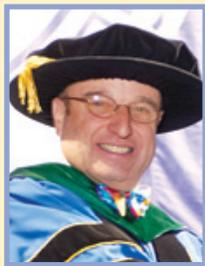


TCMC[®]
THE COMMONWEALTH
MEDICAL COLLEGE

Special Commencement Edition
Journal
SPRING/SUMMER 2013



Message from the Dean



Dear Friends,

It has been nearly a year since the Board of Trustees named me President and Dean of The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC). I was both honored and excited, but even so I could never have dreamed how deeply gratifying the ensuing months would be or that Northeast Pennsylvania would come to mean so much to me.

On May 11, the dreams of our founders and the hopes of our students were realized when at our commencement ceremony we celebrated the awarding of our first Doctor of Medicine (MD) degrees as well as our fourth and largest class receiving the Master of Biomedical Sciences (MBS) degrees. The enormity of the day and the joy I experienced in having the honor to confer those degrees is beyond words.

Fifty-seven talented and dedicated MD graduates and 63 MBS graduates were honored that day. But our joy has been tempered by the news of the recent loss of one of these new doctors, Jennifer Sidari. Though her class included many stars, she stood out because of her exuberant joy and her passion for helping people. She touched our lives and exemplified the best hopes of our founders. Jen would have made a wonderful pediatrician. We will never forget Dr. Jennifer Sidari. I know that we will all continue to be inspired by the kind of person she was and the kind of doctor she would have been.

As our rising classes ready themselves for another year of learning and service, we are very optimistic about what the future holds. While attending to our "bottom line" responsibly, we are also expanding our partnerships and being true to our mission to improve healthcare in our region. We look forward with confidence to the outcome of accreditation visits in 2014, and we are very excited that the MD Class of 2017, with 100 students, is our largest incoming class.

These hopeful students and those who will come afterwards will always be indebted to the pioneers—our founders, our faculty, our leaders, and especially, our students—who made May 11 a wonderful, historic day.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Scheinman, MD

President and Dean
The Commonwealth Medical College

TCMC Board of Trustees

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Robert W. Naismith, PhD Receives the John Vane Lecture Award



The William Harvey Research Institute (WHRI) at St. Bartholomews Hospital and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry St. Mary's College has announced that Robert W. Naismith, PhD is this year's recipient of the John Vane Lecture Award. Dr. Naismith is a founding member and former chair of the Board of Trustees at The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC). He will deliver the WHRI's Annual Research Review John Vane Lecture on July 3 in London, England.

Sir John Vane was a Nobel laureate and founder of the WHRI, a world-leading pharmacological center with a vibrant, multidisciplinary scientific environment devoted to therapeutic innovation in cardiovascular, inflammatory and endocrine diseases.

▶ To learn more about WHRI, visit www.whri.qmul.ac.uk

TCMC scores an "A"

The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) has received a score of "A" from the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) for its policies regarding Conflict of Interest.



For several years, AMSA has scored all medical schools across the country on policies governing relationships with the pharmaceutical and biotech industries. Medical schools are graded for policies in each of eleven categories, in which the best grade is that of "model" policy. This year was the first in which TCMC submitted its policies for review. The College received a grade of "model" policy in ten of the eleven categories; these categories were: gifts and meals, consulting relationships, industry-funded speaking relationships, disclosure, pharmaceutical samples, industry sales representatives, on-campus education, attendance at industry-sponsored lectures and meetings off-campus, industry support for scholarships and funds for trainees, and medical school curriculum.

This year, while 41 medical schools received an A overall, only two schools were rated as having "model" policies in ten out of the eleven categories. No school had model policies in all 11 areas.

"Many legacy schools have struggled to bring their policies in line with current societal and governmental expectations for integrity in our dealings with industry," said Steven J. Scheinman, president and dean of TCMC. "As a new school, TCMC was in a position to craft its policies from scratch. We are working with our clinical partners and voluntary faculty to assure that our students are training in settings with the highest standards."

▶ The complete AMSA scorecard is located online and can be viewed at www.amsascorecard.org

On the Cover

MD graduate Swati P. Rushi waves to the crowd at The Commonwealth Medical College's 2013 Commencement Ceremony on May 11.

TCMC Charter Class Celebrates First Match Day



Nearly two months before they made history by receiving the first Doctor of Medicine degrees awarded at The Commonwealth Medical College, the TCMC MD charter class gathered on March 15 for their first-ever “Match Day,” a residency match event during which they learned about their post-graduation futures. Having shared every milestone together during their four years at TCMC, the soon-to-be doctors wanted to be together at this moment as well.

On Match Day, the nation’s medical students (16,000 fourth-year medical school and 20,000 independent school students in 2013) find out where they will be going for required post-graduation training that can last from three to five years, depending on the specialty. The residency match is conducted by the National Resident Matching Program, which uses a Nobel Prize-winning computer algorithm to assure that applicants and residency programs are matched to each other based on their submitted preferences.

After researching how other institutions celebrate their own Match Days, the MD class of 2013 decided theirs would be based on a football draft theme. Classes and other obligations were suspended for the afternoon as students—most in “MD13” football jerseys—as well as faculty, staff, families and members of the community gathered in the standing-room-only auditorium.

Canons shot streamers and balloons dropped. Music played as dances and skits charged the atmosphere. Humor-laced PowerPoint presentations appeared on the screen. Students approached the stage one by one as their names were called at random—but they elected to open their envelopes simultaneously.



And when they did, the room erupted into screams and shouts and laughter and hugs and tears.

“It was just magical,” said Dr. Linda Berardi-Demo, associate dean for admissions and student affairs. “Students were shouting to each other. Families were scrambling to hug their loved ones. There probably wasn’t another Match Day anywhere in the country more fun than ours.”



Students kneeling left to right: Manraj Parmar, Kristen Suchniak, Hassan Ahmad. Standing left to right: Maurice Clifton, MD; Linda Sanders; Steven J. Scheinman, MD; Jessica Warnke Potter and Linda Berardi-Demo, PhD.

About one-third were seeking residencies in surgical specialties, while others were interested in internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, family medicine, emergency medicine, and other specialties.

