

# ALUMNI

MAYO CLINIC ISSUE 2 2019



MAYO CLINIC  
EXPANDS FOOTPRINT

WE ARE  
THE WORLD

MAGGYVER  
PROJECT

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All roads lead to Rochester

## MAYO CLINIC UPDATE

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**About the cover:** Physicians at Mayo Clinic's new London clinic in partnership with Oxford University include Robert Orford, M.D. (I '75), Sandeep Kapur, M.B.B.S., Sihame Benmira, M.B.B.S., and Kevin Fleming, M.D. (I '90, GERI '92).



# MAYO CLINIC PBS DOCUMENTARY REACHES MORE THAN 6 MILLION



**T**he documentary “The Mayo Clinic: Faith – Hope – Science” debuted on PBS in September. Almost 6 million people watched the broadcast and another 135,000 watched on other platforms. The two-hour documentary was executive produced by Ken Burns, who spent more than two years at Mayo Clinic locations interviewing subjects. Burns’ body of work includes “The National Parks,” “Baseball,” “The Civil War” and “The Vietnam War.”

The documentary tells the story of William Worrall Mayo, who began practicing medicine with his sons Will and Charlie in the late 1800s in Rochester, Minnesota. When a deadly tornado tore through their small community in 1883, the Mayos took charge of recovery efforts, enlisting the help of the nearby Sisters of Saint Francis to care for patients. Afterward, Mother Alfred Moes, the leader of the convent, told Dr. Mayo she had a vision from God that instructed her to build a hospital with him as its director. She believed it would become world renowned for its medical arts.

“The Mayo Clinic: Faith – Hope – Science” blends historical narrative with contemporary patient stories and shows how Mayo Clinic has met the demands of health care for 150 years. Patients featured in the documentary from all three Mayo

Clinic campuses include a child with a brain tumor from Utah who was treated with proton beam therapy; a pregnant woman with eye cancer from North Dakota; a Florida woman who has myositis, diabetes and leukemia; a young woman from North Carolina who was born with Ebstein’s anomaly; and a South Dakota man who had pancreatic cancer.

## Highlights of “The Mayo Clinic: Faith – Hope – Science”

- Interviews with patients including John McCain and the Dalai Lama
- Narrator Peter Coyote
- Voiceovers by Tom Hanks, Sam Waterston, Kevin Conway, Blythe Danner, Josh Lucas, Carolyn McCormick and Gene Jones
- Directors Ken Burns, Erik Ewers and Christopher Loren Ewers

Purchase the DVD or companion book, which includes more than 400 archival and modern images and the complete film script: [marketplace.mayoclinic.com](http://marketplace.mayoclinic.com)

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Executive producer Ken Burns is interviewed by Mayo Clinic staff.





## Patients share stories in documentary

### **John McCain, Phoenix, Arizona**

"I can't tell you how important the care, concern and affection that the people at Mayo treated me with had such a beneficial effect on my health. I realize that all this time of ours comes to an end. They've been very straight with me. They've told me the odds and they told me exactly what they're doing. And that's so important, because then you can plan what time you have left."

### **Christopher Feenstra, Salt Lake City, Utah**

"I know Mayo Clinic has a reputation, but I didn't understand what that was. I didn't get it until Abigail got brain cancer. ... We had a lot of different experiences with different health care across the nation. What blew me away about the Mayo experience was that it showed me what was lacking in other places. ... I've never experienced health care in a team like Abigail has. There's hope for her future."

### **Tom Brokaw, originally from Yankton, South Dakota**

"I was a child growing up in the Midwest, and the Mayo Clinic was a secular temple. It was something that we could all be proud of even if we had no association with it. And it was there in Rochester, Minnesota, like it had risen up out of the earth in some way."



**Dalai Lama, India**

"Without losing hope, there's possibility to overcome. Our very life, you see, [is] based on hope, so hope is very, very important for our survival."

**Anna Jenkins, Durham, North Carolina**

"The only reason we decided not to stay in North Carolina for this surgery was because of Dr. (Joseph, TS '96) Dearani's experience. The surgeon at home has only done 15 Ebstein's anomaly surgeries. But Dr. Dearani has managed to do 800. So the sheer numbers were unbelievable. ... It would have been convenient to stay at home and not to have flights and be living out of a hotel room for a week. ... And once my chest plate heals, in six to eight weeks down the road, I hope to get back into rowing and join the team and not be too far behind. I think my heart is in a good place."

**Karl Schenk, Mission Hill, South Dakota**

"There's a lot of pessimism in the medical community regarding pancreatic cancer. You have two options: do nothing and die or take a chance on living. The choice is easy. You just need a physician, a surgeon, that's willing to have that same mind-set. ... The normal protocol for pancreatic cancer is to do the surgery first, and then treat with chemotherapy. The protocols here at Mayo are reversed, and they're having much better results."

