



A Message from Dean Filak

Dear College of Medicine Alumni,

When I think of the College of Medicine, I immediately think of the people who are the college; our thousands of alumni and those who are current students, the faculty and the staff. They are the strength and the heart of what makes our College of Medicine special and indispensable to our community.

Back in 1957, IvaDean Lair started her journey with us. She soon moved from supporting faculty to dedicating her life to assisting the college's medical students. This past October, we gathered to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the IvaDean Medical Student Scholarship and, more importantly, to honor IvaDean for all she has meant to so many of us over the past 67 years. It was heartwarming to see the many alumni, students, faculty and staff share their love and respect for IvaDean, and the sense of family that she created and still exists at the college.

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Indispensable Medicine, Right Here in Cincinnati

The UC College of Medicine and UC Physicians are invaluable because of the excellence they represent in education, research and patient care. Learn more about why Next Lives Here and the impact on students, patients and community members.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Support Current Students

Provide College of Medicine students with vital personal and professional development opportunities, host a dinner for incoming M1 students, support the Admissions process or serve on the Medicine Alumni Council.

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UC Dominates 'Top Doctors' List

Each year, *Cincinnati Magazine* curates a list of "Top Doctors" and this year, 61% of the 937 physicians listed have a connection with the UC College of Medicine; 223 doctors are alumni, 257 completed their residency or fellowship at UC, and 315 hold a faculty appointment.

[VIEW LIST](#)



UC Cancer Center Joins NCI Trials Network

The National Cancer Institute's Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network (ETCTN) will provide patients with access to cutting-edge treatments only available through the network. Davendra Sohal, MD says the ETCTN is a cooperative group specifically designed to test treatments in Phase I trials.

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Connect with Current Students for Speed Networking

Mentorship connections are a valuable resource in bolstering the success of our students. Alumni are invited to engage with current students for an evening of speed networking to offer advice, share your career path and answer questions. Dinner will be provided.

Alumni & Student Speed Networking

Wednesday, Feb. 28
5:30 - 7 p.m.

[College of Medicine](#)

[REGISTER](#)



Meet Sejna Alibegovic, Class of 2025

Sejna Alibegovic is a third-year medical student, a first-generation Bosnian-American and is a recipient of the [Webster-Gustin Medical Scholarship Fund](#), which provides full tuition to 10 students each academic year. After the Bosnian War in 1996, Sejna's family moved to the U.S. and built a life together, working several jobs and creating community with Bosnian friends. When deciding on where to attend medical school, the UC College of Medicine became an obvious choice to Sejna for how it cares for its community and for valuing unique experiences of applicants. "The Webster-Gustin Scholarship has lifted a weight off my shoulders that I've carried for a long time," shares Sejna. "Watching my family reminds me to treat a patient as a whole person, and that their unique stories affect healthcare decisions and outcomes."



Around the College

College News

- Congratulations to our newest Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral alumni! The college awarded **67 degrees in August** and **64 degrees in December**.
- **Dean Andrew Filak, Jr.** was interviewed by **David Oh, MD, CAHS '23**, for the [50th episode of his podcast, "In the Know with Dr. Oh."](#)
- **MSTP Alumni** are invited to [connect with the program on social media](#).
- **Four College of Medicine residency programs** have been ranked among the best in the country by [Doximity's 2023-24 Residency Navigator](#): UC Medical Center's Medicine/Pediatrics (Med-Peds) Residency Program was No. 2 and the Emergency Medicine Residency Program was No. 3. Also ranked No. 3 in the country were the Child Neurology and Pediatrics residency programs at Cincinnati Children's.

