



The Workup

News from the halls of academic medicine & health sciences

December 2019

Headlines

For the first time ever, female medical students outnumber their male counterparts nationwide

Women have reached another major milestone in academic medicine: Two years after achieving numerical parity with men among first-year medical students nationwide, women have displaced men as the majority gender in U.S. med schools overall. According to just-released data from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), women now constitute 50.5 percent of all students — up from 49.5 percent in 2018 and 46.9 percent in 2015. The number of applicants rose by 1.1 percent from 2018 to 2019 — to a record 53,371. The number of matriculants, or new enrollees, also grew by 1.1 percent — to 21,869. The AAMC's annual census also showed that the nation's medical schools are making some progress in diversifying their student bodies. "The steady gains in the medical school enrollment of women are a very positive trend, and we are delighted to see this progress," said David J. Skorton, MD, AAMC's president and CEO. "However, the modest increases in enrollment among underrepresented groups are simply not enough." [READ MORE](#)



'Modest' progress

Historically underrepresented populations see year-over-year matriculation increases

Hispanic /Latino

6.3% ↑

African-American

3.2% ↑

American Indian /
Alaska Native

5.5% ↑

Source: AAMC



University of Michigan

The University of Michigan Medical School says it does everything possible to eliminate physical, curricular, and logistical barriers that would impede aspiring physicians with disabilities and chronic health conditions.

Physician training programs attract more students with disabilities

More U.S. medical students are disclosing disabilities, and the nation's medical schools appear eager to accommodate them, according to data published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*. The assessment is based on a comparison of surveys completed in 2016 and 2019, respectively. From the first survey to the second, the percentage of students reporting disabilities grew by more than two-thirds — to 4.6 percent. Although they can't explain the increase, the researchers behind the surveys argue that the trend is positive — inasmuch as a greater presence of physicians with disabilities could bring much-needed diversity to the medical workforce. Even with the uptick in disclosure, however, students with physical, learning, and/or psychological disabilities make up fewer than 5 percent of all future physicians. The researchers expressed pleasure that all of the schools that participated in the 2019 survey reported making formal accommodations for disabled students. Among the most common: extended assignment deadlines, customized lab equipment, and flexible attendance requirements. [READ MORE](#)

Harvard-based consortium looks for safe, effective ways to ease pain

In hopes of identifying safe, effective alternatives to opioids, a consortium based at Harvard Medical School's Laboratory of Systems Pharmacology has undertaken a project dubbed STOP PAIN — short for *Safe Therapeutic Options for Pain and Inflammation*. By tapping a wide range of research disciplines — including neurobiology, systems pharmacology, stem-cell biology, and computational chemistry — the consortium is seeking to identify compounds that selectively block the activity of nociceptors, the sensory neurons that initiate pain. The project, supported by \$23 million in federal funding, is led by researchers from Harvard, Boston Children's Hospital, MIT, and the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research in Germany. [READ MORE](#)



Tufts University

Tufts University President Anthony P. Monaco says the decision to remove all campus signage bearing the Sackler name “acknowledges the countless individuals and families who have suffered so much loss, harm, and sorrow as a result of the opioid crisis” — as well as members of the Tufts community “who have struggled on a daily basis with the university’s very public association with the Sackler name.”

Tufts sheds the name of longtime benefactors tied to the opioid crisis

Tufts University is distancing itself from a prominent philanthropic family with longstanding ties to the institution — and an increasingly controversial connection to the nation’s opioid crisis. Tufts President Anthony P. Monaco announced earlier this month that the university would remove the name “Sackler” from all buildings and programs on its Boston health sciences campus. The Sackler family, which has donated millions of dollars to Tufts over the past four decades, founded Purdue Pharma, maker of the drug OxyContin. Facing an avalanche of lawsuits filed by hundreds of plaintiffs across the United States — including the state of Massachusetts, where Tufts is located — Purdue Pharma filed for bankruptcy in September.

