



Making Rounds

Summer 2015

News and Updates from Emory University School of Medicine

Adopt-a-Doc Scholarships Open Doors for Emory's Next Generation of Physicians

Cori Lewis is ready to get to work. A second year medical student, Lewis is about to shift her focus from the classroom to the clinic. Her voice bubbles with a mixture of excitement and anticipation when she talks about hitting the hospital wards and putting her months of training to practice.

But her tone changes dramatically when she begins to talk about how she's paying for her medical education. Behind her determination is real concern. "I'm doing all student loans," Lewis noted. "My parents can't afford to help. It's just me."

Lewis' situation is all too familiar. In 2013, the median amount of debt for graduating medical students was \$175,000 according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. And it looks like this number is on the rise.

Through the Adopt-a-Doc scholarship program, medical alumni and friends have stepped up to reduce the burden on the next generation of Emory-trained physicians who will go on to serve their communities. By contributing \$5,000 per year for four years, donors can establish a named scholarship and assist a student throughout his or her entire time as a medical student. Additionally, leadership gifts to the Adopt-a-Doc program help Emory attract top talent in an increasingly competitive landscape.

Lewis makes no attempt to temper her gratitude for her sponsors, the Shulers.



*Adopt-A-Doc scholar **Cori Lewis** (center) reviews test results in a patient's medical record with two classmates before beginning the day's rounds*

"The gift really means so much to me," she said.

"Medical school is way too expensive" for many students, said **Maggie Shuler, MD, PhD 89C 96G 96M**.

That's why Shuler and her husband, **Frederick "Bud" Shuler, MD 93M 94MR 95MR**, decided to continue contributing to the Adopt-a-Doc program after they finished supporting their first student. Shuler has a message for her fellow alumni who may be considering becoming

ing a part of the Adopt-a-Doc program. "Think back to how it feels to be a medical student and to be amassing all that debt," she said. "It's a joy to make a difference in the life of a student who has so nobly chosen to serve others."

To learn more about supporting the Adopt-a-Doc scholarship program, contact development director Andrew Christopherson at 404.727.8253 or andrew.christopherson@emory.edu.

The Common Stethoscope Is Anything but Commonplace

In the fall of 1816, a French physician named Rene Laënnec turned an awkward situation into arguably the most iconic tool in medicine to this day.

It was common practice at the time for physicians to place an ear directly on a patient's chest to perform auscultation of heart sounds. A gentleman and a scholar, Laënnec hesitated before pressing his face against the bosom of a young, zaftig female patient. Instead, he rolled up a piece of paper and used it to shepherd the beats from her chest to his ear. After refining the technique over the next few years, he produced a hollow, wooden tube that was a precursor to the flexible stethoscope used today.

Laënnec's invention went on to not only become one of medicine's most ubiquitous diagnostic tools, but also a symbol of physician knowledge and expertise. In 2012, Australian researchers found that images of people with stethoscopes were more likely to be considered trustworthy and honest than those without.

The Emory School of Medicine Alumni Association has thoroughly embraced the significance of this archetypal tool and, for the last decade, has been gifting a new stethoscope to each and every first-year

medical student. A donation of around \$100 to the Stethoscope Program helps give the next generation of healers a useful and powerful symbol of their future.

"It's a lovely program," remarked **Patty Schiff, MD 80A 81A 88M 91MR**, of the Alumni Association. It helps the new students connect with alumni from the beginning of their training and lets them know "we care, we're here for you."

And the students overwhelmingly agree. "It was a surprise," said **Michael Arenson 18M**, a first-year medical student. "And it meant a lot."

The Stethoscope Program is just one way the Emory SOM and Alumni Association are working to help reduce the financial burden on students. "The burden on the students is enormous," Schiff noted. "It's



President of the Alumni Board, **Farzad R. Nahai, MD 92C 96M 01MR**, (center) meets with a group of first-year medical students who have just received their first stethoscope courtesy of donations from the Alumni Association

just a little, tiny drop, but one less thing they have to do."

To contribute or become involved with the Stethoscope Program, contact Ruthy Cunningham at 404.727.5913 or ruth.cunningham@emory.edu.

Adopt-a-Resident Gifts Fuel New Discoveries, Relationships, Lives

Medicine is charged with the responsibility of healing and comforting the sick from their very first to their very last breath—and everywhere in between. But for some doctors, the job begins even before the spark of life.

According to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, 6.7 million women of childbearing age have a diminished ability to conceive or carry a pregnancy to term. **Heather Hipp, MD 09M**, a second-year fellow in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, has made it her life's work to help these women grow their families. And with the support of the Adopt-a-Resident program, she's been able to broaden her training in a field that relies heavily on basic science and laboratory innovations.

