



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

alumni notes

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CMMG alum launches multi-million dollar genetic testing company

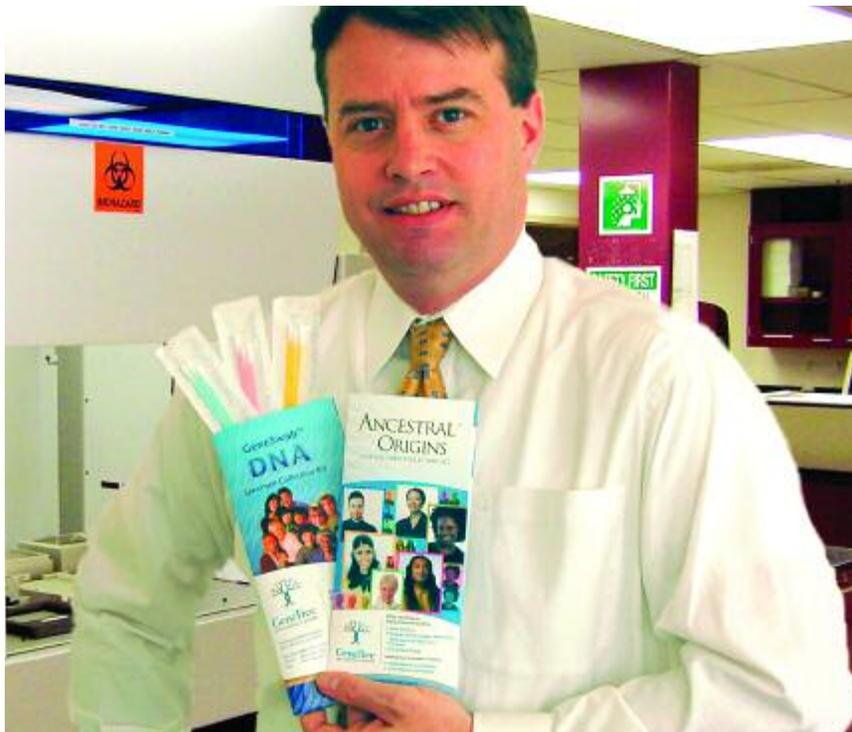
A simple moist swab from the inside of your cheek can determine paternity identity, trace racial ancestry, or find genetic links between surname-sharing families. Remarkably easy to collect, and precisely accurate, DNA testing has been employed by thousands of people to learn more about their own genealogy and even to help Native Americans prove their indigenous heritage.

The first company to provide direct-to-consumer DNA testing was GeneTree, founded by a graduate of WSU's Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics. Terrence Carmichael, who earned a master's degree in molecular biology and genetics in 1995, founded GeneTree DNA Testing Center in 1997 and built it into a multi-million dollar business, using a nearly exclusive online advertising strategy with the GeneTree.com Web site. "By providing collection kits at no cost to consumers, we can concentrate on providing high quality DNA testing; GeneTree has never sold its kits—GeneTree only sells results," Carmichael said.

By early 1998, GeneTree was well on its way toward

"BY PROVIDING COLLECTION KITS AT NO COST TO CONSUMERS, WE CAN CONCENTRATE ON PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY DNA TESTING; GENETREE HAS NEVER SOLD ITS KITS—GENETREE ONLY SELLS RESULTS."

TERRENCE CARMICHAEL



Terrence Carmichael, a WSU grad, is also developing Y-hablotyping for ethnicity assessment, allowing a person to uncover his or her ancestral migration patterns to clarify where distant relatives may have come from.

quickly became apparent that paternity testing was where we needed to focus," Carmichael explained. "Over 95 percent of our first-year business was in paternity

becoming a full-fledged force in genomics. The firm sold its first paternity test in February of the same year, allowing customers to send their swab samples discreetly in the mail to GeneTree analysts who provided prompt, accurate results. The client list continued to grow, and by 2000, Carmichael opened offices in San Jose, Calif.

