

## ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Alumni,

Thank you for your brave and inspirational service as COVID-19 continues to challenge our community, the nation and the world. Our profession is more vital and necessary than ever. Serving as your Alumni Association President is a particular honor in these unprecedented times. This Summer 2020 issue of *Alumni Connections* conveys how Baylor is both fully engaged in the battle against COVID-19 and also remains steadfast to its historic commitment to excellence in medical education while making the required huge modifications in how that education is delivered.

In the following pages, you will find an update on Baylor's response to the coronavirus crisis and an inspirational feature article on Christopher Brann, M.D. '07, M.B.A, an alumnus who works in internal medicine at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Also included here is a recap of this year's Match Day results and articles on the dynamic career of fellow alumnus Kenneth L. Mattox, M.D., medical student Sally Huang's path to creating a narrative medicine program and the graduation of Baylor's inaugural Genetic Counseling Class.

These articles capture the excellence and dedication for which Baylor is known and should increase our pride in being part of our Alumni Association. I hope you will share your own experiences as well as your questions and thoughts. Please contact me any time at [jlomax@bcm.edu](mailto:jlomax@bcm.edu) or 713.798.4878.

Baylor cancelled this year's Alumni Reunion and Awards Dinner so that we can protect ourselves and our guests from the coronavirus. Baylor is moving forward with distributing the Alumni Awards and will recognize winners through online platforms. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will be able to return to reunions and the opportunities they offer to honor colleagues, learn more, meet new friends and re-visit old classmates.

I also want to announce the launch of our online alumni engagement platform: **BCM Alumni Connect**. Our hope is that you will use this venue to facilitate conversations, encourage collaborations and allow us to share upcoming Baylor events. Though our careers take us around the world, we can now interact with each other at anytime, anywhere. I encourage you to sign up and take advantage of all these possibilities.

Thank you for supporting Baylor's mission. In light of COVID-19 and the challenges it presents, I am inspired more than ever by your incredible service as physicians, scientists and health professionals.

With warm regards,



James W. Lomax, M.D. '71  
President, Alumni Association  
Baylor College of Medicine



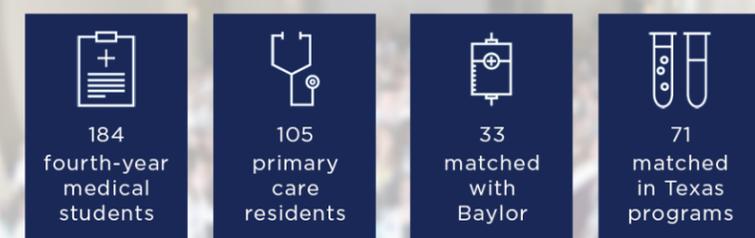
## A MATCH DAY TO REMEMBER

This year, Match Day was unlike any in the history of Baylor College of Medicine. Match Day normally involves a large celebratory gathering, which was not possible in the midst of COVID-19. To protect celebrants and limit the possibility of spreading COVID-19, Match Day was held completely online through a virtual platform. This allowed students and their families and friends to stay home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead of a public notification, students received an e-mail informing them of where they were matched at different healthcare systems throughout the country. Although we were not together to celebrate, students still were able to share their joy through virtual gatherings. Students were encouraged to share their Match Day pictures on social media using #MatchBCM. A video was prepared with congratulatory presentations from Paul Klotman, M.D., President, CEO and Executive Dean; Alicia Monroe, M.D., Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Faculty Affairs; Jennifer Christner, M.D., Dean of the School of Medicine; Joseph Kass, M.D., J.D., FAAN, Associate Dean of Student Affairs; and Andrew Jensen, 2020 Class President. These speakers emphasized that though this is a challenging time to enter the medical field, it also is a time when new physicians are needed more than ever. The call to provide comfort and care remains vital.

Though it was certainly not traditional, Match Day 2020 reaffirmed Baylor's commitment to medical education as it celebrated the next step in graduates' careers. In the face of COVID-19, it is heartening to know that a new generation of medical practitioners is setting out on paths that will be rewarding and meaningful. Baylor is very proud of these individuals and their devotion to the medical profession.

## MATCH DAY 2020 BY THE NUMBERS



### Our U.S. News & World Report High Rankings

The 2020-2021 U.S. News & World Report annual list of top graduate schools was released on March 20, 2020. Baylor College of Medicine continues to rank among the top medical schools in the nation.

