

A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU EMERITUS FACULTY



# Emeritus

SPRING 2024







*Emeritus Faculty News* is published every spring and fall. Its purpose is to keep emeritus faculty informed about growth and other changes at OHSU. Items of interest should be sent to OHSU Faculty Affairs by email at [facaffairs@ohsu.edu](mailto:facaffairs@ohsu.edu).

Sources for the material in *Emeritus* are many, including OHSU news releases, electronic newsletters and blogs, printed material and local media reports.



# NEWS



Walter Dawson has drawn on his own experience as a young care partner for his father to address the challenges of dementia that affect millions of people in the United States and around the world. A new Brain Health Diplomat's Toolkit offers a practical set of tools to strengthen brain health capacities, promote collaboration and encourage the use of effective strategies to support brain health. (Photo courtesy of Walter Dawson)

---

Oregon's population is rapidly aging. With this shift comes an increasing need for access to behavioral health resources, including support for substance use disorders and serious mental illness. But these resources are often inaccessible and underutilized as the state's aging population encounters barriers to services and supports. Portland State University, in partnership with OHSU, has received a \$1 million, two-year grant from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to establish a center for excellence designed to address these challenges. This pass-through funding comes from Oregon's federal block grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. This award reflects OHA's strategic vision to address the behavioral health needs of older adults through training, research and workforce development. The Center for Excellence is a collaboration between the PSU School of Social Work, the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, the OHSU School

of Medicine, and OHSU School of Nursing. The activities will primarily be conducted within the Portland State's Institute on Aging and Regional Research Institute for Human Services. This multidisciplinary approach advances advocacy, health equity and best practices in care. "We are facing a nationwide mental health crisis among older adults that for far too long has been overlooked. Tragically, many behavioral health issues go undiagnosed and untreated, leaving many older adults to navigate the journey alone," said **Walter Dawson, D.Phil, M.Sc.**, assistant professor of neurology, School of Medicine, and co-director of the Center and. "All Oregonians deserve access to high-quality care that can support health and well-being across the life course including late life. Addressing a brain health challenge of this scope requires state and system-wide collaborations, and the establishment of this center is a critical first step towards improving the lives of Oregon's aging population." Supporting and expanding behavioral health programs and providers in Oregon will improve the well-being of Oregon's aging population — especially those living with mental health and substance use disorders. Next steps for the Center include developing an intersectional equity framework with community partner input, creating a steering committee and national advisory board, organizing workforce development events and a statewide conference, and developing an evaluation plan.

---

Ph.D. programs are major investments — of time, effort and money on the part of the students and on the part of the institutions themselves. One expectation driving Ph.D. programs in the OHSU School of Medicine is that graduate students will use what they've learned to advance medicine and biomedical science in their careers after graduation. The effort appears to be paying off: 81 percent of the OHSU Ph.D. graduates in the Class of 2022 are working in research and development as their primary activity, compared to only 38 percent at peer institutions. That's according to data gathered from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics annual Survey of Earned Doctorates (SED), an annual census of research doctorate degrees from accredited U.S. academic institutions. At OHSU, 60 of 64 graduates responded to the survey. The majority were in the School of Medicine.

---

The School of Dentistry has launched its inaugural issue of the *School of Dentistry Anthology*. This online academic publication is an opportunity for the OHSU School of Dentistry to share its scholarly work with the world. Students, residents, staff and junior faculty can easily communicate their discoveries given the short publication cycle and no fees. The publication is peer reviewed, fully citable and searchable through the OHSU Library Digital Collections. New issues will be published several times a year. The publication follows years of planning by School of Dentistry leadership, Student Research Group, faculty and OHSU Library. The anthology represents a significant milestone for our school, further enhancing its academic reputation and dedication to research, innovation and scholarly activity.



---

A new, OHSU-led project seeks to better center patient goals, preferences and values when health care professionals and patients work together to manage multiple chronic health conditions. Supported by a \$1.5-million award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the project aims to move the idea of person-centered care planning from theory and into practice. Research has shown this type of care planning can not only benefit both patients and providers, but that it can also be challenging to implement — which helps explain why it isn't widely used in the United States yet. "This study will help us understand the crucial role that primary care can play in improving person-centered care planning and coordination," said the project's principal investigator, **Deborah Cohen, Ph.D.**, professor of family medicine, School of Medicine.