“There are many things that make me proud to be at The Commonwealth Medical College but nothing makes me prouder than the students,” commented Steven J. Scheinman, president and dean, noting that as a “new” college, TCMC could measure the quality of its programs by the results of Match Day. “It was a resounding success.”

Of the 57 students who opened envelopes that day, 39 percent will stay in Pennsylvania. Many are staying in neighboring states, while others will be spread around the country.



“This event is a tribute to the people who founded The Commonwealth Medical College,” Dr. Berardi-Demo added. “They created a community medical school that the whole community is rallying around. As our first graduates head off to their residency programs, our founders can truly see that their vision has been realized.”

Following the opening of envelopes, a champagne toast reception with tailgate-style hors d’oeuvres was held. A more formal dinner dance was held later that evening.

Gold Humanism Honor Society



On Thursday, March 14, nine members of The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) MD Class of 2013 and one faculty member were inducted into the 101th Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

The Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) was founded by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation and honors medical students, residents, and role-model physician teachers for “demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion and dedication to service.” The Society was organized to elevate the values of humanism and professionalism within the field of medicine.

Students are nominated by their peers for displaying integrity, excellence, compassion, altruism, respect, empathy, and service. Those who were inducted include Thomas Churilla, Rivkah Darabaner, Alison Duncan, Stefanie Hollenbach, John Kotula, Zachary Lyons, Joseph Marchese, Emily Nguyen, and Radhika Patnam. In addition, Janet Townsend, MD, chair, Department of Family, Community, and Rural Health, was inducted as an inaugural TCMC faculty member.



Pioneers

A Milestone Day for TCMC

“...every patient survey tells us that what patients really want in their health care is someone who knows them; someone who listens to them; someone who cares; someone with whom they have a healing relationship... You, the class of 2013 and the inaugural class of The Commonwealth Medical College, will have the opportunity to answer this challenge. You are, by definition, pioneers.”

- from the commencement address of George E. Thibault, M.D.
President, The Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation and honorary doctoral degree recipient

Monday, May 6

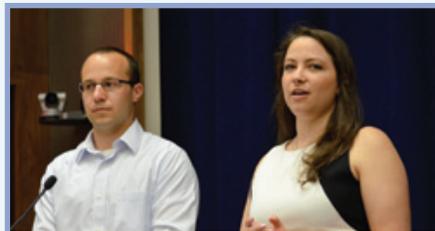
Annual Community Picnic & Professor of the Year Celebration



TCMC held its Annual Community Picnic in the PNC Courtyard at noon. Students awarded Gregory A. Shanower, PhD the MBS Professor of the Year Award and Ying-Ju Sung, PhD received the MD Professor of the Year Award.

Tuesday, May 7

The MD Class of 2013 Awards Ceremony



Students, faculty, and staff were honored for a variety of exceptional qualities and accomplishments during the first MD Class Awards Ceremony. North Regional Charter Class Officer Ryan Wilson and Charter Class President Sara Roper helped distribute awards.

Tuesday, May 7

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders Game



President and Dean Steven J. Scheinman, MD, threw out the first pitch. All TCMC alumni, current students, faculty, staff, and their guests were invited to attend a Scranton/Wilkes-Barre RailRiders game at PNC Field as the TCMC Alumni Association welcomed the Class of 2013 into its ranks.



May 11, 2013 will forever be etched in the memories—and the history books—of The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) because this was the day TCMC graduated its first class of medical doctor (MD) students, along with its fourth class of master of biomedical sciences (MBS) students.

Held at the Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, the commencement exercises represented the moment when a grassroots effort to create a new kind of medical school for the people of northeast and north central Pennsylvania was truly validated. Appropriately themed “Celebrate New Beginnings: A Vision Realized,” the ceremony effectively launched the futures of 57 MD and 63 MBS students.

The degrees were conferred upon the graduates by Steven J. Scheinman, MD, president and dean of TCMC, who expressed his gratitude to founders, trustees, faculty, government officials, families, and others before turning his attention to the graduates themselves:

“I want to state how very proud we all are of them, the master’s and doctoral graduates of this College. They are as intelligent and energetic as medical students anywhere. But beyond that, individually and as a class, they are distinctive. Like the faculty and staff who took a chance on a new college, they are adventurers who were drawn to TCMC by the mission. They have engaged themselves in the life of the community in ways that I have not seen at any other medical school.”

During the ceremony, five members of the MD Class of 2013 were commissioned into their respective branches of the United States Armed Forces, 14 MBS students were inducted into the Alpha Epsilon Lambda Honor Society, and 11 MD students were inducted into the TCMC Medical Honor Society. In addition, nine MD students earned membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society, which

recognizes demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service.

Dr. Scheinman also conferred an honorary doctor of medical arts degree upon George E. Thibault, MD, who was selected as the commencement speaker because of his pioneering career as a physician, researcher, and medical educator. In his address, Dr. Thibault told the story of his father, a general practitioner in upstate New York, to illuminate the story of those who chose to pursue their medical educations at TCMC.

“You came to a new school with no graduates to model yourself after, no upper classmen to give you advice— a school with no buildings and with only preliminary accreditation. That took a combination of courage, faith, self-confidence and perhaps a little naiveté. But you have been rewarded by receiving an extraordinary amount of attention from a large, dedicated faculty and the warmth of a community that has adopted you as their medical students,” Thibault said. “As pioneers, you have participated in some educational innovations that will better prepare you for your roles as leaders and as team members in 21st century medicine.”

Approximately 1,300 people were present to witness the historic day, and virtually everyone who had a moment at the microphone made the occasion memorable. The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, DD, DCL, Bishop of Scranton offered an inspiring opening invocation, which was followed by a beautiful rendition of the national anthem, sung by Alison Mary Duncan, a member of the MD graduating class. The ensuing speeches, up to and including the closing benediction, followed suit.

“TCMC started as a dream of a group of visionary leaders, most of whom are with us today,” said Dr. Scheinman. “Their vision was to create a medical college with an ambitious mission: to educate

continued on page 6

Wednesday, May 8

Jan-Åke Gustafsson, MD, PhD Seminar



World Renowned Medical Researcher Jan-Åke Gustafsson, MD, PhD, presented a seminar - “Biology and Pathology of Estrogen Receptor Beta” - as part of “Research Seminars at Noon,” which is a series of research and scientific discussions organized by TCMC and coordinated by Prof. Raj Kumar, PhD. From left: Raj Kumar, PhD; Jan-Åke Gustafsson, MD, PhD; Steven J. Scheinman, MD.