RESEARCH **22<sup>ND</sup>** PRIMARY CARE **4<sup>TH</sup>**

**IN BEST MEDICAL SCHOOLS**

#### MEDICAL SCHOOL SPECIALTY RANKINGS

There also is a specialty ranking category for eight programs, and Baylor is ranked nationally in five of them.

**6<sup>TH</sup> 13<sup>TH</sup> 15<sup>TH</sup> 24<sup>TH</sup>**

**IN THE NATION FOR**

PEDIATRICS	OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY + SURGERY	FAMILY MEDICINE	INTERNAL MEDICINE
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U.S. News & World Report did not conduct new surveys for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences or the School of Health Professions. Thus, their standings hold.

#### GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

**26<sup>TH</sup>**

**IN THE NATION FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

#### DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE NURSE ANESTHESIA

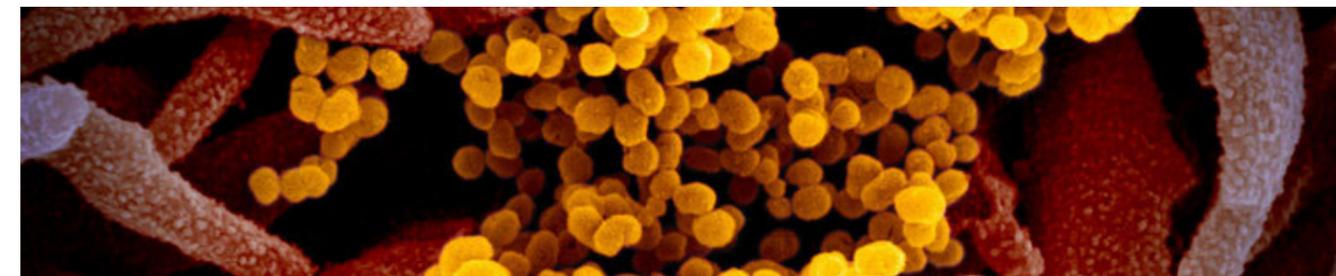
**2<sup>ND</sup>**

#### PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM

**3<sup>RD</sup>**

The tremendous support of our Board of Trustees, affiliated hospitals, community partners and alumni is an important factor in Baylor College of Medicine continuing to be the highest ranked medical school in Texas as well as in the Southwest region.

## CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE



As one of the leading academic medical institutions in the country, Baylor College of Medicine's biomedical researchers and physician-scientists, along with their counterparts around the world, are working to understand COVID-19. Our focus is on increasing the speed of diagnosis, preventing the spread of the virus, finding treatments, developing a potential vaccine and educating the public and elected officials about this latest coronavirus. We continue to carry out our education, research and clinical care missions while ensuring the health and safety of patients, learners, faculty and staff.

The Incident Command Center (ICC), led by James McDeavitt, M.D., Senior Vice President and Dean of Clinical Affairs, is a central information source for Baylor and develops institutional responses to mitigate the impact of this outbreak. As President and CEO of Baylor, Dr. Klotman is in continuous contact with other leaders of institutions in the Texas Medical Center to coordinate COVID-19 efforts.

In addition to sustaining our clinical and education efforts while maintaining approved measures to contain the coronavirus, Baylor is at the forefront of national and international efforts to address COVID-19.

- Baylor is a research site for a clinical trial evaluating the therapeutic benefit and safety of Tocilizumab, an immunomodulator drug, in patients with severe COVID-19 pneumonia.
- Baylor recently took part in a phase 2 clinical trial for the drug remdesivir as a treatment for COVID-19.
- Population scientists at Baylor are recruiting people across the United States to share their experiences and how the pandemic is affecting their health and wellbeing in an online survey. The information gathered will help healthcare providers to better assist individuals and families coping with the pandemic.
- Baylor and the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center are joining forces on a study to procure plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients for use in critically ill patients with COVID-19.
- Researchers at Baylor and four other institutions are working to determine if the BCG (bacille Calmette-Guerin) vaccine, which prevents tuberculosis and is one of the oldest vaccines still in clinical use, can work against COVID-19. They are recruiting participants for a clinical trial to test the vaccine.
- In an effort to better understand how COVID-19 affects pregnant women, researchers at Baylor and Texas Children's Hospital studied outcomes among pregnant women with severe COVID-19 disease in Iran, where a huge COVID-19 outbreak occurred. Their findings were published in *The American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*.
- Peter Hotez, M.D., Ph.D., and Maria Elena Bottazzi, Ph.D., and their team have identified key similarities in the genetic structures of SARS and COVID-19. A potential SARS vaccine candidate they previously developed and now aim to repurpose for COVID-19 might be a crucial step forward in resolving the current coronavirus health emergency.



