

THE BREEZEWAY

Summer 2020

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

UTHealth
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at Houston

McGovern
Medical School

50 YEARS



CLASS OF 2020



In Memoriam

HENRY W. STROBEL, JR., PhD

Beloved biochemistry faculty member, founder of the student retreat, and inaugural associate dean of faculty affairs Henry W. Strobel, PhD, 76, died in his sleep Saturday, Nov. 23, 2019, in Houston.

written by
Office of Communications
McGovern Medical School at UTHealth

An original faculty member of the newly established The University of Texas Medical School at Houston, Strobel joined the faculty as an assistant professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in 1972. He rose up through the faculty ranks—named professor in 1982, served as acting chair of the department in 1984, and named professor emeritus in 2014.

“Henry was an icon of our school,” said Michael R. Blackburn, PhD, executive vice president and chief academic officer of UTHealth.

In addition to his faculty roles, Strobel served the medical school in numerous administrative capacities and made an indelible mark upon the school’s culture and traditions by establishing a student orientation retreat and an international elective to China.

In August 1977, Strobel helped organize the first freshman orientation retreat at Camp Allen, bringing students and faculty together, setting the tone for the incoming students of the medical school. That annual event has become a rite of passage for McGovern Medical School students, establishing values and kindling friendships.

“Nobody, in the history of our incredible institution, lived the character we all hope to aspire to more than Henry. He was an energetic educator, a steady mentor, a thoughtful leader, a patient listener,

a meticulous scientist, and, above all, a remarkable and compassionate friend who taught all those around him how important relationships were. His relentless pursuit of humanism and his vibrant spirit will forever live in the McGovern halls, while his knack for welcoming new members into our institution will forever live at Camp Allen,” said Matt Harting, MD ’03, assistant professor of pediatric surgery.

In 2006, the medical school’s Alumni Association created the Henry W. Strobel, PhD, Freshman Retreat Fund to help underwrite the costs of future retreats. “The retreat was Henry’s idea from the start,” said Alan Friedman, MD ’86, past president of the Alumni Association. “Without him, there never would have been one.”

“He was just a great man. I kind of think of Dr. Strobel as Mr. Rogers—thoughtful, kind, thinking of other people, just trying to make other people’s lives better. He always cared for the medical students and brought kindness to the school,” said Joel Dunnington, MD ’81.

Strobel was the medical school’s first associate dean for faculty affairs after having served as chair of the Faculty Promotions Committee for a number of years. He was also assistant dean for student affairs, 1991–95, and associate dean for alumni relations, 2009–15.

Strobel once wrote: “As I reflect on my life/career, I think that the things I enjoyed and enjoy the most are those opportunities and activities that facilitate the ability of others to give the gifts they have and to be the persons they are. There have been many such opportunities for me at the university level and beyond, and I am thankful for them all.” ●

“His amazing contributions reach far and wide, impacting students, faculty, and staff. He was a great mentor and friend and will be missed by many.”

Michael R. Blackburn, PhD
Executive Vice President
and Chief Academic Officer of UTHealth

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION IN MEMORY OF DR. STROBEL
PLEASE VISIT GIVING.UTH.EDU/MEMORIAL



Farewell from DEAN STOLL

Hello,

“It is a good thing to lighten another’s path at this time and at all times of the year. Let us share the light and warmth and love we feel with others whether colleagues, patients, or the stranger in haste.”

This is a quote from Dr. Henry Strobel, beloved faculty member of McGovern Medical School who died at the age of 76, this past Nov. 23, 2019.

Dr. Strobel’s words of wisdom hold special meaning during these complicated and stressful times for our world and medical school. We’ve written more about Dr. Strobel and the remarkable impact he made on so many in this issue of The Breezeway.

Also in this issue are highlights of our McGovern Medical School’s 50th anniversary celebration. We have so many people and traditions to honor. Our Class of 2020 used technology, imagination, and flexibility for the traditions of Match Day and Commencement this year, as these annual celebrations moved to online formats. We are so proud of their accomplishments and resiliency—and look forward to their future in medicine, always a part of the McGovern family. We are preparing our students and trainees to care for their patients in a new world, where telehealth, personal protective equipment, and social distancing are more than just new vocabulary. Working with our hospital partners, public health colleagues, and our communities, we will continue to lead this fight.

On a personal note, I am stepping down as dean this summer. I am proud to consider myself part of the McGovern Medical School alumni family. Serving as your dean has been the absolute highlight of my career, and I am very grateful to President Giuseppe Colasurdo for having given me this opportunity.

