



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

▶ **LEARNING AND LEADING**

▶ A MESSAGE FROM DEAN KIKANO



For [Central Michigan University's College of Medicine](#), the 2019-20 academic year began with historic affiliations that enhance our mission for education and research that focuses on underserved populations in the state of Michigan.

The College of Medicine signed two landmark agreements to address Michigan's most pressing public health concerns. We signed a 25-year affiliation agreement with [Covenant HealthCare](#) focusing on undergraduate education. We significantly expanded our pediatrics training program by signing a five-year agreement with [University Pediatricians](#), a multi-specialty pediatric group with a long and distinguished history of clinical care to the children of the greater Detroit area. And this year marked the first cohort

of students who completed their clinical rotations at [Spectrum Lakeland](#) Medical Center in St. Joseph.

Throughout this report, we tell you about our partnerships within our communities that are critical to addressing the region's health priorities.

The College of Medicine continues to broaden and strengthen our research program with external funding continuing to grow. Active research continues to address health problems common to Mid-Michigan such as diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and neurodegenerative disorders including Alzheimer's and stroke. Scholarly activity from our trainees continues to increase each year as demonstrated by increasing numbers of research presentations as well as publications.

Our work took a dramatic turn early in 2020 as the realities of a worldwide pandemic impacted communities across the United States. In both the higher education and health care sectors, quick, innovative, and decisive crisis management was necessary.

Through this unsettled time, College of Medicine students, faculty and staff demonstrated flexibility, resiliency and grace as they adjusted to digital interactive sessions with faculty to practice clinical skills, and videos and lectures replaced lab experiences. We have included a small sampling of our students' thoughts about how coping with the pandemic changed their perspective on health care, provided them important tools to take into their careers, and solidified their commitment to compassionate care.

When the COVID pandemic began and altered health care delivery, College of Medicine faculty studied the implications

of telehealth on health care. Another faculty member investigated and published on the origins of the COVID virus. As the pandemic slowed our research efforts, several of our faculty and staff began producing viral transport medium for the Mid-Michigan health community to support COVID testing.

Students put their skills to work helping staff [Great Lakes Health Centers'](#) drive-through COVID-19 testing center, while groups of students joined faculty volunteers to connect [Covenant HealthCare](#) patients in Saginaw with telehealth services. And when some of the most vulnerable people in our community needed emergency help, students volunteered to provide medical and humanitarian care.

As we enter the fall of 2020, the College of Medicine joins Central Michigan University in continuing and enhancing our commitment to an inclusive education environment. Social justice and health care for the underserved are intertwined, and we remain steadfast in our mission to educate culturally competent physicians to serve rural and underserved populations in Michigan and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George k." in a cursive, slightly informal script.

George E. Kikano, M.D.
*CMU Vice President for Health Affairs
Dean, CMU College of Medicine*





Teaming for residency program growth: (L to R) Dr. Mary Jo Wagner, chief academic officer and designated institutional official; Dr. Jisselly Salcedo, psychiatry resident; Bethany Figg, GME accreditation manager; Dr. Christopher Le, psychiatry resident

EXCELLENCE & AGILITY

GME GROWTH AND CMU MEDICAL EDUCATION PARTNERS

Psychiatry Residency program growth addresses critical needs for community-based psychiatric services

The CMU College of Medicine’s [psychiatry residency program](#) was created to develop and educate psychiatric physicians to deliver high-quality care to underserved areas in the region and Michigan. The program is expanding significantly because of its success in response to significant needs of local communities and individuals, plus recent graduates have chosen to stay and practice in Michigan.

CMU’s growing psychiatry residency program includes 12 faculty psychiatrists. In 2019, CMU Medical Education Partners expanded its psychiatry residency program by two positions through the [MIDOCs](#) initiative and will continue to offer six new psychiatry residency positions per year. CMU’s participation in [MIDOCs](#) is also fueling capacity to develop enhanced curricular elements in areas such as ambulatory care, quality improvement, population health, interprofessional collaboration, and care of diverse and underserved populations. The MIDOCs psychiatry residents have a two-year post-residency commitment to practice in an underserved setting in Michigan.

In 2019, CMU also launched a new two-year, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) approved, [child and adolescent psychiatry fellowship program](#), which offers rigorous training and extensive clinical opportunities in the treatment of a variety

of psychiatric conditions. The fellowship program is designed to bring the College’s focused curriculum together with the specific interests of each fellow to tailor a unique learning and clinical experience based on the fellow’s input, direction, and professional development goals. Fellows benefit from working with leading faculty in general and specialized psychiatry with extensive experience in the effective treatment of child, adolescent, and family issues. This includes a distinct focus on emerging practices in trauma-informed care and addressing adverse childhood experiences.