The COVID-19 outbreak has been one of the most serious health crises of the last 100 years. Baylor College of Medicine has risen to this challenge. Our alumni base is an important source of strength as the College continues to navigate in these challenging times.

[WWW.GIVEBMF.ORG/DONATE](http://WWW.GIVEBMF.ORG/DONATE)

## GIVING HOPE TO THE FIGHT

One evening in early March, Christopher Brann, M.D. '07, M.B.A, surveyed the makeshift quarantine he had set up in a tent in his backyard. He hoped he wouldn't need it. But, as an internal medicine specialist at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center, Dr. Brann knew he had to prepare for possibly contracting the COVID-19 virus. Preparation had always been paramount to the former Eagle Scout, from Baylor's rigorous medical training to starting a family to working on the frontlines as the virus rapidly spread worldwide.

Amidst disturbing early reports about infection rates, asymptomatic carriers and healthcare professionals falling gravely ill, Dr. Brann and his colleagues imposed on themselves travel restrictions, treatment procedures for infected patients and exposure protocols. At home, he used his guest room for changing out of scrubs and showering after work. He focused on his patients and, having prepared for the worst, hoped for the best.

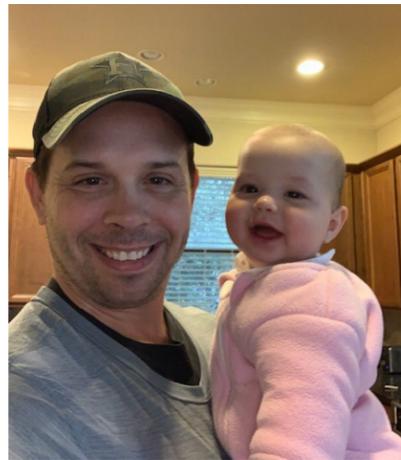


**“This is as much an emotional fight as it is a physical fight.”**

Unfortunately, all those preparations proved necessary when Dr. Brann learned he had been exposed to COVID-19 in mid-March. Despite his good health and lack of risk factors, he immediately quarantined himself in the tent. He was prepared to do whatever it took to protect his family, just feet away inside. He checked his temperature multiple times a day, ate the meals his wife left outside and came inside only to use the guest bathroom. By the time he could be tested for COVID-19, he had developed the trademark symptoms. Upon learning that his results were positive, Dr. Brann found he was not prepared for the uncertainty and anxiety he felt.

And it was impossible to prepare for the long, lonely hours in the tent. He could distract himself only so much by Facetimeing with his family, answering concerned texts from friends and listening to podcasts. “You don't realize how many minutes are in a day when you spend them alone, especially when you're so physically close to your family. I realized very quickly how easily your defenses can crumble. Like when my two-year-old son would escape my wife, run downstairs and bang on the door because he knew I was out in the tent. Emotionally, it's hard to even talk about. He thinks the tent is the place to play.”

Two and a half weeks after quarantining himself, Dr. Brann tested negative on his second COVID-19 test. After a joyful and emotional reunion with his family, during which his wife



handed off the children for a much-needed break, Dr. Brann jumped back in the fight against COVID-19. Armed with his experiences, he augmented his care by focusing on helping isolated COVID-19 patients maintain contact with their families and stay informed. “The human part is just as important as the clinical part,” he explains.

His illness also empowered him to fight COVID-19 on a different front. While quarantined, he learned about convalescent plasma, a potential new treatment that uses antibodies from recovered COVID-19 patients to treat high-risk individuals and those with severe symptoms. With Baylor's help, Dr. Brann donated plasma to four different COVID-19 patients. He plans to donate again. “Those of us who can advance research should actively participate in those efforts. The oath I took is to do everything possible to help a patient. Here, donating blood is the same as prescribing medication. That's why I'm very proud to be a Baylor alum right now—our research is so strong and pursuing all these different ways to help. This pandemic has given me a newfound respect and pride for our institution.”

Even with all he's accomplished post-recovery, Dr. Brann doesn't consider his actions to be heroic. “The hero is my wife. She's a rock. All the frontline people and their families who are making tough decisions to protect themselves as we did, they're the ones who deserve the credit. This is as much an emotional fight as it is a physical fight.”

Today, Dr. Brann is happy to care for his patients and to continue donating plasma. Ever the Boy Scout, he plans on replacing his old tent as soon as possible.