[After treatment] "Currently, I am in remission. They can't find cancer in my body at this time. I think Dr. (Mark, CI '06, S '09) Truty got it, and I've got another 25, 30 years in front of me for sure. When no one else believed, when no one else was giving me options, Mark wouldn't give up. If nothing else, even if your time is limited, you can walk away from Mayo with hope."



# MAYO CLINIC EXPANDS ITS FOOTPRINT



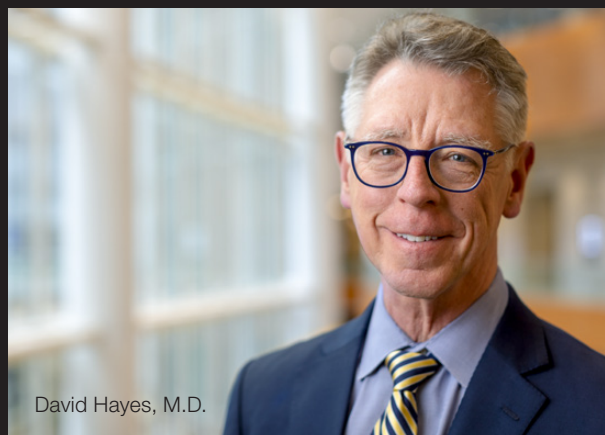
Mayo Clinic's international plan is bolder than ever before as evidenced by its first foray into patient care outside the U.S. A joint venture with Oxford University that was three years in the planning opened this summer.

"We've realized there's a demand for Mayo Clinic services abroad, and we'd like to provide those services in a way where we can maintain the Mayo Clinic culture and philosophy," says David Hayes, M.D. (I '79, CV '82), medical director, Provider Relations. "Physicians in many countries want to keep their patients local, with help from academic



medical centers to deliver tertiary and quaternary care. As we expand our international footprint in a quest to be the global authority in medicine, we will need a physical presence in some locations. As we explore opportunities, we might seek partnerships with other organizations, as we have with Oxford. In others, we might go the independent route.”

Dr. Hayes says Mayo Clinic would like to leverage the expertise of alumni as international opportunities arise. “When we develop additional international relationships or projects, we may look to alumni in those areas to help fulfill our needs.”



David Hayes, M.D.



# MAYO CLINIC CHUFFED ABOUT LONDON CLINIC



This summer Mayo Clinic opened a state-of-the-art clinic at 15 Portland Place in the Marylebone district of Central London. Mayo Clinic Healthcare in partnership with Oxford University Clinic is located in the heart of the Harley Street area, historically known for serving the medical needs of the British and foreign nationals alike.

The medical facility is the result of a strategic relationship among Mayo Clinic, the University of Oxford and the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. The clinic provides predominantly preventive medicine screening and diagnosis based on the Mayo Clinic Executive Health Program and using the Mayo Model of Care.

"The new clinic provides head-to-toe evaluation using evidence-based methodologies and the latest technological advances for persons seeking a more thorough, proactive approach than is typically available in common practice," says Stephen Cassivi, M.D. (TS '02), medical director of the clinic in London. "The clinic is not intended to compete with England's National Health Service or be a replacement for primary care. We provide individualized evaluations and benefit from access to the world's best medical experts at Mayo Clinic and Oxford."

The clinic is staffed by four internal medicine physicians — two from the U.K. and two from Mayo Clinic. Sihame Benmira, M.B.B.S., and Sandeep Kapur, M.B.B.S., are experts recruited from their practices in the London area. They have joined Robert Orford, M.D. (I '75), and Kevin Fleming, M.D. (I '90, GERI '92), who

have relocated to London from Mayo Clinic in Arizona and Rochester, respectively.

"We are pleased to join with Oxford University to partner in clinical practice areas and also develop meaningful contributions in education and research endeavors," says Dr. Cassivi. "We likely will add specialists at the clinic in the future, and we are actively engaged in furthering education and research components of the Mayo Clinic-Oxford relationship, including an exchange of medical students and research trainees."

"Dr. William J. Mayo said, 'Science knows no country.' We believe this very real extension of the Mayo Model of Care is a tangible manifestation of his vision."

## About Mayo Clinic Healthcare in partnership with Oxford University Clinic

15 Portland Place, Marylebone, London

- World-class preventive care
- Seamless access to subspecialty consultation from Mayo Clinic and Oxford University
- Comprehensive, customized tests and assessments tailored to individual needs
- Executive lounge and business hubs
- Strategies to optimize individual health
- Advanced CT and MRI
- Endoscopy suite
- Concierge services

Stephen Cassivi, M.D. (second from right), is medical director of the clinic in London. The clinic is staffed by Kevin Fleming, M.D., Sandeep Kapur, M.B.B.S., Robert Orford, M.D., and Sihame Benmira, M.B.B.S.