“CMU’s psychiatry residency and child and adolescent fellowship programs are uniquely and intentionally community-based,” said **Dr. Furhut Janssen**, director of CMU’s psychiatry residency training program. “Our residents provide care through clinical rotations in Saginaw, Isabella and Midland Counties. The mission of our program has been extraordinarily successful with 50% of graduated residents choosing to remain and establish their practice in this region.”

Residents and fellows enhance the care and staffing capacity in local inpatient psychiatric units, acute care hospital settings, and a variety of specialized clinical settings with behavioral health partners and service providers, including [HealthSource Saginaw](#), [Great Lakes Bay Health Centers](#), [Trauma Center of SVRC-Westlund Guidance Center](#) and [the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw](#).

CMU HEALTH BY THE NUMBERS

8

CMU Health Clinical Locations

65

Family Physicians

9.6%

Physician Growth

93%

Patient Satisfaction

71,752

Ambulatory Patient Visits

37,950

Primary Care Visits

9,200

Surgeries Performed

865

Babies Delivered



Dr. Amandeep Dhaliwal



Dr. Chet Morrison



Dr. Delicia Pruitt



Dr. Sethu Reddy



Dr. Mary Jo Wagner

FACULTY AWARDS

Congratulations to our faculty

Dr. Amandeep Dhaliwal, assistant professor family medicine and [CMU Health](#) family medicine physician, assumed the program director leadership of the family medicine residency program. Dr. Dhaliwal completed his residency training through CMU Medical Education Partners in 2014 and now oversees our family medicine residents as program director.

Dr. Chet Morrison was awarded a Presidential Citation by the [Society of Critical Care Medicine](#). The SCCM promotes excellence in teaching and research with the goal of improved the care of critically ill and injured patients. Awards are given annually to critical care practitioners and other health care

providers who demonstrate dedication and innovation to the field of critical care.

The [Saginaw County Health Department](#) appointed **Dr. Delicia Pruitt** as medical director. As the top physician for Saginaw County, Dr. Pruitt serves as a liaison among the county, community organizations, health care providers and allied health organizations and will help us achieve our mission of reaching more medically underserved patients and families in the Great Lakes Bay Region. Dr. Pruitt will remain an assistant director for our family medicine residency program.

The [American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists](#) elected **Dr. Sethu Reddy** as vice president of the organization.

AACE is a professional community of physicians specializing in endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism. Dr. Reddy's term began May 10, 2020.

The [Michigan College of Emergency Physicians](#) selected **Dr. Mary Jo Wagner**, chief academic officer and designated institutional official of the residency programs, as the 2020 John A. Rupke, MD Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. This award recognizes a member who has demonstrated a lifetime of contributions to the practice of emergency medicine by an unparalleled commitment to professionalism, leadership and service.



Welcoming the new chair of pediatrics

Dr. Kathleen Meert is a professor of pediatrics and a pediatric critical care medicine specialist certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. Dr. Meert joined Central Michigan University's College of Medicine in January 2020 and serves as the chair of the pediatrics discipline. Dr. Meert also serves as pediatric specialist-in-chief at the [Detroit Medical Center Children's Hospital of Michigan](#). She completed medical school at Wayne State University and her pediatric residency and critical care fellowship at Children's Hospital of Michigan. Dr. Meert is a clinician and avid clinical researcher. She has been a principal investigator for the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National

Institute of Child Health and Human Development Collaborative Pediatric Critical Care Research Network since its inception in 2005. Through the CPCCRN network, Dr. Meert conducts multicenter clinical trials to improve outcomes of critically ill children and understand the pathophysiology of critical illness and injury. Dr. Meert has mentored many trainees and junior faculty at CHM and other institutions. She has served on the National Advisory Committee for the NICHD Pediatric Critical Care and Trauma Scientist Development K12 Program since 2010, and as a study section member for the NICHD Pediatric Scientific Review Group.

Transforming medical school curriculum through agile learning and leading

In early 2020, medical schools across the nation found themselves needing to quickly transform to address uncertainties of how the COVID-19 pandemic would impact students' coursework, clinical rotations, and the start of residency. "Never before have we operated so fundamentally as a medical education team both at CMU College of Medicine and nationally with our medical school counterparts," said **Tina Thompson**, senior associate dean for academic affairs.