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**“This pandemic has given me a newfound respect and pride for our institution.”**

## BUILDING A LEGACY

How did someone who spent the early years of his life working in the cotton fields and orchards of California during the Depression become a legend in the specialty of trauma care? You ask that of Ken L. Mattox, M.D. '64, and he'll say, "By taking on the big, tough cases and figuring out how to make the patients better. That's what drove me."

He was a junior studying pre-med at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, when he made his first trip to Baylor College of Medicine. He had come to Baylor to present a couple of papers at the Texas Collegiate Academy of Science meeting that was convening on the campus, and the school immediately impressed him. Baylor's affiliation back then with Baptist-based Baylor University also aligned with his religious upbringing, so he decided not to interview anywhere else. When he matriculated in 1960 as a recently married man, he was one of 84 students, four of whom were women.

"At the time, I was looking for things that were tough, and I was learning there was always room at the top if you worked hard. I heard about Baylor's surgery department when I was down here and about Dr. DeBakey. He was known for his dominant personality, and he got things done, put the school on the map – and he worked people very hard. That appealed to me. I thought Baylor was probably the toughest school in Texas. So, I chose it because it had a good reputation and the Medical Center was growing."

Dr. Mattox recalls that what drew medical students and residents to Baylor back then was Ben Taub Hospital and its missionary spirit of treating people in need but who had few, if any, other options. This was an environment in which Dr. Mattox thrived, and over his career he built an incredible legacy as a trauma pioneer.

When asked why he continues to serve as Distinguished Service Professor at Baylor and Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery at Ben Taub Hospital, he responded, "Why should I have left? I loved the clinical side, I loved to operate, I loved the big, bad cases, I loved to write and to deal with concepts and policies. And forever driving me was the desire to find a better way. I was and continue to be able to accomplish that."

Looking back, what began as an evening out with several like-minded young surgeons discussing how to develop a trauma service that improved the standards of patient care turned into the germination of a transformational idea. In the early 1970s, thoracic surgery was just emerging, but emergency medicine, trauma and emergency medical services did not exist.

"One night at the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans, about eight of us – all young surgeons and assistant professors and instructors – wrote out on the back of a napkin what ultimately became the nidus of the specialty of emergency medicine. We outlined plans for two journals, two organizations, standards and a time table." And the rest is history.

Fast forward almost 50 years later, across a lifetime dedicated to his patients and to medical advancement. There is so much to be proud of. And, aside from editing the definitive text book on trauma, taking on the most difficult clinical cases and treating critically ill patients, Dr. Mattox says the most rewarding aspect of his legacy is "dotting the world with individuals we have trained to practice high quality medicine, particularly in surgery but in other areas as well."

He believes in being a "force multiplier," a term he uses on his Twitter account to describe himself. Perhaps this is why training those who train others is so deeply important to him – because this cycle becomes a force multiplier that exponentially spreads crucial knowledge and lifesaving skills. To make that kind of impact strikes at the core of who he is and what he values most.

In addition to Dr. Mattox's extraordinary career at Baylor, he wants to create a lasting impact on the future of the institution by giving back. He is working with his financial advisors to structure a gift plan that will provide much needed funding today as well as future gifts to support the Department of Surgery.

The remarkable legacy Dr. Mattox has forged at Baylor and at his beloved Ben Taub Hospital will include his support of high quality training and the best possible patient care. What will be your legacy? From building projects to research to scholarships, you can support a wide variety of programs at Baylor. To learn more, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Affairs, without obligation, at 713.798.3808.



## PAVING THE WAY

With a religious studies degree and a biochemistry minor from Rice University, Sally Huang's appreciation for multifaceted approaches always has helped her find innovative solutions to old problems. As a medical student at Baylor College of Medicine, one of the problems Sally has faced was the sometimes overwhelming stress that made her feel insecure as a trainee.

That's why Sally took a leave of absence after her third year of medical school to move to New York City. There, she enrolled in Columbia University's Master of Science in Narrative Medicine program, which aims to fortify the strained relationship between patient and healthcare provider and address the feelings of frustration and dehumanization that undermine the efficacy of treatment. By balancing introspection and storytelling techniques with the practical knowledge of medical education, narrative medicine encourages trust and compassion while augmenting physicians' observation techniques, reasoning skills and self-awareness. Consequently, it enhances the quality of care and improves the clinical experience for patients and healthcare providers.

Sally hoped that narrative medicine would provide a solution to medical school burnout and help her become a more mindful physician. So, instead of preparing residency applications or considering away rotations, Sally spent a year poring over creative works and humanities texts, dissecting and discussing narrative devices, learning to facilitate workshops and sharing her writing with her classmates. She was one of two medical students in the class.

