

# Family and Community Medicine



University of  
CINCINNATI

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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Happy 2025!

I hope your new year is off to a great start! Many thanks to those of you who came from near and far to celebrate our 50th anniversary. We thoroughly enjoyed seeing you and welcoming you back. For those of you who missed it, we have provided a recap of the events in this newsletter.

We started off the weekend with an unveiling of two glass memorial panels in the Smith Conference room. The panels honor two important Cincinnati family physicians, Mary Agna, MD and Tom Todd, MD. Mary Agna, MD was the founding interim chair of the then Department of Family Practice and wrote the grant proposal to start the UC Family Medicine residency. Tom Todd, MD was a community family physician for 40 years in Glendale who also served on the Board of the Ohio Association of Family Physicians, and as mayor of Glendale. We are thrilled to honor them in our Department.

We continued the weekend with an educational event, Celebrating the Power of Family Medicine in Community, featuring two of our alumni. Louito Edje, MD, MHPE, FFAFP kicked off the event speaking about how we can utilize artificial intelligence to transform our practices now, and Andrew Bazemore, MD MPH closed with his inspiring look back at the Department and outlining the challenges for the future.

Finally, the events concluded with a dinner and awards celebration, where we honored our current faculty and staff with our first ever departmental awards, and the first Tom Todd, MD Distinguished Alumni Award to Barry Webb, MD. More on our awardees inside.

Thank you again to all of you who came from across the country to celebrate. It was truly inspiring to see where you have landed and the impact our alumni have on communities across the country. For those of you have were not able to make it, please let me know how you are doing! I welcome your updates!

Warmly,

**Christy O'Dea, MD MPH FFAFP**  
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**Christine O'Dea, MD**  
Chair

## BARRY WEBB, MD, AWARDED INAUGURAL TOM TODD

Barry Webb, MD is the recipient of the first Thomas Todd, MD Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Webb is a 1974 graduate of the UC College of Medicine and attended family medicine residency at the University of Maryland. Dr. Webb is a trailblazer in the history of Family Medicine in Cincinnati. He has spent a phenomenal 47 years in family practice in Glendale and Springdale, Ohio and retired on January 1, 2025.

He is the recipient of many awards, including the Ohio Team Physician of the Year, Princeton High School Hall of Fame, and Mercy Fairfield Physician of Distinction. Dr. Webb notes that "I have to think that being the first recipient of the Tom Todd award has to be the most poignant and meaningful of all of the awards." Enjoy your much deserved retirement, Dr. Webb!



Barry W. Webb, MD, pictured with award announcer, Phil Diller, MD, DFCM Chair Christy O'Dea, MD, and anniversary emcee, Chris Lewis, MD

## DFCM Awards Distinguished Alumni and Annual Department Awards at 50th Anniversary Celebration

In early November 2024, our department celebrated its 50th anniversary with a full weekend of events, culminating in a dinner at the Graduate Hotel. During this celebration, we had the honor of awarding the first Tom Todd Distinguished Alumni Award, the Cincinnati Medical Association Legacy Award, and our first annual department awards. We are so proud of the past and present work of our department and alumni and look forward to this new award season tradition.



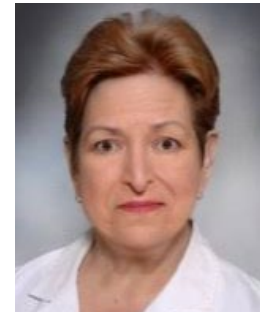
**Hillary Mount, MD**  
*Clinical Excellence Award*



**Montiel Rosenthal, MD**  
*Service & Community Engagement Award*



**Shanna Stryker, MD, MPH**  
*Research Excellence Award*



**Mary Beth Vonder Meulen, RN, CCRC**  
*Staff Award of Excellence*



**Tamara Huson, MD**  
*Community Preceptor Award*



**Orson J. Austin, MD**  
*Cincinnati Medical Association Legacy Award*



**Barry W. Webb, MD**  
*Tom Todd Distinguished Alumni Award*



**Rocky Ellis, MD**  
*Palliative Dr. Andrew Filak Faculty Educator Award for Teaching Excellence*

### DIVISION UPDATE:

## OFFICE OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE

*Jeffrey D. Schlaudecker, MD, Director*

### GERIATRIC FELLOWSHIP STARTING AT UC WEST CHESTER IN SUMMER OF 2026

The Geriatrics Department is excited to announce the start of our new fellowship program at UC West Chester. We have collaborated with multiple departments and local organizations to build a robust curriculum for learners. Recruitment will begin in the fall of 2025, and our new fellows will start in the summer of 2026. Our mission is to promote the health of our community as educators, community leaders, health system innovators, and geriatric clinicians through evidence-based training of fellows to be prepared to practice in various clinical settings and to care for underserved older adults in the community.