The Adopt-a-Resident program funds Emory School of Medicine residents and fellows so they can pursue research, attend and present at specialty conferences, purchase books and educational materials, and take advantage of other opportunities that would otherwise be out of reach. A gift of \$2,500 a year for four years allows residents and fellows like Hipp to grow their medical knowledge and training in unique, targeted ways.

"A classic academic training experience is invaluable," said Hipp. "It's so important to understand what's behind the basic science of how we take care of patients."

Michael Heard, MD 91M, who sponsored Hipp's Adopt-a-Resident fellowship agrees.

"Grant money is getting scarce. Often times there are limited resources in this specialty because it's so small," he said.

Hipp's research focuses on anti-mullerian hormone, a marker of the ovaries' ability to produce viable eggs. During her residency, she began to explore the relationship between levels of anti-mullerian hormone in the peritoneum and the bloodstream of women with endometriosis, a common cause of infertility.

With the help of Adopt-a-Resident funding, Hipp was able to secure access to frozen samples and the equipment she needed for the extremely sensitive assay used to measure the hormone.

Her work has been well received, including a presentation at the annual meeting of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and a peer-reviewed article in *Reproductive Sciences*.

For Heard, Adopt-a-Resident is a way to both connect to his roots at Emory as well as grow his professional network through collaboration.



Heather Hipp, MD 09M, (left) and colleague **Jennifer Fay Kawwass, MD 14FM**, collaborating on Adopt-a-Resident research in the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility

"I would recommend the program to anyone who wants to build new relationships within their specialty," he said.

To learn more about supporting the Adopt-a-Resident program, contact development director Andrew Christopherson at 404.727.8253 or andrew.christopherson@emory.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome Reception for New Medical Students Including Stethoscope Presentation by Alumni Association

Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 4pm
WHSCAB Plaza, Woodruff Health Sciences Administration Building

Emory Medical Alumni Weekend in Conjunction with Emory Homecoming

September 25–27, 2015

Learn, Serve, Lead 2015—AAMC Annual Meeting Emory Medical Alumni & Friends Reception

Monday, November 9, 2015, 6:15pm
Baltimore, MD

Emory Medical Alumni & Special Friends Reception & Awards Presentation

Spring 2016
Watch for details!

Emory Commencement

Monday, May 9, 2016



Aligned with the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's Triple Aim for better patient experience and population health at reduced cost, Adopt-a-Resident recipients **Faramarz Edalat, MD 16MR**, (left) and **Nima Kokabi, MD 16MR**, studied ways to improve efficiency in radiology and imaging. Edalat developed a proposal for a web-based interface that allows clinicians to not only determine the frequency of missed diagnoses, but also sort them by body section and modality. Kokabi's work examined how adherence to evidence-based best practices affects the occurrence of unnecessary—and costly—imaging exams.

MATCH DAY 2015

Another Incredible Success

Friday, March 20, was a drizzly, grey day in Atlanta, but there was nothing dreary about the atmosphere in the School of Medicine atrium. With just a moment—and a few feet—between them and their future, the medical students of the Class of 2015 counted down the final seconds in unison. As the clock struck noon, they rushed forward as one and a new chapter began. Match Day had arrived.

Since 1952, the National Residency Match Program has been matching medical students with the residency programs where they begin their careers as physicians. This year, more than 130 Emory fourth-year medical students participated in Match Day, joined by thousands of peers in schools across the nation.

"The Emory School of Medicine Class of 2015 has achieved wonderful results in this year's match. We are excited that they are going to outstanding medical centers to continue their training," said **J. William Eley, MD, MPH 79C 83M 86MR 89FM 90PH**, Executive Associate Dean for Medical Education and Student Affairs.

This year's success builds on Emory's strong reputation for graduating well-trained physicians who match at some of the most prestigious programs in the country.

Faces of the Match: Student Profiles

Diogo Anyigbo, MD, MPH 10C 15M 15PH

Match: Children's National Medical Center, Washington, DC

Specialty: Pediatrics

Armed with a Master of Public Health degree and a keen interest in politics, policy, and urban health, Diogo Anyigbo (far right) saw Washington, DC, as the right fit.



And, indeed, it was a perfect match.

When Anyigbo heads to the nation's capital after graduation, she will spend the next phase of her training immersing herself in the study of both pediatrics and community health.

While she was proud to share the moment with her mother and brother, Anyigbo feels that Match Day is a special bonding experience for soon-to-be physicians. "Graduation is more for families, Match Day is for us," she said.

Fei Lian, MD 15M

Match: Harvard/Beth Israel Deaconess, Boston, MA

Specialty: General Surgery

Some specialties, such as urology and ophthalmology, utilize an early match process that takes place closer to the beginning of the year. Because of the extremely limited number of positions, many top candidates don't match on their first time out. Instead, they go on to enter the standard match process and target a related, but more general specialty. After a year of training they submit themselves to the early match all over again.