Warm regards,

Barbara J. Stoll, MD
Dean, McGovern Medical School
H. Wayne Hightower Distinguished Professor in the Medical Sciences



Richard J. Andrassy, MD



Latanya J. Love, MD



Michael R. Blackburn, PhD

Following five years of exemplary service to McGovern Medical School at UTHealth, Barbara Stoll, MD, has retired from her role as dean. During her tenure, Stoll has fostered a culture of collegiality, openness, and integrity. The first woman to lead our school, Stoll has been an outstanding role model—especially for young women, who now make up more than 50% of our medical students. Her leadership has been characterized by a commitment to academic excellence, a genuine concern for the well-being of students, faculty, and staff, and her personal warmth.

UTHealth President Giuseppe Colasurdo, MD, has appointed a strong and experienced leadership team to guide the school during this transition while a national search is conducted. Richard J. Andrassy, MD, professor and chair of the Department of Surgery, will assume the role of Executive Dean *ad interim*; Latanya J. Love, MD, vice president for Student Affairs and Diversity, will serve as Dean of Education *ad interim* and continue working with Patricia Butler, MD, head of Educational Programs, to prepare for the school’s upcoming LCME review; and Michael R. Blackburn, PhD, executive vice president and chief academic officer at UTHealth, will serve as Dean of Research *ad interim* and focus on talent development, recruitment, and retention alongside the school’s well-established research leadership team. ●

EMERGENCY MEDICINE ALUMNI BATTLE

COVID-19 ON THE FRONT LINES

AND AT HOME

Over the past six months, the global COVID-19 pandemic has affected nearly every person in the world in some form or another. Whether navigating daily concerns of social distancing and personal hygiene or knowing friends or family members who have contracted the virus, the pandemic is a serious concern worldwide.

written by
Roman Petrowski
Office of Communications
McGovern Medical School at UTHealth

As emergency medicine physicians, McGovern Medical School alumni Brent King, MD '83, and Kelly Dodge, MD '04, watched with the rest of the world as the pandemic spread west from China into Europe and eventually landed in the United States.

"Once we failed to contain the virus by screening at airports, it was pretty certain we were going to see cases in the U.S.," said King, professor and vice chair of patient safety and quality assurance at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. "Then, as data began to emerge suggesting COVID-19 could be spread by asymptomatic individuals, it was clear we would have an epidemic on our hands."

As with all physicians on the front lines of the pandemic, the battle against COVID-19 hit both at work and at home. They leave their families every day, putting themselves face to face with the deadly disease, to help those infected and potentially stop the spread. However, with the courage to fight the virus comes the risk of exposure.

"Personally, I was scared," said Dodge, an emergency medicine physician at Hoag Hospital in Newport Beach, California. "I knew I'd be seeing very sick patients with COVID and felt incredibly anxious about the many unknowns of the disease. I was nervous about my health, and the health of my family."

Despite the risks, emergency medicine physicians and other essential health care workers continue to press on as normal, though ever conscientious of their surroundings to prevent unnecessary and potentially harmful spread.

Each day begins with a temperature check and the donning of necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) before entering the emergency department. When seeing patients, the physician's wardrobe consists of an N95 mask, goggles, gloves, and a gown. For high-risk procedures like intubation, physicians wear a powered and supplied air respiratory protection (PAPR) hood to provide head, face, eye, and respiratory protection.

"The courage and dedication of health care professionals has inspired me and renewed my faith in the profession," King said. "Doctors, nurses, and others have been selfless, brave, and have been tireless advocates for rational efforts to keep people safe and healthy."

An increase in PPE when seeing patients face to face is not the only change for physicians treating patients with COVID-19. The disease has also brought on an influx of telemedicine visits, especially for King, who joined the "high-risk" age group after his last birthday.

"My colleagues have decided that we old codgers aren't allowed to be involved in procedures that have the potential to generate respiratory aerosols, and that's been humbling," King said. "I'm using technology to interview patients in the emergency department, and when I'm focused on surge operations for our health systems, I spend a lot of the day between Zoom and phone calls."

"But at the end of the day, I am a physician, and I believe I took a sacred oath to take care of the sick, and I plan to keep on doing just that."

Perhaps the most difficult change for all involved in the COVID-19 pandemic is the inability for friends and family to be with loved ones who are going through the disease. Because the virus is highly contagious, the danger of allowing more people in a hospital room can lead to patients fighting the disease alone.

