Note From The Editors

The Alumni Newsletter is a semiannual electronic publication of Graduate Medical Education at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. It features updates on the Medical Center, the School of Medicine, and the Training Programs. We hope over time we will also have items that Alumni communicate back for publication. We include contact numbers and CME links for easy future access.

UPMC News

Front page headlines of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Saturday, November 4th announced the news release from UPMC the day before: the health system plans to spend 2 billion dollars building 3 specialty hospitals. Each will be close to an existing UPMC Hospital.

UPMC Heart and Transplant Hospital at UPMC Presbyterian, a 15-story, 620-bed facility, will be built in Oakland; UPMC Vision and Rehabilitation Hospital, a 300,000-square-foot facility, will be built near UPMC Mercy in the city’s Uptown section; and UPMC Hillman Cancer Hospital at UPMC Shadyside, a 240,000-square-foot patient
tower and 160,000-square-foot outpatient center, will be built near the system’s Shadyside Hospital. By repurposing existing rooms for offices and other uses, the Pittsburgh health system said its construction plans will not increase the number of inpatient hospital beds in a region that already has too many beds.

Designing the hospitals is just beginning but each will have research centers full of modern laboratories and the best technology, factors expected to attract even more top-flight researchers to Pittsburgh.

Construction of the new facilities could take a while. The vision and rehab hospital should be open by 2020, according to the announcement, and the new cancer hospital is targeted for 2022. No date was given for completion of the heart and transplant hospital.

Microsoft Corp. will be UPMC’s partner in designing the specialty hospitals, with the goal of transforming “what today is often a disjointed and needlessly complex experience for patients and clinicians,” Mr. Romoff said.

The new buildings and personnel will allow UPMC to expand on its current research, which includes:

- Developing artificial retinas and using stem cells in regenerative therapies to restore vision.
- Finding ways to determine whether aneurysms require immediate repair.
- Designing anti-aging drugs to allow people to live longer healthier lives.
- Engineering immune cells to seek out and destroy cancer cells and exposing transplant patients before-hand to immune cells from the donor as a way to reduce organ rejection.

Since last edition, further development in the rest of UPMC network planning has also occurred. The new hospital in South Fayette is on hold. The affiliation with 7 hospitals in central Pennsylvania is reality through an agreement with Pinnacle Health. Meanwhile in June, Susquehanna announced the purchase of Lock Haven Hospital and Sunbury Hospital in the central Pennsylvania area. This brings Susquehanna to a total of 6 hospitals serving a 10 county region, and UPMC affiliated hospitals to a total of 39. UPMC now employs 80,000 people statewide.
On the world scene, UPMC made a strategic investment in Salvator Mundi International Hospital in Rome, Italy. This will export cancer care to patients in central and southern Italy. It will also advance medical, surgical, neurosurgical, and interventional radiology specialty care. SMH expects to benefit from efficiencies with UPMC’s other Italian operations, including the UPMC Institute for Health in Chianciano Terme, ISMETT in Palermo, UPMC Radiotherapy Center in Rome, and the planned Biomedical Research and Biotechnology Center in Carini.

In July, UPMC was named one of the nation’s “Most Wired” health systems by the American Hospital Association’s Health Forum. This is the 19th consecutive year on the list. In the past 5 years, UPMC has invested more than 1.5 billion dollars in technology to support clinical excellence. This comes on the heels of the announcement from IntraNET Reloaded, that UPMC’s Infonet won first prize in two categories in international competition in Boston this spring. This was welcome reward to the Internal Communication Team, which spent 18 months in upgrades.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette covered the UPMC budget results on August 30th of 2017. The Health Plan stands at 3.17 million members, contributing positively to the Center’s 14.35 billion dollar operating revenue. This is up 2 billion from the previous year and 4 billion from FY 2013. Patient volume grew from 264,281 in FY 2013 to 312,263 this past year as the network grew. Operating margin fell from 2.4% to 1.7% because of substantial capital investments. UPMC also provided 912 million dollars in community benefits this past year.

