

SUMMER 2014

The Journal



TCMC[®]
THE COMMONWEALTH
MEDICAL COLLEGE

FOUNDERS SOCIETY

In the early days of The Commonwealth Medical College, 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. We are sincerely grateful for their support and recognize them as members of our Founders Society.

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ex officio

A Message from the President and Dean



The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC) has celebrated another marvelous commencement ceremony. This is a fitting time to reflect on a year of significant and ground-breaking achievements in medicine and education.

We have launched another group of talented graduates toward successful and rewarding careers. This year's Residency Match program drew widespread attention throughout and beyond northeast and north central Pennsylvania. Our MD graduates found excellent positions at some of the nation's most prestigious training programs, academic and community-based hospitals alike. Our MBS graduates are well-prepared for careers in medicine and other health professions. Our honorary degree recipient, Fitzhugh Mullan, MD — a national leader in public and global health — delivered an inspiring commencement address. Dr.

Mullan observed, fittingly, that the curriculum at TCMC represents the next evolution of medical education, taking it beyond the Flexner model from a century ago.

Every year, the number of applicants to TCMC grows progressively larger and more competitive. This year's entering class will have been selected from nearly 6,000 applicants. The innovation of our curriculum, the strength of our mission, and the success of our students and graduates are bringing well-deserved attention to TCMC from across the country.

The finances of the College have improved to the satisfaction of our accreditors. While we still await official determination of our status from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, pending in late June, both accreditation site visit teams agreed that our finances are sustainable. The TCMC Board shares this confidence and has decided not to pursue affiliation with a university or hospital system. This will allow TCMC to chart its own course and preserve its mission as an independent college of medicine.

We will soon launch our fundraising campaign for scholarships. Our fundraising goal will be ambitious, but we have already enjoyed gratifying success and have surpassed our fundraising goals of the past year. We expect to do the same this coming year.

So as we take pride in another commencement, we should take stock in our many accomplishments and look forward to an ever exciting future. Our brilliant students, generous donors, dedicated faculty and staff, and loyal community have made this all possible. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Scheinman, MD

DEAN DELIVERS KEYNOTE SPEECH ON DENT'S DISEASE

On April 30, 2014, TCMC President and Dean Steven J. Scheinman, MD, presented the keynote speech at Winthrop University Hospital's 7th Annual House Staff and Clinical Campus Student Research Day in Mineola, NY. His presentation, "Dent's Disease: Solving a Clinical Mystery with Molecular Genetics," described his research team's work in describing a new genetic disease and identifying two genes that cause it.

Dent's disease is an X-linked hereditary condition affecting males who develop kidney stones, mineral abnormalities, and ultimately renal failure. Dr. Scheinman's research has explored the genetics of kidney stones and renal failure.

Winthrop Hospital is a clinical campus of SUNY Stony Brook. Approximately 25% of Stony Brook's medical students spend their third and fourth years at Winthrop, which also offers a range of residency programs. Approximately 250 people attended Dr. Scheinman's keynote address, which highlighted a day of events that included a competition of one hundred seventeen poster presentations and four oral presentations by students and residents.



ON THE COVER:

Michelle Sarah Junker, MD '14, and Joseph Thomas McGinn III, MD '14, at TCMC's Commencement on May 10 at The F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts in Wilkes-Barre.



SCHOLARS AND LEADERS

The mission of Alpha Epsilon Lambda (AEL) National Honor Society is to confer distinction for high achievement, promote leadership development, promote scholarship and encourage intellectual development, enrich the intellectual environment of graduate education institutions, and encourage high standards of ethical behavior. The twelve Master of Biomedical Sciences (MBS) inductees honored on May 8 skillfully displayed the noteworthy academic and leadership qualities to which AEL pays tribute.

AEL MEMBERS OF THE MBS CLASS OF 2014

Sahil Chaddha
Juliana Chang
Jared Michael Egbert
Wesley Stephan Hwang
Eunice Margaret Marpaung
Mary Katherine Meadowcroft
Esteban N. Mercado Rodriguez
Carolyn Rose Murrer
Allen W. Nelson
Akindele Adedapo Olagunju
Daniel Janos Savaria
Andrew Vasilius Tsitsilianos



ABOVE GROUP PHOTO: Seated, L to R: Mary Katherine Meadowcroft, MBS '14; Juliana Chang, MBS '14; Eunice Margaret Marpaung, MBS '14; Carolyn Rose Murrer, MBS '14. Standing, L to R: Andrew Vasilius Tsitsilianos, MBS '14; Jared Michael Egbert, MBS '14; Wesley Stephan Hwang, MBS '14; Allen W. Nelson, MBS '14; Akindele Adedapo Olagunju, MBS '14; Daniel Janos Savaria, MBS '14; Sahil Chaddha, MBS '14; Esteban N. Mercado Rodriguez, MBS '14; Jennifer Smith, PhD, Director of Master of Biomedical Sciences Program and AEL Faculty Advisor.

THE HEART OF THE PROFESSION



On March 20, TCMC held our second Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) induction ceremony. 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." Nine members of the Doctor of Medicine (MD) Class of 2014 and two faculty members were honored for their embodiment of the values of humanism and professionalism within the field of medicine.

Kevin Baker, MD '14, and Dr. Greenwald were also awarded 2014 Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation prior to Commencement in May.



This award is presented to the student and faculty member who best demonstrate the Foundation's ideals of outstanding compassion in the delivery of care, respect for patients, their families, and healthcare colleagues, as well as demonstrated clinical excellence.

