

eCheck-Up

A newsletter for the faculty of
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

Geisinger
Commonwealth
School of Medicine

Winter 2017

Dear partners:

As the initial excitement surrounding the college's integration with Geisinger turns into positive energy and eagerness to move forward, it's important to recognize with deep gratitude the enormous effort and sacrifice so many in our community put forth to make our founders' vision a reality. We owe particular thanks to the community faculty, who propel our students in their learning.



Throughout our transition and beyond, we intend to recognize and honor the solid pillars on which our school was built -- those things about our institution that are unique and tightly bound to our identity. The school's distributed campus model and our community faculty are such pillars. They are what make our school of medicine different from its 140 allopathic neighbors. In our short history, the school has developed a tradition as synonymous with its identity as any hallowed Ivy League school's. Our school is community-based, with particular care and concern for the people of northeastern and north central Pennsylvania. This is who we are and will remain. This is why regional campuses and our devoted community faculty will always be vital to educating the physicians of the future. We want to place our students in the heart of every community we serve. In this way, they are exposed to our clinical partners in that community, as well as to local partner agencies. This is how together we build environments where young physicians are supported and encouraged to stay and practice in northeastern and north central Pennsylvania.

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine means many new opportunities for our students, but each and every door that opens still beckons a student steeped in community and educated in the innovative, patient-centered curriculum that has become the hallmark of our school. They have been taught by community faculty who not only take joy in teaching, but also share their knowledge out of a deep and abiding concern for their communities.

I am humbled by the generosity of time and spirit shown by our community faculty and I know each one shares in my satisfaction that our neighbors will reap many benefits in health and wellbeing because we, as doctors and scientists, choose to focus on the physicians of the future.

For these reasons, I hope you share in my resolve to make 2017 a year of both positive change and of re-dedication to the traditions that matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven J. Scheinman".

Steven J. Scheinman, M.D.
President and Dean

Spring Keystone Symposium

April 8

Integration of Behavioral Health
and Physical Health –Delivering
Comprehensive, Whole-Person
Healthcare

8 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
MSB auditorium

Visiting Professor Day:

March 24

Geisinger Commonwealth
School of Medicine
MSB Building, 2045

featuring

Erin Tracy, M.D., M.P.H.
and

Gerald Tracy, Jr.
parent advocate

for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome awareness

11 a.m. - noon...Dr. Erin Tracy
Human Trafficking/Modern Day
Slavery: What Clinicians Need to
Know

Noon - 1 p.m...Dr. Erin Tracy
and

Gerald Tracy, Jr.
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome:
100% Preventable

1 - 1:45 p.m....lunch

2 - 3 p.m....lecture for students

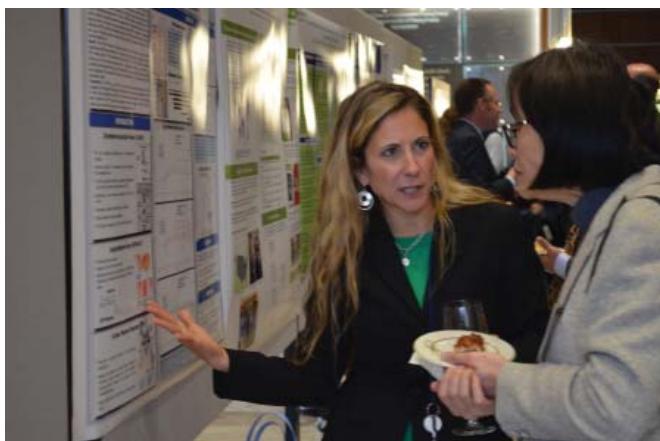
3 - 4 p.m....presentation to the Behavioral Health Initiative Advisory Council

R.S.V.P. to mmazur@tcmc.edu
or call 570-504-9678
Please indicate which sessions
you plan to attend.

Research Symposium

December 2

The inaugural faculty research symposium was born out of a need to raise awareness of the research, scholarship and creative activities occurring within the broader Geisinger Commonwealth community and to promote interaction and collaboration among faculty. We were joined by colleagues from the Baruch S. Blumberg Institute, Guthrie and Geisinger Health System, who shared overviews of their major research initiatives, as well as posters presentations by their faculty. We plan to hold the next faculty research symposium in fall 2017. We are hopeful that the relationships forged at the inaugural event will result in some collaborative initiatives and studies that can be presented at future events.