Wednesday, May 8

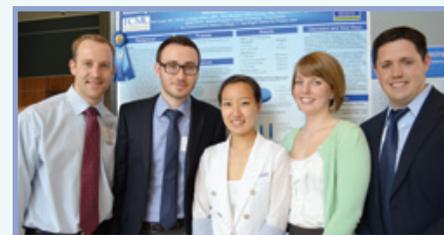
Alpha Epsilon Lambda Honor Society Induction



The Master of Biomedical Sciences Class of 2013 held its AEL Honor Society Induction. Sitting left to right: Kaitlyn Sweeney; Lauren DuBiner; Mary Regina Feeks; Karla Bagley. Standing left to right: Mansi Panchal; Chidrup Tripathi; Gary Devine; Aditya Eaturi; Robert Decker; Joiceann Compton; Ryan Narain; Jennifer Smith, PhD. Missing from photo: Jialiu Li; Patricia Melvin; Sato Mananian.

Thursday, May 9

Research Symposium: Day 1



TCMC’s two-day Research Symposium kicked off with a poster session of Quality Improvement Community Collaborative (QUICC) Projects and a wine and cheese reception. First place QUICC award winners left to right: Kevin Perry; Igor Makhlin; Stephanie Kim; Jessica Pozzuto; Doug Zaruta.



The Oath

—written by the
MD Class of 2013

“Today I commit myself to the calling of medicine. I stand beside my teachers in devotion to the care of the sick, the promotion of health, and the service of humanity. I am privileged to be a part of my patients’ lives. I will abandon my prejudices to walk with them on their journey through life and its pivotal transitions. I will hold sacred the bond with my patients and guard that which is intimately shared. I will collaborate with my colleagues in the best interests of my patients and society. I will strive humbly to admit mistakes, make amends, and forgive others in acknowledgement of our common humanity. I will use my intellectual curiosity to water the seeds I’ve been given and cultivate the growing tree of our medical knowledge. I am grateful for the family and community that have brought me to this day and will honor them in the fulfillment of this oath. I will hold myself to the highest standard, maintaining and furthering the ethics, integrity, and noble traditions of my profession. I will be a doctor, a student, and a teacher beyond the confines of the bedside, in my community and in my daily life. In doing so I will cure sometimes, relieve often, and comfort always.”

physicians from northeast and north central Pennsylvania who would practice here; to be a force for transformation of health care in the region; and to contribute to the vitality of the community. On all fronts, that vision is being realized.”

Denise S. Cesare, president and CEO of Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania and former and founding member of the TCMC Board, said the day proved that “the impossible is possible.” She referred to her first meeting about TCMC in 2005 and the ensuing eight years “as an amazing journey.”

“Throughout its development, TCMC has faced its share of challenges,” she continued. “But through the hard work and support of so many people, a continued belief in its success and purpose, and a deep commitment to the very students we will see graduate here today, TCMC now stands as a testament to this region’s strength and promise.”

After the degrees were conferred, the members of the MD class of 2013 stood to recite an oath they had collectively composed. “I stand beside my teachers in devotion to the care of the sick, the promotion of health, and the service of humanity,” they said, expressing the deeply held values not only of the graduates but also the entire TCMC family.

“Let these principles guide you,” said Dr. Scheinman when the newly hooded doctors had finished reciting the oath. “Cherish the relationship you will

have with your patients. They will reveal intimate secrets to you that they may not share with their own family. They will trust you with their lives. Be worthy of that trust by caring for them. You have written, and sworn, to hold sacred the bond with your patients; to walk with them on their journey through life and its pivotal transitions; to hold yourself to the highest standard.”

After inviting the assembly to a reception following the ceremony, Dr. Scheinman yielded the floor to Rabbi Peg Kershenbaum of Congregation B’Nai Harim, Pocono Pines, Pennsylvania, whose advice to the graduates will surely be remembered:

“Whichever program you completed, you have studied all the connections and networks involved in our human bodies. You can name—in Latin, no doubt—the bones of hand and foot, the parts of the ear, the innermost chambers of the heart. May you use your hands to comfort. May your feet carry you swiftly to the aid of your fellow beings. May your ears listen to their stories as well as their complaints. And may you hold them in your hearts as your very own.”

Our warmest wishes to the Class of 2013, the pioneers who have paved the way for generations of intellectually astute, community-minded, patient-centered physicians and surgeons and researchers and clinicians—future graduates of The Commonwealth Medical College.

▶ For a complete list of graduates visit us at www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/GradList

Friday, May 10 Research Symposium: Day 2



TCMC’s Research Symposium concluded with a poster session of Community Health Research Projects (CHRP’s). Keynote Speakers Fred Wells Brason II and Marianna Garrettson, MPH, jointly presented “A Public Health Approach to Prescription Overdose: Community Action, Clinical Practice, Engaged Research.”

Friday, May 10 President’s Reception



Dr. Scheinman hosted a President’s Reception for students and their families. Attendees gathered in the Medical Sciences Building lobby in celebration of the graduates.

Saturday, May 11



2013 Commencement Ceremony

Obesity Symposium

On April 6, TCMC faculty and staff hosted the first continuing medical education (CME) event on obesity as part of the Keystone Program series. The Obesity Symposium took place at the Medical Sciences Building in Scranton and was intended for all physicians, healthcare professionals, and students in northeast and north central Pennsylvania. Obesity experts from Pediatrics of Northeastern PA, Marywood University, University of the Sciences, Wyoming Valley Health Care, and Temple University were on hand to present.

Obesity, considered a chronic disease by the World Health Organization, has reached nearly epidemic proportions both in the United States and globally. A recent report from the Pennsylvania Department of Health states that Pennsylvania was named the 17th most obese state in the country. The Obesity Symposium provided strategies for



TCMC Obesity Symposium organizers from left: JoAnn Babish, manager of CME; Andrea DiMattia, MEd, associate dean of faculty affairs and faculty development; Valerie Weber, MD, founding chair, department of clinical sciences and associate dean for clinical affairs; Steven J. Scheinman, MD, president and dean; Vincent J. Vanston, MD, professor and clinical faculty member; Karen Arscott, DO, professor and clinical faculty member.

health professionals and students to prevent childhood and adult obesity, recognized risk factors, and discussed various treatment options including surgical, pharmacological and behavioral.