**University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine**

Since our last publication there has been the loss of two more historical figures as well as movement of several key faculty members. However, a huge grant started off the academic year.
The Henry L. Hillman Foundation has made a commitment of $3 million per year for 10 years for ongoing support of the Hillman Fellows for Innovative Cancer Research Program. The program was started in 2004 with a $20 million contribution from the late philanthropists Henry and Elsie Hillman, pictured here at the 2002 opening of what’s now called the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center in Shadyside.

“This remarkable gift, which will drive cancer research and discoveries, extends the life-changing philanthropic commitment and innovative vision that are the shining hallmarks of Henry and Elsie’s great legacy,” said University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Patrick Gallagher.

The Hillman Fellows program provides seed funding to scientists and encourages partnerships with young researchers to cultivate novel anti-cancer methods that improve cancer treatment, detection and prevention worldwide. Since its inception, the program has directly supported the research of more than 100 scientists.

**Obituaries:**

**Julius Youngner**

Dr. Julius Youngner died on April 27, 2017 at the age of 96. He was the final surviving member of the Salk polio vaccine team. As son Peter Salk said of Dr. Youngner’s contribution, “I think it is absolutely fair to say that had it not been for Dr. Youngner the vaccine would not have come into existence.” Dr. Youngner devised the method to grow large amounts of poliovirus on monkey cells in the lab, then developed a maturation technique to prepare it for injection, and finally developed assessment tools for patient trials. Polio cases dropped from 35,000 in the year before the vaccine to less than 2,500 two years later.
Dr. Julius Youngner, circa 2011
(Bob Donaldson/ Post-Gazette)

Dr. Youngner’s career began with graduation from high school at age 15, university at NYU and doctorate in microbiology at Michigan. He worked on the Manhattan Project during WWII, worked briefly at NCI and then joined the polio team. He stayed on at the University of Pittsburgh, becoming a nationally noted virologist, mentoring dozens of students and publishing 200 papers. He operated his lab into his 80’s. As Dr. Levine remembered, “Juli’s infectious curiosity has fueled his own research and infected all who had the privilege to work with him.” And as Chancellor Gallagher said, “He was one of the world’s preeminent virologists and our University community will miss him immensely.”

Herbert L. Needleman

Herbert L. Needleman, known for his pioneering efforts that linked environmental lead exposure – even at low doses - to cognitive deficits in children, died in Pittsburgh on July 18 at an assisted living center. He was 89. Needleman was a pediatrician and emeritus professor of psychiatry in the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, which he joined in 1981 after leaving Harvard University. Two years earlier, in 1979, he published a landmark study in the New England Journal of Medicine showing that Boston-area children with higher accumulations of lead also had, on average, five or six fewer IQ points than those with lower lead accumulations who were of the same neighborhood, ethnic background and economic status.

“That study really changed the whole way the world thinks about lead poisoning,” Philip Landrigan of Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, a longtime lead researcher who worked alongside Needleman, told Pitt Med magazine in 2001.
In 1996, Needleman conducted his first in-depth delinquency study in which he measured bone lead levels in children and collected reports of aggression and delinquency from the subjects, their parents and their teachers. The results of this study showed an association between lead and delinquency, providing evidence for effects beyond cognitive deficits.

In addition to his scientific work, he was a key figure in convincing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to require that lead be taken out of gasoline. According to Landrigan, that movement decreased blood lead levels in children by 90 percent. Needleman also pushed for lead to be removed from paint and for remediation of houses where lead paint was used.

Dr. Levine also announced major news from the Dental School. Dr. Thomas Braun decided to resign as Dean effective January 31, 2018 so that a new Dean may lead the expected 4 year building project presently being planned.

Dr. Braun received a BS, DMD, MS, and PhD, all from our University. His career has been marked not only by his deanship and his professorship of oral and maxillofacial surgery, but by his service as President of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and President of both the Pennsylvania Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and the Great Lakes Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. In 2014, Tom was named a Distinguished Service Professor.