**Jeffrey Schlaudecker, MD**

DIVISION UPDATE: **Office of Geriatric Medicine Cont.**

## TELL ME YOUR STORY 2024

This year marked another successful Tell Me Your Story event for the department. For over 20 years, this program has partnered first-year medical students from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine with Maple Knoll Village Retirement Community residents. Following a 50-minute session with a Senior Partner, students participated in a small group discussion led by College of Medicine faculty from Geriatrics, Family Medicine, and Internal Medicine. The goal of this exercise is to provide first-year students with the opportunity to explore the patient-doctor relationship, professionalism, health care accessibility, interprofessional team care, and specific topics as they relate to older adults. This year, we hosted 181 students and 73 Senior Partners and can't wait to be back in fall of 2025!



Among the students involved this year were Kwame Asiedu (pictured, left) and Jalil Mitchell (pictured, right) with Maple Knoll Village residents Marilyn Johnston and Nancy Tricase.

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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## GIVING VOICE FOUNDATION PARTNERSHIP

For the past few years, the Geriatrics Department has been working alongside the Giving Voice Foundation, created by our very own alumnus, Dr. Christian Gausvik, to collaborate and positively impact older adults and their caregivers in the community. The organization believes that the health of older adults can be improved through advocacy, education, engagement, and

storytelling. Together, we are shaping the future of healthcare by training compassionate, skilled professionals dedicated to serving adults in our community. Our residents and medical students participate in community events promoting communication and connection. One of our favorite programs is Creative Connections. During these sessions, music and movement are used to help

older adults with dementia while their caregivers can meet and connect with others in a creative, support group setting. This partnership has been invaluable to the Geriatrics Department and will continue to grow in the coming years. If you are interested in learning more, please visit [www.givingvoicefdn.org](http://www.givingvoicefdn.org).



Third-year medical student Maureen Ubani connecting with participants at a Brains in Bloom session.



Third-year medical student Jonathan Regenold participating in a Creative Connections session.

DIVISION UPDATE:

**CANCER SURVIVORSHIP & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**

*Dr. Elizabeth Shaughnessy, Administrative Director*  
*Dr. Melissa Erickson, Medical Director*

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The Oncology Primary Care team is proud to announce the graduation of their first two fellows, Dr. Rynita Bohler and Dr. Emily Furnish. This past August they completed a combined palliative care and oncology primary care fellowship. Following training, Dr. Bohler stayed on as faculty in the department of Family and Community Medicine, splitting her time between outpatient oncology primary care and inpatient palliative medicine.

We also welcomed our first nurse practitioner to the oncology primary care practice, Monica Kasse. Her background in pediatric BMT at CCHMC and Duke combined with her prior work as a primary care provider at an FQHC makes her a perfect fit for our program.



*The Cancer Survivorship and Oncology Primary Care team dressed up as skittles to celebrate Halloween this past October.*



*The second annual Oncology Primary Care clinic Christmas party was held this year at Gilligan's on the Green in Wyoming, OH, where everyone enjoyed gathering for food, fellowship and fun outside of work!*

While the majority of our services are provided at the Barrett Cancer Center, we are excited to announce that our team has started providing survivorship consultations at UC West Chester and oncology primary care visits at the Blood Cancer

Healing Center. We have found that proximity to the patients' oncology providers is key to optimal care coordination.

We have continued our collaboration with Cincinnati Children's and presented our first

joint grand rounds focused on the cardiotoxic effects of emerging cancer therapies. Dr. Erickson continues to see adult survivors of childhood cancers at CCHMC and, in November, presented at the 2nd International Pediatric Cardio-Oncology conference about the important role that primary care providers can play in the long-term cardiovascular health of cancer survivors.

Our most exciting clinical project involves planning for a dedicated cancer survivorship/oncology primary care fellowship, which is slated to start July 2026.

Our biannual educational offering was held March 29, 2024— "Cancer Cognitive Care: From Diagnosis to Treatment." Arranged as a hybrid meeting, both in-person and virtual, it attracted national leaders in the field as speakers as well as an audience across the country! We continue to offer the virtual video

## DIVISION UPDATE: Cancer Survivorship &amp; Supportive Services Cont.



HealthRHYTHMS drumming event held at Ault Park

series with facilitation, “Emerging from the Haze,” to educate cancer patients with cancer-related cognitive impairment as to its etiology and instruct patients how to engage in specific lifestyle choices to improve and compensate for that cognitive impairment. We are on our fifth cohort since its inception. The patients who participate find it empowering!