According to *The New York Times*, Tufts is the first university to repudiate the Sacklers in such a public manner. The newspaper reported that Tufts does not plan to return any of the money it has received from the Sacklers or Purdue Pharma. Instead, it will increase its support of programs aimed at the prevention and treatment of substance abuse and addiction. [READ MORE](#)

Florida State’s medical school draws warning from accrediting body

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) has warned Florida State University’s medical school that its accreditation might be at risk, the News Service of Florida reports. “The warning means the FSU College of Medicine failed to meet standards that, if not corrected within the next one to two years, could seriously compromise the ability of the school to conduct the educational program,” the media outlet noted. Dean John Fogarty told the News Service that an LCME site team that visited in April “did not really understand” the program. He noted, for example, that because the College of Medicine was designed to be a community-based medical school, its students don’t train in large, school-affiliated teaching hospitals. Fogarty said the accreditors might not have fully appreciated the approach, especially since they didn’t visit the school’s six regional campuses. Nevertheless, he said, administrators will do their best to address the team’s concerns before it returns next spring. Neither the LCME nor the College of Medicine would disclose the site team’s findings. “What we *are* able to say to the students is that we are fully accredited and that the LCME has some findings that we need to work on,” Fogarty told the News Service. “And we’ll get that done, and it will have no impact on their education.” [READ MORE](#)



John Fogarty



UCLA Geffen School of Medicine

Billionaire David Geffen, left, has given UCLA more than \$450 million over the past two decades. His latest gift will fund 120 full scholarships.

DreamWorks' founder helps fulfill the dreams of hundreds at UCLA

One hundred twenty UCLA medical students will receive merit-based scholarships, courtesy of a \$46 million gift from David Geffen, co-founder of animation giant DreamWorks and namesake of the university's Geffen School of Medicine. The donation, announced earlier this month, supplements an even bigger contribution — \$100 million — that Geffen made in 2012 to establish the scholarship program. In all, over the past two decades, Geffen has given UCLA more than \$450 million. (It was a \$200 million donation in 2002 that prompted the university to name its medical school after the entertainment magnate.) UCLA estimates that the combined \$146 million that Geffen has earmarked for scholarships will aid 414 students — or 20 to 30 percent of each class for a decade. “The Geffen Scholars program is life-altering for our students and their future patients,” said Kelsey Martin, MD, PhD, dean of the Geffen School of Medicine. The scholarships, which cover tuition and living expenses, have enabled the school to broaden its applicant pool. By curbing student debt, they've also given students more latitude to pursue specialties that, despite high demand, aren't as lucrative as others. [READ MORE](#)

Survey reveals widespread familiarity with malpractice litigation

Nearly three out of five U.S. physicians have been named in malpractice lawsuits, but only 3 percent of defendants lost at trial, a new survey suggests. *Medscape's* 2019 Malpractice Report, which drew responses from more than 4,300 physicians in 29 specialties, further indicated that specialists are sued more often than their primary-care counterparts. Among specialists, 85 percent of general surgeons report that they've been sued, making them the most frequent target of malpractice litigation. Rounding out the top five: urologists (84 percent); otolaryngologists and obstetricians/gynecologists (tied at 83 percent); and specialized surgeons (80 percent). What are the most common triggers of malpractice litigation? Among the lawsuits reported by the survey's respondents, 33 percent alleged misdiagnoses or delayed diagnoses; 29 percent cited complications from surgery or treatment; and 26 percent sought compensation for “disease progression” or “poor outcomes.” [READ MORE](#)

“Beware the weakest link: Global food security depends on a sound supply chain”



Eleftherios Iakovou, PhD

Director of manufacturing and logistics innovation initiatives at Texas A&M's Engineering Experiment Station



RECENT INNOVATORS PODCASTS

- “One Health: the *other* universal healthcare,” Michael D. Lairmore, DVM, PhD, dean of the University of California-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine [LISTEN](#)
- “Attracting International Students to U.S. Engineering Program,” featuring Leo Kempel, PhD, dean of the College of Engineering at Michigan State University [LISTEN](#)
- “Improving the Student Experience,” featuring M. Brian Blake, PhD, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at George Washington University [LISTEN](#)
- “The Importance of Partnerships in Academia and Healthcare,” featuring Charles Taylor, PharmD, provost and executive vice president of academic affairs at the University of North Texas [LISTEN](#)
- “How Technology Can Impact the Doctor/Patient Experience,” featuring King Li, MD, MBA, dean and chief academic officer at the Carle Illinois College of Medicine [LISTEN](#)
- “Artificial Intelligence and Precision Medicine,” featuring Douglas Miller, MD, MBA, founder and CEO of Cognitive Diagnosis [LISTEN](#)
- “The Critical Role of Biomedical Informatics,” featuring Philip Payne, PhD, director of the Institute for Informatics at Washington University in St. Louis [LISTEN](#)

In Transition



Susan Anderson, MD, has been named the inaugural dean of rural medicine at the University of South Dakota's Sanford School of Medicine. Anderson, a South Dakota native who graduated from the school in 1997, will continue to serve as director of its Frontier and Rural Medicine (FARM) program and as chair of its Department of Family Medicine.