Dr. Braun has established a training program that awards dual MD/DMD degrees, now regarded as one of the best such programs nationally. He has created new Centers on Dental and Craniofacial Genetics, Craniofacial Regeneration, and Oral Health Research in Appalachia, establishing a critical research focus for the school. Tom has dramatically increased the research standing of the School of Dental Medicine, now ranked, by any metric, amongst the top ten such schools nationwide.

Dr. BJ Costello will serve as Interim Dean. Dr. Costello received his BS from the University of Scranton and his DMD from the University of Pennsylvania. He also received an MD from the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Medicine. His post-graduate training was in the University of Pennsylvania Health System and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, with a craniofacial fellowship at Georgetown University Medical Center.
Several other key appointments have happened since the May Newsletter. On June 16 it was announced that Dr. Robert Ferris, a renowned expert in immunotherapy and specialist in head and neck cancer, has been named director of UPMC Hillman Cancer Center.

Ferris, a 15-year veteran of the UPMC Hillman Cancer Center, will have overall responsibility for all aspects of cancer research and education at the only National Cancer Institute-designated comprehensive cancer center in the region. His appointment follows a nationwide search after the departure of Nancy Davidson, M.D.

“Dr. Ferris is a nationally known leader in cancer immunology and will expertly serve UPMC, the University of Pittsburgh and the western Pennsylvania community as we continue to advance the future of cancer care,” said Steven Shapiro, M.D., chief medical and scientific officer of UPMC.

Nationally, Ferris is co-chair of the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Steering Committee for Head and Neck Cancer, at-large director of the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer, senior examiner of the American Board of Otolaryngology, and chair of the NCI Tumor Microenvironment Study Section. He has authored or co-authored more than 280 peer-reviewed papers and 32 chapters and other invited contributions. He has edited three books, with “Head and Neck Cancer” currently in press. Ferris was trained at Johns Hopkins Medical School where he received his medical degree and Ph.D. in immunology and completed his residency in otolaryngology/head and neck surgery.

Then on September 29th the Surgical Services Oversight Committee and HSD Leadership announced the appointment of Dr. Herbert Zeh as the Senior Director, UPMC Surgical Services. In this role, Herb will oversee the newly created UPMC Center for Surgical Services Proficiency and will Chair the Robotics Surgical Committee. Among the goals of the UPMC Center for Surgical Services Proficiency will be the development of a system-wide strategic vision for delivery of surgical services utilizing best evidence measures of quality, volume and proficiency. Herb will be partnering with individual service lines and hospitals to establish guidelines and thresholds for surgeon, trainee and operating room team proficiency for specific procedures. Within the Center, Herb will develop methodologies for the assessment of surgical proficiency, to improve surgical performance with standardization and education of surgeon and operating room teams through novel methodologies including simulation, video review, peer-to-peer review, and coaching strategies.
After earning his MD at the University of Pittsburgh, Herb completed his residency in surgery at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, and fellowships in surgical oncology at both the National Cancer Institute and Johns Hopkins. He was recruited to UPMC as an Assistant Professor of Surgery in 2002, and is currently appointed as Professor of Surgery, the Watson Endowed Chair and Chief of the Division of Gastrointestinal Surgical Oncology, Co-Director of UPMC's Pancreatic Cancer Center, Director of the Hillman Disease Site Center for GI Oncology Research and UPMC Hillman Cancer Center Associate Director for Clinical Investigation.

Finally on October 18th Dr. Gladwin announced the appointment of Dr. Robert Schoen as Chief of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition.

An international leader in the early detection and prevention of colorectal cancer, Rocky is a renowned clinical investigator and clinical gastroenterologist. He has skillfully led the Division since July 2016, when he was appointed Interim Chief. The Division, currently ranked sixth in the nation by US News and World Report, will continue its excellent growth and performance.