Keystone Symposium

November 5

Students planted flags in front of the Medical Sciences Building to welcome guests to the Keystone Symposium, *Veterans Healthcare: The Physical and Emotional Needs of the Military*. Guest speakers included: Jeffrey L. Brown, M.D., F.A.A.P., a retired member of the U.S. Army Medical Corps; Michael C. Freed, Ph.D., E.M.T.-B., from the National Institute of Mental Health/NIH, Maryland; Kimberly A. Ruocco, M.S.W. from the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), Virginia; Matthew Dooley, Psy.D., VA Medical Center, Wilkes-Barre and Richard R. Silbert, M.D., D.L.F.A.P.A., Community Care Behavioral Health, Moosic and associate professor of psychiatry, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Scranton.



Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

Department of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development

associate dean

Andrea DiMatta, M.Ed.
570.504.9634 ADiMatta@tcmc.edu

manager of regional affairs

Mary Theresa Mazur, M.A.
570.504.9678 MMazur@tcmc.edu

manager of faculty affairs

Jill Schroth
570.504.7306 JSchroth@tcmc.edu

administrative assistant

Gloria Colosimo
570.504.9074 GColosimo@tcmc.edu

regional campus manager, north

Nora Alu
570.207.3681 NAlu@tcmc.edu

regional campus manager, south

Jackie Castanzo
570.825.7245 JCastanzo@tcmc.edu

regional campus manager, west

Tammy Button
570.327.6080 TButton@tcmc.edu

regional campus manager, Guthrie

Nancy Pease
570.887.4434 Pease_Nancy@guthrie.org

eCHECK-UP is a publication of the Department of Faculty Affairs & Faculty Development.

Newsletters will be published quarterly.
Submit items of interest to editor,
Mary Theresa Mazur, at MMazur@tcmc.edu

REACH-HEI, 2016-17

REACH-HEI, the Regional Education Academy for Careers in Health-Higher Education Initiative, under the leadership of Ida L. Castro, J.D., vice president, community and government relations and chief diversity officer, is in full swing with new programming initiatives. Partnering with the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, eighth graders will participate in Saturday sessions focusing on "The Human Body." They will also receive mentoring, take part in volunteering and hone their career- and college-readiness skills. This one-of-a-kind program is currently being offered to 35 students, most of whom are economically disadvantaged and who will be (we hope!) first-generation-to-college. Students will be tracked and non-academic performance indicators will be collected for program evaluation.

In addition, REACH-HEI is currently in year three of a contract with the Hazleton Area Academy of Science. In this program, 45 high school students receive Saturday "Introduction to Medical School" programs throughout the academic year. They also participate in an extensive year-long research project and receive mentoring, job shadowing and individualized career and college guidance. They also take part in community outreach projects and online workshops on leadership and school success. More than 75 Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine medical and MBS students are active volunteers in the program.

In the fall, an IRB (institutional review board) was developed to collect data and measure program outcomes.

REACH-HEI recently received a grant from PPL in the amount of \$70,000 to expand programming to high schools in the Scranton School District and to continue programs in the Hazleton area. Other initiatives in the planning stages include summer opportunities for undergraduate students and a comprehensive pipeline program for students in grades six through 12 in the Scranton School District.



REACH-HEI students from Big Brothers Big Sisters are happy to meet their mentors on the first day of the program!

Commencement 2017....Save the Date and Order Regalia

All Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine faculty are invited to participate in the academic procession at commencement on Sunday, May 7 at 11 a.m. at the FM Kirby Center for the Performing Arts in Wilkes-Barre. If you are interested in participating in the procession, you have the option of processing in your white coat, at no cost, or if you already own academic regalia (gown, hood and cap), you are welcome to wear it. If you would like to wear academic attire, the college will order it for you. The rental fee for the attire is \$62.95.

If you would like to participate in the academic procession, please send your information below and a check, payable to Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, for rental regalia to: Mary Theresa Mazur, manager of regional affairs, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, 525 Pine St., Scranton, Pa., 18509 by March 25. Orders after March 25 cannot be guaranteed!