CMU College of Medicine's Class of 2020 faced the uncertainty and risks of having to delay their completion. At the start of Michigan's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" order, the class of 2021 had to halt completion of their clinical year.

The class of 2022 encountered incredible stresses from cancelled National Board of Medical Examiners test dates. And the class of 2023 had to transition to virtual, interactive classes overnight. Unable to practice clinical skills with standardized patients, students adjusted to interactive sessions with faculty. Anatomy lab experiences were replaced with faculty prepared videos and lectures.

CMU medical students and faculty confronted and surmounted all these challenges with great agility and collaboration by learning and leading together. Faculty mastered new educational technology and created innovative courses to meet student needs.

Dr. Steve Vance, associate dean of clinical education and the simulation team at the [CMU College of Medicine Covenant HealthCare Simulation Center](#), developed alternative learning opportunities including a high-fidelity simulation for emergency medical clerkship students who participated via video conference link.

"Our students excelled in the curriculum. Many shared deep insights and reflections about silver linings they found in their lived experience of these abrupt changes," said Thompson.

For instance, **Dalia Khader**, president of the class of 2021 reflected, "The COVID-19 pandemic pushed us to unexpectedly learning in new ways. The utilization of telehealth and virtual learning is preparing us for the reality of future careers."

Joseph Reed, third-year medical student, shared, "COVID-19 forced medical education to operate in a vastly different manner, which may have had a beneficial impact in terms of preparing for virtual encounters with future patients. Virtual encounters, especially telemedicine simulations, could equip students for such situations down the road."

A year of cyber celebrations and ceremonies

The class of 2020 experienced their final weeks as medical students like no other class before. The 98 graduates were the first class at the College to have a Virtual Match Day and Commencement. "While Match Day was bittersweet this year as we were unable to host a live event, the College of Medicine family joined together in spirit to celebrate our students' success," said **Tina Thompson**, senior associate dean for academic affairs.

Three of the graduates will be staying in the Great Lakes Bay Region after matching to CMU College of Medicine residency programs. In addition, three students matched into military residencies. "We are proud of our students' continued success matching in competitive programs in Michigan and nationally," said **Dr. George Kikano**, dean, CMU College of Medicine.

2020 MATCH DAY

40%

Remained in Michigan

75%

Primary Care Physicians

CLASS OF 2020 TOP FIVE SPECIALTIES

32

Internal Medicine

15

Family Medicine

9

OB-GYN

7

General Surgery

5

Pediatrics



Mobile Health Central unit: a collaboration between the College of Medicine and The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

Basic and translational research and cross-cutting interdisciplinary collaborations could lead to prevention of breast cancer recurrence

College of Medicine faculty are tackling human cancers by identifying molecular and biochemical signatures of cancer cells and relating those signatures to abnormal growth and metastasis in human cell culture and in mouse models. Several laboratories are working to identify new molecular and biochemical targets for cancer chemotherapy. The College of Medicine's team of researchers include primary investigators **Jesse Bakke**, **Stave Kohtz**, and **Rosemary Poku**.

Additionally, **Stave Kohtz** and **Xantha Karp**, College of Science and Engineering, are collaborating on research that could lead to preventing breast cancer from recurring once it has gone into remission. Biologist **Karp's** work focused on tiny worms called *C. elegans* and research on the dormant state, called dauer, which the worms enter when exposed to stress. **Kohtz** wondered if breast cancer cells go through a similar process after undergoing chemotherapy, and if there was any connection. A protein called UNK may be the connection. With funding support from the **Elsa U. Pardee Foundation**, the researchers are working together to identify genes that UNK turns off in dormant cancer cells and that return when cancers recur. Once those "targets" are found, drugs can be formulated to prevent a cancer's recurrence.

Transforming telehealth and telemedicine: resident research and patient care

Beginning in March 2020, a rapid shift to virtual primary care and telemedicine was accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic to avoid viral spread from patients visiting health care facilities. The CMU College of Medicine and CMU Partners' **residency programs** conducted numerous research projects to investigate the impacts and implications of this transformational change on patients and health care workers during the coronavirus pandemic.

