Mission Statement
We are committed to improving the health, well-being, and environment of individuals, families, and communities by advancing the science and practice of family medicine and public health through innovation and excellence in research and education.

The Department of Family Medicine & Public Health Sciences (DFMPHS) was honored to be part of the selection process for the $10,000 grant from the Francis P. and Nell A. Rhoades Memorial Foundation.

The money will be used to provide annual tuition support for a fourth year medical student who successfully matched into a family medicine residency program. Special attention will be given to students who are originally from Wayne County, who demonstrate financial need, and are in good academic standing.

Congratulations to Randall McPherson. Randall will complete his residency at the DMC Family Medicine Program in Detroit.

Foundation History
Dr. Francis (“Dusty”) Rhoades was a family doctor and practiced on Woodward Avenue in downtown Detroit for 50 years.

Dr. Rhoades and his wife, Nell, devoted their lives to medical and charitable organizations. They were both very active in various organizations, both medical and political.

This Foundation was developed in 1964 as part of fundraising efforts by the Wayne County Medical Society Polio Immunization Committee, of which Dr. Rhoades chaired. The Committee was attempting to raise funds to immunize over one million Detroit citizens, mostly children. Dr. and Mrs. Rhoades donated one million dollars to the committee. Once the fundraising campaign was completed, the program balance was used to create the Francis P. and Nell A. Rhoades Foundation.

Over the years, the Foundation contributed substantial funds for medical research and health education in the City of Detroit. Since the original funding of the Foundation, no fundraising has been done. The monies accrued from the investments after required distribution from dividends and interest has been disbursed annually. Upon the deaths of Dr. Rhoades in 1992 at the age of 92 and Mrs. Rhoades in 2013 at the age of 104, it became the Francis P. And Nell A. Rhoades Memorial Foundation.

Each year the Foundation Trustees accept grant applications and select awardees on merit and in conformance with the Trust Agreement.

Although this grant is for 2016 only, the Trustees of the Francis P. and Nell A. Rhoades Memorial Foundation have encouraged WSU and DFMPHS to submit a grant request again next year.

Special thanks Dr. H. Michael Marsh who brought this grant information to our attention. Thanks to Patty Paquin, Elizabeth Mirer and all others involved for their hard work which resulted in the monies being awarded.

And again, special congratulations to Randall McPherson. We wish you continued success in your journey to becoming a Family Medicine physician.

AMY PENNAR, POST-DOC TAKES 3RD PLACE IN BUSINESS CARD

Congratulations to Amy Pennar, Postdoctoral Fellow from the Division of Behavioral Sciences for her 3rd place win in the BEST (Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training) business card competition which was offered for the first time this year during the 2017 Graduate and Postdoctoral Research Symposium. The winning entries exemplified elements of effective business card design. During the award ceremony, the facilitator highlighted the winner cards’ successful design features.

The purpose of this competition is to help doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars prepare for networking opportunities and entry into the job market.

Way to go, Amy!!
Family Medicine Master of Public Health Sciences faculty are pleased to announce that four of its MPH applicants with top GPAs have been awarded with the 2017-2018 Graduate School Master’s recruitment scholarship.

Congratulations to the following incoming MPH students:

Lindsay Gianotta, Sean Hancock, Shayla Patton and Kurt Wendland.

The Scholarship will pay up to 4 credits each in Fall 2017 and Winter 2018 for new master’s students.

The call for nominations was open to each WSU school/college to nominate up to 10 candidates.

The Wayne State University School of Medicine administration and faculty celebrated the granting of tenure and promotion during the annual Promotion and Tenure Reception on June 15, 2017.

Congratulations to DFMPHS faculty members Karen MacDonell, PhD; Jinping Xu, MD, MS; and Dennis Tsilimingras, MD, MPH.

Dr. MacDonell was promoted to Associate Professor—Research Educator with 50% University year (9-month tenure).

Dr. Jinping Xu was promoted to Professor—Clinician Educator.