GHHS MEMBERS OF THE MD CLASS OF 2014

Kevin John Baker
Samantha Adriana Conroy
Eleanor Anne Gillis
Daniel Alexander Gonzalez
Matthew M. Kongkatong

Katherine Josephine Lattanzio
Morgan Kutzman Motia
Sean Joseph Wallace
Allison Marie Young

TCMC FACULTY MEMBERS
David Greenwald, MD,
South Regional Campus
Sarah Kent, MD,
West Regional Campus



L to R: David Greenwald, MD, South Regional Campus Faculty Member; Morgan Kutzman Motia, MD '14; Allison Marie Young, MD '14; Matthew M. Kongkatong, MD '14; Sean Joseph Wallace, MD '14; Daniel Alexander Gonzalez, MD '14; Samantha Adriana Conroy, MD '14; Eleanor Anne Gillis, MD '14; Kevin John Baker, MD '14; Katherine Josephine Lattanzio, MD '14; Janet Townsend, MD, Founding Chair of Department of Family, Community and Rural Health and GHHS Faculty Advisor; Steven J. Scheinman, MD, President and Dean. Missing from Photo: Sarah Kent, MD, West Regional Campus Faculty Member.



TCMC MATCHES WITH THE BEST

"It was wonderful to be surrounded by family and friends who could all share in our enjoyment... I feel confident and prepared for residency. The preceptors I had during my clinical years really pushed me to learn more and expand my skills."

-IAN TAFEL, MD '14, OF PHILADELPHIA, MATCHED IN NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY AT BRIGHAM & WOMEN'S HOSPITAL, MA

On March 21, at approximately 12:00 pm, anxious and excited medical students around the nation – 64 of which were TCMC students – tore into one of the most important envelopes they will ever open. These envelopes held the much-anticipated information about where they will continue their postgraduate medical training at teaching hospitals throughout the United States.

For more than 60 years, the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) has conducted a computerized match that pairs eligible fourth-year medical students with open residency programs. This year, TCMC's Class of 2014 competed with over 40,000 applicants for 29,671 positions. According to the NRMP, of those who matched, nearly 80% of applicants this year obtained one of their top three choice programs.

Following TCMC's second Match Day celebration,



Steven J. Scheinman, MD, TCMC's president and dean remarked, "The Match process is highly competitive, and the number of residency positions is finite. I am particularly proud of these students, every one of whom has been placed at an excellent residency program, including some of America's most prestigious training programs.

These are remarkable students who are well on their way to becoming skilled and compassionate physicians."

TCMC medical students placed into 59 programs at 53 hospitals across the country; 42% of TCMC students matched in primary care (pediatrics, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, family medicine) and 23% matched in a surgical field (plastic surgery, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, general surgery and preliminary surgery). Following graduation, students will begin their residencies in the following specialties: anesthesiology, emergency medicine, dermatology, family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopaedic surgery, otolaryngology, pathology, pediatrics, psychiatry, radiation oncology, radiology, and general, neurological and plastic surgery.

Learn more about TCMC's Match results by visiting thecommonwealthmedical.com/ResidencyMatch



COMMENCEMENT

2014

THE COMMONWEALTH MEDICAL COLLEGE

May 10 marked the end of a watershed academic year for TCMC. At The E.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts in Wilkes-Barre, the College conferred degrees upon 66 Doctor of Medicine (MD) graduates and 55 graduates of the Master of Biomedical Sciences (MBS) program. As our second MD and fifth MBS classes, these alumni mark our institution's growth past infancy and adolescence into young adulthood.

Our medical students will move on to residency programs where they will train in a range of medical specialties, and our MBS students will go on to pursue careers in medicine, research, education, or biomedical technology. Each enters their chosen profession with TCMC's special values instilled in them.

This year's honorary degree recipient was Fitzhugh Mullan, MD, Murdock Head Professor of Medicine and Health Policy and Professor of Pediatrics at The George Washington University. Dr. Mullan has devoted his life's work to public and global health, healthcare workforce issues, and the challenges in medical and public health policy. In his inspiring and

"Social purpose is a broad idea that speaks to what a person or an organization does to improve the conditions in the community. In regard to a medical school, it is not about scholarship or board scores or numbers of students graduated. It is about what the school's role is in improving its society - in this case, its community or region."

- FITZHUGH MULLAN, MD

instructive speech, he spoke about the significance of physicians' social responsibilities, and he praised TCMC's innovative mission and exemplary values.

Steven J. Scheinman, MD, TCMC's President and Dean, instructed the new doctors: "It is a great privilege to be invited into the lives of patients as physicians are. You have earned this degree that we've given you today. But this great privilege is something that you have to earn anew every day."



Awards Ceremony

Graduates received special recognitions at the MD and MBS Classes of 2014 Award Ceremony, Alumni Society Induction, and Military Commissioning on May 7.

For a complete list of awardees, visit thecommonwealthmedical.com/2014awards

John R. & Maureen J. Pesavento
Community Service Award



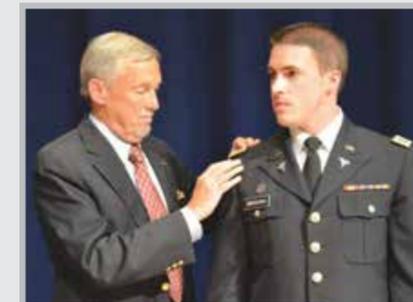
L to R: John Pesavento; Sandy Pesavento; Maureen Pesavento; Amanda Dippold, MD '14; Steven J. Scheinman, MD, President and Dean; Mary Pesavento Icker.