- The **CMU family medicine residency program** physicians researched *Perceptions of primary care providers and staff on telemedicine in the primary care setting, and patient response to telemedicine in primary care, before and during COVID-19.*
- The **CMU OB-GYN residency program** physicians investigated *The use of telehealth services for OB-GYN care.*
- The **CMU psychiatry residency program** physicians researched *Screen time and its effect on psychological stress in healthcare workers during the coronavirus pandemic.*
- "Participating in research endeavors, further develops residents as scientists and research-active physicians who provide better care to patients, noted **Neli Ragina**, associate professor and director of students and residents clinical research. The CMU College of Medicine and CMU Partners' residency programs are taking the lead and putting this research and learning into practice to catalyze telemedicine

throughout the region and state. Collaborators include: **Saginaw** and **Isabella Commissions on Aging**, the **Great Lakes Bay Health Centers**, **Health Source Saginaw**, **Saginaw Valley State University**, and **Hoyt** and **Samaritas Nursing homes** in Saginaw. The goal is to enhance teleinfrastructures and existing services provided by these partners including medical and behavioral care services. Similarly, Central Michigan University transitioned all health services for students, including counseling services, to virtual and teledelivery.

COVID-19 research to improve patient health and patient outcomes

The CMU College of Medicine and CMU Partners' residency programs conduct research projects to investigate the role of D-dimers in disease progression and mortality of COVID-19 patients as well as to develop an algorithm that will allow hospitals to positively identify COVID-19 patients, determine who will need ventilators and other supportive care, determine who can be safely discharged, and to use this information to allocate resources.

- The **CMU emergency medicine residency program** physicians developed *The COVID-19 artificial intelligence algorithm*
- The **CMU internal medicine residency program** physicians study the *Thrombosis and D-Dimer formation as risk assessment for COVID-19 patients' mortality at CMU Health and Covenant Healthcare*

Student and resident research events

In 2020 the College of Medicine held its annual Medical Student Research Forum in February. The annual College of Medicine and CMU Educational Partners Research Symposium was held as a virtual event in April. These events highlight the extraordinary research endeavors undertaken by students and residents that contribute to medical research and the practice of medicine. This year's Student Research Forum attracted a record 44 abstracts while the Research Symposium attracted 100 abstract submissions. The College of Medicine congratulates the following 2020 award winning oral and poster research presentations:

Research Symposium:

- ▶ **Clara Tift**, second-year medical student; Mentor, **Michael J Conway**, –“Depletion of vertebrate lipids dysregulates *Aedes aegypti* innate immunity and enhances production of dengue virus” (Basic & Translational Science Oral Presentation)
- ▶ **Matthew French**, second-year resident; Mentor, **Dr. Kathleen Cowling**, –“Visual estimation of blood loss” (Clinical/Quality Improvement/Population Health Oral Presentation)

Medical Student Forum:

- ▶ **Ryan T. Davis** and **Ashley L. Dean**, second-year medical students; Mentor, **Tom Gest** –“Using the intertragic notch to localize the greater occipital nerve for analgesic injection” (Oral Presentation)
- ▶ **Thomas Hyland**, second-year medical student, **Carly Martin** and **Andrew Murray**, students Wayne State University; Mentor, **Karin List**, Wayne State University –“TMPRSS13 serves as a potential target for breast cancer therapeutics” (Basic Science Poster)
- ▶ **Jacob Nosewicz**, third-year medical student; Mentor **Dr. Jennifer Nash** –“Concomitant presentation of chronic herpes zoster lesion and granuloma annulare” (Case Report Poster)
- ▶ **George Matar**, CCRP, fourth-year medical student, **Carmen Avramut** and **Jea Yu**, third-year medical students, **Jacob Lynn** and **Henry Haley**, second-year medical students, **Dr. Sarah Yonder**, **Stephen Zyzanski**, **Dr. Wendy Biggs**, **Neli Ragina**; Mentor, **Neli Ragina** –“Geriatric education and awareness of aortic stenosis: patient knowledge and their primary care providers' perspective” (Population Health Poster)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Expanding patient access to care and provider access to continuing medical education

CMU's mobile, telehealth and telemedicine capabilities are helping to change the narrative for isolated patients and communities in Michigan. The CMU College of Medicine actively maintains a statewide telehealth infrastructure that connects the medical school programs with 1,000 plus community educators and physicians throughout Michigan helping train medical students.

Mobilizing care and access for patients

Through a project initiative called [Rural Older Adult Mobile \(ROAM\) Care](#) a team of faculty members are helping rural elderly residents in Isabella and surrounding counties receive preventive health care in their homes.

Jyotsna Pandey and **Dr. Sethu Reddy** are leading a two-year \$473,722 grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to build a program enlisting CMU students — medical, physical therapists and physician assistants — and a primary care clinician to make the medical visits. Medical teams travel to the homes of patients and serve them aboard the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions' Mobile Health Central vehicle.