Dr. Dennis Tsilimingras was promoted to Associate Professor—Research Educator with 50% University year (9-month tenure).

We also extend our best wishes to Bo Wang, PhD as he transitions into a new phase in his career. Dr. Wang will be leaving WSU at the end of this month to join the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

Congratulations to Dennis, Karen and Jinping!!

Pictured L to R: Dr. Tsveti Markova, Dr. Dennis Tsilimingras, Dr. Karen MacDonell and Dr. Jinping Xu
JOHN B. WALLER JR., DRPH, AND MENTHELE (MIKKI) WALLER ENDOwed SCHOLARSHIP AWARD ED TO MPH STUDENTS

The John B. Waller Jr., DrPH, and Menthele (Mikki) Waller Endowed Scholarship for MPH Students was recently awarded to Lisa Lukose and Henri Avril, Master of Public Health students in the Wayne State University Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences (see our March, 2017 issue).

Avril and Lukose were chosen on the basis of their scholastic achievement and public health engagement, and were recognized during a December 16, 2016, celebration. Each received a scholarship award of $1,500 for MPH course credit.

“As educators and mentors, the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences is honored to serve our greater Detroit communities, and to promote public health scholarship,” said Tsveti Markova, MD, FAAFP, professor and chair of the department. “We are proud of Lisa and Henri, and look forward to their futures in public health.”

Mrs. Mikki Waller was the honored guest. “Many of our public health friends knew our Dr. John B. Waller, Jr. as ‘Dr. J.’ They respected him not only as a researcher in population-based epidemiology, but as a public health leader and practitioner who served as public health director for the City of Detroit,” she said. “His heart was in community health, which makes the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences a great home for the Waller Endowed Scholarship. We look forward to generations of students who share Dr. J’s vision and compassion for public health.”

Dr. Waller served as chair of the Department of Community Medicine and had tremendous influence in shaping public health policy and the establishment of community health systems in Detroit. He was recognized nationally for his leadership. In a 2006 Michigan Journal of Public Health tribute to Dr. Waller, David Satcher, MD, PhD, 16th United States surgeon general, an esteemed colleague of Dr. Waller, wrote, “Dr. Waller will always be appreciated for his ability and commitment to put a community face on public health. Hopefully, public health will always reflect this ‘community face.’”

WSU School of Medicine celebration speakers included Tsveti Markova, MD, FAAFP and department chair; Kimberly Campbell-Voytal, PhD, MSN, RN, director of the MPH program; and Herbert Smitherman, MD, MPH, vice dean of diversity and community affairs. Anita Moncrease, MD, MPH, presented “WSUSOM Public and Community Health Historical Highlights.”

Dr. Waller established the Master of Public Health program in the WSU School of Medicine. Before 2016, the first year of the Waller Endowed Scholarship, the Waller family and the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences provided an annual John B. Waller Student Achievement Award.

As the MPH program continues to grow, Dr. Markova noted, “We appreciate the generosity of the Waller family and their contribution to the advancement of the values of Detroit urban health.”

To learn more about how you can help to advance Dr. Waller’s legacy and support MPH students in conducting cutting-edge public health research and practice in the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences, contact Patty Paquin at ppaquin@med.wayne.edu or 313-577-0026.
Students interested in public health issues and acquiring the tools to assess and prevent health disparities have a major resource through the Wayne State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ public health program.

In late fall 2015, the WSU School of Medicine and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were given final approval to launch a new bachelor’s degree in Public Health, jointly sponsored by the medical school’s Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences. Faculty moved quickly to launch the new program, with the first undergraduate public health course offered in winter 2016. The undergraduate public health major and minor were opened to enrollment in June 2016.

Today -- just over the one-year mark -- there are more than 250 majors, far surpassing earlier enrollment projections of 50. Heather Dillaway, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and co-director of the public health program, said student interest has been incredible.