Anna Barker, PhD, has been named chief strategy officer at the University of Southern California's Lawrence J. Ellison Institute for Transformative Medicine. Most recently, Barker served as director of transformative healthcare networks and professor of practice at Arizona State University's School of Life Sciences. She has received numerous awards for her contributions to cancer research.



Cynthia F. Bearer, MD, PhD, has been named chief of the Division of Neonatology at University Hospitals' Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital and the William & Lois Briggs Professor of Pediatrics at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio. Bearer most recently headed the Division of Neonatology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.



Allison Benner, MA, will join the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in January as associate dean for finance and administration. Benner most recently served as senior finance director at the George Washington University School of Engineering & Applied Science. Before that, she spent 10 years at Allied Capital Corporation, where she managed risk, compliance, and internal-audit operations.



Alyncia M. Bowen, PhD, has been appointed dean of doctoral studies and the School of Nursing at Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio. She is the first African-American woman to serve as dean at the institution. Since joining the school 14 years ago, Bowen has served as a department chair, director of doctoral studies, and director of the Global Center for Healthcare Education.



J. Cooper Cutting, PhD, associate chair in the Department of Psychology at Illinois State University (ISU), has been appointed assistant vice president for academic planning, effective January 6. In his new role, Cutting will represent ISU's provost on the Academic Planning Committee, which oversees the university's program review process.



Michael V. Drake, MD, president of Ohio State University since 2014, will retire at the end of the academic year. Drake, an ophthalmologist, previously served as chancellor of the University of California-Irvine. He also spent five years as vice president for health affairs for the University of California system, overseeing academic programming at 15 health-sciences schools on seven campuses.



Andrew Filak Jr., MD, has been named dean of the University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Medicine and senior vice president for health affairs, effective January 1. Filak, UC's interim dean since August 2018, has held numerous posts at the university, including senior associate dean for academic affairs, founding chair of the Department of Medical Education, and professor of medical education.



Kevin Finn, EdD, has been named dean of the School of Nursing & Health Sciences and director of clinical partnerships at Colby-Sawyer College in New London, New Hampshire. The licensed athletic trainer, who is expected to assume his new role in late January, most recently served as associate dean for the School of Health Sciences at Massachusetts' Merrimack College.



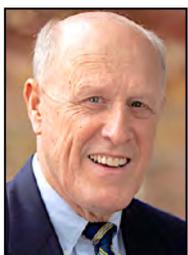
Alice Gaudine, PhD, has begun a second five-year term as dean of the Faculty of Nursing at Memorial University in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. During her first term, Gaudine oversaw the development, implementation, and evaluation of two strategic plans. Gaudine, who joined Memorial's faculty in 1997, began her initial term as dean in December 2014, after a 15-month stint as dean pro tempore.



Stacy Jaffee Gropack, PhD, has been named dean of the Stony Brook University School of Health Technology and Management, which comprises 17 programs in areas such as athletic training, physical and occupational therapy, and respiratory care. She previously served as dean of the School of Health Professions at Long Island University (LIU) in Brooklyn, New York.



Stephen Hahn, MD, has been confirmed as commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Hahn, a radiation oncologist, most recently served as chief medical executive at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Hahn was nominated for the government post by President Donald Trump and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on a vote of 72 to 18.



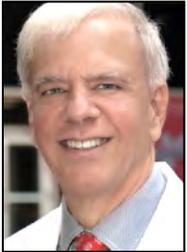
Bruce Jarrell, MD, will become interim president of the University of Maryland-Baltimore (UMB) on January 6, when President Jay A. Perman, MD, becomes chancellor of the University System of Maryland. Jarrell, a surgeon by training, is UMB's executive vice president and provost. He also serves as dean of the university's interdisciplinary Graduate School.



John M. Kauffman Jr., DO, has been named founding dean of the planned College of Osteopathic Medicine at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, effective January 1. The new school is expected to open in the fall of 2023 with an initial class of 75 students. Kauffman most recently served as dean of Campbell University's Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine in Buies Creek, North Carolina.



Elizabeth Kennedy, PhD, has been named vice provost of Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph. Kennedy most recently served as dean of the College of Applied Science and Technology and interim dean of the College of Health Professions at the University of Akron. Kennedy, a psychologist specializing in cognitive aging, joined Akron's faculty in 1997.