After receiving his bachelor’s and medical degrees from Columbia University in New York, Rocky trained as a resident in internal medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He completed two fellowships—one in general internal medicine at New York Hospital of Cornell University, and a second in gastroenterology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. He joined the faculty at the University of Pittsburgh in the Division of Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition in 1991. Rocky completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Cancer Prevention and earned an MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public Health in 1994.

His research portfolio includes serving as principal investigator and national chair of the Colon Organ Site Committee for the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer screening trial. Currently, he is principal investigator of a new, national randomized trial of surveillance colonoscopy set to begin in 2018. Rocky is also currently the principal investigator of a U01 grant examining circulating tumor DNA in blood as a marker for early detection and monitoring of colorectal cancer.

Dr. Schoen’s publishing record includes authorship of more than 160 peer-reviewed manuscripts, many in high impact journals. Administratively, Dr. Schoen serves on the executive committee of the Early Detection Research Network, and is chair of the America’s for the World Endoscopy Organization.

Also of note within the Division, Dr. Ramon Bataller has been named Section Chief of Hepatology. Dr. Bataller has extensive research experience in liver fibrosis and alcoholic hepatitis. He is the overall PI of a NIH-funded U01 collaborative consortium (In Team) for translational research on alcoholic hepatitis.
Internationally, Ramon has served on the governing board of the European Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (EASL). He was recently appointed as the Chair of the Alcoholic Liver Disease Special Interest Group. Ramon serves as co-editor of the premier journal in hepatology – *Journal of Hepatology*.

**UPMC ME Training Programs**

Several programs have reported significant or exciting items to be included in this edition:

**Cardiology:**

Congrats to two of our senior Cardiovascular fellows, Dr. Polakit Teekakirikul, MD and Dr. Ahmad Masri, MD, who were invited to present their work at the Northwestern Cardiovascular Young Investigator Forum this fall. Pol won 2nd place in the basic science research category for his presentation on “Identification of a novel TPM1 mutation in congenital atrial septal defect.” Great work!! Please see [http://dom.pitt.edu/Card/research/research-news.html](http://dom.pitt.edu/Card/research/research-news.html) for more details on the great research our fellows are contributing to the field. And follow us on Twitter [@PittCardiology](https://twitter.com/PittCardiology) to keep up with the latest news!!

**Infectious Diseases:**

The division of infectious Diseases (ID) has welcomed Matthew Culyba, MD, PhD as an Assistant Professor of Medicine. Dr. Culyba is joining us from the University of Pennsylvania. He recently received a four-year NIH Grant (K08) to uncover new mechanisms for how bacteria adapt to stress and control the timing of gene expression. Dr. Sharon Riddler was promoted to the rank of Professor of Medicine and Drs. Karin Byers and Eun J. Kwak to the rank of Associate Professor of Medicine. Drs. Ghady Haidar and Neel Shah were appointed Associate Program Directors of the Infectious Diseases Fellowship and Miss Sarah Glenn joined us as the Fellowship Program Coordinator. Under the leadership of Dr. Tatiana Bogdanovich, the Fecal Microbiota Therapy (FMT) program in the ID division continues to grow, and it now includes a volunteer stool bank. UPMC recently became a site for the HIV-to-HIV solid organ transplant trial (“HOPE in Action”), with Dr. Ghady Haidar as the site PI.

For more news and updates on faculty, fellows and research news in the ID division you can visit their website ([http://www.dom.pitt.edu/ID/](http://www.dom.pitt.edu/ID/)). You can also follow the ID division on social media (@idpittstop on Twitter, [https://www.facebook.com/idpittstop](https://www.facebook.com/idpittstop) on Facebook)."
Internal Medicine:

Dr. Corbelli notes: “Our residents raised nearly $2000 for Hurricane relief this fall and are doing outstanding work in their limited spare time to improve the health and well-being of our community through our Service Committee. Dr. Jared Romeo, PGY2, with the mentorship of Dr. John Pacella, was awarded a large PA formula grant and NIH grant to pursue the research and development of metal stents modified with the anti-platelet agent Ticagrelor. Dr. Wendy Fujita’s (PGY2) patient narrative recently won the Story Jam contest, sponsored by the Jewish Healthcare Foundation/Health Activist Network and the Right Care Alliance Pittsburgh Chapter. Dr. Furkan Ertem, PGY2, was invited for a Presidential Plenary at this year’s Digestive Disease Week conference for his research ‘What is the Expected Incidence of Interval Colorectal Cancer (CRC) for an Endoscopist in Active Clinical Practice?’ Our residents interviewed in the best programs in the country for fellowship and are excited for fellowship match in December. We are kicking off our categorical recruitment with a very impressive cohort of applicants.”

