



The Workup

News from the halls of academic medicine & health sciences

October 2019

Headlines

Study confirms that the revised MCAT is a good predictor of success

Aspiring physicians who score well on the Medical College Admission Test, or MCAT, tend to succeed in their first year of medical school. That's one not-so-surprising takeaway from a multiyear study assessing the test that the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) redesigned and expanded in 2015. The AAMC's MCAT Validity Committee studied nearly 8,000 students across the country and conducted a "deeper dive" at 16 medical schools, examining student performance in a wide range of courses. "It's essential for admissions teams to know that MCAT scores predict success in medical school," said Cynthia Searcy, PhD, AAMC senior director of MCAT research and development. "But the research shows more than that the exam is doing its job." Among the panel's other findings, published in *Academic Medicine*: The revised exam was equally predictive across gender, racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic boundaries; test-takers from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and those enrolled in "less-resourced colleges" were less likely than their wealthier peers to have taken advantage of free and low-cost prep materials supplied by the AAMC and partner organizations; and first-year med students who scored in the middle third of the MCAT scale (495-504) advanced to year two at a rate only slightly below that of students who scored in the top third (505-528) — 95 percent vs. 98 percent. [READ MORE](#)



Cynthia Searcy



Ashley Jones/Weill Cornell Medicine

First-year students at Weill Cornell Medicine react to the announcement that they'll likely graduate debt-free.

Weill Cornell unveils scholarship program targeting student debt

Weill Cornell Medicine has joined a growing list of U.S. medical schools offering free tuition to students who otherwise might accrue significant student-loan debt. Thanks to gifts totaling \$160 million, all students who qualify for financial aid will have their tuition, books, housing, food, and related expenses covered through scholarship money. To ensure that the program continues in perpetuity, Weill Cornell will need to raise additional money to fund a scholarship endowment. "Students whose passions, skills, and talents point the way to medicine can now pursue their career aspirations, unencumbered by the pressure that comes with significant debt burdens," said Jessica M. Bibliowicz, chair of the Weill Cornell Medicine Board of Overseers. According to *Medscape*, other schools that have moved to eliminate student debt include Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons; New York University's School of Medicine, UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine; the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis; and the University of Houston College of Medicine. [READ MORE](#)

Technology supplants cadavers at more and more medical schools

Cadaver dissection has been a cornerstone of medical education since the 13th century, but, according to the October issue of *Scientific American*, its future is uncertain. "This year a few U.S. medical schools will offer their anatomy curriculum without any cadavers," the magazine reported. "Instead their students will probe the human body using three-dimensional renderings in virtual reality, combined with physical replicas of the organs and real patient medical images such as ultrasound and CT scans." This past summer, for example, the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University opened a "cadaverless" health education campus, and the Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine will follow suit when it welcomes its inaugural class to its Pasadena, California, campus next year. Mark A. Schuster, MD, PhD, Kaiser Permanente's founding dean, said he wishes he'd had access to virtual-reality headsets and augmented-reality goggles when he was studying anatomy. [READ MORE](#)

Johns Hopkins exits longstanding contract with U.S. border agency

In the face of fierce opposition from students, Johns Hopkins University has decided to stop training U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in responding to medical emergencies. The university has provided medical instruction to ICE's Special Response Teams since 2004. "After careful and deliberate consideration, the JHU Center for Law Enforcement Medicine will not be renewing this contract," university spokeswoman Kim Hoppe told *The Baltimore Sun*. Students have long protested the university's contracts with ICE, which has been under fire for its role in enforcing the Trump administration's border-control policies, including the highly controversial separation of migrant children from their parents. At various campus protests, including a monthlong sit-in at the university's administration building last spring, students accused Johns Hopkins of "pretending to stand for progressive principles while reaping the rewards of dirty business," *The Sun* reported. Since 2008, according to the newspaper, the university has earned more than \$7 million from 37 contracts with ICE. [READ MORE](#)



Center for Applied Nutrition at the University of Massachusetts Medical School

Harvard study says more dietary training for doctors could "mitigate the immense costs of preventable diseases."