Our manager/coordinator, Jennie Martin, is certified as a facilitator for HealthRHYTHMS drumming; consequently, in coordination with the Cancer Support Community, she has led a 6-week session to high praises by those who participated. The drumming not only improves mood and aspects of cognitive impairment, but the drumming itself activates the Natural Killer cells that help to monitor and kill tumor cells, with the intent of improving the health of cancer patients.

Last but not least, our 10-week “improvisation” series in conjunction with the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company was an extension of an effort last year to engage and enable humor and social connection. Again, we collaborated with the Cancer Support Community with high participation and acclaim!

Research efforts are gathering momentum with our research scientist, Alique Topalian, PhD, funded as a co-investigator for a grant promoting increased awareness and screening for second primary cancers among cancer survivors. She is also a co-investigator on three other grants submitted for funding. Our group has had five abstracts presented as posters or oral presentations at national meetings this past year. One manuscript has been published this past year, with two more pending review, and another just submitted. Dr. Topalian’s leadership in

Adolescent and Young Adult (AYA) cancer survivors and post-treatment issues has led to roles in the Ohio River Valley Regional AYA working group of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, among others, in addition to her invitation to the Leadership Committee of the NCI’s INSPiRE: Interdisciplinary Network for Survivorship and Primary Care Research and Education, where she also serves as co-chair of the training and mentorship committee.

DIVISION UPDATE:

UNIVERSITY OF  
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MEDICINE

PROGRAM  
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## INTEGRATIVE MEDICINE

Sian Cotton, PhD, Director



Sian Cotton, PhD

Over the past year, we have made tremendous progress toward our vision of transforming healthcare from a system focused primarily on treating illness and disease, to one that also prioritizes prevention, self-care, and wellness. We achieve this by enhancing conventional care with evidence-based non-pharmacologic integrative therapies and a focus on modifiable lifestyle factors such as nutrition, movement, and stress reduction. We have strategically focused on enhancing our impact to increase our reach by targeting our clinical, education, research, and community efforts to prevent, heal, thrive.

### PREVENT

Prevention is imperative to improving the health of our community. This year, we have made remarkable progress in growing our strategic community collaborations, positioning us to significantly enhance our collective impact. We were honored to be highlighted in the new Advancing Health permanent gallery at the Cincinnati Museum Center, which sees approximately 1.4 million visitors annually, through interactive video recordings of evidence-based mind-body practices that will be showcased for the next twenty years.



The Osher Workplace Mindfulness Team at the Cincinnati Museum Center Advancing Health Exhibit Opening



Yoga in Nature at An Evening of Wellness in Nature at Ault Park that welcomed over 100 attendees

### HEAL

Integration is at the heart of what we do when providing clinical care. By horizontally embedding our program throughout the UC Health system, we are able to reach more patients by providing the lifestyle and integrative therapies that help increase patient's capacity for healing. We are very excited to be partners in the new UC Blood Cancer Healing Center, the nation's newest and most comprehensive cancer facility devoted to research and improved, whole-person care for blood cancer patients—all under one



Dr. Cotton at the Blood Cancer Healing Center ribbon cutting with UC and UC Health leaders

roof. I was honored to provide an intention-setting practice at the building's ribbon cutting, and our practitioners have been providing care in the building from day one. Perhaps even more exciting is that we are developing the wellness spaces expected to be complete in 2025, including a community learning kitchen, a group wellness space, and a rooftop healing garden.

### THRIVE

Our inaugural event in collaboration with the Cincinnati Parks Foundation launched our new Parks for Wellness program that will provide the estimated 5 million people who visit the Cincinnati Parks annually with opportunities to harness the healing power of nature by providing innovative, evidence-based care and a deeper connection to our local natural world and the communities in which we live and work. Additionally, we are actively working on incorporating nature prescriptions into the health system for interested patients as well as ongoing nature as medicine resources and support.

Everything we do is for one reason: to improve health for all. We cannot do any of this without the support of our key stakeholders, clinicians and staff, and our friends of the Center and community supporters. I am thrilled to share our advancements this year through clinical practice, advanced education, innovative research, and community engagement focused on integrative health and wellness, while extending immense gratitude to our many steadfast supporters and partners.