While GeneTree's initial offerings also included genetic counseling and predisposition assessments, the industry climate soon dictated a reevaluation of the company scope. "It

testing." Calling upon his WSU genetics training, the ever-adaptable entrepreneur was clearly ready for a professional shift-of-paradigm.

Sharpening its focus on fast, high quality relatedness testing, GeneTree was soon attracting the attention of industry leaders and investors alike. In fall 2001, GeneTree sold its assets to Salt Lake City-based Sorenson Genomics, owned by the successful medical device entrepreneur and multi-bil-

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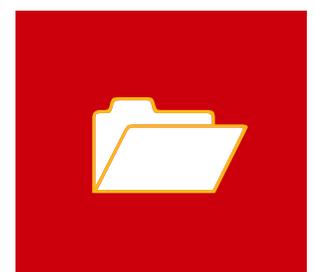
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lionaire, Mr. James LeVoy Sorenson. This is where work soon began on building the state-of-the-art genetics research and testing laboratory that would ultimately become GeneTree's permanent home. By July 2003, GeneTree's San Jose offices were closed, and all operations, from research and testing to production and client services, were relocated to their current Utah home.

"Since then," Carmichael said, "GeneTree has expanded its services to include assisting people with determining ancestry, genealogy and assessing their individual health risks." His full-service genomics lab provides testing services for a variety of applications and high-throughput laboratory protocols have helped build a strong competitive edge in the DNA testing industry, allowing the firm to efficiently process thousands of samples per year. The dual-sample testing process concurrently examines multiple instances of genetic specimens in-parallel, yielding extremely high levels of accuracy, with inclusion probabilities regularly exceeding 99.99 percent.

"We continue to expand on our DNA testing portfolio, while focusing on developing new tests," said Carmichael who now serves as vice president of marketing and sales for GeneTree, Sorenson Genomics. Prior to his GeneTree brainchild, Carmichael worked for QIAGEN, a company offering DNA purification solutions to the biotechnology industry. He received a professional designation in marketing and sales through UCLA and worked as a product manager for Bio-Rad Laboratories. He has also been part of other start-up companies including ETS Systems, a commercial alarm company and the Biotech Learning Institute.

He has written two books: "Ancestry DNA Toolbox" and "How to DNA Test our Family Relationships," and he is excited about expanding into personalized and disease-specific health information. "By allowing doctors to write prescriptions based on unique DNA blueprints, science will decrease the likelihood of adverse reactions, leading ideally to less expensive, more efficient and faster-acting drug therapies," Carmichael said. "The future of genomics is indeed a promising one."

Health of Florida residents is top concern for Dr. Brooks

During the years Robert Brooks, M.D., served as secretary of the Florida Department of Health (1999-2001), West Nile was first detected in his state, Terri Schiavo's guardianship and medical rights were in hotly contested dispute, and an aging Florida population demanded unique health care resources, with the country's largest proportion of residents aged 65 and older.

An expert on public health and public health policy, Dr. Brooks led Florida's health department and also served from 1994 – 1999 in the Florida House of Representatives. He left his political posts in 2001 to help establish a brand new medical school—the Florida State University College of Medicine dedicated to educating students especially in primary care, with an emphasis on underserved, rural and geriatrics populations. A 1979 graduate of WSU's School of Medicine, Dr. Brooks knows a thing or two about this fun-

damental mission of service from his days as a student and resident in Detroit.

His new title is associate dean for health affairs at FSU, where he directs multidisciplinary centers of excellence in patient safety, rural health, public health and terrorism. He also directs the medical school curriculum on health policy, with a particular focus on prevention and improved public health.

"The U.S. is now spending almost \$2 trillion a year on health care, yet 45 million people have no health insurance, and most of those who do have it are used to paying for treatment once diseases are established and not focused on prevention. These facts, coupled with the aging of the population will require us to rethink the whole financing system for health care. Florida, for example, with its large number of seniors, is slowly beginning to realize the importance of community-based care rather than nursing home placement," Dr. Brooks said.

