GROWING TOGETHER

Neurology & Ophthalmology
Joins MSUCOM Departments
Dean's Column

As of July 1, MSUCOM officially celebrated the creation of the first new academic unit in the college in ten years. The Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology was born of the Center for Clinical Neuroscience and Ophthalmology under the leadership of David Kaufman, DO, who serves as its first chairperson.

In addition, as of July 1 Biochemistry was renamed the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Molecular Genetics. Both changes, of course, reflect the path of scientific investigation and new missions for these traditional basic biomedical disciplines.

When the private Michigan College of Osteopathic Medicine joined Michigan State University, we gained the following jointly administered departments effective July 1, 1971: Biochemistry, Microbiology and Public Health, Pharmacology, Physiology, Anatomy, Anthropology, Biophysics, Medical Technology, Office of Medical Education Research and Development (OMERAD), Pathology, Psychology, and Sociology. Of these only the first four are still part of the college; the others either no longer exist or are no longer affiliated with MSUCOM.

Two other jointly administered departments were added in the early years: Psychiatry in 1972, and Radiology in 1975.

At our founding, MSUCOM had only two solely administered clinical departments – Osteopathic Medicine (which is now renamed Osteopathic Surgical Specialties) and Family and Community Medicine (which later was split into two units, and then recently assumed its original name). These two were the parents of all of the MSUCOM clinical units that followed them: Pediatrics in 1979, Internal Medicine in 1981, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in 1990, and Neurology and Ophthalmology in 2000.

The Department of Biomechanics was unique in MSUCOM's history. It was founded in 1972 as a research unit to perform scientific studies of osteopathic principles and practice, with an eclectic faculty of DOs and basic scientists. Today its mission has been expanded to include much more teaching and service, and the unit's new name – Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine – reflects those priorities.

The history of MSUCOM's departments reflects the changing nature of the college as we adapt to responsibly meet the needs of a changing world. This issue of Communiqué will update you on our departments, and I hope you'll join with us as we celebrate their excellence! Without this excellence we would not have achieved U.S. News & World Report's Top 10 national ranking in primary care in 2000.

Allen W. Jacobs, DO, PhD
Dean
MSUCOM Departments ........................................ 2-21
Our 13 academic departments cover a wide variety of teaching, research and public service — much more than could be done justice in a single publication. Here are snapshots of each of the units — representative, but in no way comprehensive!

Our Newest Department ...................................... 6-7
The Center for Clinical Neuroscience and Ophthalmology is now a full-fledged jointly-administered department. The new Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology is chaired by David Kaufman, DO.

Staff Matters! ..................................................... 22-23
MSUCOM staff are nothing short of essential. Here are introductions to some key personnel in the departments.

Hooding 2000..................................................... 27
Another cadre of MSUCOM alumni have hit the streets, well-educated, enthusiastic, and inspired by an address by William G. Anderson, DO.

ON THE COVER
Department chairpersons:
1 David Kaufman
2 Margaret Aguwa
3 Shirley Harding
4 James Potchen
5 Gerald Osborn
6 Margaret Fankhouser
7 Oliver Hayes
8 James Rechtein
9 Joel Greenberg

Departments

Staff Matters .................................................. 22
Research & Innovation ................................. 24
Michigan Osteopathic Association ............. 25
Alumni Spirit .................................................. 26
Development ................................................ 28
Calendar of Events ...................................... inside back cover

MSUCOM appreciates the generous and continuing support for COMMUNIQUE offered through the Michigan Osteopathic College Foundation.
Thank you!
Although it is one of the oldest departments at the college, the Department of Family and Community Medicine continues to grow. Effective February 1, the department named Margaret Aguwa, DO, MPH, its chairperson. In May, it established a research committee to assist in fostering research in the department. On May 11, the department proudly opened its new Immigration Clinic here at Michigan State. Certified by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service and open every Thursday morning, the clinic offers physical examinations for those seeking permanent residency in the U.S. To meet other clinical needs, the department is expanding with the addition of Dr. Francis A. Komara, a family physician in geriatrics who joined the department in July and who is establishing a clinical service for geriatric and nursing patients.

Supporting the Profession Through Research

In order to demonstrate that osteopathic approaches are unique and effective, the profession must be able to quantify and compare its findings and outcomes. As part of their on-going work with the Michigan Osteopathic Research Network (MORNET), John Greene, DO, with David Grimshaw, DO, and Lisa Vredevoogd, DO, are working toward this goal. This past semester they conducted an inter-examiner reliability study with DOs doing musculoskeletal exams. The trio wanted to see how consistent DOs were in their findings. MORNET is also attempting to get funding for large-scale osteopathic outcomes research.
Learning to Think Like an Osteopathic Physician

OST 501/502, “Clinical Skills,” has long been seen as one of the foundational courses at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. True to the nature of the profession, the course emphasizes the power of touch very early in the students’ education. “It teaches hands-on, cognitive skills,” explains Margaret Aguwa, DO, “and the process of reasoning, thinking, and acting like osteopathic physicians.” According to Carol Monson, DO, a coordinator for the course, teaching “touch” or examination often occurs much later in other programs, but at MSU students are introduced to these skills in their first semester. One of Dr. Monson’s goals for the course is to have students exposed to real, not simulated, patients in the very first semester, and she also plans on seeking resources to obtain equipment for easier, electronic recording of examination findings.

In OST 501/502 students usually work in groups of about eight, learning the concepts behind the structural exam and the methodology of history taking. “It becomes a good basis upon which students build their medical skills,” explains Dr. Monson.

Practicing at the Clinic

A good complement to OST 501/502 is the Preceptorship Program, which gives students their first real clinical experience. For a half-day a week for two semesters, each student joins a family practitioner in his or her clinic. The director of the program, John Greene, DO, associate professor of family and community medicine, explains that traditionally most clinical instruction has been hospital-based, but the Preceptorship Program demonstrates how osteopathic colleges “have always appreciated the importance of long-term, ambulatory education.”

According to Peter Salvia, DO, assistant clinical professor and an experienced participant in the program, the preceptorship is “an exceptional experience for students.” Not only does it develop medical skills, but it also teaches communication and people skills. Partly because of this program, Dr. Salvia believes that “the college is putting out exceptional physicians and well-rounded people.”
by K. Friday

According to Oliver Hayes, DO, chairperson of the Department of Internal Medicine, one of the strengths of the College of Osteopathic Medicine is the way it prepares its students to be physicians. "We are a community-based medical school," he explains, "and a vital part of this educational network is the off-campus faculty who supervise the Unit III and residency stages of the medical education."