Internal Medicine UPMC Mercy

Dr. Pinevich is pleased to announce three of our trainees will be receiving an award at the upcoming Loren Roth Quality and Patient Safety Award Reception to be held at the Mercy Clark Auditorium on November 9, 2017 from 5:00-7:00 PM. The winners of this award from our department are Shrina Parekh, MD, Anu Saini, MD, and Prerna Sharma, MD for their poster The Diabetic Eye: Retinopathy Screening in Resident Based Clinic.

Newborn Medicine:

Dr. Laura Jackson won the David G. Nathan Research Award in Basic Research at the Pediatric Academic Societies Meeting, San Francisco, May 8th, 2017.

New Division Faculty: Brighid O’Donnell, MD, Laura Jackson, MD, Natasha Lopez, MD, Liza Konnikova, MD, Jenny Zank, MD, Karena Lawrence, MD, Bianca LoVerde, DO

The new Division of Newborn Medicine Division Director, Appointment Effective April 1, 2018, will be Thomas G. Diacovo, MD.

Neurological Surgery:

The Department of Neurosurgery at Pitt/UPMC is now the largest such department in the US, with more than 40 faculty and 29 residents. In 2017 our graduate Alan Scarow, MD, JD served as President of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Dr. Dade Lunsford will receive the Karolinska Institute Olivecrona Prize in Stockholm in December 2017, and deliver the 50 year anniversary lecture of the Van Wagnen Fellowship at the New Orleans meeting of the AANS in May 2018.
Orthopaedic Sports Medicine:

News from the Orthopedic Sports Medicine Program includes:

Panther Alumni Symposium
Volker Musahl, MD hosted the Panther Alumni Symposium held on Friday, July 21, 2017 during the AOSSM Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada.

Invited speakers who presented were:
Anikar Chabra, MD, MS – “In-Office Arthroscopy: Clinically Relevant or Money Making Scam”
Marc Safran, MD – “Hip Instability”
Paul Marks, MD, FRCSC – “22 years’ experience as Head Team Physician in the NBA”
John Xerogeanes, MD – “All soft tissue quad tendon graft for ACL reconstruction: Basic Science to Clinical”
Benjamin Ma, MD – “Are we really doing anatomic ACL reconstructions?”

Fellows Research Day
The inaugural Sports Medicine Fellow Research Day was held on Wednesday, June 28, 2017. Each of the five sports medicine fellows presented the results of their project. Thierry Pauyo, MD was selected as the winner. The title of his research was “The Effect of Adipose-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells on healing of Massive Chronic Rotator Cuff Tear in a Rodent Model”.
Mark Miller, MD (Fellow ’93) was the Grand Rounds Visiting Professor and Moderator. His Grand Rounds presentation was “Osteoarthritis: Breaking with the Old Paradigm”

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Ob/Gyne notes that another graduate (Dr. Denise Howard, 1997) has published a book. The Essence of You: Your Guide to Gynecologic Health. It is a comprehensive review of the many issues a woman may face over the course of her life. It is available at www.drdenisehoward.com, Amazon, Barnes and Noble and in iBooks. If you are interested in continued updates on Women’s Health issues check out her blog on the site or follow on Twitter @drdenisehoward.

Orthopaedic Surgery

The National Institute of Health (NIH) has awarded a $1.75 million grant to a multi-institutional project led by the University of Pittsburgh to engineer a three dimensional joint-on-a-chip called the “microJoint,” to replicate a human joint on a small scale. The microJoint will be used to study and test drugs for the treatment of arthritic joint diseases.