Facts such as these prompt Dr. Brooks to advocate for better education of patients in his community and physicians at his medical school. "In addition to learning about the traditional doctor-patient relationship, doctors need to learn about wise utilization of resources, community involvement and long-term health care—not just fixing short-term, patient-specific problems," he said.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Brooks chaired a statewide panel in Florida which studied end-of-life care and changed state laws to remove barriers impacting quality end-of-life and palliative care. This project was prompted, in part, by the Terri Schiavo case, but also serves to aid the families of many aging Florida citizens.

As an infectious disease expert, Dr. Brooks is also leading a bioterrorism curriculum for FSU students and has established preparedness and response training for medical personnel, first responders and others in the state.

"America will continue to be faced with the possibilities of both terrorism events and natural disasters like hurricanes. Educating medical students, doctors and the public on preparedness and response to disasters is critical to save lives in these mass casualty events," he said.



Dr. Robert Brooks, '79, is especially interested in aging populations and quality end-of-life care.

alum notes

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The McMillan family now lives and serves in Minnesota. Pictured from left are Jane, Virginia (Ginny), Thomas and Kenneth.

Minneapolis alum treats neglected Native Americans

Dr. Kenneth McMillan's office is hardly posh and his patient population isn't exactly upper crust. But his work is meaningful and rewarding and his patients are grateful for compassionate medical care.

From the streets of south Minneapolis, Dr. McMillan is known to his mostly Native American patients as "doc" or "kola," the Lakota word for friend. He is director of medical services for the Kola Health Outreach Program for Homeless Native Americans, where he delivers primary care and plenty of substance abuse treatment.

"A lot of what I see is a mixture of chronic and acute situations because of their chemical dependency," said Dr. McMillan in an article in the January 2006 issue of *Minnesota Medicine*. McMillan graduated from the WSU School of Medicine in 1976 and completed his residency here as well. "Some are in psychological crisis; some come in with acute psychosis and are off their meds. We have schizophrenics who are too drunk to access the proper place to renew their meds."

With issues like lack of transportation, insurance and adequate housing, his patients sometimes rely on Dr. McMillan

to personally take them to area medical centers for specialty care. "We try to treat them in a culturally sensitive way here. We don't want anyone to go out of here without feeling like we've done something for them."

Born in Congo to missionary parents, Dr. McMillan served as a missionary with Cross World from 1981 to 1999. He worked as a surgeon and medical director of a 100-bed hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire); served as public health officer of the Rethy Health District in the eastern part of the country; and founded and directed the Rethy Nursing School. He planned to remain in Africa until the civil war broke out in 1996.

Dr. McMillan and his family were evacuated to Minnesota, the homeplace of his wife, Ginny (Virginia), a nurse. They left everything behind. "I came here and thought: What do we want to do?" Interestingly, Ginny McMillan was at Wayne State University earning her M.S.N. degree to teach public health nursing in the early 1970s, but she and Ken didn't meet until they were both doing missionary work in Africa. Together, they have treated thousands of needy patients and consider themselves "rich" in every sense.

"I remember being evacuated," Ginny said. "We ripped some wet clothes off the line and ran for protection. Our beloved patients were waving their medical records, begging us to see them one more time before we left. It was gut-wrenching. We are filling a great need here, but our hearts are always there."

Once in Minnesota, Dr. McMillan accepted a position to run a program for homeless Native Americans and literally set out on his bicycle to look for camps of homeless people along the Mississippi River and near the railroad tracks in south Minneapolis. Within two weeks, 100 people were depending on him for care. Over the years, he has returned many people to more functional, independent lifestyles, and he has drastically reduced the population's reliance on emergency room visits for primary care and detox treatment.