Faculty and Research Updates

- Buffalo Bills safety **Damar Hamlin's Chasing M's Foundation** [created a scholarship in honor of the 10 medical professionals who cared for him](#), including UC College of Medicine faculty members **Saad Ahmad, MD, B. Woods Curry, MD, Jason McMullan, MD, and Betty Tsuei, MD**.
- *Cincinnati Business Courier* [Health Care Heroes finalists](#) include MedMentors, a youth mentoring organization that pairs medical students with local school children in grades 2-16, advised by **Charles Cavallo, MD '99**, and faculty members **Robert Ammerman, PhD, Leeya Pinder, MD, MPH, Lauren Wang, MD '11, Muhammad Zafar, MD, and Xiaoting Zhang, PhD**.
- Research by **Susan Pinney, PhD '90**, professor in the Department of Environmental and Public Health Sciences, [shows PFAs exposure may delay girls' puberty](#).
- **The UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute** will [lead a new national stroke study](#) to test efficacy of a new treatment for acute ischemic stroke.
- **Associate Professor Francisco Romo-Nava, MD, PhD** is leading research on spinal cord stimulation as a new method of treating depression.

Alumni

- **Colleen Koch, MD '87** is the new Group Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital.
- **James Lace, MD '74** is the founder of the [Yatima Group Fund](#), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of orphans and other vulnerable children in Tanzania.
- **George V. Russell, MD '92** is the [new chief of orthopaedic trauma](#) in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine's Department of Orthopaedic Surgery and the associate chief of UPMC's orthopaedic service line.
- **Haidn Foster, MD '22** has been elected chair-elect of the American Medical Association Resident and Fellow section. He becomes section chair in June.
- **Chris Peltier, MD '95** was [honored with the Staff Award of Merit by the UC Foundation](#) at the George Rieveschl Recognition Dinner. The award recognizes a staff member who has fostered a culture of philanthropy at UC or UC Health.
- The Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati honored local recipients of the Ohio State Medical Association 50-Year Physician Award, including six members of the class of 1973: **Igor Dumbadze, MD, R. Terrell Frey, MD, Jennifer Johnson, MD, Andrew Robbins Jr., MD, Robert Smyth, MD and Frank Woodside III, MD**.
- **The Hippocrates Honor Society of Aultman Hospital** inducted **James Johns, MD '82**.
- TriHealth's first chief medical informatics officer **Michael Bain, MD '86** has retired.
- **Callisia Clarke, MD '06** is the new president of the Association for Academic Surgery.

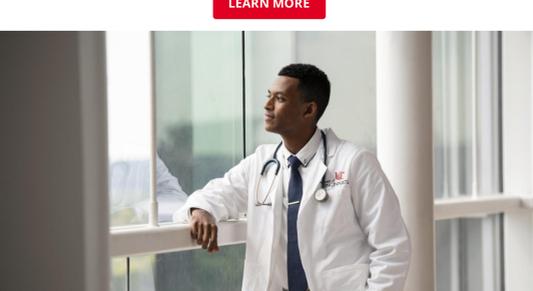
Students

- Through the family medicine psychiatry program, second-year medical student **Keirsten White** [is pursuing training to provide whole-person health care](#) to individuals who are homeless and underserved.
- **Chiharu Ishikawaa**, a student in the Cancer and Cell Biology graduate program, has received the 2023 Robert and Emma Lou Cardell Fellowship, honoring the late Robert Cardell Jr., PhD, and his wife, Emma Lou Cardell, an electron microscopist, histologist and teacher.
- Second-year medical student **Delia Sosa** received the 2023 Emerging Leader Award during the Transforming Care Conference. The honor recognizes a young and/or emerging health care provider, professional, student or activist who has already made a significant positive and intersectional impact in the field of LGBTQ+ and/or HIV health and wellness.

Save the Date for Reunion Weekend

Join classmates for Reunion Weekend **Thursday, April 11 through Saturday, April 13** to celebrate MD alumni from class years ending in 4 and 9. More details will be shared as plans are finalized.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Support the Lucy Oxley, MD African American Medical Student Scholarship

Join UC champions committed to making a meaningful impact in our students' lives by supporting the College of Medicine today. The Lucy Oxley, MD scholarship is established within the Gaston Scholars program to further grow the underrepresented population of African-American medical students at the College of Medicine. Dr. Oxley is a 1935 alumna of the College of Medicine and first African-American to earn a medical degree from UC. This scholarship honors her pioneering spirit in paving the way for future medical students.

[GIVE](#)



Your Medicine Alumni Connection

BRI COGGINS '10, '20

Enjoys Bearcats football and basketball, all things chocolate, and spending time with her husband and 2 daughters.