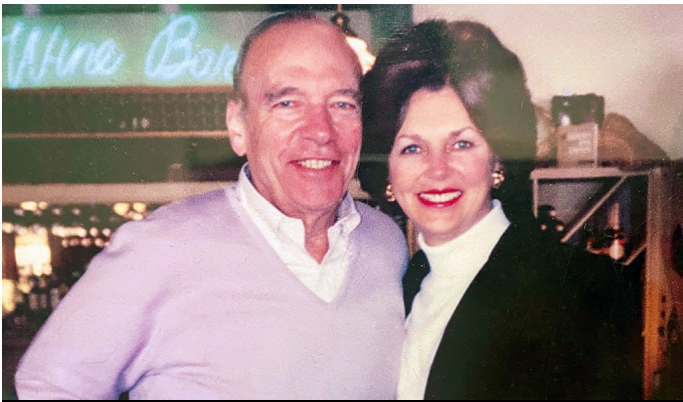


Kathleen Carlson, Ph.D., director of the newly developing OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center, stands outside the OHSU Hospital emergency department on Marquam Hill. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

---

A newly formed Gun Violence Review Commission will use a public health approach to examine cases of gun violence in Multnomah County, identify specific circumstances that lead to gunfire, and ultimately make recommendations to reduce firearm deaths and injuries in the community. Commission members include representatives from law enforcement and criminal justice, public health and social service agencies, faith groups, businesses, education and community-based organizations, as well as gun violence survivors. The group will review the circumstances of closed cases of gun violence that occurred within the county between the start of 2019 and May 31, 2023. Commission members will share information they may have about the people and circumstances involved in the incidents of firearm violence. "The goal is to discern common, systems-level gaps in the long-term lead-up to individuals' involvement in firearm violence, and identify solutions to fill those gaps," said project lead **Kathleen Carlson, Ph.D.**, professor of public health, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, and director of the OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center. "We see this as a rare opportunity to apply a multidisciplinary, public health approach to reduce firearm injury and death in Multnomah County." The OHSU-PSU School of Public Health is providing staffing support for the commission, under Carlson's leadership.





A \$13 million gift from the estate of George and Helene Ettelson will serve as a 'vital resource' for innovative health care research at OHSU. (Photo courtesy of Diane Lowenstein)



## RESEARCH

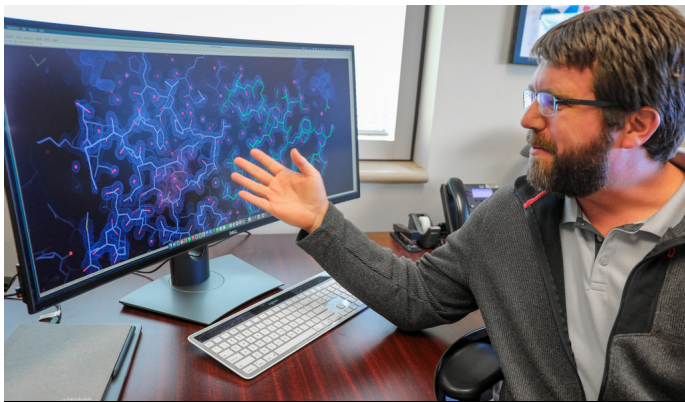


A COVID-19 vaccine is prepped at an OHSU clinic. New research from OHSU reveals a strong immune response to an updated vaccine in the fall of 2023, suggesting a clear benefit for people receiving updated vaccinations regularly, especially older adults and those with underlying medical conditions. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

More than 60 years ago, **George and Helene Ettelson** of San Francisco made a gift to OHSU to honor George's father, a prominent Portland dermatologist, on his 75th birthday. That donation, which established the Dr. Jesse Ettelson Fund for the Advancement of Dermatology Research, planted the seeds for the couple's decades-long connection to OHSU that would grow over the years. When Helene passed away a year ago, the OHSU Foundation learned OHSU would be the beneficiary of her generous giving once again, with an unprecedented estate gift of nearly \$13 million to support cancer and dermatology faculty and innovation. Both Helene and George were diagnosed with cancer during their lives, and George passed away from acute myeloid leukemia, or AML, in 2007. In addition to their original gift to support the OHSU dermatology program, Helene made a gift in 2012 to establish the George Ettelson Endowment for AML Research at the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute. **Sancy Leachman, Ph.D., M.D.**, professor and chair of Dermatology, School of Medicine, and director of the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute's Melanoma Program, says to date, the Ettelson endowment has allowed the department to recognize and support the research projects of more than 13 faculty members with distinction. "The Ettelson endowment is a vital resource for our departmental research mission. This fund has supported some of our most promising research and new ideas in the field of dermatology," Leachman says. "We are incredibly grateful for the continued support from the Ettelson family. This latest gift is the largest gift the department of dermatology has received."