MD/MPH and MD/PHC dual degree programs

The Commonwealth Medical College and East Stroudsburg University (ESU) will be enrolling the first cohort of students into the pioneering MD/Public Health Certificate



From left, facing camera: Katherine Gold, project coordinator, ESU; Marilyn Wells, PhD, vice provost and graduate dean, ESU; Mark White, MD, MPH, assistant professor, TCMC; Elizabeth Kuchinski, MPH, project coordinator, TCMC; Mary Frances Postupack, vice president, economic development and research support, ESU. From left, backs toward camera: Olapeju Simoyan, MD, MPH, BDS, assistant professor, TCMC; Karen Baker, director, office of sponsored programs, TCMC.

(MD/PHC) and MD/Master of Public Health (MD/MPH) dual degree programs this summer. TCMC students will have the opportunity to complete an 18-credit Public Health Certificate Program providing a foundation in core public health competencies, or a 45-credit Master of Public Health Program that expands upon these competencies. These two programs will more fully integrate public health training into allopathic medical education, and will reinforce TCMC's mission to train the physicians of tomorrow in evidence-based, community-based, interdisciplinary practice. Partial to full tuition funding for public health coursework is available to interested TCMC MD students, made possible by a \$1.5 million, 5-year grant from the Health Services Resources Administration (HRSA). Assistant Professor of Epidemiology Mark White, MD, MPH, serves as principal investigator on the grant. Co-directors of the joint training programs are Steven Godin, PhD, MPH, of ESU, and Olapeju Simoyan, MD, MPH, BDS, of TCMC.

Ninety eight percent of TCMC's class of 2014 pass national licensing exam

For the second consecutive year, TCMC's pass rate for Step I of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) was above the national average. 98% of TCMC third year students, compared to 96% of all U.S./Canadian first-time test takers, passed the exam as reported January through October 3, 2012. The mean score of TCMC students was 231 which was higher than the preliminary national mean of 227.

The national licensing exam has three steps which are taken after two years of medical school, during the fourth year and during residency. The first step of the USMLE assesses whether medical students can apply important concepts of the basic sciences to the practice of medicine and can demonstrate a foundation for the safe and competent practice of medicine.

Grand Rounds



For a year and a half, John Farrell, MD, a diagnostic radiologist, worked with TCMC students on a breast cancer MRI research project. The group presented their results at a national meeting in Chicago in November. On March 6, they shared their results again at the Moses Taylor Hospital Grand Rounds. Grand Rounds are important teaching tools at which physicians meet to discuss medical issues and the clinical case of one or more patients.

Commitment to Community

John R. and Maureen J. Pesavento Community Service Award



From left: Paul Pesavento; Ann Pesavento; Stefanie Hollenbach; Maureen Pesavento.

At the MD Class of 2013 Awards Ceremony on May 7, Stefanie Hollenbach, MD, a member of TCMC's charter class, received the first John R. and Maureen J. Pesavento Community Service Award. Dr. Hollenbach was honored for serving the most community service hours in her class while attending TCMC.

Clothing Drive



Photo courtesy of The Abington Journal/ Kevin Kearney

In March, TCMC's Women's Group sponsored a clothing drive for Dress for Success in honor of Women's History Month. The mission of Dress for Success is to promote the economic independence of disadvantaged women by providing professional attire, a network of support and the career development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

First Diversity Week

Students organized TCMC's first Diversity Week from April 8 - 12. The week included interactive activities that highlighted the diversity among the College's students, faculty, staff, and the communities they serve. As TCMC continues to evolve, diversity is celebrated because it shapes the student body, the faculty and staff, and creates a unified voice for the College. Ida L. Castro, JD, MA, vice president for community and government relations, served as advisor.

Events included:

- "Faith, Family & the Ethics of Care" Panel
- "Culturally Informed Care" lecture by Dr. Andres Pumariega
- Dr. Manny Hernandez's keynote lecture on "Why LGBT Health Matters to Ensuring Healthy Communities Everywhere"
- "Health Care and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Community" lecture by Elizabeth Whinston and Aleksandra Kuczmaraka
- HUGS Desserts and Diversity Entertainment Night
- Cultural Explosion Fashion Show



Manuel Hernandez, MD, MBA, FACEP, Diversity Week's keynote speaker.



Northeastern PA Council Boy Scout First Aid Meet



A group of MD3 students from the South Regional Campus organized a Northeastern PA Council Boy Scout First Aid Meet, which took place on April 12, 2013 at St. Nicholas Church in Wilkes-Barre.

Alley-Oop for Autism



From left: George Salama; Christine Gilroy, executive vice president of Northeast Regional Autism Center at Friendship House; Laura Heck; Jessica Pozzuto; Patrick Ackourey, executive vice president of Northeast Regional Autism Center at Friendship House.

On March 10, students from TCMC's Basketball Club and the MD Class of 2015 hosted the second annual Alley-Oop for Autism 3-on-3 charity basketball tournament. \$1,000 was raised to benefit the Northeast Regional Autism Center at Friendship House in Scranton.

St. Patrick's Day Parade



TCMC joined approximately 12,000 participants as part of the 52nd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 9. Thousands watched as Dean Scheinman and his wife Kelly, students, faculty, staff, and members of the United Neighborhood Center stepped off in style on the "Shamrock Hospital" brimming in green, white, and orange balloons. The float was awarded the distinguished "Most Beautiful" float award.

Remembrance Ceremony

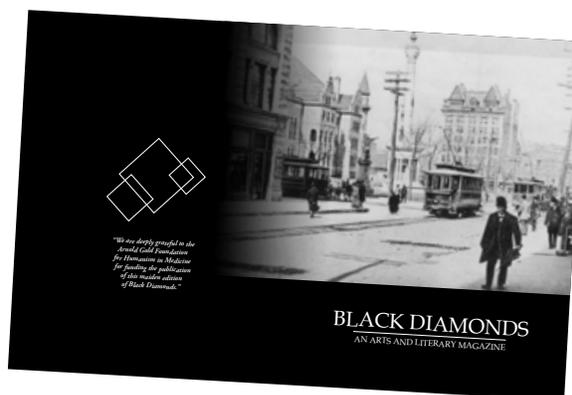


Members of TCMC's community gathered on April 18 for a celebration in honor of those individuals who helped to enhance medical education through the donation of their bodies.