VIEW THE FULL  
ANNUAL REPORT:  
[bit.ly/OsherAbout](https://bit.ly/OsherAbout)

**SPOTLIGHT:**

## 2024 AAFP Award for Excellence in Graduate Medical Education Awarded to Resident, Dr. Sage Hunt

Each year since 1952, the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) recognizes twelve family medicine residents from across the country for their outstanding leadership, civic involvement, exemplary patient care, and aptitude for and interest in family medicine. In September 2024, Dr. Rachel (Sage) Hunt from the TCH/UC Family Medicine Residency was honored with the award during a ceremony at the AAFP Family Medicine Experience (FMX). Dr. Hunt was nominated for her outstanding work in residency, including chairing the program's Community Engagement Committee, serving as the resident lead for the intern

orientation Community Field Experience, co-planning the family medicine portion of the TCH Women in Medicine Outreach event, and assisting in restarting the Road to Medicine Outreach and Pathways program in partnership with a Cincinnati public school. Her actions demonstrate her commitment to inclusive excellence and health equity. This academic year, she is serving as a Chief Resident. She will graduate in June 2025, and we look forward to all the ways she will continue to contribute to the specialty of Family Medicine in the future!



Sage Hunt, MD, pictured holding her award alongside DFCM Chair, Christy O'Dea, MD at the AAFP Family Medicine Experience

**TRIVIA**  
How well do you know the history of the department? Circle the best answer. Be sure to write your name and submit this sheet for a chance to win some UC swag!

# 50 YEARS PAST YEARS FORWARD

UC Department of Family & Community Medicine  
Celebrating the Power of Family Medicine in Community

1. Who was the first family physician Dean of the UC College of Medicine?
    - a. Dr. Daniel Drake
    - b. Dr. Andrew Filak
    - c. Dr. Robert Smith
  2. Who was the sole female UC COM alumna who helped start Organized Family Medicine in 1945?
    - a. Lucy Oxley, MD
    - b. Mary Agna, MD
    - c. Marjorie Grad-Vockel, MD
  3. Who was the first Interim Chair and Program Director for the UC COM Department of Family & Community Medicine?
    - a. Mary Agna, MD
    - b. Robert Smith, MD
    - c. Frank Colon, MD
  4. As our first official Chair of the DFCM, Dr. Robert Smith was instrumental in the formation and construction of our department. How many years was he the chair of our department?
    - a. 10 years (from 1975 to 1985)
    - b. 16 years (from 1975 to 1991)
    - c. 18 years (from 1975 to 1993)
  5. The International Health Program was first offered as a track in residency in 1994, starting in a rural village in Guatemala called Santa Lucia.
    - a. True
    - b. False
  6. The Robert and Myfanwy Smith Endowed Chair is established in 2005. Who was the first to fill that chair?
    - a. Robert Graham, MD
    - b. Jeff Susman, MD
    - c. Gregg Warshaw, MD
  7. What year did the Residency Program relocate to The Christ Hospital, where it remains today?
    - a. 2000
    - b. 2002
    - c. 2003
    - d. 2004
  8. Andy Filak, MD was named the UC COM Dean 2018.
    - a. True
    - b. False
  9. After the Health Alliance broke apart, which interim Dean of the College of Medicine helped draft the bylaws for the creation of UC Health in August 2009?
    - a. David Stern, MD
    - b. Andy Filak, MD
    - c. Tom Boat, MD
  10. The Kautz Family Endowed Chair in Geriatric Medicine Education was founded in 2014. Who was the first to fill that chair?
    - a. Gregg Warshaw, MD
    - b. Irene Hamrick, MD
    - c. Jeff Schlaudecker, MD
  11. Who was the director of the Pre-doctoral Division who led the successful effort to have a Family Medicine Clerkship in the 3rd year of the UC COM Medical education program?
    - a. Charles Margolis
    - b. Jack Kues
    - c. Jeff Heck
  12. Who was the first graduate from a Combined Family Medicine-Psychiatry Program in the United States?
    - a. Aletha Tippet (1999)
    - b. Lisa Stanken (2000)
    - c. Lisa Cantor (2000)
    - d. Jennie Hahn (2001)
- BONUS:**  
In what building was the first ambulatory practice started by the Department of Family Medicine in 1975.
- a. The Ambulatory Building next to Mont Reid Pavilion
  - b. On Ruther Ave in Clifton
  - c. K Pavilion
  - d. In a temporary trailer on Eden Ave.
- Answers on pg. 8

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*The University of Cincinnati Department of Family & Community Medicine 50th Anniversary Trivia Answers:  
1. a. | 2. a. | 3. a. | 4. b. | 5. b. | 6. a. | 7. c. | 8. a. | 9. b. | 10. c. | 11. d. | 12. c. | Bonus: c.*



*Our 50th Anniversary Celebration emcee, Chris Lewis, MD, pictured in front of the crowd at the celebration dinner in November 2024*