

Medical School

DULUTH CAMPUS

Update Medical School

Regional campus Dean hosts History of Medicine Exhibition

Over 80 alumni, donors, and community members joined Regional campus Dean, Dr. Paula Termuhlen, to learn about the History of Medicine Exhibition at the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum.

The Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum housed History of Medicine manuscripts and artifacts that included pieces connected to Benjamin Franklin, Dorothea Dix, and even an original sample that first confirmed penicillin defeating bacteria. A few pieces in the exhibit had connections to Minnesota roots. This included an excerpt from a memoir by Dr. Christiaan Barnard that detailed how his hands shook when making the initial incision for the first human-to-human heart transplant. Dr. Barnard attended the University of Minnesota for two years during postgraduate training in cardiothoracic surgery.

Dean Termuhlen was excited to see a letter written by Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross. "My



Husband and I met as volunteers for the Red Cross," Termuhlen said. "So that's why I think that's pretty cool."

Although the exhibit is now finished, the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus hopes to partner with more exhibits like this. The goal is to bring medical education from outside the walls of the school to the community.

Alumna receives Family Physician of the Year Award



The Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians named Dr. Julie Mayers Benson of Staples as the 2017 Family Physician of the Year. Benson received the award during a formal presentation at the "MVP Celebration" on April 20 at The Depot in Minneapolis.

Benson is a graduate of the Medical School, Duluth campus. She practices at Lakewood Health System in Staples and is recognized statewide as an expert in palliative care. This emerging specialty focuses on improving life and providing comfort to people of all ages with serious, chronic and life-threatening illnesses.

Thirty-one family physicians from across the state were nominated for the Family Physician of the Year award by patients, community members and colleagues. The Family Physician of the Year award is presented annually to a family physician who represents the highest ideals of the specialty of family medicine, including caring, comprehensive medical service, community involvement and service as a role model. The award has been given annually since 1981.

Students donate \$1,000 in toiletries

First and second year medical students hosted a taco bar to raise money to purchase toiletries for the residents of Churches United in



Ministry (CHUM). In total, \$1000 in toiletries were donated to CHUM from the Health of People Everywhere (HOPE) Clinic. The HOPE clinic is a student-run, faculty-supervised free clinic. It was founded and continues to operate by students from the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus. Clinic hours are every Tuesday and students who work in the clinic become aware of the needs of the uninsured and have the opportunity to develop inter-professional relationships across disciplines of medicine. To support the student-run clinic, please consider a gift [here](#).

Faculty/Student Highlights

- **Murat Kalem** presented “Metabolism and the maxicircle genome: exploring potential relationships using *Trypanosoma cruzi* strain variability” and **Sara Zimmer, Ph.D.**, presented “Deep analysis of tails on *Trypanosoma brucei* mitochondrial transcripts reveals life stage as well as transcript-specific regulation” at the International Conference Kinetoplastid Molecular Cell Biology Meeting in April.
- **Pedro Fernandez-Funez, Ph.D.**, published “A KCNC3 mutation causes a neurodevelopmental, non-progressive of SCA13 subtype associated with dominant negative effects and aberrant EGFR trafficking” in *PLoS One* in May.
- **Emily Onello, M.D.**, received the Imagine Fund Award from the Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost for her proposal “Doctor, Disease, Patient and Vaccine: Capturing the Voices and Learning from the Memories”.
- **Brenna Greenfield, Ph.D.**, will publish “Descriptive drinking norms in Native American and non-Hispanic White College students” in *Addictive Behaviors* this coming September.
- **Alan Johns, M.D.**, represented the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus while serving on the Steering Committee at the Group on Regional Medical Campus Meeting in Florida.
- **Brenna Greenfield, Ph.D.**, and **Melissa Walls, Ph.D.**, published “Conduct disorder and alcohol use disorder trajectories, predictors, and outcomes for indigenous youth.” in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry* and “Barriers to healthcare reported by homeless American Indians and service providers.” in the *Journal of Social Distress and the Homless*.

To support faculty and student efforts please consider a gift to the [University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus](#).

Dr. James Boulger receives University award



Photo from awarding ceremony

In April, Dr. James Boulger was presented with the University of Minnesota Graduate and Professional Distinguished Teaching Award. Recipients of these awards are inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers, and carry the designation of Distinguished University Teacher throughout their careers at the University.

The Graduate and Professional awards were established in 1999 to recognize contributions to post baccalaureate, graduate and professional education. Recipients are chosen for excellence in instruction; involvement in students’ research, scholarship, and professional development; development of instructional programs; and advising and mentoring of students. Congratulations, Dr. Boulger!

Annette L. Boman Cancer Research Symposium



In 2003, the medical school lost a promising young researcher and faculty member, Annette L. Boman, Ph.D. Since then, the Annette L. Boman Cancer Research Symposium has been held as a way to honor her memory. This year around 70 attendees listened to keynote speaker, Dr. Phillip Castle, present "Global eradication of Cervical Cancer. Why Not?" Students Rebecca Madden and Emily Susa were presented the Annette Boman Women's Fellowship for Cancer Research.