It was a challenging yet rewarding counterpoint to her medical school experience. Narrative medicine offered her a way to approach patients distinct from the traditional clinical thinking that discourages emotionality. Paradoxically, the vulnerability she felt bolstered her confidence. "I found myself changed in ways I couldn't have anticipated. Before, I was anxious and didn't feel safe in my place on the team. I didn't know how to advocate for myself as a student. Afterwards, I was more aware of myself and confident as a person, both as a team member and with patients."

Sally realized that narrative medicine could be implemented at Baylor to assist students in remembering the parts of



The Narrative Medicine Student Working Group, Sally's "pilot" group that gave her feedback on the workshop method. Also in this photo are two of Sally's Columbia Professors who visited Baylor for this training, Dr. Craig Irvine and Dr. Danielle Spencer. Sally is pictured second from the left, wearing a pink shirt.

themselves that often are neglected in medical education, and she was the person to make it happen. With help from the Associate Deans of Student Affairs and other Baylor students, Sally set about incorporating narrative medicine into Baylor's curriculum.

Her efforts quickly paid off. Students who joined her workshops, modeled after Columbia's program, found the experience to be cathartic and productive. Faculty members saw it as a promising new component of medical education. According to E. Lee Poythress, M.D., Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, "Sally has the desire, passion and commitment to change the landscape of wellness in medicine for years to come. It was my pleasure working with and learning from Sally." The response was so positive that, in February 2020, narrative medicine became a required element of Baylor's curriculum as a two-week intersession workshop, offered after the surgery core clerkship.

With plans to pursue psychiatry, Sally feels emboldened by and proud of her work to promote student wellness and improve patient care. She hopes that her workshops will be implemented at all levels of Baylor's curriculum. "Accepting one's own vulnerability is essential to recognizing someone else's suffering," she explained. "Ultimately, we go into medicine to answer the call of others' suffering. Often, we get distracted and can no longer hear it. Narrative medicine can help us listen again."



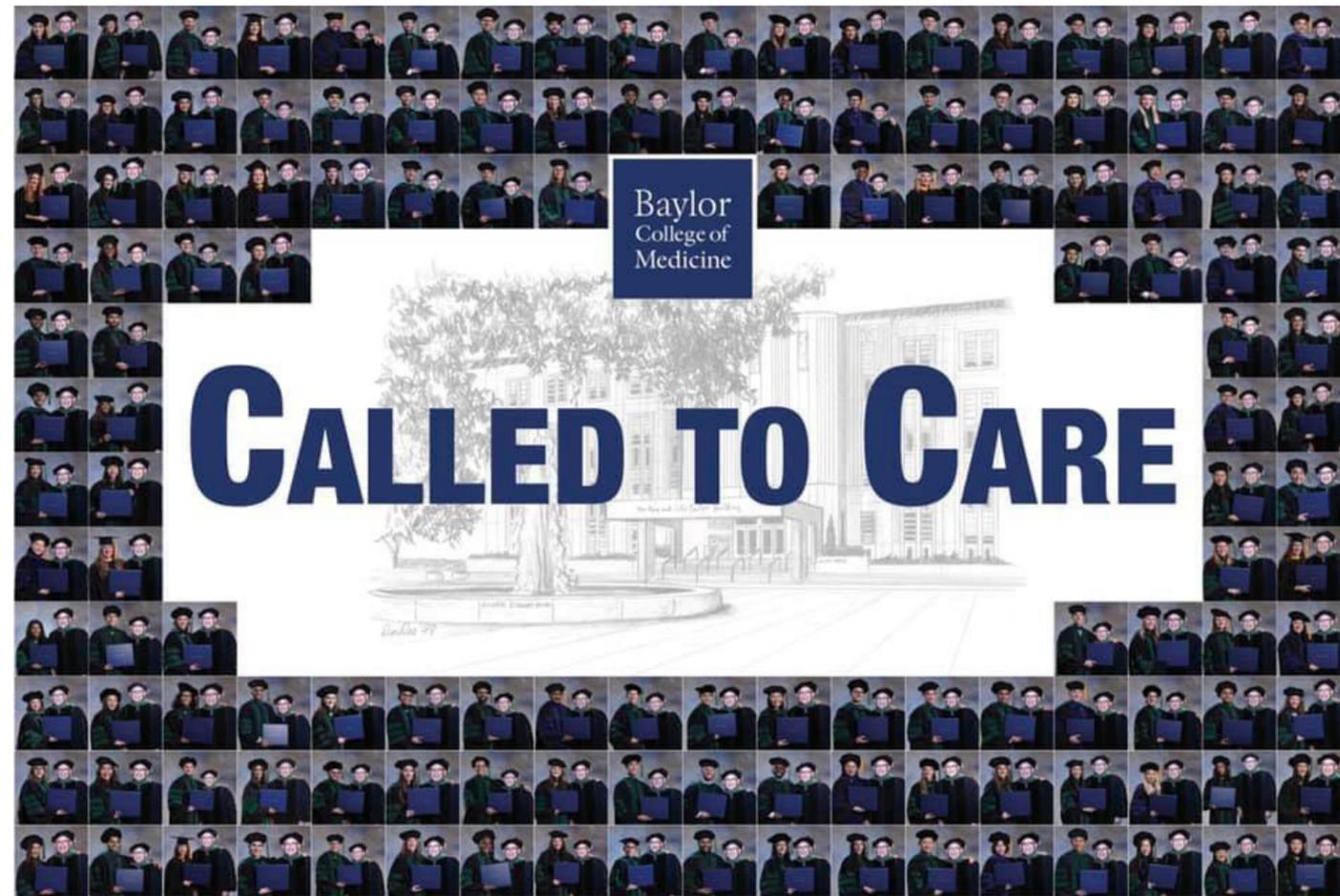
Entire group participating in the Narrative Medicine Faculty Development Training that took place in November 2019. Sally is pictured in the middle, wearing a pink shirt.