Community health and wellness initiatives

The [CMU Interdisciplinary Center for Community Health and Wellness](#) continues to earn recognition as a leading contributor to health and wellness in the Great Lakes Bay Region and throughout Michigan – especially for its expanding expertise and resources focused on prevention and mitigation of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and trauma-responsive practice.

“In Michigan, more than two-thirds of adults have experienced one or more ACE. Child trauma and toxic stress are associated with physical illness, risk behaviors, and chronic health conditions across the lifespan such as addiction, mental illness, asthma, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, cancer and other illnesses,” said Alison Arnold, director for the Interdisciplinary Center.

The Interdisciplinary Center engages with faculty experts who develop trauma-responsive skill-building for students. For the last two years, the Center has

collaborated with faculty in the [College of Education and Human Services](#) to provide pre-service teacher candidates with a trauma-informed certification workshop. In 2019, the Center supported didactics and grand rounds programs for the College of Medicine and presented a keynote for Mott Children's Health Center's 2019 Tuuri Day conference in Flint.

Working with community partners, the Center also provides continuing education for professionals in health care, education, and other community sectors. Active collaborations include regional, state and national coalitions such as the [Michigan ACE Initiative](#). Twelve faculty now serve as Michigan ACE Master Trainers and have educated 200 community-based leaders and Michigan ACE Community Champions.

In May 2020, CMU launched a pilot, six-part, free professional education podcast series, [“Responding to ACEs: Resources for Resilience”](#) featuring faculty experts from across CMU. Speakers discuss trauma-informed strategies for medical and other professionals who work with children experiencing traumatic stress.

“ACEs are really one of the critical health issues in Michigan,” said **Dr. Judy Blebea**, associate dean for faculty development and faculty affairs in the College of Medicine and co-principal investigator for the grant. “Effectively addressing ACEs can reduce the impact and severity of these chronic health conditions for both children and adults.” The pilot project was funded by a collaborative grant between the College of the Arts and Media and the College of Medicine.

Based on the positive response to the pilot series, the Interdisciplinary Center was awarded funding by [The Children's Foundation](#) to expand podcast programs for improving children's health. An all new series, “CMU Shifting Mindsets for Better Health!” will debut in 2020.

Launched in 2017, the [Interdisciplinary Center](#) is a collaboration among the [CMU College of Medicine](#), the [College of the Arts and Media](#), the [College of Education and Human Services](#), the [College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences](#), and [The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions](#) to focus on connecting CMU faculty, students, and University resources with community partners with a focus on health priorities through research, education, and innovative community engagements focused on improving health and wellbeing.



(L to R) Anne-Marie Wiggins, family nurse practitioner, CMU Health; Natalie Hamilton, third-year medical student; Nicole Buozis, third-year medical student; Dr. George Kikano, dean, CMU College of Medicine; and Lauren Stull, third-year medical student

▶ LEADING THE WAY

BEARING WITNESS: RESPONDING TO COMMUNITIES AND A WORLD IN NEED

Midland Flood

In May, days of heavy rain led to dam failures which flushed two billion gallons of water into the communities of Sanford and the surrounding area of Arenac, Gladwin, Iosco, Midland and Saginaw Counties. The rushing water forced 10,000 people to flee their homes to escape the devastating impact of flash flooding. Many elderly residents, some requiring medical assistance, were evacuated to a shelter at Midland High School.

When CMU's College of Medicine Nurse Practitioner and long-time Midland resident **Anne-Marie Wiggins**, learned of the need for care, she called **Dr. George Kikano**, dean of the College of Medicine. When he arrived at the shelter, Dr. Kikano quickly arranged the assistance of medical students, who were unable to work their clinical rotations due to COVID-19 and flooding at the local hospital. Together, the students, faculty, staff and Dr. Kikano provided humanitarian care to dozens of evacuees. "In addition to managing preventative care for COVID-19, we were taking care of fears — personal, emotional, medical and spiritual needs," said Wiggins.

Natalie Hamilton, third-year medical student, was one of the volunteers. She grew up in a small town in Northern Michigan and says Midland feels like home. "I'm grateful they reached out to us and asked for help," Hamilton said. "I've never been part of a relief effort like this. I can take this with me after medical school. I feel more comfortable knowing how a shelter like this is run and what I can do to help." Hamilton was surprised at how

quickly aid arrived from throughout the area. "You never think this will happen in your community. It's devastating."

"Our clinicals were cancelled, but we are still serving the community," said fourth-year medical student, Lindsay Murphy. "We were honored to do this work."