"I hate the inability of families to be with their loved ones in the emergency department," Dodge said. "To have to call a loved one on my phone, hold it up to their family member's ear, and say goodbye is heart-wrenching. I've always had family at bedside during end-of-life situations, and not having them there makes me heartbroken for both the patient and their loved ones."

Even the end of shift has changed drastically for health care workers during COVID-19. Dodge said she cleans all of her gear, stethoscope, work phone, ID tag, and takes a shower at the end of every shift, and she doesn't bring her work items into the house to avoid any potential spread.

"I was frightened that I could bring this home and get my family or my mother (who is in her 60s and lives with Dodge) sick," she said. "I made it my mission to protect myself and minimize risk by streamlining what needed to be done."

Despite everything going on around them, however, both alumni have been able to find positives to help counterbalance the negatives. For King, the changes at home have been minimal.

"Our social life hasn't changed that much," King said. "My wife, Rosemary Kozar, MD, PhD, has a busy career, so we like relaxing at home. The gym in our apartment building has been closed, so I have my road bike on a trainer, and I do virtual rides in the French and Italian Alps, and I do some Zoom exercise classes to stay in shape and relieve stress."

For Dodge and her school-aged children, the changes have been more impactful. Due to shutdowns, there are no more sporting events for her kids. Opportunities to attend parties and school events, or even just to get together with friends, have also gone away. However, technology has made those changes easier to deal with and given her a new perspective on life.

"I've been using Zoom to have happy hours with my college friends, and my boys are having Zoom calls with their friends as well," she said. "We got a golden retriever puppy, and we get out for lots of walks and playing, and we've done a lot of yard work and house organizing as well. I'm lucky to have a great core group of friends that I can count on when I need to talk, and we've definitely been there for each other."

"The most positive thing has been taking a step back and spending quality time with my family," she said. "I realized that my marriage is strong, my children are amazing, and that I need to let some things go."

The ability to find positives in every situation is a special quality that a lot of physicians possess. Perhaps that is what allows them to keep pressing on, even when a situation around them seems so dire.

"If this pandemic has taught us anything, it's that all of us who are dedicated to human health—from the bench scientists to the bedside clinicians, from every corner of the globe—can set aside national and political differences to confront a common foe," King said. "Maybe that is an example that the whole planet should follow." ●

"The most positive thing has been taking a step back and spending quality time with family."

Kelly Dodge, MD '04
Emergency Medicine Physician
Hoag Hospital Newport Beach, CA

"Then, as data began to emerge suggesting COVID-19 could be spread by asymptomatic individuals, it was clear we would have an epidemic on our hands."

Brent King, MD '83
Professor and Vice Chair of Patient Safety and Quality Assurance
University of Maryland School of Medicine



FALL

50TH ANNIVERSARY KICKS OFF

September 2019

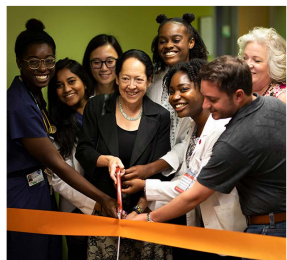
McGovern Medical School began celebrating its yearlong 50th anniversary. Flags, banners, and signage showcasing the 50th anniversary were displayed around the school. Students, faculty, and staff attended the first 50th anniversary event—an Ice Cream Social and Decades Party Sept. 17 in the Leather Lounge.



LOSI'S LOUNGE

Sept. 5, 2019

McGovern Medical School students take their first look at the grand opening of the Student Lounge in the LRC. The Student Lounge is known as "Losi's Lounge," named after John Cangelosi, MD '05.



50TH ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

Sept. 26, 2019

Alumni and medical school student scholarship recipients gathered at the home of Clifford Moy, MD '85, and Mrs. Diane Moy.



MD/PhD ALUMNI RECEPTION

Nov. 2, 2019

More than 50 McGovern Medical School and MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences alumni and their guests reunited for the inaugural MD/PhD Alumni Reception hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations at Brennan's of Houston. Dianna M. Milewicz, MD, PhD, director of the MD/PhD program, and her team were integral in making this event come to fruition.



WINTER

STUDENT WELCOME RECEPTIONS

Dec. 4 and 7, 2019

Admitted McGovern Medical School students connected with alumni at mixers in College Station and Austin.