For Fei Lian, Match Day 2015 put him one step closer to his ultimate goal of practicing urology. "I got my first choice program," he said. "The mental burden is gone. It's a great feeling."

Since Lian has never considered himself to be a typical student—he put his medical training on hold for a year to pursue a research project with the Emory Department of Urology—he's a good fit for this extended, multi-step match. "Because you always want to do something that you love, you always want to have a backup plan," he noted. His pragmatism has served him well, but there's no discounting the power of his sense of humor. "It's very similar to a fraternity or sorority rush," he joked.



Where Are They Going?

Graduating students matched at some of the top US teaching hospitals including:

- Brown University, Providence, RI
- Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH
- Columbia University, New York City, NY
- Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- Duke University, Durham, NC
- Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
- Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
- Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
- UCSF, San Francisco, CA
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- University of Washington, Seattle, WA
- Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- Yale University, New Haven, CT

Keeping It in the Family

Twenty-eight members of the Class of 2015 will spend all or part of their residencies at Emory training facilities.



Join the Excitement!

Watch the 2015 Match:

<http://bit.ly/emorymatchdayvideo2015>

The Top 5 Specialties

Internal Medicine (36), Pediatrics (21), General Surgery (14), Orthopedic Surgery (9), and Anesthesiology (8)

EMORY
MEDICAL
ALUMNI
WEEKEND

September 25–27, 2015

in conjunction with Emory Homecoming
emory.edu/homecoming

Friday, September 25

- Classmate-led individual class gatherings

Saturday Afternoon, September 26

- Hurst Medical History Symposium and CME in the James B. Williams Medical Education Building
- Grady Hospital tour
- Emory-wide events and family fun with a parade, soccer, and an afternoon concert on McDonough Field

Saturday Evening, September 26

- SOM class reunion dinners for classes ending in 0s and 5s at the World of Coca-Cola



Emory Homecoming: Join in the Fun—as a Volunteer!

“Every traveler has a home of his own, and he learns to appreciate it the more from his wandering,” opined Charles Dickens in his third novel, *The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*. Is it a stretch to describe one’s time spent in medical school as being at home? Not according to **Barbara “Mother” Bruner, MD 56M**, who was so nicknamed by her class nearly 60 years ago “because I kept up with everyone.”



“I did choose Emory because it was home to me,” she said earlier this year by phone. “I had a ball in medical school. I liked the people and there was an interesting group of doctors and professors. Emory is a great school and it’s only getting better.”

Bruner feels so strongly about her experience at Emory that she writes a letter to her classmates each year to encourage them to take an active role or at the very least attend Homecoming.

“Volunteering or simply getting more involved with Homecoming doesn’t have to be a major time commitment,” according to Ruthy Cunningham, Assistant Director of Alumni Programs.

She has a few simple ideas on how even the busiest can take part:

- Plan ahead, save the date, and spread the word! All alumni are encouraged to attend
- Keep in touch with the alumni office to make sure your contact information is current and to submit stories to share with *Emory Medicine Magazine*
- Share your ideas of ways to keep your class connected and engaged
- Join a class reunion committee and reach out to classmates by phone or email to encourage participation
- Support SOM scholarships by making a gift in honor of your class or the reunion

- Submit nominations for Alumni Awards by writing to medicalalumni@emory.edu
- Host an informal gathering at your home or nearby venue on the Friday of reunion weekend. The alumni office can help communicate and coordinate your plans

“The people you shared an amazing journey with...grueling nights at Grady... beer and wings at [RIP] Jagger’s. These are the things that build the kind of person you are,” said **Lisa Drake, MD 93M 94MR 97MR**, who began volunteering for Homecoming a few years ago. She was asked to entertain during one of the informal Friday-night gatherings. “I offered to host in my home. It was so much nicer to see our class in a relaxed setting. It’s a little different environment when you’re in someone’s home. The alumni office made it such a good experience, I knew I would do it again in the future.”

Drake hopes other alumni will see the benefits of volunteering. “It has helped me to maintain a connection with Emory,” she said. “I feel like my degree becomes more valuable every year because of investments of alumni.” The value will continue to grow as more and more alumni “communicate in our sphere of influence about why it’s a phenomenal place to train.”

All alumni are encouraged to attend and/or volunteer at Homecoming. For more information or to discuss volunteering, contact Ruthy Cunningham at ruthy.cunningham@emory.edu or 404.727.5913.

Fifth Annual Spring School of Medicine Alumni Awards

Each spring, the School of Medicine Alumni Association acknowledges outstanding alumni for their contributions to the School of Medicine, Emory, and the community. This year’s reception was held at the historic 3109 Piedmont Estate and Gardens on April 14, 2015.