Collaborative research probes fish links to coronavirus

Faculty members **Michael Conway**, a microbiologist in the College of Medicine, and **Peter Dijkstra**, who teaches biology in the College of Science and Engineering, have teamed up to explore whether the emergence of the coronavirus in Wuhan, China, can be traced to fish sold in the city's open markets where the virus is believed to have first infected humans. "This is an important project because we still don't know what species is involved in the disease

transfer that led to human infection and the current pandemic," Conway said.

Telemedicine supporting health care processing

Some students, such as **Yasmeen Mann**, fourth-year medical student, helped physicians by connecting with patients with telehealth services. "This pandemic has many patients feeling overwhelmed, confused and concerned. However, by embracing telemedicine patients have the opportunity to address their health concerns in real time," remarked Mann. **Dr. Steve Vance**, dean for clinical education and emergency medicine residents, **Dr. Bryan Brazeau** and **Dr. Matthew Wolf** organized groups of medical students; and faculty volunteers made phone calls to [Covenant HealthCare](#) employees who had been exposed.

Filling critical links in the COVID-19 testing chain

College of Medicine students and faculty are helping to make the transport medium for mid-Michigan hospitals and testing sites. "Our hospitals were short on supplies. We make those media all the time in our labs, so we stepped in to help," said College of Medicine faculty member **Jesse Bakke**.

In their own words: student reflections

The profound and traumatic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are here to stay. This collective new normal is one of precarious realities and expectations for continuing crises of physical health, economic well-being, and mental health for many populations. Today our medical and health care professions are in a crucible of change.

In March 2020, Central Michigan University created an interdisciplinary “Pop Up” course that brought together scholars from across the university including College of Medicine fourth-year students. The following excerpts are taken from the final course blog journals. These graduating students and future physicians bravely bear witness and share poignant and personal reflections:

Perspectives on Pandemics was my last course before becoming an MD. I thought it would be a medically focused course and was surprised to find out it was anything but. I was even more surprised when I realized how important this was to wrap up my four years of medical school. Interprofessional Education has been a part of the four-year curriculum at CMU’s College of Medicine. We spent time learning and training with other health care providers. Through this course experience, I realized there is so much more to learn beyond the health field that can help us overcome challenges in health care. Biological anthropology, journalism, history, and even fiction books, have the potential to provide guidance on the circumstances we have found ourselves in today. In continuing my career, I have a new tool in my “doctor’s bag.” For challenges I face, big or small, I will carry the knowledge to collaborate with professionals beyond the hospital and health field.

– **Haley Masters**, class of 2020

Instead of finishing my last course studying obstetrical ultrasound in the hospital, COVID-19 restrictions forced me to choose an online course in order to graduate from medical school: enter Perspectives on Pandemics. I had no idea at the time that the anxieties produced by this course would rival those in my hardest medical school courses. In medical school we learn the why and how of human science and disease management. Classes move insanely fast and I basically guzzled information from a firehose for the last

four years. The irony is not lost on me that now with a single class, one assignment standing between me and graduation, the quiet, time, and freedom have left me unsettled and antsy... during this course I learned more about who came before me and how they created the world I’m in. Our ancestors’ toils to discover inoculation, then vaccination, stabilized my knowledge of vaccination’s benefits for my patients and its importance in healthcare moving forward. Their emancipation from Smallpox, and how it required reporting, contact tracing, immediate vaccination, and follow-up monitoring for years, shows us the right way to defeat our own virus. Reflection on physician recommendations from centuries ago to provide free and accessible vaccinations compelled me to solidify my own conviction that healthcare should be a right, not a privilege. History’s sacrifice of millions of humans to deliver this information should not be taken for granted, and I know I cannot ignore these lessons.

– **Elise Edwards-Cavaleri**, class of 2020

It is essential to recognize the importance of medical professionals during our current crisis. A web of misinformation has penetrated every layer of society; from you the individual, all the way to physicians themselves. In these pressing times it is imperative that we have the ability to separate fact from fiction. As health care professionals who will continue to lead the charge against COVID-19, it is my hope that the public’s trust in physicians is restored. As I go forward and put myself and loved ones at risk in order to treat the nation’s sickest, I want you to know that I will never stop caring for you. In a world that appears out to get you, I will always have your back.

– **Brandon Govan**, class of 2020

There is no doubt the CMU College of Medicine’s class of 2020 will have an indelible impact on our world through their future contributions as physicians, scientists, healers, and most of all for their humanity.



