JCD, STM, a key figure in Catholic health-care ethics, died March 28, 2012. He was 85. A Dominican priest, canon lawyer, and prolific author, Rev. O’Rourke was a leader in promoting respect for the wishes of patients and their families who do not want burdensome treatments at the end of life. Rev. O’Rourke was honored in 2010 by France, which noted his wartime service to the country by awarding him its prestigious Legion of Honor medal.

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