James Bower, M.D.



# MAYO CLINIC ABROAD



## *A global health resource*

**M**ayo Clinic Abroad is a resource for Mayo employees who are involved or interested in global health work. The mission of Mayo Clinic Abroad is to provide expert and sustainable medical education and research in medically underserved areas of the globe. This involves assisting Mayo Clinic medical and health experts who choose to deploy to under-resourced locations abroad to train providers and mentor researchers.

Mayo Clinic Abroad:

- Catalogs and coordinates global health efforts of employees
- Facilitates networking among those working on global health initiatives
- Advises employees about their health and safety in foreign locations
- Offers guidelines about optimal use of trip time for global health work
- Provides information about scholarship funds for humanitarian work, including the new Mayo Clinic Alumni Association Humanitarian Endowment, open to internal and external alumni (page 38) and scholarship for Mayo Clinic allied health staff to accompany Mayo consultants on overseas work
- Extends the reach of Mayo Clinic globally
- Showcases opportunities for staff to strengthen their understanding and cultural competencies in serving a diverse patient base
- Does not fund or sponsor trips

“For many years Mayo Clinic staff have engaged in global health projects on their own,” says James Bower, M.D. (N ’95, MD ’96), medical director of Mayo Clinic Abroad and chair of the Division of Movement Disorders in the Department of Neurology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. “Mayo Clinic Abroad intends to help them learn about each other’s work and communicate with each other.”

This resource is dependent on Mayo employees to submit information about their global health projects to a shared database. “The more people who enter their information, the more useful the tool will be in providing host country and project details and key contacts,” says Dr. Bower. “As we increasingly recognize individuals doing work in resource-poor areas, we will be better positioned to coordinate this activity and extend Mayo’s educational talents across the globe.”

Increasingly, younger physicians are active in global health, according to Dr. Bower. “They’ve had global health opportunities from the day they entered college and are generally more involved in volunteerism than previous generations. That grassroots involvement has contributed to our leadership becoming more aware of the need to facilitate their efforts.”

*Mayo Clinic alumni who are interested in collaborating with Mayo Clinic physicians and scientists on global health projects can visit [alumniassociation.mayo.edu/global-health-activities](http://alumniassociation.mayo.edu/global-health-activities) to learn about ongoing activities.*



# 'I'M NOT FIT TO TIE THEIR SHOELACES'

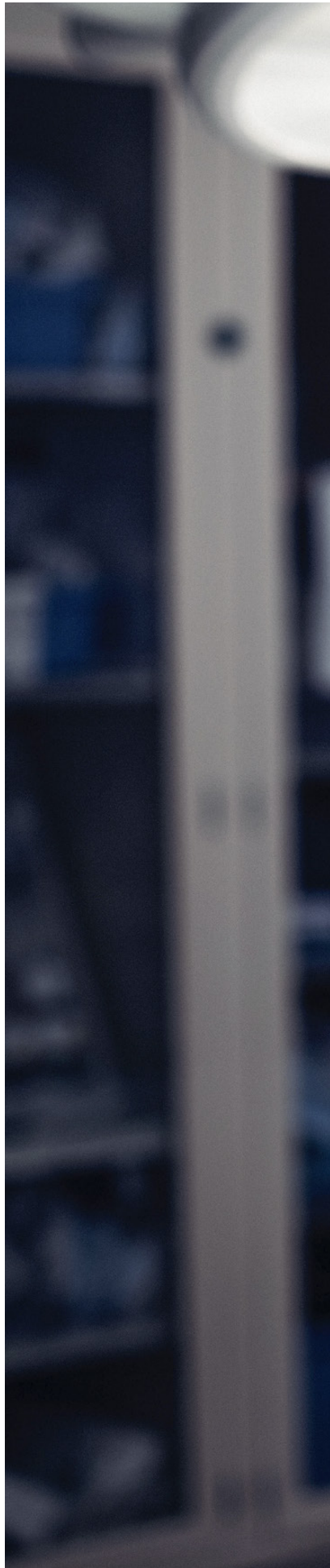


**C**hristopher Moir, M.D. (PHYS '89), Division of Pediatric Surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, traveled a lot as a kid; his father was a pilot. As a medical student in British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, Dr. Moir did short-term surgical mission work in rural Honduras and, as a resident, ran a clinic there.