JINGLE BELL PARTY

Dec. 7, 2019

Medical students and their families attended a family-friendly holiday party featuring a surprise appearance from Santa at the home of Anthony Sutton, MD '08.



WOMEN IN MEDICINE HOUSTON ALUMNAE MIXER

Feb. 13, 2020

More than 60 alumnae networked at the inaugural Women in Medicine Houston Alumnae Mixer hosted by Farah Shah, MD '89.



SPRING

McGOVERN DAY

March 2, 2020

Students, faculty, and staff gathered for a dessert reception to celebrate McGovern Day. The day honors the generosity of the John P. McGovern Foundation and its transformational gift to UTHealth.



SAN ANTONIO ALUMNI MIXER

March 4, 2020

Judianne Kellaway, MD '87, hosted the annual San Antonio Alumni Mixer.



VIRTUAL HOMECOMING WEEKEND

March 27-28, 2020

While we weren't able to gather together and celebrate Homecoming Weekend and McGovern Medical School's 50th Anniversary this year, we hosted an event virtually where fellow alumni shared messages and photos.



McGOVERN MEDICAL SCHOOL CLASS OF 2020 CELEBRATES

FIRST VIRTUAL MATCH DAY



Sandra Coke
McGovern Medical School

written by
UTHealth Office of Public Affairs

Traditionally on Match Day, crowds of medical students can be seen holding their envelopes up to the sun to sneak a peek at their match before ripping them open. But this year, future physicians sat with their eyes glued to their inboxes as their fates were delivered via email.

In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was still cause to celebrate as fourth-year McGovern Medical School at UTHealth students learned where they will be taking the next step of their medical careers.

On Friday, March 20, at the same time across the country through the National Resident Matching Program, medical students learned where they will train as residents in U.S. programs.

Of the 236 graduating seniors from McGovern Medical School who participated in the National Resident Matching Program, 136 (57%) will stay in Texas for their first year of postgraduate training and 56 (24%) matched to McGovern Medical School programs. In primary care fields, where there is an acute need of physicians, 88 members (37%) matched.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE FACES OF McGOVERN MEDICAL SCHOOL'S CLASS OF 2020:



RYAN KIM

Born and raised in Seoul, South Korea, Ryan Kim traveled by himself to the U.S. at age 16 to attend school in Massachusetts. And now he'll be a resident in ophthalmology at UT Southwestern in Dallas after completing his intern year in medicine at McGovern Medical School.

"I'm especially interested in the meticulous microscopic management of eye disease, both surgically and nonsurgically," Kim said. "There's a ton of research and innovative advancements happening in the field, and I'm excited to be a part of it."



CLAUDIA MARTINEZ

At home with her parents by her side, Claudia Martinez, 29, quietly opened her email and found the proof she was looking for: confirmation that she could achieve her dreams, no matter what. She matched to her top choice for physical medicine and rehabilitation residency training at TIRR Memorial Hermann—the very hospital where she had been a patient.

"I believe I am the first patient of TIRR to enter the UTHealth PM&R residency program! I can't wait to care for patients with the same physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech-language pathologists, nurses, and others who took care of me," Martinez said.

After being diagnosed in 2011 with Chiari malformation, a condition in which a portion of the brain protrudes from the bottom of the skull compressing the brainstem, she was even more determined to earn that medical degree and white coat.

After surgery and recovery she enrolled at McGovern Medical School in 2014. But more surgeries lay ahead to treat several serious conditions, including a stroke in 2017 that initially left her unable to function from the neck down.

Martinez never gave up. Her strength and resilience inspired one of her classmates, Omar Alnatour, to start a fundraising campaign to establish the Claudia I. Martinez Strength Scholarship Endowment to recognize the accomplishments and achievements of other students at McGovern Medical School who are facing hardships in pursuit of their medical education. ●

FELLOW ALUMNI CONGRATULATE THE CLASS OF 2020

To show support for the Class of 2020 as they closed out their time at McGovern Medical School remotely, the Office of Alumni Relations invited alumni to share a note of encouragement, piece of advice, a (virtual) pat on the back, or a warm welcome into our alumni family.

I graduated 30 years ago

and can't believe how fast the time has gone. I wish the Class of 2020 all the best in the days and decades ahead. Try to enjoy every minute of helping those patients who will turn to you for advice and comfort so that 30+ years hence you can reflect on the work you have done and smile!

John White, MD '90

You did it!