“We are truly seeing exactly how much students have been craving a program like this,” she said. “We have had to open more sections of required courses in order to accommodate student interest. This is a great problem to have.”

Dillaway attributed the high student interest to a number of factors. “Not only is this program relevant for pre-med students seeking early expertise in health-related fields, but it is also fulfilling students’ interests in urban health, health equity, global health and other interdisciplinary health topics.”

The School of Medicine’s Master of Public Health Program Director Kimberly Campbell-Voyal, PhD, MSN, serves as co-director, helping Dillaway manage the undergraduate program.

The bachelor’s degree program offers training in public health issues and policies to students interested in a broad range of health careers. Being committed to improving the health and vitality of Detroit, graduates of this major and minor will have the ability to assess and prevent health disparities in Detroit and beyond, as well as diagnose and research public health problems, improve public health through human and environmental interventions, promote individual well-being and educate the public regarding healthful choices in life.

Anchored by a strong core public health curriculum, the public health major is one of the highly interdisciplinary majors on campus, allowing students to pull health-related electives from a variety of other disciplines related to their core interests. Students more interested in social science or natural science, for example, can choose to complete public health electives in those fields. The interdisciplinary nature of public health electives gives students the freedom to focus on the health-related topics of their choice.

“It has been a pleasure working closely with master’s of Public Health folks in the School of Medicine to launch this program, and students are also gaining invaluable networks in being able to work closely with both MPH and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty as they take their required courses,” Dillaway said. “They are learning from a variety of researchers and practitioners so that they are well-versed in both traditional and applied worlds as they exit Wayne State and embark on their own.”

For more information about Wayne State’s undergraduate public health program, visit clas.wayne.edu/public-health.

This article was reprinted in its entirety from the School of Medicine News dated June 21, 2017.
Deborah Ellis, Ph.D., professor of family medicine and public health sciences in Wayne State’s School of Medicine has received a $3.05 million grant from the National Institute of Health for a five-year trial focused on helping parents and other caretakers assist diabetic adolescents to complete their daily care.

The trial is aimed at African-American young people diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, because they are considered to be at higher risk for poor diabetes management.

The five-year trial will study a computer-delivered intervention during doctor visits that reminds and motivates parents to stay involved in their child’s care. During visits to the clinic, caretakers will be given a tablet on which an avatar will take them through a sort of multimedia course that includes informational video clips, testimonials, motivational content and goal-setting strategies. Test trials have already been conducted and indicate that the intervention is effective.

"Research has shown that maintaining high levels of parental involvement and supervision of daily diabetes care is a critical predictor of youth diabetes management," said Dr. Ellis. "However, physicians do not always have time to discuss parenting behaviors during busy clinic visits."

It will be rolled out in October at the Children’s Hospital of Michigan as well as three sites in Chicago, Ellis said. Between 200 and 250 African-American adolescents will be included in this trial.

Please forward any donations to Judy Magdalenic, 3939 Woodward Gardens, Room 313.

This spring, 15 Wayne State University medical students traveled with staff from the Michigan Center for Rural Health in coordination with Michigan AHEC and visited McKenzie Health System in Sandusky, Michigan. The students spent the day with Dr. Mark Hamed and had the opportunity to meet with and learn about rural medicine from the perspectives of McKenzie’s CEO, physicians, pharmacists, advanced practice providers, and EMS staff.
This year’s statewide Michigan Family Medicine Research Day was hosted by the Department of Family Medicine & Community Health at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine. The event is a collaboration between Oakland University and the Family Medicine departments of Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Wayne State University, Western Michigan University and the Michigan Academy of Family Physicians Foundation.

Thank you to our faculty, mentors, judges, and students who participated in this event.

Special congratulations to Jaskirat Gill for being recognized with the Best Medical Student Presentation: Quest for Physical Perfection: A Case Study in Unlicensed Liquid Silicone Gluteal Augmentation.
Dr. Margit Chadwell, the students, faculty, and staff associated with the Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) have earned the American Academy of Family Physicians’ (AAFP) 2017 Program of Excellence Award. They were one of 10 recipients of the overall award!