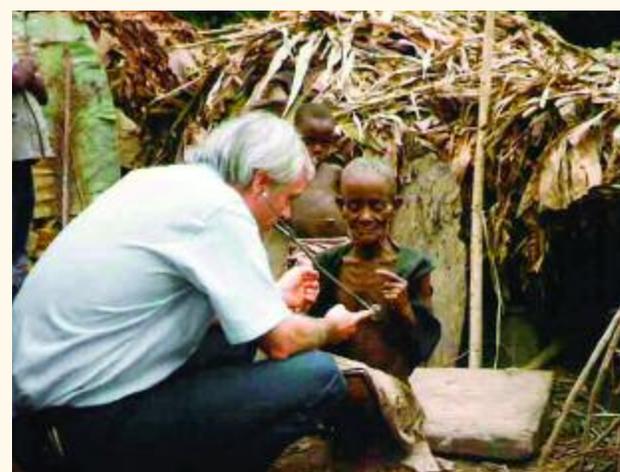
"I have tremendous respect for their level of trauma—not



Dr. McMillan serves as a surgeon in Congo.



Dr. McMillan, second from left, camping with Ojibwe and Sioux homeless Native Americans.



Examining a pygmy woman near her jungle hut.

"We try to treat them in a culturally sensitive way here. We don't want anyone to go out of here without feeling like we've done something for them."

just present trauma, but historical trauma, being pushed off their land and in many cases, abused or mistreated or killed. I can really appreciate now why they have depression, family violence and addictions," he said in the *Minnesota Medicine* article. "I would love to be part of a bigger reconciliation and rebuilding. But for now, it's personal. I've learned that I'm part of a one-on-one reconciliation of whites to Indians."

This article is based on a story by Kim Kiser in the January 2006 issue of Minnesota Medicine, which is published monthly by the Minnesota Medical Association. The full story is available online at www.mmaonline.net/publications/MNMed2006/January/facetoface.htm.

Arizona alumni find themselves among familiar faces

Jan Bertsch knows all about long-distance business partnerships as vice president of global sales and marketing finance for DaimlerChrysler Corp. It was generous of her, as a member of the WSU School of Medicine Board of Visitors, to host medical school alumni and friends in her Scottsdale, Ariz., home to discuss loyalties that extend outside the Detroit area.

This is the second time Bertsch has hosted an Arizona event for WSU. She finds herself in familiar company, since the state is home to a high concentration of WSU-trained physicians—both retired and currently in practice. Drs. Norman and Jonathan Komar, father and son, fit that bill exactly.

Jonathan Komar, M.D., '99, practices physical medicine and rehabilitation in Scottsdale. Norman Komar, M.D., '61, retired from his neuroradiology practice a couple years ago, but enjoyed the opportunity to meet socially at Bertsch's home with his son and dozens of other WSU grads who reside in Arizona. "The 100-mile trip was worthwhile for me," he said.

"I was from the last class of 75 students at WSU," Dr. Komar said. "I know the medical school has expanded significantly, and Dr. Frank told us about plans to grow even further. I think it's very good. WSU

has lots to offer—good medical education and lots of hands-on experience. When you're looking for doctors, you want people who can actually do things and do them well. I'm proud that WSU has trained my son and many others to be great doctors."

The Komars attended Medical Alumni Reunion Day back at WSU and set up



Barbara and Milford Wenokur, M.D., '55



Jan Bertsch (center) with Norman Komar, M.D., '61, (left) and his son, Jonathan Komar, M.D., '99.

many gatherings with former colleagues and classmates from the area.

Bertsch was pleased to bring together people with WSU ties. She holds a bachelor's degree in finance from Wayne State University and a master's degree in business administration from Eastern Michigan University. She provides outstanding counsel to WSU in helping many audiences achieve unified objectives.

Alumni also appreciated the opportunity to meet with Executive Vice Dean Robert Frank who told alums about how they can help serve the school and how the school can serve them in mutual partnerships. More Arizona receptions are sure to follow in the future.

Wayne First message travels to Florida

Dr. Tony Kales told WSU alumni in Florida, "The school prepared my wife and me for productive medical careers by providing us with world-class clinical training and experience. I am especially proud to be here because the School of Medicine has become one of the nation's elite medical centers, building on its legacy of rich clinical training by also achieving a high national ranking in research funding."