K. Craig Kent, MD, a vascular surgeon who has led the Ohio State University College of Medicine since September 2016, has been appointed executive vice president for health affairs at the University of Virginia (UVA). Once he assumes his new role on February 1, Kent will oversee UVA Health and its statewide clinical enterprise. Ohio State plans to launch a national search for Kent's successor.



Joseph E. Kerschner, MD, provost and executive vice president of the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and dean of its School of Medicine, has been named chair of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) board of directors. Kerschner, who maintains an active research laboratory focused on the treatment of ear infections, previously chaired the AAMC Council of Deans.



Renita W. Marshall, DVM, chair of the Department of Agricultural Sciences at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and director of the school's Institute for One Health One Medicine, has been named vice chancellor for academic and student services in the Agricultural Research and Extension Center and associate dean of the College of Agricultural, Family, and Consumer Sciences.



George A. Mashour, MD, PhD, has been named chair of the Department of Anesthesiology and the Robert B. Sweet Professor of Anesthesiology at the University of Michigan (UM) Medical School. Mashour has held a variety of positions at UM, including associate dean for clinical and translational research and director of the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research.



Margaret Noreuil, PhD, RN, dean of the Henry Predolin School of Nursing at Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin, will serve as the college's interim vice president for academic affairs. She succeeds Dean Pribbenow, PhD, who is resigning January 2 after more than seven years in the position. Predolin offers bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing and a doctorate of nursing practice.



Susan L. Perkins, PhD, a microbiologist who specializes in the parasites that cause malaria, has been named the Martin and Michele Cohen Dean of Science at the City College of New York. Her appointment takes effect January 6. For the past 15 years, Perkins worked at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan, where she was a curator and professor of microbial genomics.



Jay A. Perman, MD, will take over as chancellor of the University System of Maryland on January 6, as Robert L. Caret, PhD, steps down six months earlier than planned. Perman, a pediatric gastroenterologist, continues to practice medicine through his weekly President's Clinic, where he teaches team-based health care to students of medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, law, and social work.



Donna M. Plecha, MD, has been selected to lead the Radiology Department at University Hospitals' Cleveland Medical Center, the flagship academic medical center within the Ohio-based health system. Plecha, who joined University Hospitals in 1993, is currently a professor of radiology at the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.



Janey A. Roach, DNP, has been named inaugural director of the Charles Jr. and Betty Johnson School of Nursing at Pennsylvania's Grove City College. Roach will oversee the launch of the school's four-year BSN program, which is to begin classes next fall. She formerly served as director of faculty affairs at Shadyside School of Nursing, an affiliate of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.



Carolyn Smith, PhD, has been named dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. She had been serving on an interim basis since July. Smith, who joined Baylor's faculty in 1994, is a professor of molecular and cellular biology and a staff member at the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center.



Altha J. Stewart, MD, immediate past president of the American Psychiatric Association, has been appointed senior associate dean for community health engagement in the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC) in Memphis. Stewart, an associate professor of psychiatry, is director of UTHSC's Center for Health in Justice Involved Youth.



Joseph F. Szot, MD, has been named associate dean for continuing and integrated medical education at the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine. Szot has served as vice chair for education in Carver's Department of Internal Medicine, associate director of the department's residency program, and medical director of the school's Continuing Medical Education Office.



Catherine Todero, PhD, RN, dean of the College of Nursing at Creighton University, has been named vice provost of Health Sciences Campuses. In her new role, which she assumed last month, Todero is responsible for all educational, clinical, and community-engagement programs offered by the Nebraska-based institution's health sciences colleges in Omaha and in Phoenix, Arizona.

Our headlines

Harris Search Associates recruits Virginia Commonwealth's Ravi Perry to chair Department of Political Science at Howard University

Harris Search Associates recruits John Ambrose as director of undergraduate admissions at Michigan State University

University of Dayton Research Institute enlists Harris Search Associates in search for key fiscal officer

Atlanta University Center Consortium taps Harris Search Associates to find director of transformative Data Science Initiative

Howard University selects Harris Search Associates to recruit dean of College of Engineering and Architecture



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Last word

“ In improv, if you don't listen really, really carefully and you can't remember, it falls flat. It reminds me of teaching communication at med school. You can't be thinking about what you're going to say next.”

— **Jennifer Christner, MD, dean of the School of Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine**, explaining to the [Houston Chronicle](#) how her after-hours passion — performing with a local improv group — resembles her day job



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