“We’re building what will be the first joint-on-a-chip that we hope will accurately replicate arthritic diseases in humans, and thus allow in-depth understanding of the disease process that will lead to discovery of potential therapies,” said principal investigator Rocky Tuan, PhD., director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Engineering, and Distinguished Professor in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.
**Pediatric General Thoracic Surgery:**

Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery is happy to announce: *Pittsburgh Magazine* Best Doctors 2017

Geoffrey J. Bond, MD  
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Division of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery  
Pittsburgh Magazine Best Doctors 2017

Barbara A. Gains, MD  
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Division of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery  
Pittsburgh Magazine Best Doctors 2017

George K. Gittes, MD  
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Division of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery  
Pittsburgh Magazine Best Doctors 2017

Marcus M. Malek, MD  
Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC, Division of Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery  
Best Doctors in America – 2017  
Pittsburgh Magazine, May 2017 issue  
Pittsburgh Business Times, January 2017 issue

**Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation:**

Four conferences, hosted by UPMC PMR (TBI, SCI, Regenerative Rehab, and Ultrasound), will be taking place throughout the year. The Regenerative Rehab conference will be November 1-3, 2017, while the TBI Conference will be November 11, 2017. Signups are now occurring for both TBI and Regenerative conferences – join us! More information can be found at [http://www.rehabmedicine.pitt.edu](http://www.rehabmedicine.pitt.edu)

National Leadership Positions:  
Amy Houtrow, MD has been named to the Board of Governors for AAPMR  
Michael Munin, MD has been named to the board of Directors for AANEM  
Dr. Anthony Kline is named this year’s President of the National Neurotrauma Society  
Dr. Amy Wagner will take over as next year’s President of the National Neurotrauma Society

Faculty Changes: A new alumni faculty member, Jessica Berry, MD was hired in August 2017 to assume the teaching role for stroke. Alumni Shaun Darrah, MD was named Assistant Patient Safety Officer for the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and will take over the residency teaching on patient safety. Tiffany Calloway, MD joined the UPMC PM&R faculty as a general inpatient rehabilitation attending in 2017.

**Plastic Surgery:**

Dr. Nguyen reports that Dr. Jignesh Unadkat has joined the faculty as a fellowship-trained hand and reconstructive surgeon with appointments at the Pittsburgh VA and University hospitals. In addition, Dr. Guy Stofman has joined the clinical faculty, continuing his practice associated with UPMC Mercy Hospital.  
Dr. Kia Washington was the recipient of the $6M DoD Joint Warfighter Medical Research Program grant.
Dr. Michael Bykowski was awarded a Plastic Surgery Foundation Combined Pilot Research Grant. Dr. Debra Bourne received the ASSH/AFSH Annual Meeting Resident/ Fellow Travel Scholarship and Women Plastic Surgeons Travel Scholarship.

Dr. Leo McCafferty won the ASAPS Leadership Award. Dr. Jonathan Lee won the Resident Scholar Award, American Society of Maxillofacial Surgeons. Dr. Francesco Egro won the Student/ Resident Research Award, Texas Public Health Association. In addition, residents and fellows won 11 presentation awards between the Pennsylvania and Ohio Valley Plastic Surgery Meetings.

Dr. Peter Rubin was elected Vice-President (Finance) for ASPS. Dr. Joseph Losee was elected Vice-President (Education) for ASPS, in addition to being Chair Elect of the ABPS.

**Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility**

The Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Fellowship Program: completed a research project which will influence counseling teenagers and young adults who plan to participate in athletic activities. In over 1700 athletes screened, individuals with a concussion had a higher incidence of menstrual abnormalities. The work was recently published in *JAMA Pediatrics*. *JAMA Pediatr.* 2017; 171(9):879-886.