Black Diamonds: An Arts and Literary Magazine

Several members of the TCMC community contributed to the maiden edition of *Black Diamonds*, the College's first literary journal, which showcases artistic and literary talent from TCMC and its community. Olapeju M. Simoyan, MD, MPH, BDS served as faculty editor.

Zachary Wolfe, MD Class of 2015, writes about the publication's title: "For thousands of people living in Northeastern Pennsylvania during the 19th and early 20th centuries, coal was precious. It was the black diamond they mined for and the substance that supported their lives... Like the rich veins of coal that extended throughout the region, these future physicians are now stretched across sixteen counties of Northeastern PA. For many of



these students and their teachers, the arts are an important part of life outside of medicine."

Copies are limited. To receive one, please contact Dr. Simoyan at (570) 687-9697.

Timmy's Town Center Children's Snowball



On February 23, students of TCMC hosted HEROS 911, the seventh annual Timmy's Town Center Children's Snowball, at the College's Medical Sciences Building in Scranton. Children of all ages were invited to learn about the everyday heroic actions of local emergency responders, doctors, nurses and care workers through live demonstrations, exhibits, safety education, DJ, dancing and more.

Free Skin Cancer Screening

On May 4, students of the Dermatology Interest Group of TCMC hosted their second free skin cancer screening at the Medical Sciences Building in Scranton. Students assisted six physicians with screening approximately 95 patients. Michael O'Donnell, MD, of Lackawanna Valley Dermatology Associates, serves as faculty advisor for the group.

Journalism Award



The TCMC Journalism Club has been working with clinical faculty member Paul J. Mackarey, PT, DHSc, OCS, of Mackarey and Mackarey Physical Therapy Consultants, LLC, on sharing medical knowledge through journalism. Several student journalists worked on articles that will appear throughout 2013 on various health topics, including prevention and treatment. The Health and Exercise Forum is published every Monday in *The Times-Tribune*. MD Class of 2014 student Luana Hossain is president of TCMC's Healthcare in Journalism Club and the first student to be published. She is also the recipient of the first Healthcare Journalism Award sponsored by Dr. Mackarey.

Faculty & Staff News

Awards & Accomplishments

Academy of Clinical Educators (ACE)

May brought the inauguration of TCMC's Academy of Clinical Educators (ACE).

Over the past fifteen years, almost 40% of the country's medical schools have appreciated the need to recognize and reward medical faculty for special contributions to specific educational goals. TCMC, however, is one of only two schools to design an academy for the specific purpose of recognizing the educational contributions of its volunteer faculty.

TCMC is sustained by many constituencies but none more important than the nine-hundred-plus volunteer physicians from throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. These volunteers have worked tirelessly to achieve our founding goals providing a continuous supply of newly trained physicians and favorably affect the quality of care in our region.

All appointed clinicians are members of the ACE. Sixty of these were recognized as either fellows or masters in acknowledgment of their superior contributions.

▶ For a complete list of ACE Masters and Fellows, visit us at www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/ace.

Raj Kumar, PhD, Professor of Biochemistry

– Researchers of The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) have discovered a new molecular process that points the way to a promising new approach for designing drugs to treat endocrine related diseases. The result of their findings was published in the December 28, 2012 issue of the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, one of the most prestigious scientific journals in the world (online version published November 6, 2012). Co-authors of the article include: TCMC's Shagufta H. Khan and Jun Ling; Chunhua Guo and S. Stoney Simons, Jr., National Institutes of Health (NIH) Bethesda, MD; Smita Awasthi, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD; and Devrishi Goswami and Patrick R. Griffin, The Scripps Research Institute, Jupiter, FL.



Joanne Muellenbach, Library Director

– In April, TCMC received a \$15,000 NN/LM MAR Outreach to Consumers Award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) - Middle Atlantic Region (MAR). Library Director Joanne Muellenbach will serve as director for the project entitled: Enhancing Access to Mental Health Information In Northeastern Pennsylvania,



from May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014. Joanne and Bridget Conlogue, TCMC Public Services Librarian, will collaborate with Mary Garm, Administrator, Lackawanna County Library System (LCLS), along with LCLS librarians Susan Jeffery and Martina Soden on this important mental health initiative.

This project has been funded in part with Federal funds from the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract No. HHS-N-276-2011-00003-C with the University of Pittsburgh, Health Sciences Library System.

In May, Joanne received the Medical Library Association's Medical Informatics Section / MLA Career Development Grant. The \$1500 grant is being used to enroll in an American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) 10 x 10 online course through the Oregon Health and Sciences University, entitled: What is Biomedical and Health Informatics. Joanne Muellenbach and Eric Rector serve as co-chairs of the Biomedical Informatics thread that is woven through the MD curriculum. As a part of her coursework, Joanne will work with TCMC faculty to develop a course project to enhance the Biomedical Informatics thread. The MLA Career Development Grant was presented to Joanne on May 6, 2013 at the MLA Awards Luncheon at the MLA Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts.

TCMC Awarded National Program of Excellence Award

The Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) of TCMC was selected as a 2013 Program of Excellence Award winner from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). This award recognizes students in allopathic medical schools who have an interest in Family Medicine and have met the national requirements to promote the value of family medicine and primary care and enhance student interest in Family Medicine. FMIG Faculty Advisor Jennifer Joyce, MD, FMIG, student leaders Kristina Zimmerman and Steven Aussenburg, along with Morgan Rogers and Catherine Bradshaw will be attending the AAFP national conference this August in Kansas City, Missouri to accept the award.



TCMC Receives Three Grants Advancing Regional Economic Development Efforts

The Commonwealth Medical College has received three grants from TecBridge, formerly the Great Valley Technology Alliance/Northeastern Pennsylvania Technology Institute, to advance regional economic development efforts. TCMC received one grant supporting a new public/private partnership for biomedical research activities and two grants supporting undergraduate student internships to develop a skilled regional workforce for the bioscience industry.