Dr. Lester Saidman Annual Excellence
in Emergency Medicine Award



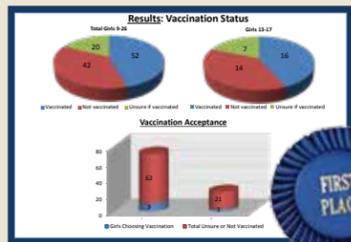
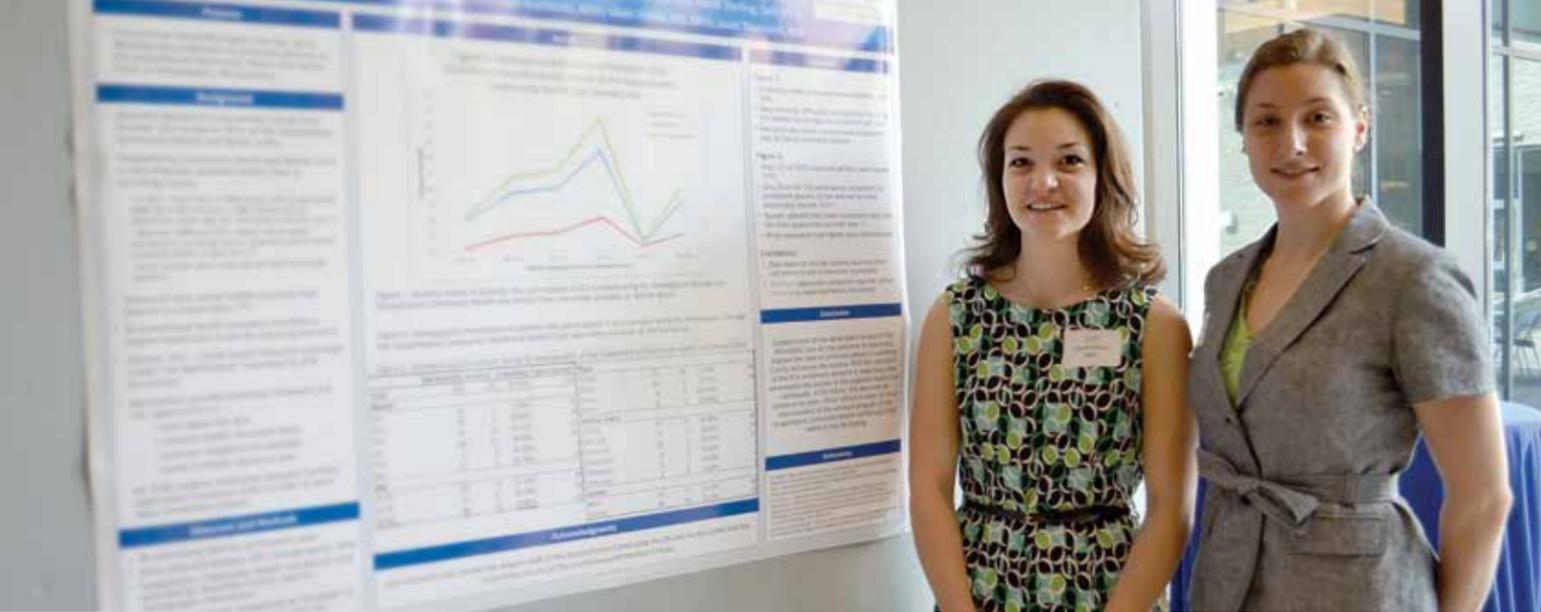
Seated, L to R: Steven Kafrrissen, MD; Sheila Saidman, Esq. Standing, L to R: Steven J. Scheinman, MD, President and Dean; Melissa Saidman; Bruce Saidman, MD; Alan Johnson, MD '14; David Greenwald, MD; Carol Saidman Greenwald.

Military Commissioning Ceremony



L to R: John Brent Drescher; Christopher Corbin Drescher, MD '14, 2nd Lieutenant, United States Army Reserve commissioned to Captain, United States Army.





A CLOSER LOOK

This year's first place winner among the QuICCs was titled, "A Quality Improvement Initiative to Increase HPV Vaccine Rate at Loyalsock Family Practice." The students aimed to improve vaccination rates in the Loyalsock Family Practice in Williamsport to above the national average.

To see these posters in detail, visit thecommonwealthmedical.com/2014ResearchSymposiumSpotlight.



"Our project informed teens, especially young women, about the HPV virus, enabling them to take an active role in their own health care. By giving them the knowledge, we helped them facilitate important and possibly life-saving conversations with their families and healthcare providers."

- KELLYANN NIOTIS, MD CLASS OF 2016

RESEARCH TO BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY

In May, TCMC hosted our 5th Annual Spring Research Symposium. This event highlights the achievements of our students, faculty, and community partners, who together conducted meaningful research and quality improvement projects throughout northeast and north central Pennsylvania. TCMC's research programs include biomedical and translational research in the areas of cancer, aging, and chronic illness, as well as community health and clinical investigations.