## GRADUATION: A VIRTUAL AFFAIR

Graduation is a revered ceremony that confirms the completion of an important professional achievement and that marks the beginning of a new phase of life. In the face of COVID-19, the large convocation and celebration that graduation entails was not possible in 2020. To protect its students, professors, administrators and guests while honoring those who graduated, Baylor College of Medicine streamed its ceremony live on YouTube.

The ceremony included students from the School of Medicine, the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and the Genetic Counseling Program in the School of Health Professions. Dr. Alicia Monroe, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic and Faculty Affairs, welcomed students, faculty and guests. Dr. Paul Klotman, President, CEO and Executive Dean addressed the graduates. He spoke about his experiences dealing with crises in the past, including the onset of HIV in the 1980s, the 9/11 emergency in 2001 and, more recently, Hurricane Harvey in 2017. He emphasized that though challenging, the COVID-19 pandemic gives healthcare graduates a sense of clarity and purpose and the chance to inspire others.

One of the most moving parts of the ceremony was when graduates of the School of Medicine recited the physician's pledge. In adapting to the pandemic, graduation asserted the perseverance of Baylor's educational mission and the excellence of its graduates, all of whom have devoted themselves to the care and betterment humankind. The faculty, staff, alumni and students of Baylor join together to congratulate our graduates on their achievement and to wish them well on their journey of professional fulfillment in the service of others.



Watch the powerful video of members of the Class of 2020 reciting The Physician's Pledge at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdZid0NQJ7g>

## BAYLOR GENETIC COUNSELING PROGRAM GRADUATES ITS FIRST CLASS

Baylor College of Medicine's School of Health Professions welcomed its first class to the Genetic Counseling Program in fall 2018, and now these eight emerging genetic counselors are the first to graduate from the program. After completing this 21-month Master of Science program, graduates will facilitate genetic testing, interpret and communicate results and guide patients through the psychosocial implications of what they learn.

With access to the Texas Medical Center (TMC), Baylor's No. 1 National Institutes of Health-funded genetics department in the country and the Baylor Genetics diagnostic laboratory, students are ideally positioned for successful careers in genetic counseling. Program Director Daniel Riconda, M.S., C.G.C., and Molecular and Human Genetics Chair Brendan Lee, M.D., Ph.D., mentor these students, ensuring they can personalize care for patients making decisions about their genetic health in a variety of settings.

"The program has been even more rewarding than I expected," said student Hannah Helber. "With so many clinical sites in the TMC, we have the opportunity to take what we learn in the classroom right into the clinic, where we serve a diverse patient population." Throughout their training in this Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling-accredited program, Genetic Counseling students conduct didactic coursework covering genetics, embryology, psychosocial counseling and biomedical ethics.

They also participate in clinical rotations in numerous specialty clinics and write a thesis paper that builds on research in the field.

As newly minted leaders of genomic integration, these graduates will serve as indispensable navigators of genetic service delivery. They will supply information on how inherited conditions may impact individuals or families, identify resources, provide support and explain genetic testing options for individuals in whom a genetic condition may be present.