New research reveals as much as a four-fold increase in immune response when people alternate from one arm to the other when given a multi-dose vaccine. The laboratory study led by researchers at OHSU measured the antibody response in the blood of 947 people who received two-dose vaccinations against COVID-19 early in the pandemic. Participants included OHSU employees who agreed to enroll in research while getting vaccinated against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, and were randomized to get the second dose in either the same or the opposite arm as the first dose. The study was published recently in *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*. Historically, clinicians thought that arm choice didn't matter. The new study tested serum samples collected at various times after vaccination. They found a substantial increase in the magnitude and breadth of the antibody response among people who had "contralateral" — or a shot in each arm — boosting compared with those who did not. The improved response clearly materialized three weeks after the second booster and persisted beyond 13 months after

boosting. Investigators found heightened immunity to the original SARS-CoV-2 strain, and an even stronger immune response to the omicron variant that emerged roughly a year after arm alternation. Researchers aren't sure why this happens, but they speculate that giving a shot in each arm activates new immune responses in different lymph nodes in each arm. "By switching arms, you basically have memory formation in two locations instead of one," said senior author **Marcel Curlin, M.D.**, associate professor of medicine, School of Medicine, and medical director of OHSU Occupational Health.



Jonathan Pruneda, Ph.D., led a study to explore how a form of the common protein ubiquitin is modified during an infection with illness-causing bacteria. With further research, his study's findings could lead to improved care for Parkinson's disease and breast cancer. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

New research from OHSU could one day lead to therapies that prevent or treat diseases and infections tied to a protein that's found in all human cells. A study published today in the journal *Molecular Cell* describes how the protein ubiquitin is modified during a bacterial infection. The study details the steps taken to create a form of the protein known as lysine 6 polyubiquitin, where a long chain of ubiquitin molecules are linked through the amino acid lysine. This form of ubiquitin helps cells communicate by sending a molecular message — communication that remains poorly understood. Previous research has indicated that this form of ubiquitin may be linked to the development of Parkinson's disease and breast cancer. However, the

details of how lysine 6 polyubiquitin is formed or how it is involved in disease aren't yet clear. To explore this, OHSU scientists turned their attention to illness-causing bacteria and how they manipulate lysine 6 polyubiquitin during infection. Researchers isolated enzymes used by *E. coli* and *Salmonella* to cause food poisoning and other illnesses, and observed how the enzymes interacted with ubiquitin. The team learned that one particular enzyme was central to *building up* lysine 6 polyubiquitin. In earlier, related research that was published in January, the same scientists found that a different enzyme from a different illness-causing bacteria, *Legionella pneumophila* — which causes a type of pneumonia called Legionnaires' disease — actively *breaks apart* the same molecule during infection. This means different enzymes have different impacts on the same lysine 6 polyubiquitin during infection. "Knowing how lysine 6 polyubiquitin is regulated is an important first step," said the study's senior researcher, **Jonathan Pruneda, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of molecular microbiology and immunology, School of Medicine. "We'll use this knowledge as a foundation for future research, including exploring how bacteria take advantage of ubiquitin while infecting cells.



Kofi Asare-Konadu, research assistant, works in the Ruth Napier, Ph.D., lab at OHSU on genetic mutation studies. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

New research that helps explain the molecular processes involved in the painful autoimmune disease ankylosing spondylitis, or AS, may reduce the guessing game that health care providers currently play while attempting to treat the condition. A team from OHSU and the VA



Portland Health Care System has found a specific kind of AS treatment that is effective when used by patients who have a particular genetic mutation. Their study was published today in the journal *Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases*, and its findings could lead to more targeted, timely and patient-specific treatment recommendations. “This is the first time research has shown that we might be able to use genetic markers to determine which therapy ankylosing spondylitis patients should receive,” said the study’s senior researcher, **Ruth Napier, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of molecular microbiology and immunology, School of Medicine, and principal investigator with VA Portland. “These promising findings are encouraging. This is the first time I can say that I’m on the cusp of making a difference for patients with ankylosing spondylitis who seek relief.”



Grand Ronde tribal leaders are taking addiction treatment to where people are in the community with a mobile treatment program. A new study shows American Indians and Alaska Natives report higher rates of illicit drug use, substance use disorders, and overdoses than any other U.S. demographic group. (Photo courtesy of Grand Ronde/Matthew Williams)

With the national opioid epidemic disproportionately affecting American Indians and Alaska Natives, a tribal confederation in Oregon decided to take matters into their own hands. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde not only opened Oregon’s first tribally owned opioid treatment program in Salem in 2021, but a year later, the tribe also began what is believed to be the

nation’s first tribally operated mobile medication unit. The mobile bus runs a daily circuit from the tribal reservation in Grand Ronde to McMinnville to Salem, seeing patients and dispensing medications directly to tribal members struggling with an opioid use disorder. The program appears to be an early success. Experts with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and OHSU describe the experience of patients and staff in a qualitative study published recently in *Annals of Medicine*. Grand Ronde tribal leaders deserve credit for taking a proactive approach through their Great Circle Recovery program, said study co-author **Dennis McCarty, Ph.D.**, professor emeritus of public health, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health. “We know that tribes across the country struggle to respond to opioid use disorder,” McCarty said. “Tribes often do not have methadone partly because they are located in rural areas where it’s difficult to set up an opioid treatment center, and also because many tribes tend to be philosophically uncomfortable with it.”