Because intensive clinical training is so vital to the development of a DO's skills - as Dr. Hayes puts it, "studying medicine without patients is like going to sea without a boat" - the Statewide Campus System (SCS) becomes essential to the quality of internal medicine education at MSU. According to Richard Butler, DO, internal medicine postdoctoral division director for MSUCOM/SCS, the SCS is an "integrated, collaborative campus" with about 154 internal medicine residents across the state. While the College of Osteopathic Medicine provides academic and supportive services - technological support, access to PhDs, help in evaluation and curriculum design - it receives the opportunity to improve its research activities and to develop what Dr. Butler identifies as "innovative curricular models of medical education." As proof of the consortium's educational strength, Dr. Butler points out that for the last seven years the SCS has received federal funding totaling over one million dollars for faculty development programs.
Giving Regis a Run for His Money

In the middle of the cardiology curriculum this past spring, David Strobl, DO, decided to do something different to help his students review for their cardiology exam. He decided to host a game show. To the delight of the students enrolled in the mandatory course, Dr. Strobl seized upon the idea of copying the format of ABC’s popular quiz show, “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” With the technical help of his graduate assistant, Chad Link, and with Ralph Oten, DO, acting as master of ceremonies, Dr. Strobl created what he calls “an audio-visual extravaganza” that duplicated the set, the sound, and the format of the hit show. Using four large screens, music sampled from the program, lighting effects and even an applause sign, Dr. Strobl and company mimicked the details of the show, including the “fast-finger round” and the three lifelines. Dr. Strobl even did his best to imitate Regis Philbin, donning a dark, monochromatic costume and a wig. Students competed for gifts donated by pharmaceutical companies by answering increasingly difficult cardiology questions. Only one student ran the table to receive a brand-new cardiology textbook valued at more than $200.

Bringing OMM Exams to a Hospital Near You

If Kari Hortos, DO, Class of ’82, has her way, osteopathic structural exams will be consistent and routine in hospitals across the state. Featured in the March 2000 edition of The D.O., Dr. Hortos, director of medical education at Mt. Clemens General Hospital, has received national attention for her efforts to develop a standardized language for the recording of osteopathic structural exams. In 1998 Dr. Hortos developed and piloted at Mt. Clemens a common language and form for recording examination findings. As a result, Dr. Hortos found that the use of the form increased the frequency of the exams. In July 2000, the form will be fully implemented at Mt. Clemens, and Dr. Hortos hopes that eventually it will become a standard for SCS. In the meantime, Dr. Hortos believes that the newer documentation – at the time of admission and discharge – can be used to provide qualitative evidence of the efficacy of osteopathic medicine. According to Dr. Hortos, community hospitals have the ability to demonstrate objectively the distinctiveness of the osteopathic profession.
Neurology and Ophthalmology

Building Broad Research Programs

The neuro-ophthalmology team includes Eric E. Eggenberger, DO, David Kaufman, DO, and Michelle Powell, healthcare assistant.

by M.J. Furey, III

Some of the most rapid change at MSUCOM is taking place just over the railroad tracks from Fee Hall at the newly-formed Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology. The department, which is co-administered with the College of Human Medicine and headed by David I. Kaufman, DO, has been in development for five years. Its roots run far deeper. MSUCOM initiated a Neuro-Visual Unit on campus in 1986, which had NIH funding continuously, Dr. Kaufman noted, since 1988.

From those beginnings, Dr. Kaufman stated, "we have built broad research programs in multiple sclerosis, stroke, and Alzheimer's. We have an emerging strong section in health services and neuro-epidemiology, and we are recruiting faculty to assist in partnering with the Neuroscience Program on campus to develop research and translational neuro-biology." The department's educational programs include participation in a statewide residency consortium for neurology and ophthalmology, and a neuro-ophthalmology fellowship. It supports clinical programs in neuro-ophthalmology, memory disorders, vertigo, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis (MS).

Spartan pride runs deep in the new department. "Our unit," said Eric Eggenberger, DO, "is made up of amazing individuals with common goals of clinical excellence, education and research. The medical deans, provost, and president of this university have fostered increased growth in these endeavors with the department's creation." For his part, Dr. Kaufman asserts "I'm fiercely proud of the people I work with - based not only on their willingness to sacrifice but their unquenchable will to succeed. It is a privilege to work with them."
There is much to be proud of at the Clinical Center. Here are just a few highlights:

- Dr. Kaufman is currently completing research on the effects of neuroprotective substances on large and small-vessel stroke.

- Joseph Pysh, DO, PhD, continues to lead the way clinically by helping recruit research subjects for further stroke studies.

- Eric Eggenberger, DO, concluded his work on the CHAMPS study on early multiple sclerosis. It was presented at the American Academy of Neurology in May. On other fronts, he is involved in MS Track (an MS registry), and a study of pre-filled Avonex injections.

- Daniel Murman, MD, is investigating health-services issues related to the care of patients with dementia. His team has launched a five-year observational study titled the “Cost of Health Care and Alzheimer’s Disease Relative to Gained Effectiveness” (CHARGE). It will involve the clinical evaluation and longitudinal follow-up of 250 patients with degenerative dementias.

- David Kreulen, PhD, a professor of neurology and physiology, has an NIH grant to study the innervation of arteries and veins. He’s examining the events in neuromuscular transmission in arteries and veins and whether individual neurons innervate multiple targets, or just one type of tissue.

- Arthur Weber, PhD, from MSU’s College of Human Medicine and the Department of Physiology, has just completed one of several neuroprotection studies. He is investigating the efficacy of brain-derived neurotrophic factor as an inhibitor of retinal ganglion cell-death following injury to the optic nerve. His lab’s work is supported, in part, by grants from the National Eye Institute, and an award from the Strategic Partnership Fund at MSU.
Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine

A Pillar in the Profession

by K. Friday

The Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine has its hands full. Without a doubt, the demand for manual medicine keeps growing. After all, OMM is, according to Sherman Gorbis, DO, associate professor of osteopathic manipulative medicine, “one of the things that makes this profession unique.” Even with anywhere from one to four physicians staffing MSU’s Clinical Center four and a half days a week, the OMM services at the clinic are in high demand, receiving as many as 50 referrals in a five-day period.

In addition to its clinical work, the department has been very active in making manual medicine more visible and vital in the medical community. As a result, there is growing national and international demand for OMT continuing medical education courses offered through MSUCOM, the American Back Society, and the American Association for Orthopaedic Medicine.

Counting classroom hours, lab instruction, and other professional presentations and tutorials, the department claims one of the largest teaching commitments in the college. Starting this fall, that commitment will increase even more. With the introduction of the new, six-semester OMM 501-506 series, the department will concentrate and intensify its manipulative medicine instruction. According to James Rechtien, DO, PhD, acting chairperson, the length of the series is necessary because “manual and palpatory skills are special. They need to be developed over a period of time, and we feel we require at least two years to prepare adequately our students for their clinical rotations.”

Dr. Rechtien (left) demonstrates OMM techniques to his students.
**Spreading the Power of Touch**

With the goal of integrating OMM into clinical settings across the state, in the fall of 1999 MSUCOM faculty Sherman Gorbis, DO, Kari Hortos, DO, and Lisa Vredevoogd, DO, facilitated an "Osteopathic Principles and Practices" workshop for representatives from the Statewide Campus System. Showcasing the use of OMM with patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, the workshop represented an effort on the part of these physicians to develop OMT protocols, based on a prototype Dr. Hortos initiated at Mt. Clemens General Hospital, for hospital settings and residency training programs throughout the SCS. This fall the three will facilitate a presentation on an OMT protocol for OB-GYN practitioners.