To contribute to the Annette L. Boman Women's Fellowship for Cancer Research fund, please give [here](#).

L.E. Wittmers, Jr., Scholarship

On April 25, 2015, the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus lost a great friend and recently retired faculty member, Dr. Lorentz "Larry" Wittmers. Dr. Wittmers attended the University of Minnesota and obtained his BS in Chemistry and Mathematics in 1964 and his M.D. and Ph.D. in Physiology and Bio-Chemistry in 1974. That same year Larry began teaching at St. Scholastica and the University of Minnesota Duluth. He continued his research and education at University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus, focusing on respiratory physiology with a concentration in hypothermia and the effects it had on the human body. He served as an associate professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences, director of graduate studies in Physiology, interim director of the Center of American Indian and Minority Health, graduate school adviser for Ph.D. students and held the Edwin Eddy Endowed Professorship.



Dr. Wittmers wife of 48 years, Ruth Wittmers, has established the L.E. Wittmers, Jr., Scholarship to continue his legacy at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus. The goal of this scholarship is to provide financial support to students who are enrolled and who began their education on the Duluth campus of the University of Minnesota Medical School. These students should exemplify critical thinking in clinical situations, in training and with patients. To honor Dr. Wittmers legacy and contribute to the L.E. Wittmers, Jr., Scholarship, please consider making a gift [here](#).

Connect with us

We value your relationship with the University of Minnesota Foundation and University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus. With you in mind, we would like to find out your interests and help build engagement opportunities for you! Please take a few minutes to fill out this [survey](#).

The survey was originally designed for University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth campus Alumni. However, it is important that we give all our friends and stakeholders an opportunity to engage with us. Please know your privacy is of utmost importance to us. Your information and answers will not be publically shared and your name will not be associated with your response.

By completing the survey you ensure that our future engagement opportunities are the most effective for you! If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Heather Heart at hheart@umn.edu or Christiana Kapsner at ckapsner@d.umn.edu

Student Alumni Lunch Series



Carol Farchmin, M.D.

This spring in response to interest Alumni reported in a survey sent out, a Student Alumni Lunch Series was initiated. Two sessions were scheduled over the noon hour in April and gave students an opportunity to have a casual question and answer session about the wide spectrum of family medicine. Due to weather, Dr. Farchmin has been rescheduled for the Fall. Thank you to Dr. Carol Farchmin and Dr. Julie Reichhoff for being the first two Alumni to



Julie Reichhoff, M.D.

participate in this series! **Carol Farchmin, M.D.**, currently practices at Essentia Health. She is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine in Family Medicine. Dr. Farchmin specializes in Family Medicine, Obstetrics, and Pediatrics. **Julie Reichhoff, M.D.** currently practices at Essentia Health. She is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine in Family Medicine. Her specialties are Family Medicine, Obstetrics, and Pediatrics.

Michelle Moran

Peter and Virginia Torreano Scholarship

Hometown: Le Sauk Township, MN

Undergraduate School: St. Cloud State University

Major: B.S. Biomedical Sciences

What does receiving a scholarship mean to you?

Receiving this scholarship allows me the ability to be able to focus on my studies instead of working. I have enormous gratitude and feel a great honor having someone support me in my journey to becoming a physician.

In ten years, what would you like to be known for in your community?

In 10 years, I hope to be settled into a life with my husband and future children in a small, tightknit community. Professionally, I'd like to play an active role in a dynamic healthcare team of physicians, pharmacists, NPs, PAs, nurses, dieticians and social workers. I aspire to put relationship building at a forefront in my medical practice, with both my patients and colleagues. I hope to be active in our community, by volunteering with athletic teams, the school board and our local rotary club. In this way, I hope to impact the wellbeing of my community beyond the exam room.

What made you interested in becoming a physician?

When I was 7, my mother was given six months to live. She had sustained a hit while playing hockey and was suffering from vasovagal syncope, bradycardia, and hypotension. As she traveled around as a hockey official, I would go with her to explain her medical history in case anything happened while my father stayed home with my brother, who was then three years old. My parents decided to seek out a second opinion at Cleveland Clinic. I tagged along and watched in amazement as the team of medical students, residents, and the attending entered the room. The team worked together flawlessly and ordered a set of tests. A day later, they arrived at a new diagnosis; she had injured her vagus nerve. They sent our hometown doctor instructions for treatment including a pacemaker with adjunct therapy of Norpace if the pacemaker was not enough. I am now 23 and have the opportunity to officiate a hockey game with my brother and mother tonight. This medical miracle started my interest in becoming a physician. I would like to be able to provide this same type of care to others in need.

Scholarship profile