"It opened up a new way of thinking about delivering health care," he says. "Stepping out of our Western system of health care into countries with a huge burden of disease, limited resources, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of knowledge and skills to address problems was revelatory. In that environment, patient contact is unvarnished — much more intense and meaningful. What you do can have a greater impact on the patient because you don't have a well-developed system supporting you. You're required to work at a higher standard."

Today Dr. Moir's global medical efforts focus on training, primarily in Cameroon and Kenya. Four times a year he goes to Africa for two-week stints as a visiting faculty member. He provides classroom surgical instruction and what he calls respite care.

"Transferring our knowledge to African surgeons is important and similar to training surgical residents at Mayo Clinic," he says. "The surgical residents overseas are every bit as skilled and knowledgeable as our own residents. What they lack is the opportunity to interact with different surgical staff. Adjunct faculty bring fresh ideas and new experiences and ways of doing things. They're hungry for that opportunity."







Top: Surgical residents and teaching staff at a hospital in Cameroon, where Christopher Moir, M.D., is a visiting faculty member. At right: Dr. Moir scrubs in and operates with Cameroonian residents to teach, support, encourage and give attending staff a break.



**“It brings me closer to my roots as to why I became a physician. I wanted to help and serve others.”**

– Christopher Moir, M.D.

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“In addition to classroom teaching, residents need face-to-face practical teaching. I scrub in and operate with them, which provides support and encouragement. It also gives the attending staff a break, which keeps them working longer and at a higher level for improved patient care.”

Staff and residents at the hospital in Cameroon communicate with Dr. Moir regularly and save difficult cases for his visits. One of those was a major esophageal gastric resection due to lye ingestion, which completely destroyed the patient’s esophagus and created an inflammatory mass in the chest, stuck to the heart and great vessels. Even an experienced surgeon such as Dr. Moir was intimidated.

“I knew about the case in advance, but it was worse than I anticipated,” he says. “We had no critical care support and were in the chest without minimally invasive visualization. We were operating almost blindly. And yet the mass was resected cleanly, and we created a new way for the child to swallow. Despite the difficulties, he did really well. Global medical care pushes you beyond your comfort zone with less high-tech imaging, fewer support systems and higher personal stakes on the outcomes.”

Dr. Moir describes his motivation to participate in global health. “It brings me closer to my roots as to why I became a physician. I wanted to help and serve others. Of course, that happens every day at Mayo Clinic, but I also have a strong desire

to pass on what I’ve learned and concretely express my gratitude for the training, knowledge and experience Mayo Clinic has given me. I bring that expertise to a region and continent suffering under a huge surgical burden of disease. Helping meet those needs through education and training new staff is very satisfying to me. I return to Mayo with a renewed appreciation of what it means to care for others in medicine.

“The residents I work with in Africa are truly joyful individuals who are absolutely dedicated to learning and caring for their surgical patients. The future of these physicians will be in difficult places such as Uganda and South Sudan, with low pay, long hours and machines that may not work. They demonstrate gratitude and a strong work ethic and have much tougher lives than I’ll ever have. Instead of complaining, they look outward, focusing on improving the lives of others rather than themselves. I’m not fit to tie their shoelaces.”

Dr. Moir recommends global health endeavors: “If you’re unsure whether you’re qualified to do it, you’re qualified. It’s a matter of getting up and going to work every day you’re there. Anyone can do it; there’s a job for you. You have to enter into it with the attitude that you’re there to serve others, accept the challenges and be willing to do what you’re told, not what you want. The more we can responsibly study and teach global health, the better.”





# ‘AMONG THE MOST REWARDING PARTS OF MY CAREER’



**B**rendan Lanpher, M.D. (PD '04), Department of Clinical Genomics at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, traveled extensively when he was growing up. He had relatives in the U.S. Foreign Service, which took his family to Europe, Africa, Central America, South America, Australia and Asia.

“Seeing other cultures was part of my upbringing, so I assumed I’d continue international travel during my medical training,” says Dr. Lanpher. “During my pediatric residency, I talked to Dr. Phil Fischer (PD '99, Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, Mayo Clinic in Rochester) about international medicine and knew I wanted to be part of it. I wanted to see how other cultures approach disease.”

Prior to joining the Mayo Clinic staff, Dr. Lanpher traveled to China with a dietitian to teach the medical community how to identify and treat phenylketonuria (PKU), which involves following a low-protein diet. PKU screening in newborns started in the U.S. in 1968. China adopted universal screening in 2011.



Brendan Lanpher, M.D., seeing children with congenital heart disease in Uganda, 2011 to 2013.