**OMM After Surgery**

Sherman Gorbis, DO, and Margaret Fankhauser, DO, are documenting the efficacy of OMM. Examining patients from the rehabilitation unit at Ingham Regional Medical Center, Drs. Gorbis and Fankhauser are investigating the impact of OMM on function and recovery following hip surgery. The study has been funded by the American Osteopathic Association.

**A New Way to Measure your Discomfort**

How stiff is your back? Patients with chronic and acute back pain no doubt have other worries on their mind, but David Grimshaw, DO and Ray Brodeur, PhD, DC, are attempting to quantify the subjective experience of back stiffness. Using a unique instrument they have developed for their research, Dr. Grimshaw and Dr. Brodeur are in the process of developing objective criteria for measuring spinal flexibility and pressure on the spine. The study has been funded through MSUCOM’s internal grant program.
Osteopathic Surgical Specialties

A Department of Many Talents

by K. Friday

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties gave birth to most of the clinical departments at MSUCOM. Known originally as the Department of Osteopathic Medicine and encompassing a wide range of specialties which would later grow into separate departments, it was one of two clinical departments established in 1971.

Today the department is particularly strong in orthopedics and urology. Its urology clinic, for instance, has grown from one faculty member, Shirley Harding, DO, and now includes Donald Bartowski, DO, Lynne McCormick, DO, and David Wartinger, DO.

Making Physician Leaders

Vence Bonham, JD, assistant professor of health policy and law, would like his MSUCOM students to become physician leaders. Mr. Bonham teaches health policy, medical ethics, and health law, and he believes that part of becoming a responsible osteopathic physician is understanding how factors like health policy, income disparity, litigation, and insurance practices all affect the profession.

An attorney for 18 years, Mr. Bonham is a co-investigator in the Communities of Color & Genetics Policy Project, a National Institutes of Health program that is studying the impact of genetic technology and the Human Genome Project on African-American and Latino communities. He is also involved in two federally-funded studies on the impact of socioeconomic status on health care and a study of closed medical malpractice cases involving breast cancer diagnosis.

Vence Bonham, JD, teaches health policy and law to his MSUCOM students.
OSS Enters Cyberspace

The department is entering the 21st century with attempts to improve coordination among itself and its SCS partners. A new departmental web site, scheduled for Fall 2000, will link sites from hospitals and clinics. Designed by Sheila Patrick, an administrative assistant in OSS, the site will provide accessible, up-to-date information on residency packages, lists of contacts at hospitals and the college, new procedures, updates, protocols, and application forms.

Kinder, Gentler Surgery

Larry Myśliwiec, DO, is involved in a research project that will have important consequences for spinal surgeons. At the Laboratory of Comparative Orthopaedic Research at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Steven P. Arnoczky, DVM, the Wade O. Brinker Professor of Veterinary Surgery, and Dr. Myśliwiec, associate professor of osteopathic surgical specialties, are researching a new method of spinal fusion. Using genetically-engineered DNA plasmid to stimulate new bone formation, the procedure offers the possibility of what Dr. Myśliwiec calls "kinder, gentler surgery." Dr. Arnoczky and Dr. Myśliwiec plan on presenting their findings to the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. Their research is made possible by a pilot grant from BIOMET Orthopaedics and funding from the Laboratory of Comparative Orthopaedic Research. Part of the funding supports the project’s Herbert Ross Research Fellow, Michael Winkelpleck, DO.

Comprehensive Pain Management

Henry Beckmeyer, DO, professor of osteopathic surgical specialties, helps run a unique clinic at St. Lawrence Hospital. The Pain Management Clinic is truly interdisciplinary, offering several different modalities of treatment, psychological support, and physical and occupational evaluations. Dr. Beckmeyer explains that the clinic was formed roughly five years ago as chronic pain became more visible as a public health issue. The clinic is designed to offer different modalities of treatment in one clinical setting staffed by neurologists, anesthesiologists, neurosurgeons, family practitioners, and physical and occupational therapists. While the clinic offers traditional modalities, it also offers less common ones like electronic acupuncture, nerve blocks, and morphine pumps. “In the absence of a cure for pain we strive for effective pain management,” Dr. Beckmeyer explains.
Our pediatricians are the advance guard of the profession. In caring for our young they help build the future health of our communities. They inculcate positive patterns of health and behavior that will carry into adulthood. They are also the ambassadors of the profession, representing what is essentially our first contact with — and first impression of — osteopathic medicine. A lot rests on their shoulders.

The Department of Pediatrics at MSUCOM understands this and is committed to developing caring, competent pediatricians. Throughout the Statewide Campus System the department is attempting to increase the number of in-patient pediatric settings for the education of its students. The department is also in the process of establishing a statewide educational consortium to strengthen and support the four residency programs in the state.

The heart of pediatrics continues to be its generous clinical practice. The department supports three area clinics and makes a special effort to reach at-risk populations. According to Chairperson Joel Greenberg, DO, the professionals at these clinics “have been and continue to be the caregivers for the largest indigent population in Lansing.”
Breast Milk Does a Baby Good

Like most pediatricians, Mari Douma, DO, would like more women in this country to breast-feed their infants. Besides being free and readily available, breast milk is linked to lower rates of disease and chronic allergies as well as higher IQs and better school performance. Although many women realize that breast milk is beneficial, some are not encouraged to begin feeding by their pediatricians, and still others stop early. In fact, Dr. Douma, an assistant professor of pediatrics, explains that with only 68% of all infants breast feeding for their first six months, Americans fall short of the target rate for breast feeding recommended by US Healthy People 2010: 75% of all infants for the first six months. For their part, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breast-feeding for a minimum of 12 months. Too many women stop, according to Dr. Douma, because they fear their child isn’t getting enough milk, because of breast/ nipple pain, or because of embarrassment over feeding in public.

Having received a grant this past spring from the Institute for Children, Youth and Families to document breast-feeding practices at pediatrics clinics, Dr. Douma will use the data to develop breast-feeding guidelines that can be incorporated into standard pediatric protocols. She hopes that the guidelines will help more physicians and parents manage breast-feeding programs with greater frequency.

OMM for Infants

Colleen Vallad-Hix, DO, has found a way to help infants who are having problems nursing. Throughout her career as a pediatrician she has seen infants who cannot nurse or who do so for only short periods of time. Although this is common, Dr. Vallad-Hix, assistant professor of pediatrics, estimates that as many as 25% of newborns develop more serious symptoms caused by nursing difficulties, including dehydration, jaundice, and reflux.