This field is growing rapidly due to the explosion of medical technology. Test results may seem overwhelming without the help of a genetic counselor to guide the way. At the start of the program, Director Riconda said, "Genetic counselors often engage with families in moments of stress, duress and uncertainty. They respond to the patient's needs in a sensitive and empathic manner." Their role in medicine is crucial because stress can worsen health conditions. By conversing with patients about their test results, genetic counselors can steer individuals in the right direction on their road to recovery.

We are confident that Baylor's inaugural Genetic Counseling class can meet this need in our society. Congrats to the Genetic Counseling Class of 2020!



Genetic Counseling Program Orientation

# BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

The Baylor College of Medicine Alumni Association has presented outstanding graduates with the Alumni Awards since 1964. These awards recognize alumni, faculty and students for their individual excellence, personal achievements, work in the medical field and service to the community.

## 2020 WINNERS



### CHRISTIE M. BALLANTYNE, M.D. '82, FEL. '88 - DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD - MEDICINE

Dr. Ballantyne is Baylor's Vice Chair for Research, Chief of Cardiology and Cardiovascular Research and Director of the Lipid Metabolism and Atherosclerosis Clinic. An internationally renowned expert in lipids, atherosclerosis and heart disease prevention, his studies led him to become an established investigator for the American Heart Association. Since joining Baylor's faculty in 1988, he has been a continuous recipient of NIH funding. As evidence of his lasting achievements in the field of cardiology, he earned numerous awards, including being named one of "The World's Most Influential Scientific Minds" by *Thomson Reuters*.



### JOHN M. OLDHAM, M.S. '66, M.D. '67 - DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD - MEDICINE

Dr. Oldham serves as Chief of Staff at The Menninger Clinic and Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at Baylor. He previously served as Director of the New York State Psychiatric Institute, Chief Medical Officer of the New York State Office of Mental Health and as the Elizabeth K. Dollard Professor of Psychiatry and the Law at Columbia University. Over three decades, his pioneering work on borderline personality disorder shifted the study of this condition to the mainstream as a focus for modern psychiatric research. He is past president of numerous professional associations, including The American College of Psychiatrists.



### C. FRANK BENNETT, PH.D. '85 - DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD - GRADUATE SCHOOL

Dr. Bennett is a founder and Chief Scientific Officer at Ionis Pharmaceuticals. He is co-recipient of the 2019 Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences for his contributions to the development of SPINRAZA® (nusinersen), the first approved drug for the treatment of spinal muscular atrophy. He received the 2018 Hereditary Disease Foundation's Leslie Gehry Brenner Prize for Innovation in Science for his commitment to developing antisense therapies for Huntington's disease. Dr. Bennett has published more than 230 papers in the field of antisense research and development, and he is an inventor on more than 175 issued patents.



### STACEY R. ROSE, M.D. '07, RES. '10 - YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD - MEDICINE

Committed to the education and wellbeing of medical trainees, Dr. Rose joined the Baylor faculty in 2015 and serves as Assistant Dean of Clinical Curriculum in the School of Medicine. Through her work in the Section of Infectious Diseases, she provides high-quality healthcare to patients with general infectious diseases, HIV and related conditions and risk factors. A Fellow and Wellbeing Champion of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Rose completed her medical degree and served as Chief Medical Resident at Baylor before pursuing an Infectious Diseases Fellowship at the NIH.



### KRISTINA P. MARSACK, M.S., PA-C '04 - YOUNG ALUMNUS AWARD - HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Plastic Surgery Physician Assistant Kristina Marsack is Assistant Director of Clinical Operations for the Surgical Advanced Practice Providers and Academic Director for PA Surgical and Orthopedic Fellowships at Texas Children's Hospital. She also serves as Assistant Professor at Baylor. She began her plastic surgery career in 2005 and later joined the Pediatric Plastic Surgery team at Texas Children's, where she cares for patients with general plastic surgery needs, including facial, hand and vascular anomalies.

# ALUMNI AWARDS

Awards honor various alumni who have enhanced the reputation of Baylor College of Medicine through their career, research, service and contributions to medicine. Visit [bcm.edu/AlumniAwards2020](http://bcm.edu/AlumniAwards2020) to watch a special video honoring each award recipient.



### IGNATIA B. VAN DEN VEYVER, M.D., FEL. '93 AND '96 - DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Dr. Van den Veyver serves as Professor in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Molecular and Human Genetics at Baylor. She also is Director of Clinical Prenatal Genetics, Maternal Fetal Medicine/Genetics, and is a faculty member in the Fetal Center at Texas Children's. Globally renowned for her translational research concerning the genetic basis of molar pregnancies and Rett, Goltz and Aicardi syndromes, she is published extensively in her fields of expertise.