Researchers at OHSU have found that quality of care for pediatric patients who experience cardiac arrest outside of the hospital is lower compared with adults, prompting an urgent call to action to improve care delivery for the potentially deadly event. The study, published Friday in *JAMA Network Open*, found that 60% of pediatric patients who received care for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest had at least one adverse safety event, known as an ASE, that had the potential to cause severe or permanent harm, including death. Of those patients, nearly one-third had two more ASEs. The youngest patients, those under 12 months, were at highest risk of ASEs. Pediatric out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is a devastating condition affecting up to 25,000 children per year, with a dismal survival rate of only 8%. While adult rates have improved in recent years, children’s survival rates remain poor. Researchers found that quality-of-care and systems issues within emergency medical services, or EMS, may contribute to this disparity in outcomes. “In order for children to have the best outcomes, they need to have great care all along the spectrum. However, people tend to focus on what happens in the hospital or emergency room, and EMS care is often overlooked,” said **Carl Eriksson, M.D., M.P.H.**, associate professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine, and lead author of the

study. “EMS workers are highly skilled and dedicated. These gaps are not a reflection of the quality of our paramedics and emergency medical technicians; rather, they’re a product of the inherent challenges that come with caring for kids. “Our goal for this work is to figure out how we can make their jobs easier and ultimately improve health outcomes for the kids in our community.”



Carl Eriksson, M.D., M.P.H., OHSU Doernbecher Children's Hospital medical capacity officer, (right) along with others on the team, work a shift at OHSU's Mission Control, in May, 2018. The operation is 24-7 and includes nurses, doctors, transport coordinators and patient placement officers. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

Dietary supplements line store shelves, and some plants used in these supplements have been consumed for millennia to cure a variety of human ills. Yet, consumers seeking relief for health conditions and diseases may wonder if they're truly effective. Starting with a botanical used in dietary supplements that's purported to improve memory, a new clinical trial underway at OHSU will try to find out. OHSU is recruiting people ages 65 to 85 who have been diagnosed with mild cases of Alzheimer's disease or cognitive impairment for a pilot study testing a carefully formulated extract of the herb Gotu kola (*Centella asiatica*). The study is focused on the herb's reported benefits in improving memory and forestalling cognitive decline. The trial isn't testing memory directly; rather, researchers are looking for a signal, or biomarker, in blood samples and in brain imaging studies that may indicate an ability of Gotu kola to improve memory. It marks the first clinical trial to test a botanical used in dietary supplements

since the OHSU Botanical Dietary Supplements Research Center was established in 2020, although the trial is based on extensive foundational research conducted even before the center was established. OHSU investigators conducted preclinical experiments and early human pharmacokinetics studies in collaboration with Oregon State University and Redmond-based herbal supplements company Oregon's Wild Harvest, including precisely formulating the dosage and chemical composition of the *Centella* extract after first testing it in mouse models of Alzheimer's Disease. “The whole idea of the center is to build up the kind of preclinical information you need to do good clinical trials on botanicals that are used in dietary supplements,” said center director **Amala Soumyanath, Ph.D.**, professor of neurology, School of Medicine. “With *Centella*, we're at that point.”



Amala Soumyanath, Ph.D., professor of neurology in the OHSU School of Medicine, with research team member Jesus Martinez, M.S. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

Researchers at OHSU in a new study highlight disparities in maternal mental health care among low-income immigrants, and call on more states to expand Medicaid access in order to address mental health conditions new parents face during the perinatal period, or the time before and after birth. The study, published yesterday in JAMA Network Open, found expanded Medicaid benefits that include care before and immediately following birth were associated with significantly increased detection and treatment of



mental health conditions associated with pregnancy and birth. Medicaid is a public insurance program that provides health coverage to low-income families and individuals, supporting more than 90 million people in the United States. Due to a variety of socioeconomic factors, recipients of Medicaid have multiple risk factors for mental health conditions before and after birth and face unique barriers to accessing care. However, for some low-income people, access to care during pregnancy is not guaranteed through Medicaid based on their immigration status. While states have the option to extend emergency Medicaid coverage for care before and after birth, many states have not expanded coverage; currently, Oregon is one of only 18 states that offer these benefits. Medicaid is the largest payer for obstetric care in the U.S., so this lack of coverage leaves many individuals without the critical and often life-saving care they need. “Poor perinatal mental health is a significant contributor to the maternal health crisis we are facing in the U.S., and for immigrants, a lack of access to care is creating multigenerational cycles of poor health and inequities,” said **Maria Rodriguez, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of obstetrics and gynecology, School of Medicine, director of the OHSU Center for Reproductive Health Equity and the study’s corresponding author.