The two-day symposium kicked off on May 8 with keynote speaker, Mary F. Barbe, PhD, Professor of Anatomy & Cell Biology and Director of MicroCT Core and Imaging Center at Temple University School of Medicine. Following the speaker, faculty, staff, and residents participated in a poster session highlighting their latest research. TCMC second-year medical students then presented their Quality Improvement Community Collaborative (QuICC) projects which involve working closely with clinical partners throughout TCMC's three campuses — North, South, and West — to address important healthcare quality issues.

On May 9, TCMC's first-year medical students presented their Community Health Research Projects (CHRP). The CHRP experience provides students with an opportunity to apply the concepts, strategies, and tools acquired through the course of their studies to health research and to contribute to improved health

A notable CHRP from this year was titled, "Outreach and Insurance Enrollment Activities at Susquehanna Community Health and Dental Center in Williamsport, Pennsylvania." Students spent time characterizing the initial Affordable Care Act Marketplace enrollment of uninsured patients at the Susquehanna Community Health and Dental Clinic.

"The healthcare landscape in this country is changing and areas such as rural Pennsylvania are often overlooked when evaluating the results of such national changes. Therefore, the fact that our CHRP centered on this region in the assessment of the success of healthcare enrollment is important to us as investigators and to myself as a lifelong member of the community."

- LAUREN MCGEE, MD CLASS OF 2017

in the region by conducting projects with community partners. Finally, to conclude the Spring Research Symposium, a keynote address was given by Kay Jones, PhD, Executive Director of Schuylkill County's VISION, who spoke about "Faith Based and Public Health Partnerships."

Art THE ART OF TCMC

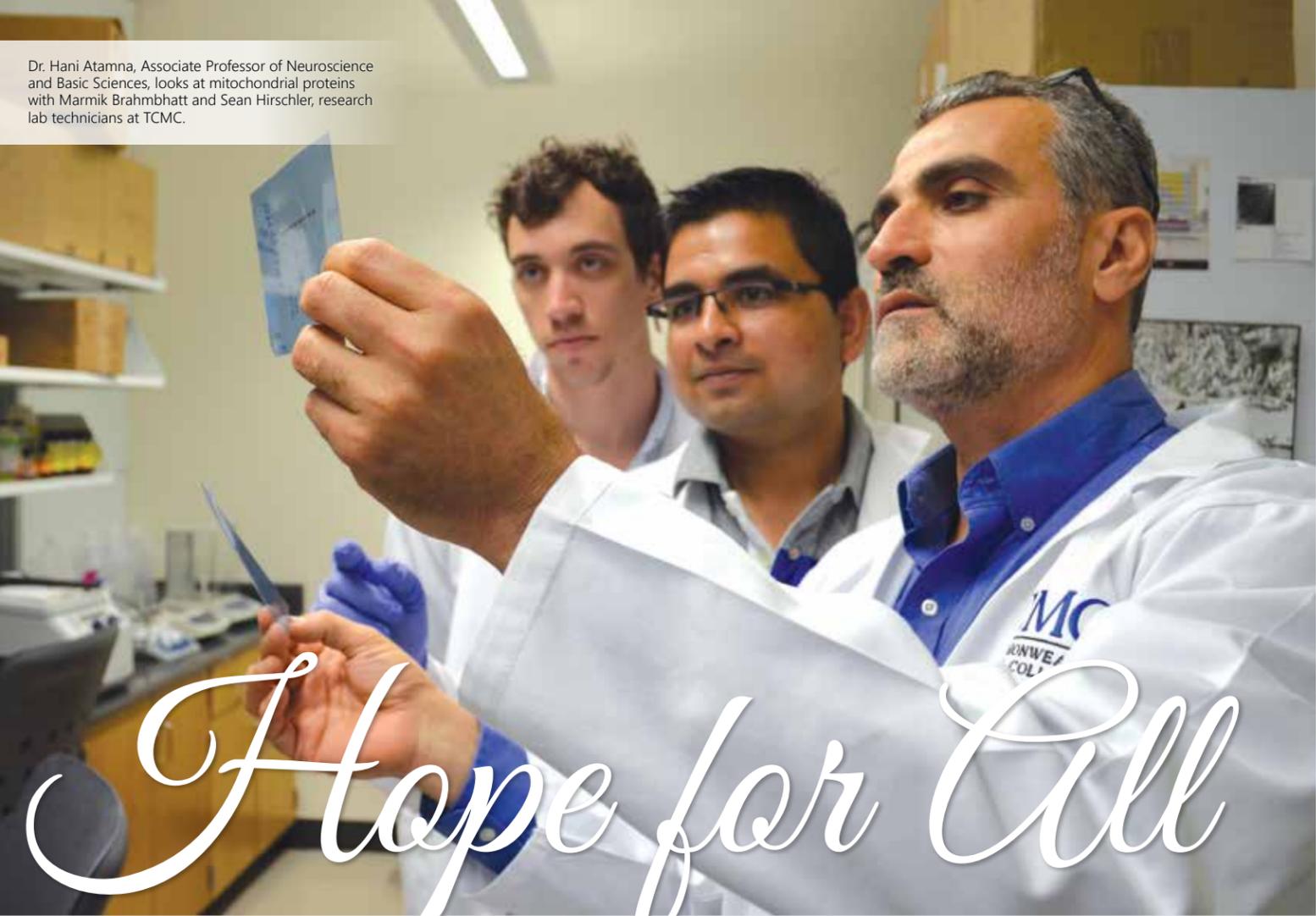
With TCMC's community-based, patient-centered model of education, it is not surprising that our students, faculty, and staff exhibit *humanitas*, a Latin word indicating kindness and culture. Many are gifted in the arts and regularly share their talents with our community. The humanities offer an inspiring opportunity to study who we are, collectively, as human beings, allowing us to understand the significance of each new person we encounter, teach, serve, and heal.