Drawing on her training as an osteopathic physician, Dr. Vallad-Hix reasoned that a common manual medicine technique, hypoglossal nerve decompression, if applied to the newborn’s skull, would relieve pressure on the nerve which controls sucking and consequently allow the infant to nurse properly. She was right, and after seeing the effectiveness of the treatment, Dr. Vallad-Hix’s coworkers at Sparrow Hospital — including MDs, nurses, and lactation consultants — began asking about the treatment. Dr. Vallad-Hix has even been asked to present to the National Lactation Consultant Conference. For her part, she is happy to spread the word and teach others the technique. “This is a significant problem and it is easy to fix,” she explains.
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Getting People Back to Their Lives

by K. Friday

The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation knows what it takes to get people moving again.

The department’s clinic at the MSU Clinical Center, one of the few Medicare-approved out-patient rehabilitation facilities in the Lansing area, has the expertise to treat a variety of physical and emotional problems, including strokes, brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, acute traumas, sports-related injuries and chronic pain. The clinic, which offers a bio/psycho/social approach to recovery, includes six physiatrists and a newly established resident clinic staffed by three senior PM&R residents. The clinic also offers physical therapy, occupational/cognitive therapy, speech therapy, rehabilitation psychology, and neuropsychology.

According to Margaret Fankhouser, DO, acting chairperson, faculty at the rehabilitation medicine clinic and neurology and ophthalmology are the only physicians in the mid-Michigan area performing BOTOX injections. These use trace amounts of botulism toxins to treat movement disorders such as spasticity and dystonia. These disorders are often seen in patients who suffer from strokes, cerebral palsy, torticollis, or writer’s cramp. Dr. Fankhouser has seen success in the use of BOTOX in her pediatric rehabilitation patients.

New to the faculty is Ryan O’Connor, DO, a former MSU Sports Medicine Fellow who brings to the department his experience in athletic medicine and in performing facet injections for the treatment of inflamed nerves.

Donald F. Stanton, DO, professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation and the department’s founding chairperson, is retiring summer 2000.

Rehabilitation With Video

Who says you can’t be your own role model? If Nancy M. Crewe, PhD, professor in the College of Education and research leader in physical medicine and rehabilitation, is right, videotaping will help brain rehabilitation patients progress more rapidly toward their goals. The technique, called “video self-monitoring,” involves recording the patient performing an activity successfully and then using the tape in subsequent therapies as a model. Dr. Crewe explains that the technique has been used with different populations but has never, until now, been used with patients with brain dysfunction. In a research project sponsored by the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and Education, Dr. Crewe hopes to demonstrate the effectiveness of the technique with patients from the Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center.
The Stress of Typing

Thousands do it every day for extended periods of time without thinking much about it, but Marcy Schlinger, DO, and Gail Shafer-Crane are taking a much closer look at typing. In their current research project, Dr. Schlinger, assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, and Ms. Shafer-Crane, a PhD candidate in anatomy, are investigating the effects of repetitive typing on the elbow, forearm, and wrist. Using six volunteers and repeated MRI examinations, the researchers are looking for measurable changes in muscle tissue caused by the repetitive activity. Ultimately, they hope that their research will help assess the relationship between typing and repetitive stress injuries like carpal tunnel syndrome. The project is funded by an intramural grant from the College of Osteopathic Medicine Office for Research.

Rebuilding at Origami Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center

There has been a lot of activity at the Origami Center since its creation three years ago. In 1998 its residents, all recovering from traumas to the brain, built a woodworking shop on the center’s property—a project which included pouring cement, building a frame, and constructing a roof. Residents have also tiled their entranceway, maintained a huge flower and vegetable garden used to supply produce for road-side stands, and planted twelve trees.

Created through a unique partnership between MSUCOM and Peckham Vocational Industries, a non-profit corporation specializing in vocational development and rehabilitation, Origami provides medical, vocational, and residential rehabilitation for persons with organic brain dysfunction. The idea for the center originated with founding chairperson Donald F. Stanton, DO, and since then it has seen excellent outcomes, discharging most of its residents ahead of schedule.

On November 17-18, Origami and the department will host a conference on brain injury rehabilitation at MSU’s Kellogg Center. With support from MSUCOM, the College of Human Medicine, the College of Nursing, and Sinas Dramis Law Firm, the conference will highlight new technologies and medical, academic, and social resources available to providers and case managers in the mid-Michigan area.
by Pat Grauer

In terms of both size and excellence, the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology looms large. Among the top three nationally in size, its 42 faculty members have earned the highest level of extramural funding of all MSU departments — about $7.5 million annually. The faculty teach biochemistry and molecular biology students in the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and Human Medicine and to 225 undergraduate majors, 45 graduate students, and 30 postdoctoral fellows. Led by William L. Smith, Ph.D., the department is recognized in three areas of research: 1) structural biology, 2) biochemistry of the cell nucleus, and 3) plant biochemistry.

John Wang: Doing it All with Excellence

As far as MSUCOM students are concerned, John Wang, professor of biochemistry, considers himself a language teacher. "When it comes to biochemistry," he said, "what we teach medical students is really a language and a set of principles so they can read the medical literature intelligently and can continue as physicians to learn on their own." A 1996 recipient of the university’s Distinguished Faculty Award, Dr. Wang has been consistently involved in MSUCOM’s curriculum since 1977, and has received a number of teaching awards. But instruction isn’t his only strength. Dr. Wang is a distinguished researcher, with 114 publications to his credit. His most recent research, done in collaboration with Dr. Ron Patterson, professor of microbiology, focuses on the protein galectin-3, which occurs in animals, plants and viruses. Two projects under study are its role in the splicing of mRNA precursors and its role as a shuttle between the cytoplasm and the nucleus of cells.

Min-Hao Kuo: Finding the Switches of Life

Inside a cell nucleus, one-millionth of a meter in diameter, is stuffed the DNA, the genetic material which, if stretched linearly, is almost the height of the Los Angeles Lakers’ superstar Shaquille O'Neal. As he shares this information, Assistant Professor Min-Hao Kuo, who just became an MSUCOM faculty member in 1999, has the enthusiasm of an NBA fan. Dr. Kuo explains that it’s the chromatin that provides the structure that can compact this line of more than 100,000 human genes into such a small space, creating a neat chromosome structure. But for genes to do their work, the portion of the DNA which will be active in gene expression must be less compact and accessible to gene activation machinery. This requires that the chromatin be able to be opened or closed, depending on environmental cues.

The core around which the DNA is wrapped in a chromosome is made up of sets of four histones. Dr. Kuo is examining how enzymes acting on these cores creates changes in the chromatin that allow the genes to be expressed appropriately, or in the case of a disease like cancer, inappropriately.
Microbiology & Molecular Genetics

Healthy Living with our Smallest Neighbors

by Pat Grauer

In 1900 at MSU, the Department of Bacteriology and Farm Hygiene was created, with Charles Marshall as its sole faculty member. Renamed several times, today the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics now serves five units—the Agriculture Experiment Station and the Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, Human Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, and Natural Science. Under the leadership of Jerry Dodgson, PhD, since 1989, the department has had four key areas of emphasis—cell growth and differentiation, molecular pathogenesis, functional and comparative genomics, and microbial diversity and ecology. The department boasts four University Distinguished Professors, three of whom hold appointments in MSUCOM—J. Justin McCormick, Veronica Maher, and Michele M. Fluck.