Generous donors and proud graduates of the School of Medicine, Tony and Joyce Kales are taking the Wayne First campaign message and mission on the road—this time to Fort Lauderdale and Ester, Fla., where alumni met the Kales and School of Medicine Dean Robert Mentzer.



Sandy Cohen with Mark Cohen, M.D., '64

associated with predicted national physician shortages, increased class sizes and the need for training resources and facilities. He encouraged alumni to contribute to the construction of the Richard J. Mazurek, M.D., Medical

Joyce Kales, M.D., '60, and Tony Kales, M.D., '59, are physician psychiatrists and alums of the WSU School of Medicine. They have retired and now live in Ann Arbor.

Dr. Mentzer told alumni, "Our primary mission remains, as ever, to provide the best possible education for medical students and to continue to meet the challenges and needs of the next generation of physicians." He explained the challenges asso-

Education Commons, which will give the school a new public face and will house programs and technologies that will allow WSU to incorporate the latest teaching methods and attract the brightest future physicians.



Kamran S. Moghissi, M.D., and his wife, Edie Moghissi

Medical suspense novel delves into alum's experience during Detroit riots

Novelist Patricia Gussin is better known to her patients and colleagues as Dr. Patricia Stewart, 1971 graduate of the Wayne State University School of Medicine, primary care practitioner and former vice president for a pharmaceutical company. Now, she's a published author of a debut thriller novel, "Shadow of Death."

Gussin was a first-year medical student at WSU in 1967 – the year of the Detroit riots, when the city erupted into civil violence. She recalls this time and explores its unrest, social upheaval and devastation in her novel.

"Anyone who lived in the Detroit area in 1967 will never forget the horror of the riots as the city burned for five days. I think everyone remembers where they were



Physician, WSU alum and first-time novelist

Dr. Patricia Gussin continues to write and plans to introduce the wealthy, dysfunctional Parnell Family in another upcoming thriller, tentatively called "The Test."

when it happened and how they felt. I remember that time vividly – like the protagonist in "Shadow of Death," I was a medical student with two small children. The book is not autobiographical but in some ways, I did experience what Laura experiences in the

book: the scariness of Detroit at the time; the ongoing curfews; the palpable hostility," Dr. Gussin said.

The main character, Laura Nelson, experiences an instant life change when she becomes both a victim of a violent crime and a murderer. She tells a tale filled with secrets, lies and a spine-chilling glimpse of what lurks in the shadows, interwoven with complex issues such as race relations, religion, morals, ethics and consequences.

Dr. Gussin said she never planned to write a book until she found herself flying back and forth to China and Japan as vice president for worldwide research at a big pharmaceutical company. "Once I'd emptied my briefcase, eaten a meal, had a glass of wine, watched a movie, taken a nap, I pulled out an empty pad of paper and started writing. About two years and many trips later, I had a huge stack of notepads, all crammed with barely decipherable scribble," she said. "I guess I'd been thinking about my medical school days more than I consciously knew: the terror of the times; unending demands of small kids; horrendous work loads and dangerous lack of sleep. All these paved the way to ask the question: What if..."

After medical school, Dr. Gussin completed an internship and pediatric residency at Tampa General Hospital, became board-certified in family medicine, and started a private practice at the Mease Clinic in Dunedin, Fla. She later moved to Philadelphia to do clinical research and become a vice president for a major pharmaceutical company. She continues to practice primary care medicine as a volunteer at a senior citizen clinic in

Sarasota, Fla.

Her former academic affiliations include the University of the Sciences of Philadelphia as chairman of the board of trustees; University of Pennsylvania Dental School, where she was a member of the Board of Overseers and an associate trustee of the university; and membership on advisory committees of several universities. She has an honorary doctor of science degree from Duquesne University and is a member of the board of directors of the Sarnoff Corporation in Princeton, N.J. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, a member of the American Academy of Family Medicine, a former member of the American Pain Society, past-president of the Drug Information Association, and a former officer of the American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

Dr. Gussin and her husband, Dr. Robert Gussin, a renowned medical researcher, have seven children and 16 grandchildren. They divide their time between Longboat Key, Fla., East Hampton, New York, and their vineyard in Marlborough, New Zealand.