Although the celebration is tamped, your hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. Your fellow alumni know the great sacrifice you have made to get to this moment and stand to applaud you. Enjoy and absorb your next years of residency. As some have already mentioned, you will make mistakes. We all do. Be humble and learn from them. No matter how tired you may feel, never take for granted the great honor and privilege it is to care for someone's loved one. They are counting on you and you are ready.

Congratulations, graduates!

Adriane Ramirez Garcia, MD '06

Class of 2020,

You will definitely remember your MS four years as being unique! Welcome to your physician family. Every day, we each grapple with making the best decisions we can—for our patients, for our staff, for our family. I hope you are hearing and sharing some stories that inspire you and help you see what a calling medicine is for us, and now for you too! Even well after residency, you never stop learning and adapting, and wow has that been true this spring! Get as much sleep as you can before your intern year! Good luck on the next phase of your journey...

Stephanie Elmore, MD '94

Congratulations on graduating!

I know this is not what you all expected, but you didn't go into medicine for the honors, you did it to take care of patients. You are all celebrated and should be excited about moving on to the next chapter! Congratulations, again!

Nathan Rogers, MD '16

What a monumental time

to become an MD and start making a difference in the world! While you won't have a graduation, you may have the most opportunity of any class to make lives better. Congratulations.

Jan Evans Patterson, MD '82, MS

Class of 2020,

CONGRATULATIONS!!! You all should be so proud! These are exceptional times, and your tireless efforts don't go unnoticed. Embrace change and be ready to adjust to more than just these pandemic times—medicine and life are full of opportunities to adapt. May your next adventure be full of joy and celebration with this achievement of graduating medical school complete!

Happy Journeys,

Natalie J. Tedford, MD '17

Dear Graduates,

May your excitement and dreams continue on in life. May you find joy in your future and success in your hearts. Your future is bright and you are the ones who will lead us into the future of health care. As I remember my graduation day in 2002, I think of my family being close and celebrating with me. I hope the same for you. You are entering a profession that becomes part of you. Most of you will lose your first name and affectionately be called "Doc." May you stay true to the calling and purpose that you had when medicine chose you. Put your family and your patients first and true success that can't be taken away will follow you.

Congratulations, Class of 2020!

Joseph Lipscomb, MD '02



ALUMNAE SHARE EXPERIENCES AS WOMEN IN MEDICINE



From left: Gloria Oyeniyi, MD '11; Priscilla Alfaro, MD '89; Ellen Manzullo, MD '86; Farah Shah, MD '89; Nancy Dickey, MD '76; and Dean Barbara Stoll, MD.

written by
Jessica Vanderpool
UTHealth Office of Development

Alumna Carin Hagberg, MD '88, remembers when there were only a handful of socially acceptable careers for women in the workforce—and being a physician was not one of them. However, she did not let that stop her from becoming a successful medical professional. She now works at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center as chief academic officer; head of the Division of Anesthesiology, Critical Care and Pain Medicine; and professor with tenure.

As she shared her experience with a room filled with female medical students hanging on her every word during the inaugural McGovern Medical School Women in Medicine Alumnae Panel, it was clear just how much times have changed. Now, about 55% of students enrolled at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth are female.

Hagberg was one of seven alumnae who shared their advice and experiences as women in medicine with the 45 students in attendance. The event, which was held Feb. 27 at McGovern Medical School, was organized by the McGovern Medical School Office of Alumni

Relations and the Alumni Student Network. Earlier in the day, panelists were invited to a luncheon with Barbara J. Stoll, MD, dean and H. Wayne Hightower Distinguished Professor in the Medical Sciences. Later, during the evening event, alumnae were divided into three panels to speak on the topics of career paths, work-life balance, and academic and leadership positions.

"I love it that you're here and interested," Hagberg said to the women in attendance. "You're all on your way to becoming women physicians, and we need more women physician leaders... We (panelists) are here to show you that there is a fulfilling life as a leader; it's joyous, too."

Hagberg was part of the panel speaking on women in academic and leadership positions. Along with her were Nancy Dickey, MD '76, president emeritus at Texas A&M Health Science Center and executive director of A&M Rural and Community Health Institute, and Bela Patel, MD '93, vice dean of healthcare quality, division director of critical care medicine, and professor of medicine at McGovern Medical School.