Jerry Dodgson, PhD, Chairperson

John Breznak: The Complex World of the Termite’s Gut

John Breznak has devoted much of his career to studies of a classic symbiosis: the interaction between termites and their gut microbes. Though most people think about termites only when they become a problem, he said they play a vital role in the ecology of our planet—breaking down plant materials for nature’s recycling. His research is very important for agriculture, ecology, and understanding the role of microbes in digestion in humans and animals.

Within a termite’s tiny gut is a complex community composed of perhaps a thousand different kinds of microbes working in a delicate balance. Because woody plants are low in nitrogen, organisms in the gut help provide nitrogen inside the insect.

“We’re trying to tease apart a very complicated and diverse community,” Dr. Breznak noted. “Of these microbes, which ones are critical to termite vitality? How do they interact with each other chemically, genetically?” Dr. Breznak isn’t naive about the challenges microbiology has in its future. “We need to learn how to tap into more of the microbial diversity in nature,” he said. “They possess properties that could be highly beneficial to us. But at present we understand perhaps only 1% of known microbes. We need to find new ways to isolate and cultivate these organisms in the laboratory.”

Michele Fluck: The Role of Viruses in Cancer

A world-class scientist, Michele M. Fluck is studying a complex process by which polyomavirus changes normal cells into cancer cells, particularly in mammary tissue. Dr. Fluck’s quest is driven by her desire for insight, a process she describes as like “playing with a kaleidoscope,” asking novel questions to address old problems. For example, instead of retracing the issue of how this virus produces a protein that causes cancer, she asked, “What use is this protein to the virus?” That simple turn of the question led her to understand intricate changes in the chromat in that “dresses” the DNA, and a complex cascade of signalling the virus-produced protein causes that leaves the “Replicate” order turned on in the cells. The result of this uncontrolled growth is cancer. In a second project in cooperation with Dr. Sandra Haslam, Dr. Fluck is studying how mammary tumors form after mice are infected with the virus, with particular emphasis on the effects of age, estrogen levels, and immunity.

John Breznak, PhD

Michele Fluck, PhD and assistant Diane Redenius
Pharmacology and Toxicology

Basic Research Dedicated to Enhancing Health

by Pat Grauer

MSU's Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, chaired since 1987 by Kenneth E. Moore, PhD, has example after example of excellence:
- Of faculty at MSU receiving the prestigious 10-year MERIT awards from the National Institutes of Health, four are from the department — Drs. Susan M. Barman, Gerard L. Gebber, Dr. Moore and Robert A. Roth
- Its ratio of extramural grant support per faculty FTE is among the highest on campus
- Two of its faculty have headed major professional organizations in recent years: Dr. Moore the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and Jay I. Goodman, PhD, the Society of Toxicology
- The department has produced no fewer than 118 PhD alumni in pharmacology and toxicology.

Dr. Moore, who's stepping down as chairperson this fall, notes that the department's research strengths are in biochemical toxicology, neuropharmacology, and cardiovascular pharmacology.

Stephanie Watts:
Unraveling the Causes of Hypertension

High blood pressure, often dubbed the "silent killer," is a complex disease. Researcher Stephanie Watts, PhD, is studying how blood vessels, especially arteries, contract, relax and remodel in hypertension. She's particularly interested in three major areas
- The role of tyrosine kinases, believed to be involved in the thickening of vessels
- The effects on hypertension of serotonin, a neurotransmitter made in the gut with widely diverse effects. It's implicated in sleep disorders, appetite, behavior, mood, depression, temperature, learning, memory and more
- The importance of growth factors both in the contractility and the remodeling, or thickening, of blood vessels.

Dr. Watts, who received her PhD from Indiana University in 1992, is the author of 45 peer-reviewed articles and is funded by the NIH, the American Heart Association and the Atorvastatin Research Awards Program.

Gregory Fink: Linking the Kidneys, Brain, and Hypertension

Gregory D. Fink's research is on the renin-angiotensin system affecting the kidneys, blood vessels, heart and brain. Dr. Fink is particularly interested in the effects of this system in hypertension.

Working with Dr. Fink is Jennifer Ballew, a student in MSUCOM's Medical Scientist Training Program. She and Dr. Fink are exploring the ways in which angiotensin relies on a powerful hormone, endothelin, to constrict blood vessels and raise blood pressure. Their research shows that angiotensin can cause release of endothelin, and suggests that endothelin may be particularly important as a cause of hypertension in people eating high salt diets.

Dr. Fink has received awards for his work in curriculum development and teaching medical students.
Physiology

Addressing Our Most Important Health Problems

by Pat Grauer

William Spielman, PhD, had been in MSU’s Department of Physiology for more than seven years studying chronic kidney disease – exploring the regulation of salt and water balance and how it becomes deranged in hypertension and congestive heart failure. Recruited to a major drug company in 1992 as director of renal pharmacology, he was there two years when the department asked him to return as its chairperson.

The experience in the private sector led him to an acute awareness of the importance of bridging fundamental biology and applied problems of human and animal health. This awareness has shaped the direction of one of the largest physiology departments in the nation to address the molecular bases for chronic diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

“This kind of coordinated approach resonates with people,” he said, “particularly university leadership, the community, funders and clinicians.” Faculty use the most sophisticated techniques, including magnetic resonance imaging and genomic studies, to unravel the mysteries of both health and disease.

The department now maintains the nation’s largest undergraduate physiology program, with more than 400 majors. Some 25 FTE faculty work in five colleges: Osteopathic Medicine, Human Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Natural Science and Agriculture.

Laura McCabe:

Taming Osteoblasts to Prevent Bone Loss

When Laura McCabe, PhD, first joined the faculty at MSU in 1996, little did she suspect that soon she’d be studying the loss of bone in microgravity situations for NASA.

That research has blossomed into an important effort that’s uncovering the secrets of what makes the body build bone. The cells most responsible, osteoblasts, mineralize a matrix to create bone, with tunnels that allow nutrients from the blood to flow to them.

Dr. McCabe’s studies are indicating that it’s the shear stress of fluid in these tunnels that stimulate bone formation, a finding consistent with clinical observations that bones not under stress (e.g. in low-gravity situations or not bearing weight) tend to weaken.

She is also exploring how osteoblasts respond to certain hormones, bone loss in diabetes, and, with a team of other researchers, development of cortical bone implants.
Psychiatry
Understanding, Teaching and Investigating Human Complexity

by Pat Grauer

When Gerald Osborn, DO, MPhil, took his psychiatric residency at MSU in 1977, there were fewer than 100 board-certified osteopathic psychiatrists in the world. Since that time, the psychiatric residency program at MSU has single-handedly added 45 DOs to that number.