This year, TCMC held our annual student talent show in February, which featured culinary, performing, musical, and fine arts. We also held our first National Poetry Month Celebration in April, where students, faculty, and staff honored the beauty of language. At our annual Celebration of Remembrance, we commemorated those individuals who helped to enhance medical education through the donation of their bodies with readings and musical reflections prepared by students and faculty. The varied disciplines of the humanities play a significant role in the life of TCMC's community.

Get more involved in the arts at TCMC! Are you interested in donating your paintings or photography to decorate the walls of the Medical Sciences Building? Are you a writer or graphic designer who wants to contribute to the next edition of *Black Diamonds*, TCMC's literary journal? Please contact Dr. Olapeju Simoyan at osimoyan@tcmedc.org for more information.



Dr. Hani Atamna, Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Basic Sciences, looks at mitochondrial proteins with Marmik Brahmhatt and Sean Hirschler, research lab technicians at TCMC.



Hope for All

TCMC RESEARCH OFFERS HOPE FOR ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS

Five years ago, Mrs. Sally Marquardt first noticed something wrong with Richard, her husband of 58 years.

He was becoming forgetful. She recalls, "He seemed to be in another world and didn't connect quickly with thoughts. He had trouble driving."

Mrs. Marquardt had Richard evaluated by Mario Cornacchione, DO, MS, at the NEPA Memory & Alzheimer's Center. A full evaluation confirmed their worst fears: Richard, 80, has Alzheimer's disease, which destroys the ability of the brain's neurons to connect with one another. It causes a loss of memory, thinking, verbal and behavioral skills.

"It's a tragedy, not only for the person with Alzheimer's, but for the family and friends who are involved."

- MRS. SALLY MARQUARDT

An estimated 5.4 million Americans of all ages have Alzheimer's disease. This includes an estimated 5 million people age 65 or older and approximately 200,000

people under age 65 with early-onset Alzheimer's. One American develops Alzheimer's every 68 seconds.

Because aging is a key risk factor for Alzheimer's disease, the number of cases is expected to rise sharply as baby boomers age. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of people age 65 and older will more than double between 2010 and 2050 to 88.5 million or 20 percent of the population; likewise, those 85 and older will rise three-fold, to 19 million. Currently, Alzheimer's has no long-term effective treatment and no known cure.

Here in NEPA, patients are fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in clinical trials of potential new drug therapies for the prevention, delay of onset, and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Cornacchione, a geriatrician and associate professor at TCMC, is currently conducting these trials as part of a group of 100 research sites around the world.

Dr. Cornacchione recognizes Alzheimer's disease requires comprehensive care. "It is a devastating disease for both the individual and the entire family system," he

says. "Both require care not only because of memory issues but also the behavioral issues, the need for guidance on chronic disease management and future care planning based on the stages of the disease and the increasing sense of burden and stress in the caregiver."

Currently used medications only treat symptoms of the disease. "What we need are medications which truly alter the course of the disease in a meaningful way," he says. The medications he is studying and most of the nearly 100 other medications currently being studied around the world are targeted to have this effect.

The brains of Alzheimer's patients are clogged with either Amyloid-beta plaques, sticky clumps of protein fragments that form around neurons, or neurofibrillary tangles. Scientists are uncertain whether these lesions are the consequence of Alzheimer's or the cause of it.

Dr. Cornacchione's team is studying the effects of two different medications. One is an antibody which binds to and removes existing Amyloid-beta protein from the brain. The other prevents the brain from producing Amyloid-beta. Patients with both mild cognitive impairment, a stage just prior to the development of Alzheimer's disease, and established Alzheimer's disease are participating in separate trials, which last for two years. The trials are in the final stage of testing before submission to the FDA for approval and use in patients.

While there might not currently be a cure for Alzheimer's, there is additional hope, thanks to Hani Atamna, PhD, Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Biochemistry at TCMC. With funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR), the Giovanna and Ames Foundation, and TCMC, Dr. Atamna is searching for the root cause and a treatment to change the course of the disease, ease suffering and ultimately save lives.

Dr. Atamna's goal is to find the cause of Alzheimer's at the mitochondrial level. He is researching what stresses neurons so they become dysfunctional, and how we can protect the mitochondria during aging.

Dr. Atamna also seeks to find a biomarker, which Alzheimer's currently does not have. "There's no blood test to identify who's at risk, or who's incubating but not showing the signs," he says. "By the time Alzheimer's damage is visible on a brain scan, it has progressed beyond any treatment."

He explains, "Neurons are social. They love communicating with each other.

Neurons that disconnect from others are in stress and are going to die. Once you lose neurons, you cannot get them back."

Dr. Atamna is studying Amyloid-beta protein to discover how and why, in some aging people, neurons stop communicating with each other and producing energy.

"We know Amyloid-beta protein causes neurotoxicity, which appears at the cellular level when neurons lose their communications and die," he says. "It also compromises the ability for neurons to produce enough energy for intellectual activities."

In addition, Dr. Atamna and his team are investigating therapeutic strategies to preserve energy metabolism of the brain in normal and abnormal aging as in the case of the victims of Alzheimer's disease.