The topic of work-life balance was addressed by Priscilla Alfaro, MD '89, chief medical officer for Zelis Healthcare, and Farah Shah, MD '89, president and CEO of Houston Dermatology Associates. The topic of career paths was discussed by Ellen Manzullo, MD '86, professor of medicine and deputy division head (clinical) of the Division of Internal Medicine at MD Anderson and executive director for internal medicine in the MD Anderson Cancer Network®, and Gloria Oyeniyi, MD '11, assistant professor at Baylor College of Medicine.

Woven throughout speakers' comments was the theme of finding and following one's passion—even if that means changing directions. Oyeniyi shared how she had to switch specialties before finding a field about which she was passionate.

"I hope you wake up every day with the excitement that I still have right now as a psychiatrist," she said, adding, "It's not the end of the world if you (have to change specialties)."

Patel keyed on the word "pivot." As a critical care physician, she has learned every day is important.

"It sounds kind of cliché, but you get reminded that, at the end of the day, you have to find joy in your work... If at any point you don't find it, you can pivot," Patel said.

Dickey said she has done a lot of pivoting through the years. For instance, she pivoted from medical practice into medical policy and politics and then into academia. She encouraged listeners by assuring them that they have plenty of freedom to make any adjustments necessary.

"You have far more freedom today—and likely will have even more freedom by the time you finish your training—than we anticipated," she said.

Other topics addressed by speakers included finding mentors, advocates, and sponsors; being assertive; navigating relationships; and freeing oneself from guilt. The event was followed by a period of networking and conversations.

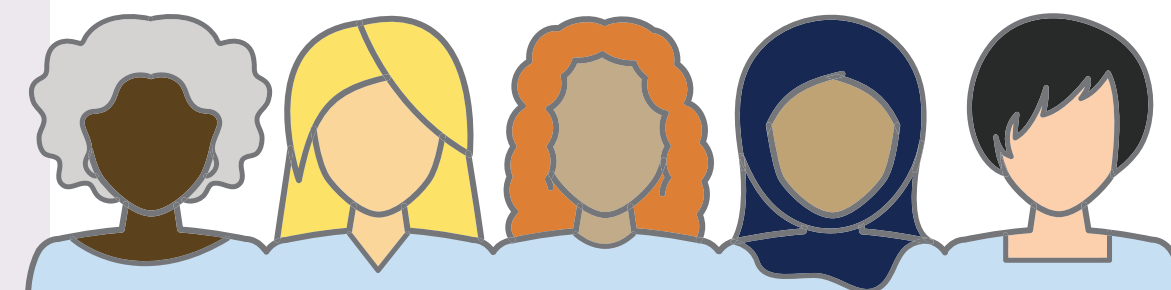
"To have women that I look up to speak to us, to me, was one of my medical school highlights—never have I felt so powerful and inspired to do more for medicine and my community," said Padmavathi "V" Karri after the event. Karri is finishing a gap year before continuing her education as a fourth-year medical student at McGovern Medical School. She also serves as co-president of the Alumni Student Network.

The evening's panel concluded with encouragement for students to enjoy their careers.

"I think what you have to do is learn to assess yourself with the same insight as you assess your patients, and when it stops being quite as much fun, ... just remember, all you have to do is pivot and you can get the energy and the enthusiasm back," said Dickey. ●

"You have far more freedom today—and likely will have even more freedom by the time you finish your training—than we anticipated."

Nancy Dickey, MD '76



LEVY, MCDONALD ACCEPT

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARDS



“In my world, there are medical staff leaders who are figure heads, and then there are those who strive for excellence and have a true passion for medical staff leadership.”

Bonnie Conley

“This is Dr. John McDonald. During my 35 years of hospital administration, I would honestly have to rank John in the top 1% of all medical staff leaders I’ve had the pleasure of working with. He’s well deserving of this award.”

McDonald said that it was humbling to think that of over 8,000 graduates of McGovern Medical School that there had only been 35 who have received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He said he remembered how the medical school just felt like the right place from the start and reminisced how Betty Murphy, the school’s registrar at the time, had memorized each of the 150 incoming medical students’ names before the first day.

Established in 1987, the purpose of the award is to recognize outstanding contributions of alumni in the areas of medical science and education, or the prevention and treatment of diseases, as well as continued interests in McGovern Medical School and its students. ●

modeled for them each day,” said Levy’s nominator and fellow Class of ‘79 alumnus Reuben Cohen. “This is not just a few lines on an impressive resume. This is about a physician who is passionate about helping others and has generously given his time and provided leadership and a caring heart to the organizations and pediatric patients they serve.”