The very first DO resident in the program, Dr. Osborn is now interim chairperson of the Department of Psychiatry, assuming the post from Christopher Colenda, MD, MPH, who was recently named acting dean of the MSU College of Human Medicine.

"The first joint ACGME- and AOA-accredited program, this residency has produced more psychiatrists for the osteopathic profession than any other unit," Dr. Osborn noted. "Dr. Jed Magen, its director, has done the finest job possible in managing, developing and mentoring these physicians."

Dr. Osborn said that the program strongly emphasizes the biopsychosocial model, and for that reason it attracts physicians with family practice backgrounds.

"The comprehensive nature of the model teaches an appreciation of the full life context of illness, and the residents learn to communicate effectively with primary care referral sources," he said.

The residency program is fed by a strong clerkship system, with DO instruction in Detroit and Traverse City, MD instruction in Saginaw, Kalamazoo and Marquette, and joint instruction in Lansing, Flint and Grand Rapids. Didactic as well as clinical evaluation of the students includes the preparation of a hospital discharge summary or consultation, a referral letter, a problem-based assessment and a psychiatry shelf exam.

What's the greatest challenge to psychiatry in the 21st century? Dr. Osborn believes it's "discriminatory treatment toward the specialty by managed care, with disparity in coverage for mental health."

"Giving complete parity may increase costs about one percent," he said, "but the benefits created by timely referral and effective treatment would be tremendous. Not only would it address the humanitarian issue of the relief of much needless suffering, but it also would create indirect savings.

"In addition," he noted, "depression enhances somatic complaints. Early and effective treatment of depression could actually lower the number and cost of primary care visits."
Radiology

Imaging with Imagination: An Eclectic Unit

by Pat Grauer

"Eclectic" doesn't even begin to describe MSU's Department of Radiology. In fact, you'd be hard-pressed to find a single word to describe a unit with such far-reaching activities. Under the leadership of E. James Potchen, MD, examples include research on sophisticated imaging, studies of pain and emotion, a willed body program, a searchable image library for lecturers, educational programs for a wide variety of research and medical personnel, and courses on leadership and decision-making for law students and MSU undergraduates.

This wide swath of interest reflects the globalization of applications for imaging techniques. A discipline that once was used largely to determine if Johnny's arm was broken is rapidly expanding, with new tools, to include visualization of incredible variety for both clinicians and researchers.

"Molecular imaging," Dr. Potchen said, "is being used in disciplines as varied as engineering optics, the study of brain patterns associated with irregular verbs in linguistics, how people read music, differences in pain perception, and 'spatial dyslexia.'"

The potential for imaging in the near future was highlighted at MSU July 14 at the international conference, "Remote Sensing of Genome Expression - Searching for the Signal," attended by more than 100 persons and sponsored by the department and General Electric Medical System, Dr. Potchen said. He noted that the keynote speaker, Britton Chance, was using monoenergetic light to image brain metabolism and function in infants and children.

Even the structure of the department is complex with a wide variety of patient services (magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasound, X ray, mammography and fluoroscopy). Research emphases include imaging of the heart, nerve and brain functions, and the study of clinical applications of imaging. Virtual radiology ties hospitals, specialists' offices and the Virtual Radiology Center into sophisticated systems for patient care. Educational programs include instruction for students in osteopathic medicine, nursing, food science and human nutrition, Lyman Briggs School, the Detroit College of Law, two DO and two MD residency programs, postdoctoral fellowships and a diploma program for magnetic resonance technology.

Recently the department of Anatomy has incorporated into the Department of Radiology under Dr. Potchen's leadership as the Division of Anatomy and Structural Biology.

Dr. Potchen seems to thrive on the activity around him. "Leadership," he said, "is the art and science of getting the job done with and through people, empowering people to control their own destiny."
Staff Matters

Making a Difference

Behind the scenes, departmental administrative staff are vital to the daily operation of each unit. Meet the faces behind the chairpersons.

Family and Community Medicine

Janice Barker manages daily activities in the Department of Family and Community Medicine. In this role, she assists the chairperson in planning and administering financial matters and health services contracts, coordinates faculty recruitment and hiring procedures, maintains the department’s medical library, and has supervisory responsibilities for FCM support staff and student employees.

Her extracurricular activities include training local area medical support personnel for advanced employment and certification. She is also finalizing a thesis requirement for a Master of Science degree from Ferris State University this summer.

Ms. Barker especially enjoys spending time with her family, including Lynsey, Lauren, and Victoria, as well as flower gardening at her home in the Upper Peninsula.

Internal Medicine

As the administrative assistant in the Department of Internal Medicine, Rebecca Elsesser sees herself as the “detail person” within the department. She assists the chairperson by performing the necessary legwork and paperwork in support of the department’s goals, academic responsibilities, and clinical endeavors. Additionally, Mrs. Elsesser coordinates and supervises the support staff of the department, while managing over 400 clinical faculty appointments.

Her personal interests include quilting, sewing, reading, and family activities.

Neurology and Ophthalmology

Sandy Holliday is the academic and educational coordinator for the Department of Neurology and Ophthalmology. She has been involved in several clinical research projects conducted by the department.

Mrs. Holliday says she enjoys the people with whom she works, and in her leisure time she swims and plays tennis. Her greatest pleasure comes from the time she spends with her husband and two children.
**Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine**

As an administrative assistant, Sharon Husch wears many hats for the Department of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine. She manages the department’s financial records, researches and compiles administrative reports, and assists the chairperson in developing and managing departmental procedures and functions. She also serves as the administrative secretary to the chairperson and departmental faculty.

Her hobbies and interests include outdoor sports such as hiking, kayaking, snowmobiling, and gardening. She also loves to read and spend time with friends.

**Osteopathic Surgical Specialties**

Debbie Kelley provides secretarial support to the chairperson and associate chairperson in the Department of Osteopathic Surgical Specialties. She is also responsible for supervising departmental support staff and maintaining the work flow within the department. In many instances she provides secretarial support for other departmental faculty when needed.

Mrs. Kelley has a second home in Manistee and enjoys boating and fishing there with her husband, Mike, and their Labrador retriever, Elvira. Her hobbies include knitting, cross stitching, sewing, and a new interest in working with stained glass.

**Pediatrics**

Ruth Barber from the Department of Pediatrics has a lot of information to manage. In addition to assisting the department chairperson, she keeps clinic, on-call, and faculty work schedules. She also processes insurance payments for the department’s clinics, maintains the CLIFMS database, assists with the university’s professional accomplishments report, oversees CME credits, and manages clinic output records.

For pleasure, she spends time with her husband Jack and her two children, Jack Jr. and Brandi. She especially enjoys attending their sporting events, which include basketball, soccer, volleyball, and track.

**Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**

Bunny Patenge actively supports the entire department’s infrastructure. She coordinates the department’s clinical operations on- and off-campus and assists the department’s chairperson, business manager, and faculty members in their administrative, clinical, and academic responsibilities.