Maria Isabel Rodriguez, M.D., M.P.H., cares for patients at the OHSU Center for Women’s Health and finds satisfaction in supporting women, particularly teens, through important or challenging life events. As with many faculty members at OHSU, her clinical work drives her research. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

Researchers at the OHSU-Portland State University School of Public Health are leveraging data science to support students from diverse and underserved backgrounds pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM. A new study, published this week in the *Journal of STEM Outreach*, examines effective approaches for measuring key demographic variables and offers recommendations for inclusive demographic data practices across student-serving programs. This study aligned researchers and STEM practitioners across OHSU, Portland State University and the Portland Metro STEM Partnership. Recognizing students beginning their STEM training may not have had equal access, accommodations or preparation, the study describes considerations for programs to welcome and retain trainees using demographic data. This work builds on federal efforts to reach underrepresented populations in STEM and biomedical science. “Demographics enable the study of intersectionality needed to truly move the needle for equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility,” said **Lisa K. Marriott, Ph.D.**, associate professor of public health, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, and principal investigator of OHSU’s NIH-funded Science Education Partnership Award. “It’s so important to make sure students feel welcome and seen in training programs, and on the back end, making sure they are accurately represented within the data.”



OHSU-PSU School of Public Health study shares recommendations for optimizing demographic data practices to promote diversity in biomedical research. From left: Stephanie Paris, Shanthia Espinosa, and Lisa Marriott, Ph.D., associate professor in the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health and principal investigator of OHSU’s NIH-funded Science Education Partnership Award. (Courtesy of Lisa Marriott)



# AWARDS



Marie Chisholm-Burns, Pharm.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., FCCP, FASHP, FAST

**Marie Chisholm-Burns, Pharm.D., Ph.D., M.P.H., M.B.A., FCCP, FASHP, FAST**, executive vice president and provost at OHSU, was honored with the Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award. The Beckman Award, created by Gail McKnight Beckman (trustee: Wells Fargo Philanthropic Services), recognizes faculty members who inspire students to make a significant difference by creating organizations or procedures that benefit a community. Nominated by a former student, Dr. Chisholm-Burns is one of eight recipients nationwide selected in 2023. “I’m so honored to be recognized with a Beckman award,” Chisholm-Burns said. “As an educator it means the world to me to make a lasting impact on students and inspire them to give back in service to their communities.”

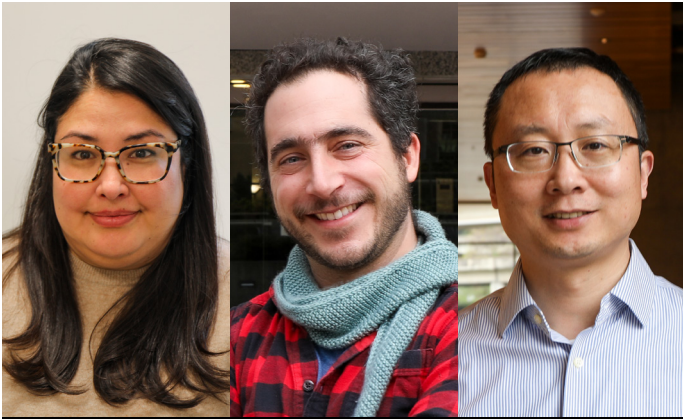


Anna C. Wilson, Ph.D. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

**Anna Wilson, Ph.D.**, associate professor of pediatrics, School of Medicine, co-authored a book named a winner of the 2023 National Association of Science Writers Science in Society (SIS) Journalism Awards in the Books category.

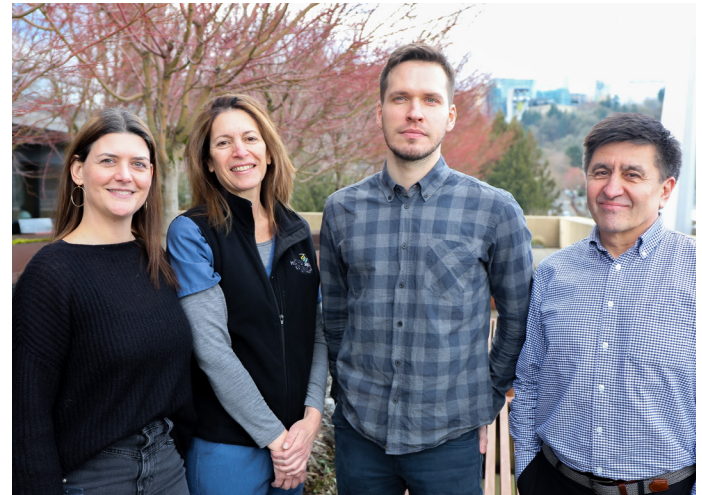
**Jon Hanifin, M.D.**, professor emeritus of dermatology, School of Medicine, was awarded the 2023 David Martin Carter Mentor Award by the American Skin Association for his exceptional contributions to the study of atopic diseases, including clinical, biological, and genetic aspects. Hanifin is a globally recognized expert in atopic dermatitis, having led numerous national and international symposiums on the subject. His research in this field, alongside investigations into other allergic and inflammatory conditions, has earned him esteemed respect within the research community.