Jun Ling, PhD, assistant professor of Biochemistry, will serve as project director for the grant under TecBridge's Collaborative University Asset Engagement program. The program supports public/private partnerships that use specialized facilities within TecBridge's 14 member institutions of higher education.

The grant will partner TCMC with Med-Dev Corp., Scranton, which acquired an exclusive and perpetual license to patent pending technologies and corresponding intellectual

property to develop, market and distribute a pro-active medical device effective against hospital-acquired infection, a significant public health threat for at-risk patient populations as well as hospital personnel.

The \$5,000 grant will support TCMC research to establish a robust method evaluating the efficiency of the new device. Dr. Ling will use highly specialized research instrumentation such as the BD Biosciences FACSaria II Flow Cytometer and GE Healthcare Isothermal Titration Calorimeter to conduct the research.

Two undergraduate students working with Sonia Lobo Planey, PhD, assistant professor of Biochemistry, will receive TecBridge funding for 10-week internships in the area of commercialization and bioscience research activities. The students will work with Dr. Planey to develop biotech technologies and learn research techniques. Both students will become acquainted with several research methodologies and equipment.

New Appointments

Heather M. Davis, MFA, Manager of Marketing and Electronic Communications,

is responsible for website content, electronic communications, social media, and day-to-day duties of the Marketing Communications Department.



Marise Garofalo, Vice President of Institutional Advancement,

oversees the Office of Institutional Advancement which provides leadership for the College's development and marketing communications activities to create significant support and awareness of the College's mission. She is responsible for all areas of development including alumni relations, annual giving, major gifts and fund development campaigns. Ms. Garofalo has more than 15 years in institutional fundraising and fund development experience.



Andrea Mulrine, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations,

is responsible for research, solicitation, and partnerships with local, regional, and national corporations and foundations. She brings more than eight years of professional fundraising experience to TCMC.



Anna Rusnak-Noon, Vice President for Finance and Administration,

will continue to oversee the departments of Facilities, Finance, Human Resources, and Information Technology, and is TCMC's Chief Financial Officer in her new capacity.



Staff Council

A Staff Council has recently been established at TCMC. Members take their roles seriously and will strive to help make TCMC an employer of choice in the area.

The Staff Council believes that it can only be truly effective when two-way communication is established and maintained. They encourage input and suggestions from fellow employees. The Council is also interested in giving back to TCMC and the local community. They are considering activities such as holding food and clothing drives, sponsoring a scholarship, participating in food distribution to the needy during the holiday season, and other charitable endeavors.

Finally, in an effort to establish a work-life balance, the Council would like to begin organizing after work activities so that employees can socialize and relax with one another.

The TCMC Staff Council includes:

- Glen Mackey, *Chair*
Educational Support Teacher
- Mary Roman, *Vice Chair*
Manager Faculty Affairs & Development
- Andrea Gerko, *Recorder*
Administrative Assistant,
Vice President for Finance & Administration
- Wafa Atamna
Laboratory Manager
- Gloria Colosimo
Administrative Assistant,
Student Affairs
- Steve Fisk
Associate Director,
Human Resources
- Amy Pratt
Accounting Assistant

Campus Highlights

SOUTH CAMPUS

Community Welcome and Ribbon Cutting

On May 15 dignitaries, faculty, staff, and community friends gathered in Wilkes-Barre General Hospital's Saidman Hall to welcome TCMC to its new South Campus Regional Office location. Michael Ferraro, MD, associate dean for South Regional Campus, welcomed the crowd and introduced the event's speakers. Cor Catena, CEO of Commonwealth Health & Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, recognized TCMC and the importance of a regional medical school with students training in the hospitals and community. After a brief overview of the community-based education model and regional campuses, Steven J. Scheinman, MD, TCMC president and dean, expressed that full support in all sectors of community is critical to TCMC's mission. Pennsylvania Senator Lisa Baker and Thomas E. Leighton, Mayor of Wilkes-Barre, also spoke of the significance of TCMC. Dr. Alison Duncan '13, a member of TCMC's charter class, shared her personal story with community-based education. Before the ribbon was cut, Tim McGinley, president of Luzerne County Council, presented a special proclamation to Dr. Scheinman on behalf of Luzerne County.



From left: Michael Ferraro, MD, associate dean for South (Wilkes-Barre) Regional Campus; Thomas E. Leighton, mayor of Wilkes-Barre; Steven J. Scheinman, MD, TCMC president and dean; Alison Duncan, MD, member of TCMC's first graduating MD class; Cor Catena, CEO of Commonwealth Health & Wilkes-Barre General Hospital; Clayton Karambelas, board member of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce; PA Senator Lisa Baker; Tim McGinley, president of Luzerne County Council; William D. Moore, president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce.

WEST CAMPUS

Spring is a period of transition for both nature and in the West Campus of TCMC. Our third year students are taking their exams and finishing up their clinical experiences. They are discerning their choice of specialty and formulating their 4th year experiences at both TCMC and other institutions across the Commonwealth and the country. Our charter class has graduated and is in the process of moving and settling into the communities where they will start their residencies on July 1. Wedding bells are ringing for some of them!

We are also in the process of gearing up for the arrival of our complement of the Class of 2015, who are actively finding housing in the region

and finishing up their 2nd year classes. We will even have some members of the Class of 2016 here doing summer projects this year.

So we have a full plate as you can see, enough to keep us very busy. Our Volunteer Clinical Faculty members have been very supportive and cooperative in precepting our students and this continues into this, our third year of delivering our innovative clinical curriculum to our students. We continue to believe that "together we can change the future!"

—Keith Shenberger, MD
Associate Dean for
West (Williamsport) Regional Campus

NORTH CAMPUS

Eight medical students will fulfill their third year clinical rotations full-time at Pocono Medical Center (PMC) in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania following TCMC's Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (LIC) model. Over the coming year, these students will be rotating in each of the six core disciplines of medicine, surgery, pediatric, psychiatry, OB/GYN and family medicine training with clinical preceptors and connecting with patient panels.