“Screening is one part of the equation; the other part is treating the disorder once it’s been identified, which necessitates building processes into the public health system,” says Dr. Lanpher. “Not all countries, including China, require nutrition labels on food, so people can’t tell how much protein is in their food. That makes it difficult for parents to feed their affected children properly. We recommended China’s public health system invest in nutrition research to generate the data needed. It’s a long-term but necessary endeavor.”

As a Mayo Clinic staff member, Dr. Lanpher has taught physicians in Serbia and the Republic of Georgia about clinical genetics and metabolic diseases, working with the Neonatology Society of Georgia. “The U.S. and Mayo Clinic in particular are leaders in population-based screening,” he says. “Screening for these diseases in newborns is lifesaving and transformative. In most parts of the world, metabolic disorders aren’t detected in time for patients to get optimal care.”

Dr. Lanpher says those countries are at the level the U.S. was at about 30 years ago. “Our efforts have focused on informing physicians about the technology and systems needed to make sure every baby is accounted for, screened and followed up with when necessary. The chemistry itself isn’t especially difficult when you have the right machines and chemists. We share our patient stories so physicians can see that these diseases don’t have to be lethal or disabling anymore.

“It’s frustrating to know that so many people out there aren’t getting care that is considered standard in the U.S. Given the resources and knowledge we have, I feel like we have a responsibility to help people everywhere. Physicians I’ve worked with in resource-deprived countries know very well what they’re missing. Their knowledge outstrips their ability to provide care due to resource issues. Being able to help them has been among the most rewarding parts of my career. I recommend everyone say yes if they have an opportunity to engage in global medicine.”



## VERIFICATION RESOURCE FOR ALUMNI

When Mayo Clinic alumni need information for employment or state licensing, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science Student Services can help with:

- Training and education verification including state medical board training verification forms
- Malpractice and claims history
- Professional liability coverage information
- Certificate of insurance

Requests from credentialing services and alumni must be in writing (email or fax). Credentialing services must include a release of information form signed by the alumnus. Submissions from alumni will be followed by an email with a Mayo Clinic release form to sign and return before the request is processed.

- Email [msgmeverification@mayo.edu](mailto:msgmeverification@mayo.edu)
- Fax 507-538-0771
- Phone 507-538-7129



# WE ARE THE WORLD



*Mayo Clinic is international mecca for physicians and scientists*

From the earliest days, physicians and scientists have flocked to Mayo Clinic from all over the world to learn: Foreign-born physicians in the early days at Mayo Clinic included Donald Balfour, M.D., of Canada, arriving in 1907; Gordon New, M.D., of Canada, 1910; Frank Smithies, M.D., from England in 1910; Russell Carmen, M.D., of Canada, 1913; Samuel Amberg, M.D., of Germany, 1921; Ambrose Lockwood, M.D., from Canada, 1921; Georgine Luden, M.D., Ph.D., who came from the Netherlands in 1924; and James Learmonth, M.D., of Scotland, arriving in 1929.

## **Additions to the richness of the Mayo Clinic tapestry**

Today is no different. Thousands of international physicians and scientists have trained or worked at Mayo Clinic. The new president and CEO, Gianrico Farrugia, M.D. (I '91, GI '94), is from Malta.

Chair of Mayo Clinic's Personnel Committee Charanjit Rihal, M.D. (I '89, CV '93), says Mayo looks for the best of the best regardless of where physicians and scientists are from. "Whether physicians and scientists are foreign or domestically trained, we seek excellence in patient care and contributions to education and research. We're fortunate to have outstanding applicants for our education programs and staff positions from around the world."

Dr. Rihal came to Mayo Clinic in Rochester from Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, in 1986 for residency and fellowship. "Mayo Clinic offers the best in training — that's what attracted me," says Dr. Rihal, the William S. and Ann Atherton Professor of Cardiology Honoring Robert L. Frye, M.D. "Homestead Village, where I lived as a trainee, was like a microcosm of the U.S. I loved being around people from so many places who represented a variety of experiences and perspectives. It was tremendously fun and exciting."

He returned to Canada for three years after training and came back to Rochester when he was invited to join the staff in 1995. "Having had the Mayo experience spoils you for all other places," he says. "In the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine alone, we have staff from all over the U.S. and Canada as well as Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Uruguay, Colombia, France, the U.K., Germany, Nigeria, South Africa, Pakistan, India, China, Korea, Singapore and Australia. Other large departments are much the same — a collection of the 'best of the best' from around the world.

"Mayo Clinic considers itself to be a resource for humanity. The patients we serve are international. Having staff who represent countries around the globe adds to the richness of the Mayo Clinic tapestry."





# SADEER ALZUBAIDI, M.D.

*Iraq*



**S**adeer (Sid) Alzubaidi, M.D. (RD '18), is from Baghdad, Iraq, where he attended medical school. His passion was to treat cancer, which had affected his father and uncle.