(L-R) **Angelica Morales, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of psychiatry, School of Medicine, Arpiar “Arpy” Saunders, Ph.D., assistant professor of biomedical engineering, School of Medicine, and **Zheng Xia, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biomedical engineering, School of Medicine

**Brandon Maughan, M.D., M.H.S., M.S.H.P.**, associate professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine, was selected as one of just 11 scholars nationwide for the National Academy of Medicine’s Scholars in Diagnostic Excellence program. This competitive year-long initiative aims to empower mid-career clinicians, researchers, and healthcare professionals to advance diagnostic practices. The program includes monthly educational sessions, mentorship, and a generous \$35,000 grant.



OHSU co-authors on a new study advancing a method of in vitro gametogenesis, or IVG, include, from left to right, **Nuria Marti Gutierrez, Ph.D.**, **Paula Amato, M.D.**, **Aleksei Mikhailchenko, Ph.D.**, and **Shoukhrat Mitalipov, Ph.D.** (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

Three scientists at OHSU have earned a substantial funding award to extend promising research to improve human health. Recipients of the 2024 Faculty Excellence and Innovation Awards, made possible by the Silver Family Innovation Fund, include **Angelica Morales, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of psychiatry, School of Medicine, **Arpiar “Arpy” Saunders, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of biomedical engineering, School of Medicine, and **Zheng Xia, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biomedical engineering, School of Medicine. Each recipient receives a total of \$750,000 over three years. The innovation fund is designed to buoy the next generation of faculty leaders at OHSU, so awardees are early- or mid-stage investigators of exceptional creativity and promise. This marks the fifth year since the annual awards began in 2020. “This year’s awardees are highly creative and dedicated scientists who are committed to using new approaches to solve some of the most difficult challenges in medicine: substance use disorders, neurological conditions and cancer,” said **Peter Barr-Gillespie, Ph.D.**, OHSU chief research officer and executive vice president. “Each of these scientists embody OHSU’s mission to improve the health and well-being of people in Oregon and beyond.” OHSU deans, center and institute directors, and department chairs nominate candidates from their respective units, and applications are reviewed by prominent scientists across the country.

The nation’s leading professional society for reproductive medicine has recognized **Shoukhrat Mitalipov, Ph.D.**, professor in the Oregon National Primate Research Center, with the American Society of Reproductive Medicine Distinguished Researcher Award. Mitalipov is director of the OHSU Center for Embryonic Cell and Gene Therapy. His laboratory has pioneered the concept of mitochondrial replacement therapy to prevent the transmission of inherited mitochondrial disease and to treat infertility, especially in women of advanced maternal age. The ASRM recognition also notes that his lab is at the forefront of new efforts to address infertility through a concept known as in vitro gametogenesis, or IVG, in which eggs are generated from skin cells.



Quin Denfeld, Ph.D., RN, FAHA, is leading a National Institutes of Health-supported study following 240 adults after they're hospitalized for heart failure to understand how their symptoms develop and change over time. Denfeld stands outside the OHSU School of Nursing on Tuesday, August 2, 2022. (OHSU/Christine Torres Hicks)

**Quin Denfeld, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of medicine, School of Medicine, was selected to receive the Marie Cowan Promising Early Career Investigator Award by the American Heart Association's Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing (CVSN). In honor of Dr. Marie Cowan's enduring legacy of scientific excellence and mentorship, the award is given to a junior investigator (5-10 years post-terminal degree) each year who demonstrates the scientific excellence and spirit of innovation exemplified by Dr. Cowan's work. Dr. Denfeld received the award at the organization's 2023 Scientific Sessions. Dr. Denfeld said, "It's an honor to receive this award and to continue to promote the work we are doing in identifying the biobehavioral mechanisms of symptoms and frailty among patients with heart failure." As part of the award evaluation, Dr. Denfeld submitted her publication on candidate biomarkers of physical frailty in heart failure that was published in the February 2023 issue of the *European Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing*, which included many contributors and co-authors across OHSU and was funded by the OHSU Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health K12 Career Development Program.



President Joe Biden presented OHSU ophthalmologist David Huang, M.D., Ph.D., and two others with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation for developing the imaging technology optical coherence tomography at a White House ceremony on Oct. 24, 2023. (Ryan K. Morris and the National Science and Technology Medals Foundation)

**David Huang, Ph.D., M.D.**, professor of ophthalmology, School of Medicine, has received the United States' highest honor for technological achievement. President Joe Biden today presented Huang and others with the National Medal of Technology and Innovation for developing the imaging technology known as optical coherence tomography, or OCT, which routinely helps prevent blindness. The medal recognizes "American innovators whose vision, intellect, creativity, and determination have strengthened America's economy and improved our quality of life," the White House said in an announcement. Established by Congress and administered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the first Medal of Technology and Innovation was presented in 1985. The last time the White House bestowed the award was in 2015. At today's ceremony, 12 individuals received the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. Nine others were also given the National Medal of Science, the nation's highest scientific honor.