In her leisure time she enjoys gourmet cooking (she has two sons with degrees in the culinary arts), traveling, and hand stitching.
Exercise

Pivarnik: Exemplar, Teacher, Researcher

by Pat Grauer

The Human Energy Resource Laboratory seems a bit out of its element tucked into modest quarters in the basement of the ivy-covered IM Circle Building. But the old place exudes a youthful energy, most of which seems to come from one source – Jim Pivarnik, PhD.

A professor of osteopathic surgical specialties at MSUCOM and a professor of kinesiology in the College of Education, Dr. Pivarnik practices what he preaches. What he preaches, teaches and researches is exercise.

A project he’s just beginning involves a simple exercise test that might serve as a predictor for pre-eclampsia, a complication of pregnancy that involves high blood pressure, retention of fluid, and excretion of protein in the urine.

Dr. Pivarnik is hypothesizing that the fluid shunting out of the blood vessels during exercise might be greater in women prone to pre-eclampsia due to differences in membrane permeability that allow proteins to seep through. The research could lead to a simple five-minute test on an exercycle that would allow physicians to screen women for pre-eclampsia long before it might develop.

His pilot study, which includes 35 former pre-eclampsia patients and 35 control subjects, has been funded by the MSUCOM Office of Research and Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation.

Dr. Pivarnik’s most recent ventures also include:
• Completing a study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, assessing the validity and reliability of methods used to measure physical activity behaviors during pregnancy
• Completing a study evaluating the cardiovascular disease risk factor profiles of children attending Michigan Charter Schools; the study was funded by the MSU Institute for Children, Youth and Families
• Completing a book chapter on exercise and pregnancy
• Writing the position paper on physical activity and fitness of kids for the Michigan Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports
• Coauthoring with three graduate students a study in the Journal of Applied Physiology on the differences in walking and running economy between adolescent girls and young women
• Coauthoring with a graduate student a study in Pediatric Exercise Science to determine the actual energy expenditures of adolescent girls at established minimum heart rates
• With MSUCOM student Willa C. Fornetti, co-authoring a study published in the Journal of Applied Physiology that validated two assessments of body composition measures for female athletes.
Perspectives on Medicaid

by Dennis Paradis

There is an old saying that roughly translates, “When you are up to your hip boots in alligators, it’s hard to remember that your original purpose was to drain the swamp.” This seems to be the perfect analogy for our battles with the Medicaid budget. We started with the best of intentions—to provide access to care for our country’s poor. Somewhere along the line, it turned into a fight that pitted state government against physicians and hospitals. Hopefully, the increases in the 2001 Medicaid budget will let us return to our original purpose.

So what have we learned from the years of battling with state government?

- The first lesson is about the role of managed care. Managed care is neither the solution to the problems of the health care system nor the source of all evil. To the surprise of no one, we learned that an under-funded managed care system does not provide any better care than an under-funded fee-for-service system. The villain wasn’t managed care—it was under-funding.

- The second lesson learned is that the laws of economics apply to health care. When you increase the physician’s responsibility and lower compensation, there is a point at which physicians will no longer accept Medicaid patients. Physicians were willing to see Medicaid patients on a break-even basis, but when Medicaid reimbursement no longer covered their costs, physicians had to decrease their Medicaid case load or jeopardize their ability to remain in practice.

- The third lesson is that Medicaid has never paid the full cost of health care. According to economists, if the cost of caring for 10 people is $10,000, the cost of caring for 11 people is not $11,000 but some lesser amount such as $10,500. This economic theory assumes that the staff and resources are already purchased to serve the first 10 people so the cost of caring for the 11th person is less than the average for the first 10. The state has always assumed that Medicaid patients are the “11th patient” and, therefore, can be treated for less than the average cost of other patients.

- The fourth lesson is that there is no free lunch. In years past, physicians and hospitals could accept Medicaid patients regardless of compensation levels because they could subsidize Medicaid from other payers. Now those other payers have constricted reimbursement to the point that there is no longer any subsidy. Medicaid must now stand on its own.

- Perhaps the most crucial lesson learned is to keep your goal in sight. The state labored to reduce its Medicaid expenditures. In retrospect, it should have focused on how to improve the health care system—not necessarily by pouring more money in, but by making intelligent investments in our health care system.

In the end, after eight years of not increasing physician’s Medicaid fees, the most relevant observation was made by Representative John Pappageorge who said, “We asked how we could control health care costs. What we should have asked is how we could improve the health care system.” This should be our starting point for all future discussions.

On one final note, I’d like to extend thanks to our “top ten in primary care medical school,” Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, for uniting with us at the 3rd Annual MOA Capitol House Call and other legislative initiatives on Medicaid. Together we will continue to improve the health care system in Michigan.
ALUMNI IN ACTION

Life in 5th Gear: Barry Zink, DO

by K. Friday

A funny thing happens to men when they hit middle age. Some of them go skydiving. Meet Barry Zink, DO, Class of 1976, a mild-mannered family practitioner in Charlotte, Michigan, who has developed a taste for high velocity and adrenaline.

Dr. Zink's adventures in skydiving began in 1994, after his children had moved away from home, leaving him and his wife, Elaine, with some free time on their hands. Prompted by their oldest son, Kurtiss, Dr. Zink and his wife signed up for a group skydive and discovered that they liked the exhilaration of freefall - despite being afraid of heights.

"We like adventure," Dr. Zink says quietly, with a beaming smile. As I sat in his clinic listening to Barry and Elaine Zink marvel over falling at a 120 miles an hour, I could see the appeal of the sport, but I also wondered if their hobby would lead to two new clients for an orthopedic surgeon somewhere.

Dr. Zink confesses that after seven jumps the couple decided to stop after Ms. Zink dislocated her jaw from a piece of flying equipment and Dr. Zink tore his rotator cuff and fractured his humerus as a result of high wind speed. Still, he is adamant about the overall safety of the sport. He explains that each jumper carries a reserve chute, many of which will deploy automatically at a certain altitude, even if the jumper is unconscious. "Sure, you'll bust up some things, but you'll live," he says calmly.

After their skydiving phase, the couple again turned to Kurtiss for recreational advice. Next came the motorcycles. Dr. Zink described riding a Harley like riding a bike "only you're always going downhill with the wind." The doctor and his wife are enthusiastic riders, belonging to both the Goldwing Road Riders Association and the HOGs (Harley Owners' Group). Not surprisingly, Dr. Zink has developed an interest in motorcycle racing, spending more and more of his free time at the drag strip in Stanton, Michigan. He says he enjoys the challenge of tuning his bike and working on riding technique.

As far as his medical practice is concerned, Dr. Zink thinks his death-defying hobbies bring him closer to his patients. "They like to hear that their doctor is human. It helps break the ice."

The Michigan Osteopathic Association convention later in May was highlighted by Dean Jacobs' announcement that the MSUCOM was ranked 9th nationally in primary care training by US News & World Report. In conjunction with the MOA convention we held our spring Board of Directors meeting for the alumni association.