They are making progress on both fronts and are studying candidate drugs that enhance the ability of cells to produce or sustain energy over time.

"We've also identified a new species of Amyloid-beta that can potentially explain a lot of our observations that we didn't yet understand," he says. "Once we understand how Amyloid-beta works, we can propose how to manipulate the disease and change its course by developing medications."

Eventually, Dr. Atamna and his team want to bring candidate drugs to clinical trials. His goal is to delay Alzheimer's onset or prevent it altogether.

For the Marquardts, the hope of a cure brings hope to the whole family.

A future where Alzheimer's is just a bad memory.



"I hope there's help for Alzheimer's patients in the future. It's going to take a lot of research and funding to find the cause, but hopefully it will come within our four children's generation."

- MRS. SALLY MARQUARDT

The Marquardts at their home in Waverly, PA.



ALLEY-OOP FOR AUTISM

TCMC's Basketball Club and MD Class of 2016 hosted its third annual charity 3-on-3 basketball tournament on February 15. All proceeds benefited the Northeast Regional Center for Autism at the Friendship House.



L to R: James R. Martin, Vice President/Chief Operating Officer at Friendship House; Julia Brister, EIBI Center Manager at Friendship House; Christine A. Gilroy, Vice President / Chief Financial Officer at Friendship House; Shrut Patel, MD Class of 2016; Gregory Jones, MD Class of 2016.



COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

On May 3, TCMC's American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Student Chapter held a Community Baby Shower for mothers-to-be and expectant families with limited resources living in northeast and north central Pennsylvania. During the event, moms-to-be played shower games and received donations of new and gently used baby items.



ONE BIG DIVERSE FAMILY

From January 13-17, TCMC celebrated heritage, culture, and diversity during our second Diversity Week. The observance included informational seminars and presentations by students, faculty, and keynote speakers and concluded with a Latino/Caribbean luncheon, live cultural entertainment, and a fashion show.





RAISING AWARENESS INSPIRING HOPE

On February 22, a panel of experts gathered at TCMC to educate a packed auditorium of patients, supporters, students, and healthcare providers about the latest diagnosis and treatment of Interstitial Cystitis (IC). Also known as painful bladder syndrome, or chronic pelvic pain, IC is a chronic inflammatory condition that occurs along the lining of the bladder and urethra that commonly causes chronic pelvic and genital pain, along with increased frequency and urgency of urination. According to the

Interstitial Cystitis Association, four million women and men in the United States have been diagnosed with IC and another eight million are experiencing symptoms of the disease but are undiagnosed.

Katie Gilarde, an Abington Heights High School student and IC patient, organized this special event as a senior project. The aim of her work was to raise awareness among the general public as well as inspire hope for others affected by this painful

condition. Presentations by the expert panel provided a unique perspective on IC that spanned

its impact on patient quality of life, challenges associated with treatment and diagnosis, and novel, non-surgical approaches to treating IC symptoms. Sonia Lobo Planey, PhD, Interim Associate Dean for Research and Associate Professor of Biochemistry at TCMC, reported on her latest research efforts to develop a non-invasive test for IC.

Current tests identify fewer than 75% of patients with IC and are expensive, sometimes painful and can involve an invasive procedure performed under general anesthesia. Dr. Planey is the recipient of a three-year, \$945,142 Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) Investigator-Initiated Research Award from the Department of Defense to study the disease. Her research aims to develop a non-invasive test for IC that, if approved, would not only be safer and less costly, but it will help physicians quickly diagnose this painful condition.

Seated, L to R: Marco Fiato, IC Patient; Heather Taddy from A&E TV's *Paranormal State*, IC Patient; Katie Gilarde, IC Patient. Standing, L to R: Sonia Lobo Planey, PhD, Interim Associate Dean for Research and Associate Professor of Biochemistry; Robert J. Echenberg, MD, Founder of Institute for Women in Pain; Diana Pope-Albright, PT, DPT, MS, Assistant Vice President of Outpatient Services at Allied Services Rehabilitation Hospital.



Donor Spotlight: INTERMOUNTAIN MEDICAL GROUP, PC

An affiliate of Commonwealth Health, InterMountain Medical Group, P.C., is one of the area's largest multi-specialty group practices, representing over 50 physicians at 30 locations throughout the Greater Wyoming Valley. Headquartered in Plains, PA, the group is community-minded and has been a solid supporter of The Commonwealth Medical College since its inception.

InterMountain Medical Group invested in TCMC and offered a scholarship four years ago. According to the group's Chief Operating Officer, Donna Powell, "We value what the college brings to the community and wanted to help ensure its success. Our physicians voted unanimously to make a significant contribution as a founder and help a student in need. The physicians recognize the debt involved in completing medical education."

InterMountain Medical Group recently decided to continue to support the College and renew their scholarship commitment. "We want to support training of medical students with ties to northeast Pennsylvania. As physicians, our group views this contribution as a way to support other physicians," said Donna. "Seeing the donor plaques on the wall when visiting TCMC reminds us that we should be part of the college. And we want to continue to be part of it," she added.

It is very meaningful to the group to make a gift to TCMC and see how it supports the mission. At a recent group meeting, the physicians met with one of their scholarship recipients, Laura Heck, who was very well-received. "It was nice to see how the donation is being used. And it was great to see the interaction they had with Laura. She was a delight, a top-notch student."



