MD1s Study Poverty 101

Because poverty is the single best predictor of poor health, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine organizes a Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) as the first simulation of the MD1 curriculum. This learning tool has been created to help people understand the realities of poverty. Jennifer Joyce, MD, professor of family medicine and Betsy Mead, RN, clinical research associate, are trained facilitators for the CAPS programs developed by the Missouri Association for Community Action.

MD1s Kelly Ca, Wyatt Keck, Randy Lesh and Kaiya Flemons played the role of the Locke/Lewis family. As husband and wife with a high school daughter, the family was also caring for a father-in-law who was partially paralyzed from a stroke. The husband worked 40 hours a week for $8.50 an hour. The wife was unemployed and their daughter had a part-time job.

Randy Lesh, who portrayed the 57 year old with disabilities said, “I learned that when you are poor, people try to take advantage of you. We got charged to cash a paycheck because we didn’t have a bank account and creating a bank account would have held our check up for a week. You can get so beaten down that you stop fighting for what is right and just try to survive.”

Kelly Ca, who portrayed the mother, said, “While the poverty simulation was meaningful for the medical students, it cannot, unfortunately, fully convey the everyday struggle of people living in poverty. We, as a community, must be mindful and respectful of everyone’s differing backgrounds and circumstances.”

“Far more than others realize, impoverished individuals are fighting an uphill battle every single day. They have got to be the most hardworking people out there,” reported Wyatt Keck.

GCSOM partners with local service providers. Many thanks to the United Neighborhood Centers and Community Intervention Center for their expertise.

Save the date
Keystone Symposium

Thinking Ahead to the Future Directions of Adverse Child and Adult Experiences and Their Relationship to Building Communities of Resilience

Friday, Nov. 16
Noon – 4:15 p.m.

Medical Science Building Auditorium
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
525 Pine St., Scranton, PA, 18509

Guest Speakers:

Julian Ford, PhD
Professor of Psychiatry, University of Connecticut School of Medicine and President, International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies
Translating science into recovery for traumatized children and adults

Brooks Keeshin, MD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Utah and Board Member, Academy on Violence and Abuse
A primary approach to pediatric trauma – screening, diagnostic and treatment considerations

CME info and registration at:
https://go.geisinger.org/Keystone18

Students in the poverty simulation experience social services, the court system, pawn shops and jail as they attempt to survive living in poverty.
Program of Excellence

The Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine (GC-SOM) Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG), a group organized and led by GCSOM medical students, has been recognized with an award from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). The GCSOM students received a Program of Excellence Award for "promoting the scope and value of family medicine."

GCSOM’s FMIG faculty advisor is Jennifer Joyce, MD. Student leaders are Malina Lim, (shown in photo), Tyler Crissinger, Kendall Shifflett and Stacy Yeh, all members of GCSOM’s MD Class of 2020.

Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA)

Congratulations to members of the Class of 2019 who have earned Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) induction:

Elizabeth Boyle
Benjamin Dixson
Nicole Klein
Nicole Marianelli
Connor McDonald
John Orr
Jena Patel
Nicholas Tsitsilanos
Shane Warnock

Zaira Chaudhry
Christopher Edwards
Katherine Larrabee
Corinne McCabe
William McLaughlin
Eduardo Ortiz
Tina Roy
Brian Velasco

AOA, a highly respected national medical honor society, invites inductees who have demonstrated academic excellence along with the attributes of leadership, integrity, compassion, respect, volunteerism and professionalism.

- Margrit Shoemaker MD, AOA 1983
  Councilor, Theta Chapter of PA
**Research News**

**Guthrie Campus:**

Dr. Edo Kaluski, Dr. Safi Khan, PGY-3 IM resident, Dr. Hammad Rahman PGY-2 IM resident, Dr. Harshil Shah PGY-1 IM resident and **Jee Moon MD3** medical student from Geisinger Commonwealth College of Medicine, were invited to present at the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions’ (SCAI) Annual Scientific Sessions in San Diego, CA in April.

GCSOM MD3 student, Jee Moon, presented:

- Annulus Area/Body Mass Index Ratios as a Screening Tool for Preferred Therapeutic Strategy in Patients Requiring Aortic Valve Replacement. Authors: GCSOM’s **Jee Moon BS** and Guthrie’s Edo Kaluski MD and Guy Rogers, PA.

Additionally, the research is published in the international journal, *Catheterization and Cardiovascular Interventions*, Volume 91, Issue S2, available online at: https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ccd.27553

The QI project, entitled *Implementation of Clostridium difficile Algorithm for Reduction of Inappropriate Testing in a Community Hospital*, by Marcelle Meseheh, MD with students **Darla Fink, Natasha Kohanzadeh, Stephen Mazurkivich and Chloe Swanger**, MD3s, has been accepted for a poster presentation in the national conference for the American College of Gastroenterology in Philadelphia in October.

**Rachel Lovely, MD3** participated in three research projects:


**Publications:**


**Christian Bohan, MD3** publication:


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**Upcoming Events**

**Grand Rounds 2018**

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.  
Medical Sciences Building  
Room 2001  
Oct 11

**Qualitative Investigation of Cultural Motivations Behind Drugged Driving in High-Risk Populations**  
Carol Tang, MD3  
Nov. 8

**Geisinger’s MyCode Community Health Initiative and the Initial Impact on Familial Hypercholesterolemia Patients**  
Tim Corcoran, MD3  
RSVP to:  
Mary Theresa Mazur  
Faculty Affairs Programming Manager  
mmazur@som.geisinger.edu  
570-504-9678

**Black Ties for White Coats**  
10th Annual Scholarship Gala  
Saturday, Oct. 20  
5:30 p.m. -11:30 p.m.  
Keystone Grand Ballroom  
Mohegan Sun Pocono, Wilkes-Barre, Pa  
For tickets call 570-504-9065 or email gala@som.geisinger.edu

**Charter Class of 2013 Reunion**  
Saturday Oct. 6  
11 a.m. - 2 p.m. with lunch  
Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine  
RSVP to: Alumni@som.geisinger.edu

**Turkey Trot: 5K/10K Walk/Run**  
Sunday, Nov. 4, 9 a.m.  
Tiny Tot Turkey Trot: 8:30 a.m.  
Supports Friends of the Poor  
Register at: www.geisinger.edu/turkeytrot
Welcome MD and MBS classes

White Coat Ceremony

MD class profile

Class of 2022

Number of applicants: 5,064
Class size (new students): 110
Pennsylvania residents: 79
Geisinger Commonwealth counties: 37
Gender: (m/f): 58/52
Underrepresented in medicine: 16
First-generation college students: 28
Average MCAT: 32
Average MCAT 2015: 509

Master of Biomedical Sciences Class of 2019

MBS Class Profile

Total applications: 812
Enrolled: 101
Gender (m/f): 43/58
Pennsylvania students: 46
Northeastern and north central Pennsylvania students: 23
Underrepresented in medicine: 30
First-generation college students: 50
Disadvantaged: 21
Average GPA: 3.27
Average MCAT: 497

Medical Student Oath

“As a physician-in-training, my patients will be my first concern,
I will strengthen myself with the knowledge and compassion to care for them;
I will acknowledge my limits, seeking help when needed;
I will be gracious with my teachers and colleagues;
I will manifest the dignity and integrity inherent in the noble profession to which I aspire;
At all times, may I never see in the patient anything but a person in need.
This oath I take freely, upon my honor.”

Community-based    Patient-centered    Innovative education

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