"The LIC represents a pioneering approach to teaching medical education. Since a medical student can now follow a patient for the entire year, I believe

it will help students foster empathy for that patient and understand the dynamic relationships that occur in a family," stated Jonathan A. Goldner, DO, FCCP, FCCM, Chief Medical Executive, Medicine and Chronic Disease, Pocono Health System. "An added benefit is seeing how all the medical disciplines interact with each other in providing health care."

Students at PMC:

Shreya Trivedi	Jennifer Wu
Brandt Maloney	Cham Santé
Alexandra Belcher	Carol Fouad
Hendrik Marais	Ghazal Quinn

▶ To learn more about the LIC, go to www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/MDyear3

Noteworthy Academic Dates

MD1: Orientation

August 5 to 9

Semester Begins

August 12

White Coat Ceremony

August 9

4:00pm

Location:

St. Robert Bellarmine
Theater, Scranton Prep

Keynote Speaker:

Jonathan A. Goldner,
DO, FCCP, FCCM,
Chief Medical Executive,
Medicine and Chronic
Disease, Pocono
Health System

MD2: Orientation

August 19

Semester Begins

August 19

MBS: Orientation

August 19 and 20

Semester Begins

August 21

Founders Society Celebration

In the early days of The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC), a group of individuals, organizations, corporations and foundations stepped forward to ensure the success of the Commonwealth's new medical college through generous contributions for student scholarships and operations. TCMC is sincerely grateful for their support and recognize them as members of our Founders Society.

On March 16, the Founders Society was invited to a special celebration honoring them for their support. The event also served to recognize the MD Charter Class for their outstanding accomplishments.



From left: Dr. Robert Wright; Sara Roper, MD4; Mrs. Carole Wright.



From left: Adam Pascoe, MD4, and Mr. Thomas P. Tulaney, a trustee of the Roy W. Piper Charitable Trust.



Standing left to right: Gerald P. Tracy, MD, Founder; Alison Duncan, MD4; Atty. Morey and Sondra Myers, Founders; Rivkah Darabaner, MD4; Mrs. Darabaner. Sitting left to right: Mary Tracy, Founder; Dr. Ethan Bassett; Holly Catherine Gillis, MD4; John Atkins, Founder.

Calling All Alumni

Share your latest news with TCMC alumni, students, faculty and staff.

Did you start a new job, receive an award, complete a research study, tie the knot, start a family, or relocate? We want to hear from you.

Alumni Notes will be published in *The Journal* beginning in the Fall issue.

Stay in touch and submit your latest news to alumni@tcmedc.org, on the Alumni Portal, or through the alumni website page, www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/alumni.

Simulated OR Underway

Alan Goldstein, active volunteer and longtime supporter of TCMC, is coordinating a project to convert two rooms in the Clinical Skills and Simulation Center into a simulated operating room. Mr. Goldstein has established an escrow fund for equipment purchases and is soliciting area hospitals to donate OR equipment that is no longer being utilized and is in good working condition. "The simulated operating room is one more step towards completing the dream of those who started TCMC to provide our students with everything they need to succeed along their incredible journey," says Mr. Goldstein. "I strongly encourage area medical groups, hospitals, individuals and corporations to join me in assisting the development of the operating room."

To make a donation, contact Marise Garofalo, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, at (570) 207-3689 or mgarofalo@tcmedc.org.

Donor Spotlight

Message from one of our Founders Society Members

Watch us on PALive!



TCMC Leadership, faculty and students have been monthly guests on PALive!, WBRE-TV's hour-long community show covering northeast and north central Pennsylvania. This year's topics have included:

- Match Day
- Diversity Week
- Timmy's Town Center Children's Snowball
- Obesity Symposium

▶ Video clips are available in the video library online at www.thecommonwealthmedical.com

WVIA's State of Pennsylvania



The April 4th broadcast titled "NEPA did it! Doctors are born" took place on location at TCMC and featured three MD4 students, one from each regional campus, Sara Roper (West), Charles Karcutskie (South), and Radhika Patnam (North), and Dr. Scheinman as panelists. The audience was filled with faculty, staff, students, and community members. Additional audience interviews were given by Dr. Robert Naismith and Meg Mathewson, MD4. The broadcast was replayed multiple times throughout the weekend and following weeks.

The founding of The Commonwealth Medical College may be the best thing that's happened in Scranton in my lifetime. In a sense, it came over the transom. Who could have dreamed—who could have hoped—that we would have a medical college in Scranton? Notwithstanding the fact that our fine academic institutions are an important part of our economic, civic and cultural environment, the arrival of a medical school was an exponential leap forward—a daring and assertive—one might even say heroic—act of faith!



We knew that we wanted to support the enterprise—an institution that promised to be state of the art, with a proper mix of tradition and innovation and, most important, high standards with regard to its curriculum, faculty and students. TCMC is all of those things. It has a noble mission and a bold vision.

Morey and I became founders and were introduced to our very engaging and intelligent student, Rivkah Darabaner. Her conscientious scholarship, her enthusiasm and her grace have made our investment in her education a true privilege. I knew before her graduation that if we could, we would "do it again," continuing to ensure that TCMC could attract and accept excellent students that needed support as well as those who were excellent but could go it alone financially. We hope that others of the "founding" founders will do the same. I trust that they have been as inspired as we have by the results of their investments.

While I had high expectations for TCMC from its beginnings, it has exceeded my expectations. What our region needs more than anything is not only physicians to take care of an aging population; we need the confidence to insist on the best—to go for the gold. Let the strengths of TCMC be our guide.

Sondra Myers
TCMC Founders Society

Save the Date

TCMC 2013 Golf Tournament

Monday, September 30, 2013

▶ www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/golf

TCMC 2013 Gala

Friday, October 18, 2013

▶ www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/gala

An Indelible Mark: TCMC Mourns the Loss of Charter Class Graduate, Dr. Jennifer Sidari



Just weeks after The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) celebrated the first ever MD graduation ceremony, one of the promising new doctors, Jennifer Sidari, passed away unexpectedly on May 29 leaving a tremendous void where her extraordinary talent, passion, and ambition should have been. A member of TCMC's charter class and a graduate of The University of Scranton, Jennifer was a compassionate and joyful friend, classmate, and doctor who deeply cared for the welfare of others and worked tirelessly for their benefit.

