

Medical School

DULUTH CAMPUS

Update Medical School

Regional Dean begins tenure at the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus

Paula Termuhlen, M.D., started her tenure as the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus regional dean this spring.

Termuhlen is not a stranger to leadership roles. She was trained as a surgeon and served as a professor of surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. She served as the medical director for the High Risk Breast Cancer Program and the director of the Surgery Residency Program. Termuhlen also held various positions on national boards and accreditation councils.

It was Termuhlen's passion for helping the underserved and rural communities that brought her to Duluth, "I am excited to lead a school that is passionate and driven about providing healthcare to rural communities."

Termuhlen's schedule has been very busy the six weeks she has been on campus. Her focus has been



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learning about the school, faculty, staff, and research being conducted. Termuhlen said, "Everything we do on this campus is impressive. It is my personal mission to leverage and broadcast these things and to really spread the word about us."

Brooks Jackson, M.D., M.B.A., Dean of the Medical School and Vice President for Health Sciences said, "Dr. Termuhlen brings a combination of energy and experience to this role that makes her the ideal leader at this time. She has a passion for education, for scholarship, and for solving issues around disparities. I look forward to working with her to raise the profile of the Duluth campus and to support her efforts to build on the legacy of that campus as an innovative leader in medical education."

Faculty members published in the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*

Melissa Walls, Ph.D., and Emily Onello, M.D., along with two other authors published "Unconscious Biases: Racial Microaggressions in American Indian Health Care" in the March-April issue of the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine*. Their research reports on the prevalence and correlates of microaggressive experiences in health care settings reported by American Indian adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus. Read the article [here](#).



Jean Regal, Ph.D., receives UMD's Woman of the Year Award

Jean Regal, Ph.D., was awarded the Linda Larson Woman of the Year Award on Wednesday, April 15, 2015, in the Kirby Ballroom on the University of Minnesota

Duluth campus. The Linda Larson Woman of the Year Award was created in 2002, to honor women who exemplify going above and beyond to benefit women at UMD. Regal was one of three winners this year.

Jean Regal is a Professor of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Minnesota Medical School's Duluth campus and is the founder of the Academic Health Center Women's Mentoring Program. This program facilitates discussion among women on important issues pertaining to success in the academic environment. The program also serves as a networking opportunity for women across academic disciplines, especially those in STEM fields on the Duluth campus.

Regal serves as a mentor for junior faculty members and takes a strong interest in promoting diversity and inclusivity in the University of Minnesota Medical School, with a particular focus on gender equity. Her nomination included these words from Lynne Bemis, Ph.D., Department Chair of Biomedical Sciences, about Regal, "She demonstrates attributes required for success as she continues to teach, solicit research funding, and contribute to the campus community with passion, efficiency and a lively sense of humor."

42 Years of Tradition Still Going Strong

Students, faculty, and staff celebrated the 42nd Annual Farewell Banquet in April. The banquet is a long standing tradition that signified the end of the class of 2017's first two years of medical school on the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus.

Sixteen awards were presented at the banquet. Twelve were student scholarships and four were presented to faculty members. The students honored Dr. Arlen Severson



Class of 2017 poses for a photo at the Farewell Banquet

with his seventeenth Teacher of the Year Award.

All second year students were presented with certificates acknowledging their accomplishment. The scholarships were awarded from the University of Minnesota Foundation. To support scholarships for the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus please give [here](#).

Lorentz "Larry" Wittmers, M.D., Ph.D., remembered for his lasting impact



Dr. Lorentz "Larry" Wittmers Jr., 73, of Duluth, passed away on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at his home with his family by his side. He 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.

On April 1, 1967, he was married to Ruth Zaske in Minneapolis. They moved to Duluth in 1974 where Larry began teaching at St. Scholastica and the University 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.

Annette L. Boman Cancer Research Symposium

Annette L. Boman, Ph.D., passed away in 2003 but her legacy at the University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus lives on in the Annette L. Boman Cancer Research Symposium. The symposium was established by family members who wanted Annette's impact to leave a lasting legacy.

Around 80 people attended the symposium held at the Northland Country Club in May. Paula M. Termuhlen, M.D., regional campus dean, gave a keynote titled, "Molecules to Miracles: The Importance of Cancer Research". The annual presentation of the Women's Cancer Research Fellowship was given to researcher Shirisha Gurrapu and presented by Joseph and Anna Rose Kebbekus, Annette Boman's children.



Dr. Tom Boman and Mary Boman, Annette Boman's parents, stand with award winner Shirisha Gurrapu

2nd Annual Aufderheide Memorial Lecture and Student Research Symposium

The University of Minnesota Medical School Duluth campus hosted the 2nd annual Aufderheide Memorial Lecture and Student Research Symposium this past April. Geoffrey Witrak, M.D., Pathologist for Essentia Health and Associate Professor was the guest speaker. Scott Mikesell, D.O., Cardiologist at St. Luke's provided the keynote address. Eleven medical students participated in poster presentations representing their research.



Mary Aufderheide and Dr. Geoffrey Witrak

Scholarship Profile

Brent Schotl

Mary L. and Aurthur C. Aufderheide Scholarship

Anticipated Graduation Date: May 2017

Hometown: Sauk Rapids, MN

Undergraduate school: University of Minnesota - Duluth

Major: Biology

Q: Who or what piqued your interest in science and medicine?

A: I have always loved science and learning new things. Medicine is a career of continual learning and gives me the opportunity to help others and make discoveries for new diseases and new therapies to help individuals suffering with illness.

Q: What major health advance(s) would you like to see in accomplished in the next five years?

A: In the next five years, I would especially like to see better access to care so that all people can afford to be treated for their medical illnesses, not just the rich and those poor enough to be on Medicaid. I would also like to see improvements in the screening for ovarian and prostate cancers, which are both devastating cancers which often have no way to be detected until it is too late for the patient.

Q: What does it mean to you to receive this scholarship?

A: I am personally honored to have received this scholarship. I know Dr. Aufderheide was a prestigious researcher of mummies and archaeologic pathology, and promoted student research at the Medical School. I feel honored to walk in his footsteps to do research while in medical school and hope that I can be a proponent of medical student research to other students and the faculty at the Medical School.