Academic attire will arrive at Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine on or about May 2. If you are renting attire, we will send out more information on the pick-up as the date approaches. Attire will need to be paid for at the time of pick-up or prior to pick-up. We will collect the rented attire immediately following the commencement ceremony at the Kirby Center.

Questions for Commencement	
Name:	
Would you like to process?	Yes or No
Do you need academic attire?	Yes or No
If you need rental attire, please tell us:	
Height:	Weight:
Degree (MD, DO, PhD, MS, etc.):	
Alma Mater from highest degree:	



Regional Updates

North

In November, students from Geisinger Commonwealth attended the American Medical Association interim meeting in Orlando, Fla. The conference was attended by more than 800 medical students from various medical schools throughout the United States and focused on continued advocacy for physicians, students and, most importantly, patients. Ghamar Bitar, Class of 2017, led a service project involving discussions with local high school students on medically-related subjects. The conference also involved educational sessions, including one led by Dana Martin, Class of 2018, with the Committee on Bioethics and Humanities on ethical scenarios faced by medical students on the wards. John Trickett, Class of 2018, also led an education session focusing on debt management and investing basics with his Committee on Economics and Quality in Medicine. Kyle Gleaves, Class of 2018, was also in attendance.

In November, students from Geisinger Commonwealth attended the American Medical Association interim meeting in Orlando, Fla. The conference was attended by more than 800 medical students from various medical schools throughout the United States and focused on continued advocacy for physicians, students and, most importantly, patients. Ghamar Bitar, Class of 2017, led a service project involving discussions with local high school students on medically-related subjects.

South

Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, for their joint effort in providing beepers to be used by our medical students during their surgical block rotations. The beepers afford the students the opportunity to participate real-time in trauma cases and enrich their surgical rotation experience.

David Kugelman, David Eisenberg, Sarah MacDonald and Kristina Borham, presented their poster, "Find Your Specialty: Focusing Your List of Career Opportunities," at the Association of American Medical College's annual conference. The students hypothesized that early adoption of a "find your specialty series", when used in conjunction with AAMC Careers in Medicine, could lead to a decrease in the number of students changing their residency/specialty and, therefore, a higher graduate student satisfaction rate.

Special thanks to Doug Coslett, M.D. and chief medical officer and to Justine Tomko, director of telecommunications,

West

Dr. Peggy Shoemaker, regional assistant dean and assistant chair, internal medicine, attended and presented aspects of our curriculum at the annual meeting of the Consortium of Longitudinal Integrated Clerkships (CLIC) held in Toronto during October.

Carolyn Sciblo, MD 3, under the mentorship of Dr. Pius Ochieng, Williamsport Regional Medical Center, had an abstract accepted for a poster presentation entitled "Performance of EBUS Gauge 19 Versus 21/22 Needles: An Interim Analysis in a Single Center," at the American Thoracic Society International Conference.

Curran Perry, Darla Fink and Tripti Soni, all MD2s, contributed to collaborative efforts to address the opioid epidemic by investigating clinician prescribing patterns with Dr. John Boll and community attitudes toward addiction. They also supported Project Bald Eagle, a community coalition that addresses multiple aspects of the problem, by presenting information about the causes and effects of opioid addiction, as well as resources for treatment and prevention to staff at various worksites in Lycoming County, with the support of Dr. Camille Hinojosa of the Work Center at UPMC Susquehanna and Steve Shope, executive director of Project Bald Eagle. Dr. Janet Townsend, regional associate dean for the West Campus, serves on Project Bald Eagle's medical subcommittee.

Special thanks for the welcoming learning environment and outstanding teaching offered at UPMC Susquehanna facilities in Williamsport and Muncy, Evangelical Community Hospital in Lewisburg, River Valley Health and Dental Center, and in numerous community faculty offices and practices.

Guthrie

Rachel Z. Polinski, MD 4 at the Guthrie Campus, was awarded a scholarship from the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) Alliance Medical Education Scholarship (AMES) Fund.

Community-based Patient-centered Innovative education

*eCheck-Up is a publication of the Department of Faculty Affairs and Faculty Development.
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine is committed to non-discrimination in all employment and educational opportunities.*