Peter Barr-Gillespie, Ph.D., executive vice president and chief research officer, 2018. (OHSU/Kristyna Wentz-Graff)

OHSU attracted a record \$595.9 million in research funding during its 2023 fiscal year, supporting countless discoveries related to human health. “While it is satisfying that OHSU has received so much research funding, I focus far more on how this funding enables OHSU scientists to make impactful scientific discoveries every day,” said **Peter Barr-Gillespie, Ph.D.**, executive vice president and chief research officer. “OHSU scientists continue to display incredible creativity and innovation in support of the university’s overarching mission to improve the health and well-being of all Oregonians.” The record research revenue was awarded during OHSU’s 2023 fiscal year, which ran July 2022

through June 2023. It includes funding that was directly awarded to OHSU as the lead institution for research projects, as well as pass-through funding that OHSU received as a partner on projects that were led by other organizations. noninvasive methods that require recombinant growth factor. Barton said the Precision Biofabrication Hub fits well with the work underway at CEDAR. “And Luiz is a really good mentor of trainees,” she added. “This hub is an inviting opportunity for grad students and postdocs to come build an organ from the ground up.”

**Asma Taha, Ph.D., M.S.N.**, professor of nursing, School of Nursing, was recognized by the President of the Society of Pediatric Nurses (SPN) for her leadership as Chair of SPN Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Task Force. The Task Force extended their service an extra year to guide the integration of DEI concepts into the society’s vision and core values statements, recruitment process for elected leaders, core competencies for prelicensure and nurse residents, and the Pediatric Nursing Excellence Model.

**Jennifer Mensik Kennedy, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of nursing, School of Nursing, was selected as one of The 100 Most Influential People in Healthcare. The awards & recognition program honors individuals in healthcare who are deemed by their peers and the senior editors of Modern Healthcare to be the most influential individuals in the industry, in terms of leadership and impact. Jennifer earned the rank of 45. She is President of the American Nurses Association.

**Morgan Torris-Hedlund, Ph.D. M.P.A.**, assistant professor of nursing, School of Nursing, has become a TriService Nursing Research (TSNRP) Fellow. Morgan said, “I am excited to share my intention to develop a research project on Disease and Non-Battle Injury (DNBI) within the military context. DNBI encompasses a spectrum of health issues among military personnel that are unrelated to direct combat or battle injuries. This research explores off-the-shelf technologies to report DNBI risks and communicate mitigation strategies to service members.



# APPOINTMENTS



Paul Halverson is the new dean of the Oregon Health & Science University-Portland State University School of Public Health. (OHSU)

---

Paul K. Halverson, Dr.P.H., M.H.S.A., began his appointment as dean and professor of OHSU-PSU School of Public Health on Feb. 1, 2024. Halverson served as professor and founding dean of Indiana University’s Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health since May 2013. His doctor of public health is from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his master’s of health services administration is from Arizona State University. Supporting the work of governmental health agencies, Dr. Halverson served as a senior health adviser for the state of Indiana, and previously served as the state health officer in Arkansas as well as the director of the Division of Public Health Systems Development and Research at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He previously held faculty leadership roles at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Halverson assumes the dean position following a leadership transition as Dr. Rick Johnson, interim dean of the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, retires this month.

---

Robin Champieux, M.L.I.S., associate professor, Library Operations, has accepted the role of University Librarian. Most recently she served as Interim University

Librarian since July 2022. “I’m thrilled to continue working with an incredible team to bolster the library as a hub of knowledge access, application, creation, and dissemination in ways that advance individual success, institutional achievements, and the well-being of Oregonians,” Champieux said. Champieux joined OHSU in 2011 as a Scholarly Communication Librarian. She has served in a number of roles at the OHSU Library, including Research Engagement and Open Science Librarian from October 2017 to January 2019, and Director of Digital Scholarship and Research Engagement from January 2019 to May 2020. From January 2019 to June 2022, she served as Director of Education, Research and Clinical Outreach. She received her B.A. degree in anthropology from Wayne State University in Michigan in 2000, and her Master of Library and Information Science and Certificate in Archival Administration from the same institution in 2004. In 2014, she completed the Harvard Graduate School of Education’s Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians and was a National Library of Medicine and Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries leadership fellow.