"Shadow of Death" is available from Oceanview Publishing at www.amazon.com. Dr. Gussin recently held local book signings in the Detroit area, and can be contacted at: PatG@PATRICIAGUSSIN.COM



California alumni greet Dean Mentzer

WSU alumni in the California area were among the first groups to welcome Dr. Robert Mentzer as dean of the WSU School of Medicine. In February, Interim Dean Dr. Robert Frank handed over to Dr. Mentzer some of the social responsibilities and perks that go along with the job, including picturesque visits to Marina del Rey and La Jolla. WSU School of Medicine leaders thanked alumni for continued support and generosity to the school.



Dean Mentzer and Dr. Tanaka get to know each other over dinner.



Drs. Sharon Popp, Shirley Jenkins-Phelp and Bob Frank at the Grande Colonial.



Drs. Alan Frank and Robert Ellison in Marina del Rey.

Alums manage busy practice plus software company

Just as you wouldn't trust a bank to keep track of your transactions with a paper and pen, you wouldn't want your physician to keep your medical records that way either. We've all come to expect a more sophisticated, technology-enhanced system of record-keeping.

Steve Kallabat, M.D., '97, was like many physicians in small practices who had converted to a streamlined electronic medical record (EMR) system to store, maintain and transmit patient information within the office and among laboratories, referring physicians, transcriptionists and billing

departments. Although the system improved efficiency, it was getting expensive with high maintenance fees and little room for flexibility and growth.

Dr. Kallabat and his three partners, including 1996 WSU grads Drs. Greg and Ted Naman, developed their own EMR software program from scratch with assistance from Nuwell Technologies. Their product, called Nuwell Chart, is a user-friendly, comprehensive system that helps doctors communicate with their staff, colleagues and vendors in a reliable and systematic way. It began as a way to make information sharing easier within their own internal medicine-pediatrics practice in Ferndale, Mich. But it quickly grew as they saw a need for their product in other offices.

They began developing the software a couple years ago, hired a few programmers to develop their vision, and have taken Nuwell Chart to the marketplace. In just eight months, they've already sold it to six practices, and are getting great reviews.

"We aren't exactly a bunch of tech heads and we never had entrepreneurial dreams of this sort, but we saw opportunities for improvement in the existing systems. We decided to take our medical experience and apply it to make the technology more useful to us and other professionals like us," Dr. Kallabat said. "I don't think anyone needs to convince doctors that EMR is a necessary part of business. Doctors know they need it; they just aren't sure what products will work best for them."

Drs. Kallabat and Naman train WSU medical students and physician-assistant students in their internal medicine and pediatric rotations. "We see the important link between patient care and technology and try to give students some exposure to EMR while they assist patients here. We show them why technology translates into better patient care," Dr. Kallabat said. "I think technological competency is an expected skill of new doctors and we do our best as WSU alums to help WSU students feel comfortable with that expectation."



Dr. Kallabat and his colleagues—all WSU alums—have developed enhanced electronic charting software to run their practice more efficiently.

"I THINK TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETENCY IS AN EXPECTED SKILL OF NEW DOCTORS AND WE DO OUR BEST AS WSU ALUMS TO HELP WSU STUDENTS FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH THAT EXPECTATION."

STEVE KALLABAT, M.D.

When managing complex medical histories over the lifespan of a patient, handwritten notes in a dusty file are simply not good enough. Nuwell Chart and other programs like it, can ensure safe, accurate, permanent medical records that can be retrieved with the click of a button. "You don't necessarily have to be technically savvy. You just have to learn some easy navigation tools to make tedious record-keeping a snap," Dr. Kallabat said.

Medical students who are interested in learning more about electronic medical charting or to be trainers for other physicians using the software are encouraged to contact Dr. Kallabat at: drkallabat@emedped.com.