Levy credited both his father and grandfather who were physicians for challenging him to pursue medical school, but said that his mother played a key role as well. He said that she sort of grew up in the medical field and was the toughest for him to convince that he had the determination to see it through.

McDonald has been the medical director of the North Hills Hospital in North Richland Hills, Texas, since 1991, and he has served as the chief medical officer there since 2014. He was the chief of staff of North Hills Hospital in 2005 and served as the chairman of the board. He is now the chief medical officer and the medical director of the pathology department.

“In my world, there are medical staff leaders who are figure heads, and then there are those who strive for excellence and have a true passion for medical staff leadership,” said McDonald’s colleague Bonnie Conley.

written by

Roman Petrowski

Office of Communications

McGovern Medical School at UTHealth

Faculty, medical students, friends, and family gathered together on Oct. 18, 2019, to celebrate the career and accomplishments of Moise L. Levy, MD ‘79, and John E. McDonald, MD ‘82, MSHM, CMQ, who accepted the Distinguished Alumnus Awards during a special event at InterContinental Houston-Medical Center.

Levy was the inaugural chief of pediatric dermatology and the inaugural physician-in-chief at Dell Children’s Medical Center in Austin. He is also the chair of the Institutional Review Board and vice chair of the Undergraduate Medical Education Committee at Dell Medical School while also serving on the Executive Committee for Promotions in the Department of Pediatrics. Levy is a professor of pediatrics and medicine (dermatology) at Dell Medical School and a clinical professor of dermatology at Baylor College of Medicine.

“Dr. Levy has been a dedicated educator and has mentored a long list of pediatric dermatologists who are well-trained, and more importantly, were fortunate enough to develop the compassion and care that he

DINNERS WITH A DOC

Alumni connected with medical students over dinner



Dinners with a Doc are casual gatherings that provide McGovern Medical School alumni and current students with opportunities to discuss careers in medicine and to develop mentoring relationships. Our medical students gain invaluable insight from seasoned alumni physicians, who, in turn, learn from students about the current state of their medical alma mater.



“I really enjoyed the lunch and Dr. Alfaro was an excellent alumna to meet with. Through her, I got to learn about a whole different side of medicine and see how her experiences have helped shape where she is now.”

Gabriella Go

MD Candidate | McGovern Medical School ‘21



We are proud to share our inaugural slate of Dinners with a Doc. Students had the opportunity to connect with our alumni throughout the academic year.

HOST PROGRAM

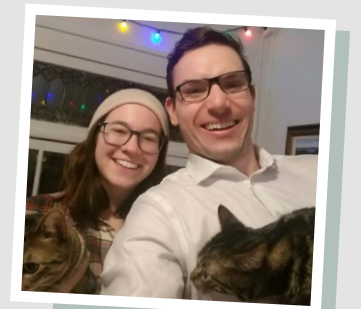
Alumni welcomed medical students traveling for residency interviews

The Help Our Students Travel (HOST) program connects current students traveling for residency interviews with alumni hosts in the vicinity of their interview sites. Alumni hosts may offer housing, helping to ease the financial burden and stress of the interview process. Alumni who cannot offer housing may also be an e-host by providing guidance on the local community, specialty, hospital, research, and more. The HOST program provides a wonderful opportunity to build connections between students and alumni that can last a lifetime.

“This was an excellent way to save a few dollars, make a few friends, and hear about a city and program from someone you can trust.”

Samuel Floren

McGovern Medical School ‘20



“This program saved me during interview season! My host was extremely gracious in providing lodging and advice. It made me feel much more comfortable moving to a new area because I felt like I had an ally. And, of course, it helped so much financially to not have to book a hotel!”

Yesul Tina Kim

McGovern Medical School ‘20



“The HOST program is a fantastic way for our students to save money on the interview trail as well as gain some additional insight into residency programs.”

Samuel Dugger

McGovern Medical School ‘20

“It was super helpful to have alumni provide a place to stay as well as get advice on life in the city, which helped to gain more insight into the local residency program.”

Momin Islam

McGovern Medical School ‘20

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE PROGRAMS, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE! [MED.UTH.EDU/ALUMNI](https://med.uth.edu/alumni)



CONVERSATIONS

FROM THE LEATHER LOUNGE

An interview with

Marica Gabriel Nino, MD '85, MPH

RESIDENCY:
Anesthesiology, UCLA Medical Center,
Los Angeles, CA 1986-1989

CURRENT JOB TITLE
Staff Anesthesiologist - Doctors Medical Center,
Modesto, CA 1991-2010

What is your fondest memory of your time at McGovern Medical School?