Ashley Stantz

Fourth-year medical student Ashley Stantz shared her thoughts on social media regarding the impact of COVID-19 on her life

This is how I feel. I’m scared. Cities in my state are becoming overwhelmed, my own county is preparing for the worst. I didn’t train for this: to help providers take nasal cell samples from sick and worried patients in a parking lot, to stand 6 feet from my fellow human beings, to gown up, glove up, mask up... just to talk to a patient while I stand a dog’s leash away. I didn’t train to be leery of a patient who is coughing and can’t breathe properly - looking at me with scared eyes... I didn’t train to come home to my garage and strip off clothing every single day. I didn’t train to worry about kissing my husband.

I trained to care for patients and this is my new world. I’m adjusting. I don’t want to - but I will. As the world trembles around us all, I will suit up, mask up, glove up and radiate all the care and love to my patients that I can with only my eyes and sometimes my voice.

This is my medical school graduating portrait. I will have no cap and gown. No dress. No fancy shoes. I will not walk a stage. I will not shake any hands. I will not smile and hold my diploma for my senior portrait. I cannot do any of these things. I can and will go into the fray, join the battle as I am able... I will do everything I can to care for the sick, vulnerable, and scared... for this is what I am trained to do.



(L to R) Mark Harrison, chief administrative officer, University Pediatricians; Dr. Mary Lu Angelilli, president, University Pediatricians; Dr. Kathleen Meert, chair of pediatrics, CMU College of Medicine; Bob Davies, president, CMU; and Dr. George Kikano, CMU vice president for Health Affairs and dean, CMU College of Medicine

▶ SUSTAINING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

New pediatrics discipline builds critical capacity to address Michigan's great needs for pediatric care

In 2019, the CMU Board of Trustees approved resolutions to create a pediatrics discipline within the College of Medicine joining foundational sciences, surgical and medical disciplines.

"CMU's affiliation with [University Pediatricians](#) will provide an excellent opportunity for College of Medicine students to train with outstanding academic physicians in a diverse, high-volume clinical environment – and will ensure our students have sufficient direct patient care to prepare them for their next level of training" noted Tina Thompson, senior associate dean of academic affairs in the CMU College of Medicine.

CMU medical students will have access to a variety of clinical pediatric experiences and approximately 20 pediatric subspecialties that will enhance the current depth and breadth of the College of Medicine's medical education program. Such experience fills an educational need for medical students, as very few of CMU's current clinical affiliates have pediatric services and subspecialties.

Dr. Kathleen Meert, has joined the College of Medicine as the new Chair of Pediatrics to oversee pediatric clinical education. Dr. Meert also serves as the Chief of Pediatric Critical Care Division at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

"University Pediatricians is delighted to welcome CMU medical students to [Children's Hospital of Michigan](#) in Detroit," said Dr. Meert. "We look forward to teaching CMU students in our unique

urban academic environment where we serve a diverse population of children and families."

University Pediatricians is a nonprofit academic pediatric practice dedicated to the care of children in southeast Michigan and committed to medical education and research.

"This is a monumental achievement for CMU's College of Medicine," CMU President Bob Davies said of the agreement. "It enables us — in working with other colleges of medicine in Michigan — to meet a huge need in our region and our state."

CMU/University Pediatricians

This strategic partnership supports the College of Medicine's mission to train culturally competent physicians to provide comprehensive health care to underserved populations in Michigan and beyond- by expanding pediatrics training available to CMU medical students. The pediatrics discipline becomes the fourth medical training specialty offered at the College of Medicine, joining foundational sciences, surgical and medical disciplines. The five-year affiliation agreement provides an "academic home" for University Pediatricians and infrastructure to support educational endeavors and research projects.

University Pediatricians employs 220 physicians. As part of this new affiliation, selected University Pediatricians physicians will receive part-time, non-tenured faculty appointments at the College of Medicine, allowing them to advance their educational experience and manage research grants.

These physicians will create an infrastructure to support pediatric research and scholarly activity at the university. The partnership will boost CMU and College of Medicine's research portfolio. University Pediatricians will collaborate with faculty at the College of Medicine to obtain grant funding and advance clinical and translational research to improve the care of children.