"When I was in medical school in the 1990s, King Hussein of Jordan landed in Rochester, Minnesota, for cancer treatment at Mayo Clinic," says Dr. Alzubaidi. "He was one of the most respected figures in the Middle East and could have gone anywhere in the world for care. He chose Mayo Clinic. That was a significant point in my life. I started looking at the Mayo Clinic story and learning about the Mayo brothers and the Sisters of Saint Francis. I dreamed of being there."

Dr. Alzubaidi found the road to securing a residency in the U.S. challenging despite high test scores, research and volunteer work in the U.S. after medical school. "Foreign graduates are underdogs, especially in big-name programs," he says. "You need someone to believe in you. A friend in California told me not to get discouraged, saying 'You only need one interview.' I applied to 132 programs and got exactly one interview. I was passionate about radiology and would have kept applying year after year and doing more research if I'd had to."

Dr. Alzubaidi completed a residency in radiology at Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center in Detroit, Michigan, followed by a fellowship in

vascular and interventional radiology at MD Anderson in Houston, Texas.

He joined the Department of Radiology at Mayo Clinic in Arizona in January 2018 as an interventional radiologist with special interest in interventional oncology.

"The environment at Mayo Clinic is amazing," says Dr. Alzubaidi. "It's diverse and multicultural. Everybody is invested in your success, and you're invested in others' success. I've felt nothing but welcomed with open arms. I belong to a big, happy family across Mayo Clinic with collegial, professional, nice colleagues."

"The resources and research opportunities at Mayo are unlimited. We go the extra mile in the service we provide. I want to teach aspiring young minds, including medical students, and get them to like interventional radiology. I also like to teach radiology residents and fellows about the elegance of interventional radiology."

Dr. Alzubaidi says everybody wants to work at Mayo Clinic. "You're competing with the whole world for these jobs. Working in the U.S. and at Mayo Clinic has been a great opportunity I don't take for granted. Now I go to work because I want to, not because I have to. That's why I wake up every morning with a thought that something wonderful is about to happen. I'm very fortunate to be here."

# YAN BI, M.D., PH.D.

*China*



**Y**an Bi, M.D., Ph.D. (GI '14, GIPN '15), Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Mayo Clinic in Florida, received her medical degree in China but was dismayed by the medical system there.

"I wasn't very happy," she says. "I had a young patient with pancreatic cancer who was in great pain. He had two little children and wanted treatment to extend his life. We had nothing to offer him. He died on my shift, and it was a great shock to me. I was at the best hospital in China, but we had nothing to offer this patient. I'd wanted to be a doctor since I was 5 or 6 years old and never considered another path, but I wanted to find ways to better understand disease so I could help patients in the clinic. I decided to go to the U.S. for more training."

Dr. Bi completed a Ph.D. focused on pancreatic physiology at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, studying pancreatic and breast cancer.

"Armed with more basic science knowledge, I decided to return to clinical care," says Dr. Bi.

She completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Brackenridge Hospital in Austin and still wasn't done. "My interest in the pancreas hadn't waned, and I wanted more advanced training," she says. In 2011 Dr. Bi joined the lab of Vijay Shah, M.D. (GI '98), chair, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, studying the microenvironment of pancreatic cancer in a clinical fellowship.

"I was offered a fellowship at another leading academic medical center, but their research 'shield' was not as strong as Mayo's, and I wanted to be a physician-scientist," says Dr. Bi. "I also believed I couldn't find better mentors than those at Mayo Clinic. Choosing Mayo was the best decision I've ever made. Mayo has such a collegial environment. It's not a hierarchy like most universities. Regardless of your rank, everyone treats you with respect. The first time I visited Mayo Clinic, Dr. Shah, the fellowship program director, escorted me to the shuttle to the Minneapolis airport rather than send me on my own, which was amazing. I can easily talk with my department chair without any concern. At Mayo we value everyone on the patient care team equally."

"Mayo allows me as much time as I need with patients, which is perhaps unique in the world. Mayo's culture is exceptional. I've been at 10 institutions during my career, so I have a good basis for comparison."

Two years ago Dr. Bi relocated to Mayo's Florida campus when her husband accepted a job in the state. She recently started a clinical trial of a therapy for acute pancreatitis and is building her own translational research program, describing herself as a "cross-talker between the bench and bed."

"My experiences at Mayo have been the most exciting of my career," says Dr. Bi. "I am grateful for the opportunities I've had to practice medicine the right way."





# ALISON BRUCE, M.B., CH.B.

## *South Africa*



In the early 1990s Alison Bruce, M.B., Ch.B. (I1 '97, DERM '00), and her husband, Charles Bruce, M.D. (I '96, CV '00), were concerned about their future as physicians in South Africa and sought opportunities to study abroad.