In addition to the alumni awards ceremony and gala, the event included a private reception for named scholarship donors and their student recipients.

The audience was entertained by emcee **Farzad R. Nahai, MD 92C 96M 01MR**, President of the Alumni Board, and with remarks from **Christian Larsen, MD, DPhil 80C 84M 91MR**, Dean of Emory University School of Medicine.

Awards presented to distinguished alumni included:

The **Arnall Patz Lifetime Achievement Award** honors distinguished alumni from the Emory SOM who display extraordinary leadership and accomplishment in the field of medicine at the national or international level.

Recipients: **John D. Thompson, MD 48C 51M**, and **James L. Pirkle, MD, PhD 73C 78G 80G 80M 85MR**

The **Distinguished Medical Achievement Award** is granted to an individual who has achieved distinction in research, teaching, medical practice, or administration in an academic or public institution.

Recipient: **John B. Hardman, MD 73FM**

The **Award of Honor** is conferred upon a medical alumna or alumnus who has demonstrated distinguished service to the



Farzad R. Nahai, MD 92C 96M 01MR, (right) congratulates **Walker L. Ray, MD 62C 65M 68MR**, a recipient of the Award of Honor

Alumni Association, to the Emory SOM, to Emory University, or to the profession of medicine.

Recipients: **Linton Bishop, MD 47M**, (posthumous award) and **Walker L. Ray, MD 62C 65M 68MR**

All medical alumni are encouraged to submit nominations for next year’s awards by February 16, 2016. For more information or to submit a nomination, contact Ruthy Cunningham at 404.727.5913 or ruthy.cunningham@emory.edu

A
SPECIAL
THANKS
TO OUR
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
BOARD
MEMBERS

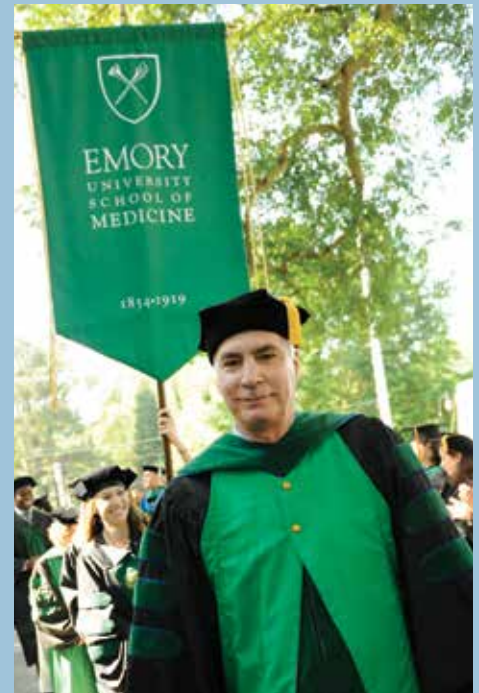
Farzad R. Nahai 92C 96M 01MR <i>Board President</i>	Laura Kendra DeLong 03M 11MR <i>President Elect</i>
Eva Schutterman Arkin 76C 80M 84MR	Diamondis John Papadopoulos 86MR 89MR
W. Perry Ballard III 78M	Quentin R. Pirkle, Jr. 70C 74M 77MR
F. Blanton Bessinger, Jr. 62C 65M	Walker L. Ray 62C 65M 68MR
John Francis Dalton IV 95C 99M 04MR	Patricia Jo Schiff 80A 81A 88M 91MR
Alyson Becca Goodman 01C 07M 07PH	W. Shain Schley, Sr. 62C 66M
Carol Klingenberg 78MR	Robert K. Shuler, Sr. 60M 61MR
Kate E. Koplan 04M 04PH	Carter Smith 56C 60M 66MR
Anna R. Kuo 89M	Steven D. Spandorfer 84C 88M
Terri D. McFadden 91MR	Lorie Hughes Thoms 85M
Joseph Irvin Miller III 91C 95M 01FM	Bruce F. Walker 81C 85M 90MR
Jeffrey T. Nugent 68M 70MR	Anne Kessler Wiskind 85M 89MR 91FM

Office of Development and Alumni Relations
1440 Clifton Road, NE
Suite 170
Atlanta, GA 30322

CHEERS
TO
THE
CLASS
OF
2015



Congratulations and best of luck to our newest alumni! Check out pages 4–5 to find out where they matched for their residency training



Emory University is a Georgia nonprofit corporation dedicated to educating future leaders, discovering cures, caring for patients and their families, and building programs that serve humanity. If you no longer wish to receive fundraising requests to support Emory University, Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, or Emory Healthcare, please contact us at our address, call 404.727.9503, or email askemory@emory.edu, and we will remove you from our list.