**Rheumatology**

The UPMC Rheumatology Division is proud to announce that Jeremy Tilstra, MD, PhD and Mehret Birru-Talabi, MD, PhD have joined the faculty after completion of their rheumatology fellowship training. Both received T32 Grant Training Fellowship support for their research programs in the final years of their training. Dr. Tilstra has the honor of presenting his research at the Edmond L. Dubois, MD Memorial Lecture this year at the American College of Rheumatology Scientific Meeting in San Diego. At the same meeting, Dr. Mehret Birru-Talabi will receive the 2017 ACR Distinguished Fellow Award.

Dr. Thomas Medsger has officially retired from clinical practice as of this summer. Of course, he remains active in the research and educational missions of the Rheumatology Division.

**Vascular Surgery**

The Division of Vascular Surgery welcomed Theresa Cole, DO, to our faculty. Dr. Cole joins us from Mary Black Memorial Hospital in Spartanburg, S. C.

We also said goodbye to one of our faculty members, Madhusudanan Nair, MD, who retired at the end of June. Dr. Nair had been in practice since 1982.

At the Graduation Dinner, honorees were Efthymios "Makis" Avgerinos, MD, who won the Henry T. Bahnson Teacher of the Year Award in Vascular Surgery for 2017. Catherine Go, MD and Kathy Gonzalez, MD were both honored with the David L. Steed Teaching Award in Vascular Surgery for 2017. This is the first teaching award for Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Go's third straight year as a recipient of the Steed Award.
UPMC Shadyside Family Medicine

Several faculty changes have occurred as AY 2018 opens: Jackie Weaver-Agostoni, DO, MPH became the Program Director of the Residency on July 1, 2017, and Ben Skinker, MD took over as the Shadyside Family Health Center Medical Director on September 1, 2017 when Greg Gallik, DO transitioned to a more outpatient clinical practice with Partners in Health in Murrysville, PA. Randy Kolb, MD, was honored at the Resident Graduation for his 11 years of being the Program Director, and has remained as an Associate Program Director and faculty member.

News From Our Graduates:
Please send us any news or insights after graduation that you would like to share in our next edition. We also welcome reactions to any news items. Contact: GME_Alumni@upmc.edu.

Continuing Medical Education News
The Center for Continuing Education the Health Sciences is one of the largest CME providers in the U.S., offering a variety of activities for physicians across the country. A list of our upcoming formal courses can be found at: https://ccs.hs.pitt.edu/liveFormalCourses.jsf. Of particular interest to our alumni and other colleagues is the Physician Resources site http://www.upmcphysicianresources.com/cme which features a large variety of modules on timely clinical topics.

The Department of Medicine Grand Rounds can be accessed at: https://cme.hs.pitt.edu/ISER/servlet/IteachControllerServlet?actiontotake=displaymainpage&site=upmcmedgrandrounds. Within the last year, the Center has provided CME credit for Doximity's point of care learning activities. Physicians can join this network, which offers many services, free of charge at www.doximity.com. Credit transcripts for activities certified by the Center can be accessed any time at: https://ccs.hs.pitt.edu/creditTranscripts.jsf.
CONTACT INFORMATION

For Patient Referrals:
Immediate Referral: 412-647-7000

Updated Alumni Personal Medical Record and Training Verification Request Process

Please note these important contact processes that are now done centrally, not at departmental level:

Employee Medical Record Requests
Employee Health has established a system for providing medical records and it is the preferred method of receiving requests.

Medical Record Requests can be sent to UPMCemployeehealth@upmc.edu

Please include the following:

- First and last name (indicating if a different name was used while at UPMC)
- Last four digits of the social security number
- List of specific records being requested

Additional questions can be sent via the email above or by calling 412-647-3695 (option 2).

Verification of Residency and Fellowship Training Requests
Requests for verification of training are collected via an online site (http://www.upmc.com/careers/GME/Pages/GME-Request.aspx). The process along with fee structure is outlined on the webpage. Requests will be processed once all information; a signed release form and paid invoice is received. Questions can be sent to gme_verifications@upmc.edu.