Report: Make nutrition an 'essential component' of doctors' training

Most U.S.-trained physicians receive inadequate instruction in nutrition, especially given the ubiquity of diet-related health threats such as diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, a new report maintains. *Doctoring Our Diet: Policy Tools to Include Nutrition in U.S. Medical Training*, published by the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic (FLPC), recommends making nutrition "an essential component" of every medical-school curriculum. "Despite the overwhelming evidence proving diet is vital to good health, medical professionals receive almost no education on diet or nutrition," said Emily Broad Leib, director of the FLPC. "Leveraging existing funding sources, such as Medicare, and adopting other policy interventions to require nutrition education throughout medical training can improve outcomes for patients, mitigate the immense costs of preventable diseases, and change healthcare for the better." [READ MORE](#)

“One Health: the *other* universal healthcare ”



Michael D. Lairmore, DVM, PhD

Dean of the University of California-Davis
School of Veterinary Medicine



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- “Artificial Intelligence and Precision Medicine,” featuring Douglas Miller, MD, MBA, founder and CEO of Cognitive Diagnosis [LISTEN](#)
- “The Critical Role of Biomedical Informatics,” featuring Philip Payne, PhD, director of the Institute for Informatics at Washington University in St. Louis [LISTEN](#)

In Transition



Joshua C. Baker, OD, a longtime administrator at Midwestern University, has been promoted to vice president and chief academic officer for pharmacy and optometry education. Baker had been dean of the university's Arizona College of Optometry since 2016. Recently, he also served as interim dean of the university's Chicago College of Optometry.



Melissa Bondy, PhD, has been appointed inaugural chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Population Health at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Bondy, who comes to Stanford from the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, also will serve in the newly created role of associate director for population sciences at the Stanford Cancer Institute.



Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, dean of the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa for 14 years, will retire next summer. Boland, the school's longest-serving dean, oversaw construction of the nationally recognized Translational Health Sciences Simulation Center. The university expects to begin a national search for Boland's successor this fall.



Nancy J. Brown, MD, has been named dean of the Yale School of Medicine, effective February 1. She will be the first woman to hold the position. Brown, who earned her undergraduate degree at Yale, has chaired Vanderbilt University's Department of Medicine since 2010. During her tenure, the department's overall research funding grew by more than 50 percent.



John M. Daly, MD, emeritus dean of Temple University's Lewis Katz School of Medicine, has agreed to serve as the school's interim dean in the wake of Dean Larry Kaiser's announced resignation. Daly, who earned his medical degree at Temple, is surgical director of the school's William Maul Measey Institute for Clinical Simulation and Patient Safety.



Chris A. Ghaemmaghmi, MD, chief medical officer at the University of Virginia Medical Center and senior associate dean for clinical affairs at the UVA School of Medicine, has been named the center's interim CEO, succeeding the departing Pamela M. Sutton-Wallace, MPH. Ghaemmaghmi, an emergency medicine physician, has worked at UVA since 1998.



Carole Roan Gresenz, PhD, will serve as interim dean of Georgetown University's School of Nursing and Health Studies while the university searches for a permanent successor. Gresenz joined Georgetown's faculty in 2012 and became the school's senior associate dean in 2018. Gresenz succeeds Patricia Cloonan, PhD, RN, who stepped down after serving as dean for five years.



MayKao Y. Hang, PhD, has been named founding dean of the new College of Health at the University of St. Thomas, Minnesota's largest private university. The college will comprise the existing school of social work, the existing graduate program in professional psychology, and a new nursing school. Hang has been president and CEO of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation for nearly a decade.



Jody Hironaka-Juteau, PhD, has stepped down as dean of Fresno State University's College of Health and Human Services. Hironaka-Juteau's departure came after two of the college's programs failed to secure or maintain the appropriate accreditation. Jim Marshall, Fresno State's dean of research and graduate studies, took over as interim dean of Health and Human Services.



Larry Kaiser, MD, president and CEO of Temple University Health System since 2011, has announced plans to resign at the end of the year. Kaiser, a thoracic surgeon, also is stepping away from his roles as the dean of Temple's Lewis Katz School of Medicine and as the Philadelphia-based university's senior executive vice president for health sciences.