"The level of care in South Africa had become very resource-constricted, making it difficult to practice high-quality medicine," says Dr. Bruce, vice chair, Department of Dermatology at Mayo Clinic in Florida. "We wanted to practice state-of-the-art, cutting-edge medicine, which simply wasn't possible at the time."

Dr. Bruce was a family physician, and her husband was a cardiology resident. "We looked at Australia, but it was difficult to find a position there as they didn't accept foreign physicians at the time," she says. "Canada was very receptive to South African physicians because of our strong clinical training, but we thought the climate would be too cold. The U.S. seemed like the land of opportunity. Unfortunately, most medical institutions in the U.S. weren't interested in foreign graduates. Mayo Clinic was one of the first to respond otherwise. Mayo seems to be very successful at recruiting talented, well-trained physicians regardless of where they are from."

"We'd been told Mayo Clinic was in the middle of nowhere and freezing cold. We arrived in June to boiling heat. It seemed pretty tropical to me."

Dr. Bruce says she was overwhelmed by the size and infrastructure of Mayo Clinic and Rochester. "The entire city is structured around Mayo. I was particularly struck by how everybody was so committed and proud to be working at Mayo Clinic. I hadn't seen that before. We couldn't believe sandwiches were made available when you worked late. Everyone was well supported."

"And the resources were vast. During my internship in South Africa, the hospital ICU had two beds, which weren't enough for the patient population. Patients could not be admitted to the ICU

if they were over 65 or had a significant comorbid condition. It was a very different philosophy of care and a huge cultural difference."

The Bruces hadn't planned to stay in the U.S. They thought they'd get additional training and perhaps return to South Africa, where their families lived. Within a couple of years of being in Rochester, however, they decided they would stay if opportunities opened up. Dr. Alison Bruce joined the staff in 2000 after completing a residency in dermatology, and Dr. Charles Bruce joined the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine in 2001 after two additional years of internal medicine residency and a four-year cardiology fellowship.

"We had our third child in Rochester, so I worked part time initially," says Dr. Bruce. "Between kids, immigration, visas and green cards, I was at a stage of life where I needed flexibility in my career. I increased my hours as the kids grew. I appreciated Mayo's support during those years. I think personal support and work flexibility build loyalty."

Three years ago, after 20 years at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, the Bruces moved to the Florida campus. "Our kids were grown and had moved away," says Dr. Bruce. "Dr. (Gianrico) Farrugia (I '91, GI '94, then CEO of Mayo Clinic in Florida) was looking for physicians who understood the Mayo Clinic culture to expand the Florida practice. It was a good time for us to move but stay in the Mayo family."

Dr. Bruce helped to start a cosmetic dermatology center on the Florida campus and has gotten involved in regenerative medicine, which adds promise to the field of dermatology and women's health — her areas of special interest and expertise. "Mayo Clinic has been very good to us through the years," she says. "We've had opportunities to explore new areas in administration, research and education, and have had very fulfilling careers."

# RODRIGO CARTIN-CEBA , M.D.

*Costa Rica*



**R**odrigo Cartin-Ceba, M.D. (CCMI '08, THDC '10, CTSA '13), Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Arizona, grew up, attended medical school and completed internal medicine residency in Costa Rica. His mentor's mentor had trained at Mayo Clinic, so Dr. Cartin-Ceba heard about Mayo Clinic long before he ever went there.

"After residency in Costa Rica, I wanted more challenges and to expand my knowledge. I decided to go to the U.S. for training in critical care medicine," he says. He completed another residency at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, and says it was an enjoyable learning experience. When it came time for a fellowship, he again listened to his mentors.

"Some faculty members at Baylor had trained at Mayo Clinic and told me about its excellence and high quality of care," says Dr. Cartin-Ceba. "I was already aware of Mayo's excellence in education and patient care. When I went to Rochester in person, I saw the high standards, professionalism and honesty in the people I interviewed with. It

was the middle of winter and dark and cold, but Mayo was still my No. 1 choice."

Dr. Cartin-Ceba says he has never felt like a foreigner at Mayo. "It's a very inclusive environment, and I'm just another team member — not different because of my accent or skin color. It's great to work with people from all over the world who share the same values."

Dr. Cartin-Ceba had spent 10 years training and on staff at Mayo Clinic in Rochester when he relocated to the Arizona campus in 2015. "My wife couldn't tolerate the winter anymore," he says. "I told her I'd move someplace warmer, but I wouldn't leave Mayo. I'm lucky Mayo Clinic in Arizona offered me a position.