L to R: Durelle T. Scott, MD, President and Chairman of the Board, InterMountain Medical Group; John Citti, MD, Regional Education Coordinator, Internal Medicine, TCMC South Regional Campus; Donna Powell, Chief Operating Officer, InterMountain Medical Group; Steven J. Scheinman, President and Dean, TCMC; Marise Garofalo, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, TCMC.

InterMountain Medical Group specifically awards their scholarship to a third-year student who is focused on primary care. "We are building on successes for the future. And we are supporting a student who has chosen a specialty of medicine that is much needed in this community," said Donna.

TCMC wishes to thank InterMountain Medical Group for their continued support of TCMC and our students.

CME COMMENDATION

As a Continuing Medical Education (CME) provider, the status of TCMC has been advanced to Accreditation with Commendation by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME). The full accreditation term to offer AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ was also extended through July 31, 2019.

In July 2013, TCMC was granted full CME accreditation status through July 31, 2017 based on a review of the CME self study report, evidence of performance-in-practice

activities, and an accreditation interview process. In October 2013, TCMC resubmitted the ACCME application in an effort to secure Commendation status and two additional years of accreditation. TCMC's CME program is administered through its Department of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development.

TCMC is one of approximately 700 ACCME-accredited organizations nationwide that provide continuing medical education for physicians and healthcare professionals. Of these organizations, only 21% have

achieved Accreditation with Commendation. Participation in CME provides ongoing educational support that helps clinicians improve their practice and care for patients throughout their professional careers.

ACCME is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify, develop and promote rigorous standards for quality CME that improves physician performance and medical care for patients and their communities.

For more information about CME at TCMC, visit thecommonwealthmedical.com/cme.

SAVE THE DATE! 11/8/14: TCMC Fall Keystone Symposium: "Hypertension Guide to the Guidelines"

NEW FACULTY MEMBERS



Nelson Asante, MD
Regional Education Coordinator,
Psychiatry, North Campus (Scranton)
Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Department of Clinical Sciences



Betsy Mead, RN, BSN
Instructor of Family Medicine
Department of Family, Community,
and Rural Health



Martha Sauter, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
Department of Family, Community,
and Rural Health



Michelle Schmude, EdD
Director of Admissions
Assistant Professor
Department of Clinical Sciences



Spotlight on RICHARD ENGLISH, MD Academy of Clinical Educators (ACE) Faculty Master

TCMC established the Academy of Clinical Educators (ACE) to recognize the contributions and generosity of our nearly 900 volunteer clinical faculty. All volunteer clinical faculty are members of ACE: an organization which promotes faculty scholarship, participates in curriculum development, and develops new resources to support teaching. Through ACE, volunteer clinical faculty can advance to Fellow or Master level with exemplary service.

Richard English, MD is an ACE Master. He was the founding regional associate dean for TCMC's south campus in Wilkes-Barre. Dr. English also helped build a large regional network of volunteer clinical faculty and sits on the committee that built the MD 3 and 4 curricula.

"It's fun to teach. I have had enthusiastic learners. It's great to watch MD students develop and get to know patients. The goal is to turn them into doctors, and that's the strength of our LIC [Longitudinal Integrated Curriculum]: the connections our students make with patients."

Dr. English is a passionate advocate for medical education. He also served as the residency director for Wilkes-Barre General Hospital and the Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education for sixteen years. Dr. English stepped down as associate dean in 2012, but still remains active as an associate professor of family medicine and a regular attendee of ACE meetings. He has built a long-lasting and indelible legacy with our southern campus.

"The local doctors enjoy teaching our students," he says. "I have worked in family medicine for 35 years and am now seeing a new culture of educating med students develop. TCMC's going to help our entire area improve the quality of health care."

Dr. English explains, "Students keep doctors on their toes. With evidence-based medicine, we have to support our teaching with scientific evidence. That's the art of medicine."



SILVER CERTIFIED "GREEN"

TCMC has been awarded LEED Silver certification for its Medical Sciences Building (MSB). Established by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI), LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) green building certification program is the nation's preeminent

program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

The MSB is the home of TCMC's academic and research programs and technology. Opened in April 2011 and dedicated in October 2011, the 185,000 square foot building occupies a three-acre parcel of land in Scranton that houses students, faculty and staff. TCMC achieved

LEED certification for energy use, lighting, water and material use as well as incorporating a variety of other sustainable strategies. By using less energy and water, LEED certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.





CALLED TO SERVE

The Office of the President and Dean invited Monsignor Joseph G. Quinn, JD, JCL, Vice President for University Mission and Ministry at Fordham University, to speak at TCMC on May 2.

Msgr. Quinn spoke about his call to serve and praised TCMC's commitment to service. He stated, "The call for outreach to community is a wonderful gift and it reflects the giftedness and selflessness of the staff, the faculty, the mentors, and the entire human community that comprises TCMC."



ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Michael Farrell, MD '14, (pictured above) proposed to his now fiancée Lydia at TCMC on Match Day, March 21, 2014. Michael is headed to a residency in General Surgery at Christiana Care, DE.

Nathan Wool, MD '13, and his wife, Kate, are expecting their first child in July. Nathan will be starting his Orthopedic Surgery residency at the University of Kansas at Wichita in July as well.

Linda Saunders, MD '13, and **Jeremy Chin, MD '13**, will be married on August 31, 2014 in Dallas, PA. The bridal party includes **Kristen Suchniak Mussari, MD '13** and **Melissa Rader, MD '13**, with other fellow TCMC alumni in attendance. Linda is starting her second year at Temple University Hospital for emergency medicine and Jeremy matched in radiology at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut. They look forward to being reunited in Philadelphia in the coming year.