SAVE THE DATE: Pathfinders in Medicine Awards Saturday, October 7, 2006

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Career exploration available

Medical students already know what they want to be when they 'grow up,' but they don't always know the specialty in which they are most interested. The Medical Alumni Association tries to ease that decision-making process with its annual Alumni-Student Career Evening. Earlier this year, more than 150 students met with physicians in multiple specialties to learn more about career options and opportunities.

Leland Babitch, M.D., '95, presented practical information about physician salaries, choosing residencies, private practice premiums and average number of work hours per week per specialty. He says these are all factors to consider seriously and honestly. "Choosing medicine is only the first in a long line of career decisions you'll have to make," he said.



First-year student Alexandria Conley is excited to learn more about her options.



Leland Babitch, M.D., '95, presents a breakout session with gritty details.



Class Notes

1938

Martha Wells, M.D., celebrated her 100th birthday on December 4, 2005.



Dr. Martha Wells (left) pictured with WSU friend, 92-year-old Harold Longyear, M.D., '39.

1954

William H. McAlister, M.D., received the Distinguished Service Award from Washington University.

1962

Eugene A. Gelzayd, M.D., was named a top gastroenterologist in the October 2005 issue of *Hour Detroit*.

1969

Stanley A. Dorfman, M.D., was named chief of staff at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, Pontiac.

1972

Allan S. Emery, M.D., was appointed section chief of gynecology at Providence Hospital.

1977

Leslie Bricker, M.D., of Henry Ford Hospital, has been listed in America's Top Doctors for Cancer, the guide published by Castle Connolly.

1978

John Robert Hamill Jr., M.D., was named Surgeon of the Year at the Florida Society of Dermatologic Surgeons meeting in Orlando, Fla.

1984

Diane Czuk-Smith, M.D., was awarded the Young Alumni Achievement Award from Adrian College on October 15, 2005.

Jerry Sobieraj, M.D., has taken a position in the Clinical Intelligence Department at Boston Medical Center where he will be involved in a project designed to improve health care operations.

1986

Dominic Cusumano III, M.D., is a staff member at St. Joseph's Healthcare. He is a board-certified internal medicine specialist and completed residency at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

1987

Kevin R. Dasen, M.D., was recently appointed chief of anesthesiology for The Permanente Medical Group's North Valley Region based in the greater Sacramento metropolitan area in northern California.

1989

Bradford C. Gelzayd, M.D., was named a top hepatologist in the October 2005 issue of *Hour Detroit*.

1992

Mark Lybik, M.D., was named as an Indianapolis Top Doctor by the *Indianapolis Monthly*. This is the second time the magazine has awarded Dr. Lybik this honor.

1994

Karen Near, M.D., was appointed by the U.S. Surgeon General as a senior science advisor in the Medical Research Corps.

1996

Michael Fiore, M.D., has been appointed medical director of the pediatric intensive care unit at Covenant HealthCare in Saginaw, Mich.

2000

Robert Molloy, M.D., is finishing the Otto Aufranc Fellowship in Adult Reconstructive Surgery at the New England Baptist Hospital in Boston.

2002

Theodore Barber, M.D., Wayne State University urology resident, received one of three CaPCure Awards from the CaPCure Foundation at the annual meeting of the Society of Urologic Oncology and the American Urological Association in Atlanta in May. His award is based on collaborative work between the WSU Departments of Urology and Pathology and the Genitourinary Cancer Multidisciplinary Team of the Karmanos Cancer Institute. The abstract sheds light on the controversial practice of treating only part of the prostate gland when a small amount of cancer is present.

Frederick Locke, M.D., a WSU chief medical resident at Detroit Receiving Hospital, was selected to serve on the 2006 STAT!Ref Advisory Board. STAT!Ref is a cross-searchable, electronic medical reference that integrates authoritative core texts with evidence-based information, such as the American College of Physicians PIER, and innovative tools, such as An@tomy.tv. Dr. Locke was appointed to the board because of his strong interest in improving medical education and his savvy technological skills. Dr. Locke will begin a hematology-oncology fellowship at the University of Chicago in July.