### BIYKEM BOZKURT, M.D., PH.D. '09, RES. '93, FEL. '96 - DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Dr. Bozkurt serves as Chief of Medicine at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center. An expert in advanced heart failure and cardiac transplantation, she has been recognized for excellence in clinical care, education and leadership. She is President of the Heart Failure Society of America and is involved in a number of other national professional organizations. Dr. Bozkurt teaches and mentors medical students, residents and fellows in clinical and translational research and leads a care line comprising 12 sections, 114 faculty members and 450 nurses.



### ROBERT B. PARKE, JR., M.D. '73, RES. '79, M.B.A. - DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Dr. Parke is Professor in the Bobby R. Alford Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery and has devoted his career to medical service at Baylor. In 1993, he became the first physician to complete an M.B.A. at Rice University and was instrumental in starting the dual M.D./M.B.A. program delivered through Rice and Baylor. He has trained more than 200 residents and fellows, and many have gone on to fill leadership positions, including 13 department chairs, 12 section leaders and one medical school president.



### AMI E. WATERS, M.D., RES. '14 - HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Dr. Waters is being recognized for her dedication to ensuring remote communities have access to healthcare. She spent six months of each year of a two-year fellowship working in rural Liberia with Last Mile Health. She contributed to the organization's Ebola response and facilitated infection prevention and control trainings for healthcare workers. Dr. Waters currently treats patients of all ages at Parkland and Children's Medical Center in Dallas and serves as Medical Director for Last Mile Health in Liberia, where she continues to spend six months of each year delivering healthcare to the underserved.



### JED G. NUCHTERN, M.D., RES. '95 - HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Dr. Nuchtern is being recognized for his commitment to providing pediatric surgical care to children with cancer. He heads the Global Surgery Division at Texas Children's, which is devoted to improving surgical access and outcomes for children in medically underserved countries, with a special emphasis on Malawi. In addition to holding the William J. Pokorny, M.D. Professorship in Pediatric Surgery, Dr. Nuchtern leads a collaborative research program that includes translational and clinical studies to develop new treatments for pediatric solid tumors, particularly neuroblastoma.



### DAVID H. WATSON, M.D. '57 - LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Watson has dedicated his life to practicing family medicine. In 1958, he and his family moved to Yoakum, Texas, where he began a private clinical practice that provided a full range of services, including surgery, obstetrics and emergency care. At times, he charged patients only \$3 for an office visit and \$5 for a house call. When patients could not afford the fee, he accepted in-kind payments of sausage, pies or a bushel of pecans. He was the first Texas physician to receive Staff Care's Country Doctor of the Year Award and continued seeing 20 to 30 patients a day until his retirement in 2012.

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### MAILER SIDE

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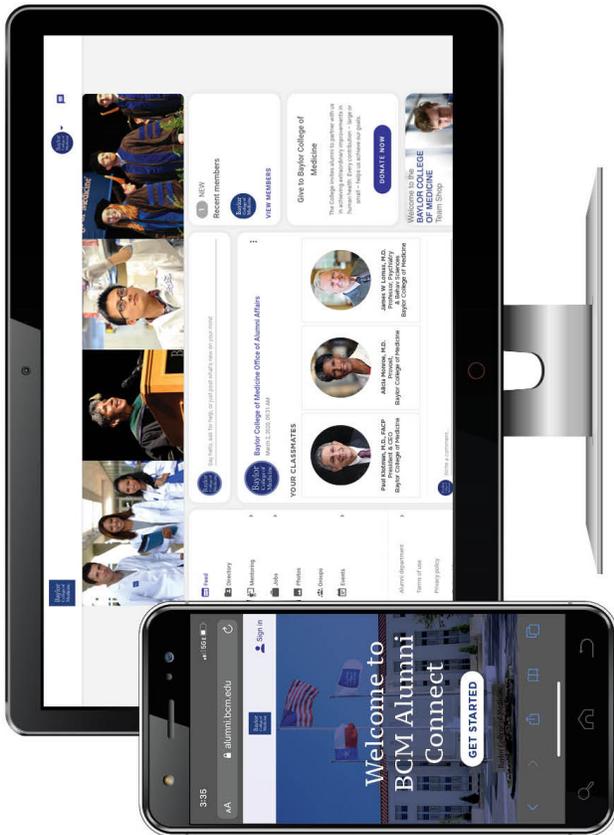
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