The award recognizes FMIGs for their efforts to stimulate student interest in family medicine and family medicine programming. Criteria for winning this award include a well-rounded competency in key areas such as:

- FMIG structure and operation
- Community service
- Exposing students to family medicine and family physicians
- Promoting the value of family medicine as primary care
- Professional development
- Measures of success

In the application process, the FMIG must also illustrate significant changes or enhancements—what was learned from the previous years’ activities, what new innovations have been or will be developed, and what elements of programming were modified to meet the needs of members.

The Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences prides itself on having an active Family Medicine Interest Group. The goals of this organization are to introduce students to the breadth and depth of the specialty of family medicine and provide innovative clinical and educational programs for those students interested in a career in family medicine. The WSU FMIG hosts a variety of interesting programs throughout the year covering a broad array of family medicine specialty topics.

The School of Medicine will receive formal recognition of this award at the National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students, July 27-29 in Kansas City.

Congratulations!!
Karen MacDonell, associate professor in the department’s Division of Behavioral Sciences will be a first-time walker in the Komen 3-Day in Michigan this August 4-6. Dr. MacDonell will be walking 60 miles over 3 days to raise money to fund breast cancer research, screening, prevention, education, and treatment. She was inspired to start a team for this event when her aunt was diagnosed with the disease (who is now in remission and on the team!).

Karen is training and fundraising for 24 weeks to prepare for the event. For more information or to donate, please contact Dr. MacDonell or visit her team page:


Wayne State University School of Medicine Master of Public Health student, Maliha Ahmed was named to the Albert Schweitzer Fellows. The fellowship provides a $2,000 stipend that can be used toward designing and implementing a project. The fellowship is inspired by Dr. Schweitzer, a physician and humanitarian. Maliha is one of four graduate students in SE Michigan named in this inaugural class.

Maliha, a first-year student in the MPH program, will use the money towards her project “Create an education program on sexual health literacy in the Muslim community.” “I was inspired to select this project because of my interest in maternal and child health. With my community service project, I hope to impact girls and women who would benefit from a safe and reliable space to discuss their sexual health,” said Maliha. “There is a need for this resource in faith-based communities like the Muslim one, in which sexual health is often considered a taboo topic. Removing the barriers of access and stigma would help create a population that is more informed about their sexual health and choices. Given the high density of Arabs and Muslims in the greater Detroit area, the project will address the community need for sexual health literacy that is not only culturally-sensitive but accurate as well. The overall goal is to provide women and girls with resources, tools and services that promote empowered and informed decision-making about their sexual health.”

Thanks to MPH Program Manager Elissa Firestone for keeping the students abreast of fellowship opportunities and for Kimberly Campbell-Voyal, PhD for mentoring Maliha during the process.

THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES WELCOMES ITS NEWEST RESIDENTS

Wayne State University School of Medicine Class of 2017 celebrated a 97.3 percent match success rate.

WSU’s rate surpasses this year’s national match rate of 94.3 percent for allopathic students, in a year that saw 35,969 United States and international medical school students and graduates vie for 31,757 available positions, the most ever offered in the Match.

Thirty-five percent of WSU’s Class of 2017, or 161 students, are staying in Michigan. The increase is great news for a state with a projected physician shortage, as studies show that residents who train in Michigan often remain here for the majority of their careers. Another 39% will enter primary care residencies, including Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Internal Medicine/Pediatrics specialties.

WSU had 32 graduates match into a Family Medicine program, 18 of which will stay in the state of Michigan. “As a department, we continue to support and encourage students’ interest in the specialty of Family Medicine,” said Dr. Tsveti Markova, department chair.

For more information about Match Day 2017, please read the School of Medicine News “Class of 2017 celebrates 97.3 percent match success rate at Match Day 2017” dated March 17, 2017.

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