MIDOCs Expansion

The CMU College of Medicine partnered with four Michigan-based medical schools and the State of Michigan to form the [MIDOCs](#) initiative in 2019. MIDOCs, offers a new model for addressing physician shortages in underserved regions by funding additional residency slots for primary care. The program entices new primary care doctors to stay and practice in communities. Through MIDOCs, medical residents can apply for loan forgiveness of up to \$75,000 with a requirement that they continue to practice in an underserved area of the state for at least two years post-graduation. During the last year, the MIDOCs program's capacity has tripled in size. This offering made it possible for CMU Medical Education Partners to expand its [Psychiatry](#), [Internal Medicine](#), and [Family Medicine](#) residency training programs by two positions each in 2020.

THRIVE Initiative

[THRIVE \(Transforming Health Regionally in a Vibrant Economy\)](#) is a cross-sector collaboration of [MiHIA \(Michigan Health Improvement Alliance\)](#), working to achieve a community of health excellence and [GLBRA \(Great Lakes Regional Alliance\)](#), focused on economic prosperity along with key stakeholders in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Since its beginnings in 2017, the aim of THRIVE is to deliver improved health and sustained economic growth for communities across the Great Lakes Bay Region. THRIVE is distinctive in its simultaneous focus on health and the economy as part of an interwoven system where increased well-being leads to economic growth and vice versa. THRIVE brings together partners across multiple sectors, including health, education, economic development, finance, faith-based, and philanthropy, from 14 counties throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region. The initiative's five priority areas are: Community Attractiveness Engine, Building Provider Capacity, Investing in Social Determinants of Health, Job Creation, and Preventative Care. Through a series of focused actions in these areas to be implemented over the next twenty years, THRIVE will turn a declining population into a growing one, reduce the disadvantaged population, reduce high risk health behaviors and increase average income and overall workforce productivity. To drive the region's strategic investment for THRIVE's portfolio of priorities, a Funding and Financing Strategy is now underway that will catalogue, harness, and deploy the range of available public and private grant and financing sources to sustain and expand THRIVE activities in conjunction with many regional partners.

The [CMU College of Medicine, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions](#), the [CMU Interdisciplinary Center for Community Health and Wellness](#) and other CMU units have actively engaged on many levels with key aspects of [THRIVE](#) since its inception. College deans [Dr. George Kikano](#), and [Tom Masterson](#), serve on the MiHIA Board of Directors. In May 2020, the THRIVE initiative held a community-wide virtual convening, All of Us: Together Driving Health & Economic Success, to report progress on THRIVE's Phase 1 priorities and discuss Phase 2 priorities with stakeholders. The Great Lakes Bay Region's THRIVE initiative has attracted national interest as a promising

model for improving community health through highly effective and coordinated stakeholder collaboration. The event featured a keynote speech by [VADM \(Vice Admiral\) Jerome M. Adams, M.D., M.P.H.](#), U.S. Surgeon General, who recognized the momentum in the region. Additionally, at this community event, six Great Lakes Bay Region health care organizations signed the 2020 Statement of Public Commitment to Zero Harm, which is a formal document jointly committing the advancement of the region's healthcare delivery systems to achieve a target of Zero Harm.

CMU's emerging health services research capacity is growing through its partnership with THRIVE which has received grant funding from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to create an Evaluation Consortium. [Beth Bailey](#), director of health services research for CMU College of Medicine is serving as a co-leader for the consortia. Other organizations involved in the THRIVE Evaluation Consortia have agreed to participate by committing individuals and resources going forward including: the [CMU College of Medicine, The Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions, Saginaw Valley State University's College of Health Professions](#), School of Business, [Michigan State University's Axia Institute, University of Michigan's Department of Learning Health Sciences](#), the [Michigan Public Health Institute, Public Sector Consultants](#) and the [Center for Health & Research Transformation](#).

Covenant affiliation

Central Michigan University and [Covenant HealthCare](#) in Saginaw signed a 25-year affiliation agreement on July 30, 2019. The milestone agreement affirms that Covenant will serve as the primary site for undergraduate medical education in the region.

Through the agreement, CMU medical students will continue to complete clinical rotations at Covenant facilities under the supervision of physicians who serve as CMU faculty members. It also increases opportunities for clinical research on public and community health issues prominent in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

"Covenant is a regional leader for health care and an important partner to Central Michigan University for medical education and training," said [Dr. George Kikano](#), vice president of health affairs and dean of the

CMU College of Medicine. "By cementing our long-term relationship with Covenant, communities and residents across our region and beyond will benefit from improved access to health care as we fill the critical need for medical professionals."



VADM (Vice Admiral) Jerome M. Adams, M.D., M.P.H.
U.S. Surgeon General

The College of Medicine recognizes CMU University Communications for their contributions to this report and covering these stories throughout the year.

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