Locally, Jennifer volunteered at the Care and Concern Clinic in Pittston, Pennsylvania. She operated a pediatric clinic in Haiti this past spring and had also taken trips to South Africa and Oakland, California to work with HIV-infected children.

"Jennifer's character demonstrated depth of compassion, humility, and commitment to justice," said Janet Townsend, MD, chair, Department of Family, Community, and Rural Health at TCMC. "She was able to form partnerships and friendships wherever she went. To be in her presence as she learned and reflected on her experiences was a great joy."

Set to begin her residency training in pediatrics at the Janet Weis Children's Hospital in Danville, Pennsylvania in early June, Jennifer always loved children and was anxious to make a difference as a pediatrician.

Valerie D. Weber, MD, MS, chair, Department of Clinical Sciences, and associate dean for Clinical Affairs at TCMC, witnessed Jennifer's extraordinary compassion. "Jennifer radiated joy when working with children," Dr. Weber said. "Some people live their whole lives without finding their calling—but it was clear Jennifer had found hers and she would have

become an outstanding pediatrician. Although she will be greatly missed, she left an indelible mark on TCMC and on those she touched during her time caring for patients as a medical student."

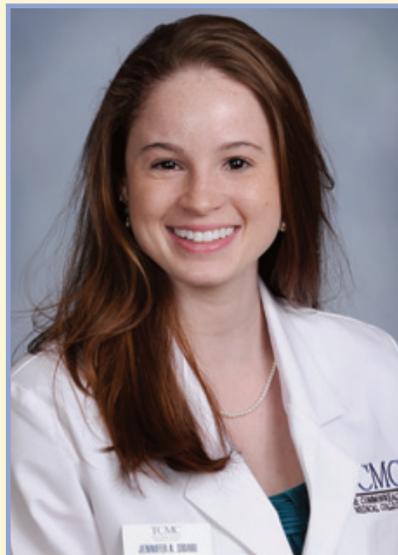
Despite her shortened life, Jennifer was already recognized for her accomplishments. She was nominated by the American Medical Association for its Physicians of Tomorrow Award, and TCMC honored her with its Global Pride Award, established in

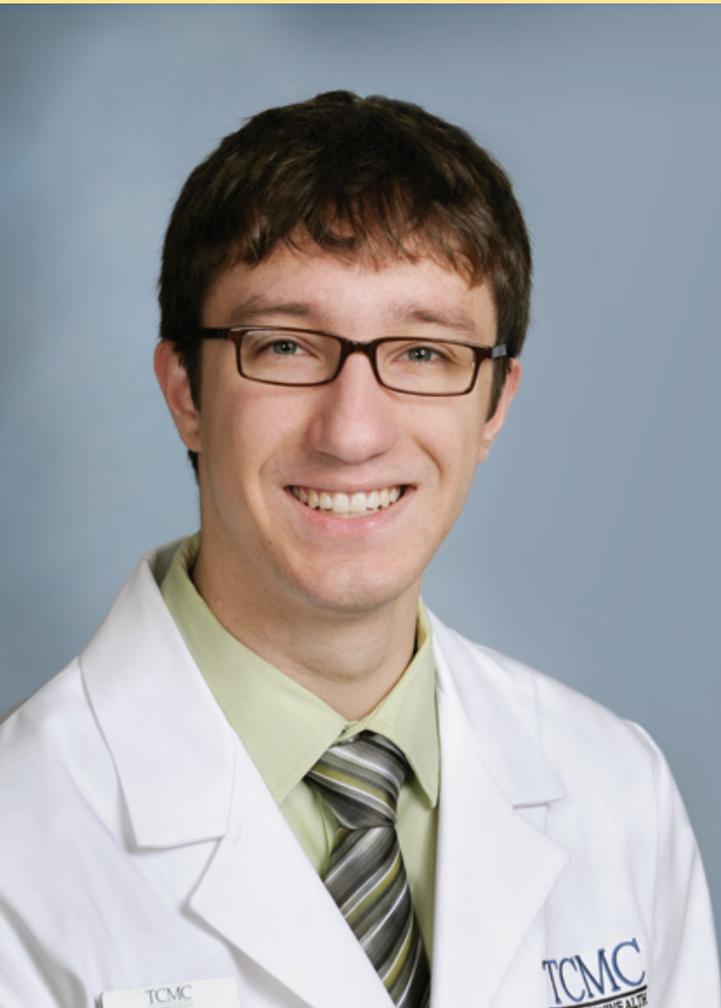
memory of Jennifer's mentor, Dr. Raymond Smego. While she received many accolades, Jennifer will most be remembered for her selflessness, her smile, and her loving spirit.

"Jennifer was a remarkable student and a remarkable individual and was going to be a wonderful doctor," stated Steven J. Scheinman, MD, TCMC president and dean. "Her class, the charter class of TCMC, included many stars; but among them, she stood out. There was an exuberant joy about everything she did. She was passionate about helping people and about children and was tremendously excited

to be heading to a career in pediatrics. Her patients would have been fortunate to have such a wonderful doctor. In her commitment to TCMC, to her classmates, to her family, and to her community, she exemplified the best hopes of the founders of the College."

Jennifer is survived by her parents, two siblings, her fiancé, and many extended family members, all of whom hope Jennifer's life's work will be continued by her TCMC classmates. The Jennifer Sidari, M.D., Scholarship Fund was established at TCMC in her memory. Donations may be sent to the Development Office, The Commonwealth Medical College, 525 Pine St., Scranton, PA 18509.





“It makes me want to help other students when I have the means.”

– Thomas Churilla, MD
TCMC Charter Class Member

Scranton native and TCMC charter class member Thomas Churilla, MD, was accepted at several medical colleges, but he chose TCMC because of what he called “a transformative interview.”

“The mission and the people really spoke to me. I believed in the mission. I believed in my community.”

“I am incredibly fortunate to have a lower debt load than many,” Churilla said. “It gives me peace of mind and something much more. The scholarships showed how much the community cares about us. People have given tremendous amounts of money to help us succeed. I entered medicine not for the money but to help people, to apply science to human care. Knowing the community cares so much is an unbelievable feeling. It makes me want to help other students when I have the means.”

To make a donation or for more information, please contact
the **Office of Annual Giving** at (570) 504-9619.
Visit www.thecommonwealthmedical.com/giving