Wendell is ‘here for a reason’

Ohio State’s College of Medicine will welcome alumni this weekend for the 59th Annual Medical Alumni Society Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. Physicians, scientists and medical educators from around the world will reunite at Ohio State to reminisce about their Buckeye roots, meet with colleagues, take part in a continuing medical education program, tour our campus and enjoy food, friendship and football.

A special educational program, Technology in Relationship Centered Care, will be presented by the Center for Continuing Medical Education. Tours of campus including the Medical Center Expansion (James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute and Critical Care Center) and the newly expanded Clinical Skills Education and Assessment Center will be offered for alumni.

“We are proud of Ohio State’s history of providing the nation and, indeed, the world with some of the finest physicians, scientists and medical educators to serve the healthcare needs of our fellow human beings, both at home and abroad. Our alumni and residency graduates — more than 13,000 strong — live and practice in every county in Ohio, in every state in the nation and in 43 nations around the world. Our alumni can be proud of belonging to this dedicated and committed family of OSU physicians,” says Charles J. Lockwood, MD, MHCM, dean of Ohio State’s College of Medicine.

As part of their legacy, College of Medicine alumni continue to pay forward, generously helping Ohio State recruit and educate the best and brightest future physicians, scientists and medical educators. Today’s graduates leave medical school with an average debt of more than $152,000. The burden of this debt affects students’ choice of medical school, their ability to enhance their education through valuable learning experiences, their selection of medical professions and even decisions as personal as where to live, when to marry and whether to start a family.

Now, more than ever before, Ohio State alumni are “dotting the i in scholarship” with their generous donations to our medical students through the Dean’s Scholarship Fund. This fund seeks to support students in their decision to choose Ohio State and to fulfill their promise as exceptional medical professionals serving Ohio and the world.

Learn more about how to support medical education by contacting Ryann Eff at 685-1963 or visiting medicine.osu.edu/donate.
Lifesaving critical care for patients with burns

Joe Meaney | The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Ohio State's Burn Center is the only center in central Ohio verified for the treatment of adults with burns, but it's also much more than that. It's part of the nationally ranked critical care program at Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center. And, as part of Ohio State's P4 Health program, the Burn Center's mission is to prevent burn injuries, to provide community and first responder education, to deliver personalized care along the continuum of burn care and to conduct research to improve the lives of burn patients.

The OSU Burn Center is verified by the American College of Surgeons and the American Burn Association (ABA). Verified burn centers must take part in a rigorous review program. Only 62 burn centers nationwide meet these standards, demonstrating that they can provide optimal care for burn patients from the time the injury occurs through rehabilitation. A burn center verification provides a true mark of distinction and is an indicator to the government, third-party payers, patients and their families that the center provides the best personalized care possible from admission through discharge. According to OSU Burn Center director, Larry Jones, MD, the expert level of care provided to Ohio State patients begins the day they arrive in our medical center.

THE CARE TEAM

The multidisciplinary team consisting of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, social workers, case managers, dietitians, psychologists and chaplain help make the Ohio State's Burn Center the best in the region. The team supports the patient and family from burn victim to burn survivor. Burn specialists work in collaboration with trauma specialists in Ohio State's Level I Trauma Center, giving burn patients the expert care they need, no matter the severity of the injury. “As the only accredited Level I Trauma Center with a verified Adult Burn Center in the region, Ohio State is uniquely qualified to care for injured patients regardless of the type of trauma or burn,” explains Jones.

Throughout their care, patients receive a comprehensive and personalized treatment plan appropriate for their specific needs. A burn injury impacts patients physically, mentally, emotionally and socially, and the multidisciplinary team works to ensure that the patients' needs are met and exceeded. This multidisciplinary team fosters the best outcomes for our patients and families. Our SOAR volunteers provide support to patients and families helping with the transition from burn victim to burn survivor.

COMMUNITY CARING

After discharge, support continues for the patient and family. Some patients participate in rehabilitation care at Ohio State's nationally ranked Dodd Hall. The Burn Center sponsors the Buckeye Burn Support Group, which provides professional support and guidance to both the patients and their families as former burn patients transition back to their productive lives.

Since 2007, Ohio State's Burn Center has also held an annual camp. Survivors, their families and Burn Center staff enjoy a weekend at Camp Joy in southern Ohio playing games, participating in team building activities, support groups and other group activities. Survivors and their families get the chance to connect and share with others who have experienced similar challenges, providing both inspiration and support.

Annual fundraising events include a golf outing and a 5K run. The Central Ohio Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers sponsors this yearly golf outing in the Fall. Members of the burn team organize the annual 5K run, Blaze the Trail. Funds raised through the events benefit OSU’s burn development fund, which includes purchasing dressing supplies and burn garments and helping non-physician members of the burn care team to improve their skills through professional education opportunities.

The Burn Center is also strengthening its ties with the Columbus Fire Department to get proper care as quickly as possible for community members who suffer burns. This is done by providing ongoing education to first responders.

The Burn Center also organizes burn prevention outreach programs such as First Responders Education and Advanced Burn Life Support education – some of the Center's many efforts to prevent members of our community from experiencing the devastating effects of burns.

But for Ohio State... Serving Our Community

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center is proud to be central Ohio's only academic medical center, offering many treatments and services (such as the only adult Burn Center in central Ohio – see above) that aren't available at other hospitals. And, through a comprehensive program of basic and clinical research along with educational excellence, Ohio State is creating the future of medicine, ensuring exceptional care for the next generation.