New members Tammy Born, DO, Grand Rapids, and Michael Weiss, DO, Troy were welcomed.

Final touches were placed on Silverfest activities for September 21-23 and Seminar in the Sun for March 3-10, 2001.

With funding now in place for the MSUCOM Alumni Association Scholarship, this year's recipient was third-year student Michael Williamson.

Spring's Events

As we enjoy summer's vacation and leisure activities a look back on spring reveals a busy time for the MSUCOM Alumni Association.

In early May I had the privilege to be on stage at the Wharton Center to help hood 107 new graduates from the Class of 2000. Dr. William Anderson delivered a commencement address that ranged from his practice in rural Georgia to his work with Martin Luther King, Jr. His advice to the graduates was "never quit."

Image: According to Barry Zink, DO, "Doctors have to wear white and look sterile all the time, so the biker image is fun."

a look back at...

Dr. Dan Hunt, President
MSUCOM Alumni Association
Return to the Sun

Because of popular demand, the MSUCOM Alumni Association will host another Seminar in the Sun in Playa del Carmen, Mexico. This CME program, with 20 hours of Category 1 credit, will run March 3-10, 2001, in sunny Mexico. For reservations or more information, contact the MSUCOM Alumni Office at (877)853-3448 or (517)432-4979. MSUCOM welcomes friends and family of the college.

Silverfest: Old Friends, New Memories

This year’s Silverfest Alumni Weekend is approaching fast and tickets are selling briskly. Join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Class of 1975 as well as reunions for the classes of 1980, 1985, and 1990! Activities start Thursday, September 21, with the Osteopathic Open Golf Tournament and run through Saturday, September 23. Sign up now for your tickets and reservations by calling the Alumni Office at (877)853-3448 or (517)432-4979.

HOODING 2000

Never Ever Quit

by Jason Mui

On Thursday, May 4, 2000, the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine hooding was held at the MSU Wharton Center. One hundred seven students received their degrees and public recognition for their hard work.

Four students received awards: The Richard L. Alper Memorial Award went to Jason R. Beckrow. The Judith K. Weiswasser Memorial Award was presented to J'Aimee Lippert. The Dean’s Recognition Award went to Michael L. Baker. The Michigan Osteopathic Association Outstanding Senior Award went to Michael B. Boyd.

The commencement address was given by William G. Anderson, DO. Dr. Anderson is the associate dean of the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. A former president of the American Osteopathic Association, a leader in the Civil Rights Movement, a protégé of Martin Luther King Jr., and the founder of the Albany Movement, he was greeted with a standing ovation. After commending the faculty and the families of the graduates, he challenged all of those being honored to preserve the osteopathic tradition and to meet the level of expectation of DOs. As DOs, students must treat the practice of medicine as personal, private, sacred, and built on trust. He avowed that those seeking personal gain and forsaking care will be disappointed, and that those who put an emphasis on caring and compassion for their patients will be rewarded. He acknowledged the graduates would inevitably face adversity. Yet, as keepers of the osteopathic tradition, he asserted, they should “never ever quit.”
Support the
"New Science for a New Century"
CAMPAIGN

by K. Friday

The science of the 21st century is arriving at Michigan State University with the continuing construction of the new Biomedical and Physical Sciences Facility, located between Shaw Lane and Wilson Road. After a groundbreaking ceremony on Feb. 10, 1999, what began as a barren hole in the ground is now looking more and more like the world-class research facility scheduled for completion in December 2001.

Michigan legislators have already invested $70 million dollars for the facility, and Michigan State University is committed to raising an additional $23 million. MSUCOM has a goal to raise $500,000 for this project, and to date we have commitments of $125,000.

Now is your chance to help build the future of basic science at MSU and enhance the resources available to the College of Osteopathic Medicine and its faculty. The Biomedical and Physical Sciences Facility will no doubt have a ripple effect throughout the medical community here at MSU, increasing the university’s ability to recruit and retain top scientists, faculty, and students as well as attract funding for scientific research.

Several naming opportunities exist in the new facility. For more information contact the Office of Development, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine at (517)355-8355.

The largest academic building ever built at Michigan State University, this state-of-the-art research and teaching complex - complete with internet connections in every classroom and a rooftop observatory - will enhance medical and basic science research at the university and in the state. As the Human Genome Project and other scientific advances have made clear, science in the 21st century will be increasingly multidisciplinary and collaborative, and the Biomedical and Physical Sciences Facility is designed to meet these needs. The Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics, the Department of Physiology, and the Department of Physics and Astronomy will share 200,000 square feet of space as well as centralized library, computer, and instrumentation resources. The facility will also house the Center for Microbial Ecology, the Center for Fundamental Materials Research, and the Chronic Disease Initiative and provide underground connections to the Chemistry and Biochemistry buildings. Visit www.newscience.msu.edu to find out more about the project and its construction.
SEPTEMBER

13-17
"Muscle Energy: Level I," Kellogg Center, East Lansing. 40 hours Category 1A credit. Tuition is $1250, $900 for residents and interns. Call CME at (517) 353-9714 or (800) 437-0001.

20-24
"Direct Action Thrust: Mobilization with Impulse," Kellogg Center, East Lansing. 32 hours category 1A credit. Tuition is $1000, $750 for residents and interns. Call CME at (517) 353-9714 or (800) 437-0001.

21

NOVEMBER

21-23
Silverfest Alumni Weekend!! Join us in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Class of 1975, as well as reunions for the Classes of 1980, 1985 and 1990! Activities will include the Osteopathic Golf Open on Thursday, a Friday evening dinner/dance, a CME course on Saturday, a pre-game tailgate, the MSUCOM vs. Notre Dame football game, and fun, fun, FUN! For more information contact Kim Camp at (toll free) 877-853-3448 or 517-432-4979. www.com.msu.edu/cme/silverfest/silverfest.html

3-5
"Exercise Prescription as an Adjunct to Manual Medicine: Level I," Kellogg Center, East Lansing. 20 hours category 1A credit. Tuition is $625, $450 for residents and interns. Call CME at (517) 353-9714 or (800) 437-0001.

12-18
National Osteopathic Medicine Week. 21st annual celebration of the profession, organized by the American Osteopathic Association.

For a complete listing of MSUCOM events check out our Web calendar: http://www.com.msu.edu/calendar
MSUCOM Ranked Ninth Nationally  
For Primary Care Education

The Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) was ranked ninth in the nation among all primary care medical schools by U.S. News & World Report in its guide "Best Graduate Schools."

MSUCOM was tied with Johns Hopkins University and the University of California-San Francisco for the slot. Top-ranked in the category was the University of Washington, followed by Harvard.

The 125 accredited allopathic medical schools and the 19 osteopathic colleges are all considered for the primary-care ranking. Only MD schools are considered for the report's "overall" ranking. The primary-care ranking was determined by weighted measures of reputation (40%), rate of entering primary care residencies (30%), student selectivity (20%), and faculty resources (10%).

Other osteopathic colleges ranking in the top 50 were the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (#22) and the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (#42).