Steven L. Kunkel, PhD, has been named permanent executive vice dean for research and chief scientific officer for Michigan Medicine, the academic medical center at the University of Michigan. He had served in the role on an interim basis since October 2018. Kunkel, a professor of pathology research, has held various administrative posts since joining Michigan's faculty in 1980.



Kevin Laudner, PhD, has begun his tenure as dean of the Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Beth-El College of Nursing and Health at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Laudner most recently served as the interim dean of the College of Education at Illinois State University. Before that, he was associate dean of Illinois State's College of Applied Science and Technology.



Stuart McLean, MBA, chief restructuring officer at the Temple University Health System, has been named the system's acting CEO. McLean came to Temple from Alvarez & Marsal, a global turnaround consultancy based in New York, in June 2018. Earlier this year, McLean's efforts contributed to the elimination of several executive positions within the Philadelphia health system.



Jonas Nguh, PhD, RN, has been named dean of nursing at Texas' Ranger College. Nguh, who has received numerous national and international awards during a 15-year career in the academy, previously served as a professor at Abilene Christian University. At Abilene Christian, he was instrumental in launching the Doctor of Nursing Program (DNP).



Jayanth Panyam, DPharm, head of the University of Minnesota's Department of Pharmaceutics, has been named dean of Temple University's School of Pharmacy, effective November 1. Panyam, who has an extensive background in pharmaceutical teaching and research, succeeds Peter H. Doukas, who stepped down at the end of the 2018-19 academic year.



Leslie K. Robbins, PhD, RN, professor of nursing at the University of Texas El Paso, has been named interim dean of the university's School of Nursing. Robbins, a nurse for more than 40 years, has been a faculty member and administrator in the UTEP School of Nursing since 2009, most recently serving as the program's associate dean of graduate education.



Tanya Sudia, PhD, RN, associate dean for research and scholarship at the Baylor University School of Nursing in Waco, Texas, has been appointed dean of the College of Nursing at Georgia's Augusta University, effective January 1. Lucy Marion, PhD, RN, the head of Augusta's nursing program since 2004, has announced her intention to retire this fall.



Pamela M. Sutton-Wallace, MPH, CEO of the University of Virginia Medical Center since 2014, is stepping down in November to join New York-Presbyterian Hospital as senior vice president and regional chief operating officer. Sutton-Wallace also has been serving as the university's acting executive vice president for health affairs.



Paul Taheri, MD, MBA, CEO of Yale Medicine and deputy dean for clinical affairs at the Yale School of Medicine, has joined Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe, a New York-based private equity firm, as an operating partner in the firm's healthcare group. Since 2018, he has served on the board of the Health Management Academy, a strategic partner of the firm.



Bobbie Tchopev, MBA, MScED, has been named inaugural assistant dean for organizational improvement at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Tchopev previously served as a senior administrator in the university's Carey Business School, where she gained broad experience in business, marketing, design thinking, conflict resolution, and strategic team management.



Callie Thompson, MD, assistant professor of surgery at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee, has been named director of the Vanderbilt Burn Center, one of the largest burn centers in the United States. Thompson, who joined Vanderbilt's faculty in 2016, had been serving as interim director of the 25-bed center since early 2018.

Our headlines

Harris Search Associates recruits Wayne Watkins, JD, MBA, as executive director of the Walter Scott Jr. Scholars Program

Harris Search Associates recruits Taylor Renner, MBA, as associate director of business services at the University of Dayton Research Institute

Harris Search Associates recruits Ernest Minton, PhD, as dean of agriculture and director of research and extension at Kansas State University

Harris Search Associates recruits Bonnie Rush, DVM, as dean of veterinary medicine at Kansas State University

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Last word

“You wouldn’t really use a chainsaw to cut a piece of paper. But you also wouldn’t use a pair of scissors to cut down a tree.”

— **Annie Cho, a medical student at Johns Hopkins University**, speculating, during a four-day pain-management class that’s now mandatory at her school, how she might deal with increasing societal pressure to avoid prescribing opioids at all costs



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