Mallory Markloff, MD '13, gave birth to her third child, a beautiful baby boy named Samuel Alexander Markloff, on February 16, 2014 weighing 7 lbs., 14.2 oz., measuring 20.25 inches.

Kristen Suchniak Mussari, MD '13, was married on May 24, 2013 and recently celebrated her one year anniversary. Kristen also had a case report that she worked on at TCMC published in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic College of Dermatology* with TCMC associate professor of dermatology, Dr. Gregg Severs.

Tyler Narby, MBS '12, was married in May 2012, and had a son in October 2012. He was employed as a chemist at Norwich Pharmaceuticals in Norwich, NY in June 2012. Tyler attended the Officer Candidate School for the U. S. Navy in October 2013 and was commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer in January 2014. After that commitment he will be applying to medical schools.

Have a life event you'd like to share?
Visit thecommonwealthmedical.com/AlumniUpdate

WHERE A Residency Story are they now?

Zach Lyons, MD '13

Abington Family Medicine Residency Program
Abington Memorial Hospital, Abington, PA
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Hometown: Huntingdon Valley, PA



PHOTO CREDIT: Anthony Sorendino, Abington Memorial Hospital

Zach Lyons, MD '13, matched with his first choice of Abington Family Medicine Residency Program at Abington Memorial Hospital, Abington, PA. Dr. Lyons had already completed an away rotation there, so he had a good idea of what to expect. According to Zach, "Being a first-year resident obviously entails hard work and long days, but surprisingly it has been a lot of fun. My enjoyment comes, in part, from managing my own expectations and preparation, but I credit a much larger part of it to an outstanding residency program, a great program director in Dr. John Russell, the faculty, and the amazing group of friends I have the privilege to work with and learn beside each day."

When asked how TCMC prepared him, Zach said, "TCMC provided me with a strong foundation of medical and clinical knowledge, and the third-year longitudinal curriculum was ideal preparation. I had patients in my family medicine, pediatric, and OB/GYN rotations that I saw on four or more occasions throughout the year. With each visit, I felt the doctor-patient relationship strengthen. These visits reaffirmed my interest in primary care." The spectrum of patients he saw in medical

"TCMC provided me with a strong foundation of medical and clinical knowledge, and the third year longitudinal curriculum was ideal preparation."

school mimics what he now sees in residency. "The best part about TCMC's education is being paired with several fantastic volunteer clinical faculty and attending physicians," he added.

The education Zach received at TCMC improved his ability to communicate effectively as part of a healthcare team. "As a physician, communication is key. On any given day I'm talking with children, teens, adults, doctors, nurses, social workers, and families. Sometimes my role is that of the educator, sometimes it's just the listener, but whether I am in

the office or hospital, with a patient or attending a lecture, I'm always the learner," said Zach.

Zach's advice for recent graduates: "Be confident that TCMC prepared you well for this next step. Be excited by the prospect of learning more in the next year than you ever could in a classroom or by studying for your Step Exams." And as Zach puts it, "Hold tight to those in your life who helped you reach this point and to those who are traveling beside you on this amazing journey!"



SAVE THE DATE!
October 18, 2014

TCMC 6TH ANNUAL
SCHOLARSHIP GALA

Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs
Wilkes-Barre, PA

Scholarship Feature: *The Taylor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center (TNR) Health and Wellness Fund of The Luzerne Foundation is a proud supporter of TCMC, providing scholarships for students from northeast Pennsylvania. This year, five exemplary students were awarded scholarships through the generosity of the TNR. Charles Barber, President and CEO of The Luzerne Foundation, says, "The board of the TNR understands the significance of having a medical school in our local community and applauds TCMC's goal to improve health care in the region."*

Bhumi Patel is a first-year medical student from Mountaintop, PA. Bhumi's proudest achievement to date is having been accepted into medical school. Her reason for choosing TCMC is that it is close to home and she liked the varied programs we offer.

Eric Drago is a first-year medical student from Wilkes-Barre, PA, whose proudest achievement is publishing in a scientific journal. Eric chose TCMC because of the Longitudinal Integrated Curriculum. He also chose the college because he is from the area, and wants to be involved in this exciting and new school.

Frank Anzelmi is a first-year medical student from Old Forge, PA, whose proudest achievement is having been accepted to medical school as a first generation college student. Frank has three reasons for choosing TCMC: he wanted to remain as close as possible to northeast Pennsylvania, have the opportunity to be a part of an institution that is rapidly improving every year, and most importantly, because his impression was that the staff and faculty sincerely care about every student.

Cassandra Graeff is also a first-year medical student who hails from Pottsville, PA. Cassandra's proudest achievement is starting a Colleges Against Cancer club at Misericordia University and being accepted to TCMC. She chose the college because she's interested in working in a medically underserved area in northeast Pennsylvania and her career goals coincide with the values and mission of TCMC.



Kevin Musto is now a graduate of TCMC and will begin his residency in Internal Medicine this summer at The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education in Scranton, PA. Kevin is from Pittston, PA, and chose TCMC because he was born and raised in the Scranton area and he hopes to someday practice here.



To make a donation for student scholarship or for more information, please contact the Office of Annual Giving at 570.504.9619, or visit thecommonwealthmedical.com/donate