I remember gratefully how the medical school provided an incredible amount of support to us medical students so that we could just focus on learning, e.g., lectures on cassette tapes, printed course syllabi, the LRC (Learning Resource Center), to name a few. I often did not have time to read the textbooks, but since I listened to the lectures live and taped, and read the syllabi, I learned what was important. I studied, snacked and napped at the LRC. It was my second home. An unforgettable part of medical school life was Ms. Betty Murphy. She was mom, med student advocate, always available to listen to a student's concerns and offer a suggestion or two. Just knowing she was around was a comfort to me.

What are your hopes for today's McGovern Medical School students?

I hope that they can always be kind and compassionate to their patients and colleagues. Medicine is not just a job or profession but a calling. Delivering care is a team effort. We are all needed. I hope they can try to be involved in their communities in some manner. Opportunities may be volunteering in their children's school activities, joining the local medical society, or their specialty's professional organization. Many decisions impacting health care are made by nonmedical persons outside of hospitals and clinics.

What inspires you?

At different moments or phases in our lives, different personalities or events may inspire us. My parents were university professors who instilled in me a love of books, and the ethos of diligence. Dad is unusual; he studied engineering on a boxing scholarship, earned his PhD in economics, sang opera, and played several musical instruments. I am most inspired by persons who achieve balance in their lives: professional expertise and integrity, close friends and family who make them laugh, activities and interests that challenge them, keep bodies agile and minds sharp. A yin-yang between perseverance and play.

Who is your mentor?

Drs. Stanley Deutsch and Robert Merin, distinguished anesthesiology faculty at McGovern Medical School, both now deceased, helped crystallize anesthesiology as the specialty for me. Two anesthesia residents I worked with taught me a lot and were influential in my choice, even though we were not aware of it at that time. One can be mentoring someone without even realizing it.

What is the one thing you can't live without? Why?

My iPhone 11 Pro Max has replaced a roomful of equipment: GPS, camera, camcorder, fax machine, stereo, radio, alarm clock, filing cabinet, Rolodex, calendar, calculator, maps, newspaper.

What fulfills you most?

Watching my children develop into responsible adults and recognizing my role in that process; an evening of dinner and laughter with friends and family; a smooth course for a challenging patient; a day when I can be outdoors for a short hike or some golf; a spark of inspiration that develops into a new poem...are all fulfilling.

Who would you most like to meet (alive or deceased) and why?

Leonardo da Vinci—he was a painter, sculptor, architect, mathematician, inventor, and more. He imagined concepts and ideas centuries before their time. To listen to him think out loud or watch him work would be amazing.

What has been your greatest adventure?

Nothing can be more exciting for me than leaving my family and homeland at age 21 to pursue graduate studies in public health at UT, continuing on to med school, and working part-time at MD Anderson Cancer Center during the basic science years to support myself. Now adventures are more about taking family trips here and abroad, and sharing experiences together. ●

COMING SOON!

New online alumni network with opportunities to mentor, volunteer, and connect.

CONTACT

Send in your Class Notes!

Let us know what is happening with you and find out what your classmates have accomplished. Please submit your update at go.uth.edu/ClassNotes regarding your personal and professional accomplishments for our "Class Notes" section of the website, med.uth.edu/alumni.

UPDATE YOUR INFO

Have a new phone number? Changed your email address? Want to receive the electronic version of The Breezeway? If so, please take a moment to update your contact information at www.uth.edu/index/alumni-form.htm or fill out and return the attached self-mailing form.



Photo of Dean Stoll (Page 3/Robert Seale Photography, Inc.)

Save the Date Alumni Homecoming Weekend



MARCH 26-27, 2021
Houston, Texas

Celebrating the Classes of

'75, '76, '81, '85, '86, '90, '91,
'95, '96, '00, '01, '05,
'06, '10, '11, '15, '16, '20

Form used to update information with Alumni Association

First Name	Middle	Last Name	Suffix	Name at Graduation	Degree Program
Home Address	City	State	ZIP	Country	Preferred Mailing Address <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Business
Business Address	City	State	ZIP	Country	Contact Preference <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Cell
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Business Phone	Fax	Alternate Email	Student ID #
Email					

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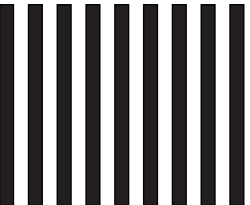
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