We make sure that everyone who comes to Ohio State receives the care that they need, regardless of their ability to pay. Last year, Ohio State provided more than $168 million in care and support to the underserved members of our community.

Ohio State community health programs reach out to people across our region regardless of race, age, faith or ability to pay. These programs include lectures, presentations, health fairs, support groups, free clinics, screenings, donated clinic time and mobile units.

University East Community Day, held in June at OSU CarePoint East, offered health screenings and information to hundreds of participants. In fact, 167 adult screenings were provided along with 81 school and sport physicals. The event was staffed by clinical and non-clinical volunteers from Ohio State in partnership with community members and organizations.
Samantha Beasore | The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

Arwa Shana'ah, MD, grew up in Amman, Jordan, where she discovered at an early age the role that society, family and religion can play in one's life. In a family of five, Shana'ah learned the importance of knowing how to work successfully with others, and also how to care for others. Her father, a first generation scholar and physician, instilled in his children the significance of an education.

These early lessons and the love of learning she inherited from her father helped Shana'ah begin her journey toward medicine, the United States and eventually Ohio State.

Shana'ah is an assistant clinical professor in the Pathology Department. She received her medical degree at the University of Jordan and came to the United States in 1993 to continue her residency training.

"I had already started a program in Jordan, and I knew, all my colleagues knew, a lot of my professors had already said that the U.S. is where you need to go to get a better education," explains Shana'ah.

Shana'ah was drawn to Pathology, which literally is the "science of disease," because she was interested in diagnosing diseases.

"It's very interesting," Shana'ah says of Pathology, "because it's kind of like a puzzle, for me at least. You put together different pieces of this puzzle to try to come to a final answer."

Shana'ah believes that while diversity brings enrichment to any environment, it particularly enriches the medical environment.

"I think dealing with people from different parts of the world enlightens you, makes you think of things in a different way, and broadens your horizons to some degree. I think that's always something I've appreciated," she says.

See and hear Shana'ah's journey to Ohio State at go.osu.edu/PPJ.

About 'Journey to Innovation'

Diversity in people and ideas is a core value and strength of The Ohio State University and its Wexner Medical Center. The video series "Journey to Innovation" shares the stories of 12 foreign-born physicians who have assembled several teams with representatives from all areas of the Medical Center. The initial work, which you will hear more about in coming weeks, is focused on six key areas: Clinical Care, Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency, Research, Electronic Information Exchange, Education, and Finances.

Faculty and staff of Ohio State's Wexner Medical Center can learn more about this initiative on OneSource and send their suggestions to createthefuturenow@osumc.edu.

Ohio State recruited for NFL studies

Ohio State is among 15 organizations nationwide selected by NFL Charities, an affiliate of the National Football League, to share in a $1.5 million grant funding sports-related medical research. The majority of the funds are aimed at concussion prevention and treatment. Research will focus on the use of stem cells in nervous system injuries, MRI assessments of concussion injuries, and the effect of temperature on the severity of potential brain injuries.

Caligiuri elected to national post

Michael A. Caligiuri, MD, director of Ohio State’s Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute (OSUCCC – James), has been elected vice president of the Society for Natural Immunity. He will serve a three-year term as vice president, followed by a three-year term as president.

Sen honored by College of Engineering

Chandan K. Sen, PhD, associate dean for Translational and Applied Research, received the 2012 Building Bridges Excellence Award from Ohio State’s College of Engineering. The award is given annually to a non-Engineering faculty member at Ohio State whose collaborative work with Engineering advances the excellence, impact and reputation of the University and the colleges involved. Sen’s collaborations with Engineering range from imaging to tissue regeneration and device development.

Learn more good news about Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center so that you can share our advancements and accomplishments with friends and family in person or through social media by visiting the News and Media Room at medicalcenter.osu.edu.
Dr. Robert Higgins is a nationally renowned adult cardiac and transplant surgeon whose work in personalized transplant care at Ohio State is saving lives. Like Dr. Higgins, THE WORLD’S BEST AND BRIGHTEST PHYSICIANS AND RESEARCHERS ARE COMING TO OHIO STATE to create a new model for health care that is predictive, preventive, personalized and participatory. We call it P4 Medicine.

What attracted me to Ohio State?
Ohio State’s visionary leadership recognizes the value of investing in critical programs like heart and transplantation, and has given me and my colleagues the tools to save hundreds of lives, teach future generations of surgeons and physicians, and advance the quality of our care through lifesaving research.

How am I advancing personalized health care at Ohio State?
From islet cell transplants for type 1 diabetes, to minimally invasive surgical techniques that reduce recovery times, to immunosuppression drugs that avoid complications with steroids, our team of dedicated transplant experts personalizes care to dramatically improve quality of life and even save lives. It’s a pretty awesome opportunity.

But for Ohio State...I would not have been able to have such a big impact on the lives of so many deserving patients. Ohio State is creating a powerful platform to improve health care and save lives, and I really feel privileged to be part of such a great team.

Ohio State’s reputation for excellence is drawing world-class talent to Columbus. WE HAVE ATTRACTED MORE THAN 215 EXPERTS IN 2 YEARS, AND 87 PERCENT OF CENTRAL OHIO’S BEST DOCTORS ARE OHIO STATE FACULTY. Through their skill and dedication, we are delivering on our promise to improve people’s lives, and giving central Ohioans access to the very best care.

Dr. Robert Higgins
Director of Ohio State’s Comprehensive Transplant Center
Director of Ohio State’s Division of Cardiac Surgery
Past President of United Network for Organ Sharing
Past President of the Society of Black Academic Surgeons
Came to Ohio State from Rush University in Chicago in 2010