---

Eric Wiser, M.D., assistant professor of family medicine, School of Medicine, has been appointed assistant dean of rural undergraduate medical education effective Dec. 29. In the rural dean role, Dr. Wiser will expand and support the development of rural OHSU faculty members through regular meetings and personal engagement and promote connections with rural communities and collaborators, among other duties. He brings extensive experience in rural health to the role. He began his career in 2007 practicing family medicine at a rural clinic in the small town of Sublimity, Ore., where he also taught PA and M.D. students. He joined the OHSU faculty in 2013, and in 2018, he became director of the Department of Family Medicine’s Rural Medical Student Education program.

---

Natoya Carruthers, M.P.A.S., instructor of family medicine, School of Medicine, has been appointed as the Regional Associate Dean – Klamath Falls, as part of the Campus for Rural Health, effective Oct. 2, 2023. In her role, Carruthers is responsible for the education, research and outreach activities associated with the Klamath Falls clinical and educational Campus for Rural





# TRANSITIONS

Health. This includes close collaboration with leaders and administrative staff across various schools and programs. As Regional Associate Dean – Klamath Falls, Carruthers works collaboratively with the other regional associate deans (Northeast Oregon and South Coast), for example, to ensure the adoption of best practices and consistent policies and procedures across all clinical hubs. In addition, she works with the OHSU Office of Learner Placement and Housing, the Campus for Rural Health Education and Operations Manager for the operations of the site. Recruitment and retention of clinical placement sites, recruitment of clinical preceptors and preceptor relations and development are also priorities for this role.

**David Jacoby, M.D.**, professor of medicine, School of Medicine, has stepped down from his leadership position as dean of the School of Medicine. **Nate Selden, M.D., Ph.D.**, professor and chair of neurological surgery, School of Medicine, will be the interim dean of the School of Medicine.

Abby Dotson, Ph.D., research assistant professor of emergency medicine, School of Medicine, Oregon POLST Registry Director and HERO Kids Registry Director of Operations has been appointed by the National POLST Collaborative Board of Directors as the incoming Executive Director. The National POLST Collaborative is program focused on efforts to provide best practice guidance about the POLST process, technology and form as well as education throughout the U.S. Dotson will facilitate the execution of National POLST’s strategic plan and assist other states in launching POLST programs and registries.



Dr. Katie Stowers, right, assumes interim leadership with retirement of Dr. Susan Tolle, left, this month.

**Katie H. Stowers, D.O.**, associate professor of medicine, School of medicine, has been appointed the Interim Director for the Center for Ethics in Health Care, effective Nov. 8, 2023. Dr. Stowers joined the center’s leadership team as Associate Director in 2019.

SAVE THE DATE

## Emeritus Luncheon

We’re excited to announce the return of the Emeritus Luncheon on October 10.

We’ll be sending out more information as we get closer to the date.



# NEW EMERITUS



**Frances E. Biagioli, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, FAMILY MEDICINE



**Paul N. Gorman, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICAL  
INFORMATICS AND CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY



**Carol E. Blenning, M.D.**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS,  
FAMILY MEDICINE



**Thomas E. Hansen, M.D.**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS,  
PSYCHIATRY



**Marilyn W. Butler, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SURGERY



**Linda L. Humphrey, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE



**Michael J. Conlin, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, UROLOGY



**Richard L. Johnson, Ph.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SCHOOL OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH



**Sonja L. Connor, M.S.**  
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
EMERITUS, MEDICINE



**Gregory J. Landry, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SURGERY



**Michael B. Fennerty, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE



**Abby L. Laughlin, M.S.**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SCHOOL  
OF NURSING



**Deborah A. Finn, Ph.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, BEHAVIORAL  
NEUROSCIENCE



**David A. Lieberman, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE



**Eric J. Fombonne, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PSYCHIATRY



**Mary T. Moffit, Ph.D.**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS,  
PSYCHIATRY





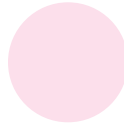
**Kim A. Neve, Ph.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, BEHAVIORAL  
NEUROSCIENCE



**Susan W. Tolle, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE



**Susan L. Orloff, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, SURGERY



**Robert C. Watzke, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, OPHTHALMOLOGY



**Valerie S. Palmer, B.S.**  
INSTRUCTOR EMERITUS, NEUROLOGY



**Brian H. Whitten, D.D.S.**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS,  
REGENERATIVE AND RECONSTRUCTIVE  
SCIENCES



**Balaram Puligandla, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PATHOLOGY AND  
LABORATORY MEDICINE



**Mark D. Reller, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PEDIATRICS



**Eli Schwarz, Ph.D., D.D.S.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DENTAL PUBLIC  
HEALTH



**Amnon Sonnenberg, M.D.**  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MEDICINE



**Susan J. Tofte, D.N.P.**  
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS,  
DERMATOLOGY



OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY  
MAIL CODE: L349  
3181 S.W. Sam Jackson Park Road  
Portland, OR 97239

OHSU is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution.



A NEWSLETTER FOR OHSU EMERITUS FACULTY

# Emeritus

SPRING 2024