"I can't picture myself practicing anywhere else. The Mayo Model of Care is the best way to provide patient care — the only model we should use. I keep our primary value in my mind every single day as do my colleagues. It makes the practice easier and enjoyable. We look for excellence in everything we do. The collaboration, respect, teamwork and compassion make Mayo Clinic a fantastic place to work."





# JENNIFER RACZ, M.D.

*Canada*



**J**ennifer Racz, M.D. (S '16), Division of Breast, Endocrine, Metabolic, and Gastrointestinal Surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, completed her medical training in Canada and France. A native of Whitehorse, Yukon, in northwestern Canada, she completed her medical degree, MBA, general surgery residency and surgical oncology clinical fellowship in Ontario. She also completed a clinical fellowship in oncoplastic breast surgery in Paris under the direction of Krishna Clough, M.D. Dr. Racz was eager to use her specialized breast surgery fellowship training in practice but found no opportunities in Canada.

"I discussed job prospects with my program director at the University of Toronto, and she encouraged me to apply for a position at Mayo Clinic after receiving a job posting from them," says Dr. Racz. "The Mayo position was for a breast surgeon — exactly the focus I wanted. The other postings in Canada were for general surgeons and would have required me to perform a variety of procedures without an emphasis on a particular area of surgery."

Undeterred by a northern climate, Dr. Racz interviewed at Mayo Clinic in Rochester — her only U.S. interview — in addition to smaller

academic medical centers in Canada. "Everyone at Mayo was welcoming, and the facilities and campus were immaculate," she says. "I was very interested in strong mentorship as I believe it is the foundation for a successful surgical career. All new staff members have formal mentorship at Mayo — guidance that was important to me."

"Mayo provided the complete package: excellent mentors, a multidisciplinary breast clinic, high-quality patient care, world-renowned experts and a plethora of resources," says Dr. Racz, who joined the staff in 2016. "It's relatively easy to find the support you need to implement your research ideas."

Dr. Racz says the complexity of breast cancer cases provides constant challenges and mental stimulation. After training in Canada, where the wait time for breast cancer surgery can be six weeks, Dr. Racz says she appreciates the option to offer patients next-day surgery in some cases.

"Mayo is very accommodating to international staff, and the town where I live has been very welcoming," says Dr. Racz. "It seems like everyone is connected to Mayo Clinic somehow. Leaving my friends and family in Canada was difficult, but my decision to come to Mayo has been validated many times over."

# KENNETH WARRINGTON, M.D.

## *Malta*



**K**enneth Warrington, M.D. (I '99, RHEU '02), chair of the Division of Rheumatology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester and the John F. Finn Minnesota Arthritis Foundation Professor, came to the U.S. for training after medical school. Malta, his home country, didn't have structured programs for postgraduate training. Trainees did informal rotations, learned on the job without formal endpoints and traveled to England for board exams.

Dr. Warrington put all his eggs in one basket, interviewing only at Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Several other Maltese physicians he knew had preceded him at Mayo Clinic: Michael Camilleri, M.D. (GI '88, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and the Atherton and Winifred W. Bean Professor), Gianrico Farrugia, M.D. (I '91, GI '94, president and CEO of Mayo Clinic), Robert Vassallo, M.D. (I '98, THDC '01, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine), and Adrian Vella, M.D. (I '98, ENDO '01, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, Metabolism, & Nutrition, and the Earl and Annette R. McDonough Professor).

Dr. Warrington says he was impressed by the size of Mayo Clinic, quality of patient care, collegiality and warm welcome he received. "Because there's a community of international residents, fellows and physicians, I didn't feel any different when I came to Rochester. My wife and I met people from many countries at the apartment complex we first lived in. There's a strong sense of community in Rochester. It helped to have colleagues and friends from Malta

who also were very supportive of my wife and helped her get settled here."

Dr. Warrington says he was pleasantly surprised by the hierarchical differences at Mayo Clinic. "In Europe the professor was at the top and unreachable. When I was a new intern at Mayo, the consultants were renowned experts in their field and yet very approachable and outstanding educators. They even took us out to lunch at the end of a rotation. Interns, senior residents and consultants work together, which creates nice teamwork and makes it fun to come to work. In Malta consulting another specialty was infrequent. At Mayo, consulting is the norm and expertise in every aspect of medicine is readily available, leading to better patient care."

After he completed his residency and fellowship, Dr. Warrington moved to the University of Tennessee in Memphis as a junior faculty member because there were no openings in rheumatology at Mayo Clinic. Four years later, he jumped at the chance to interview for a position at Mayo Clinic.

"Being away from Mayo Clinic made me appreciate its strengths in patient care, teamwork and collegiality even more," he says. "It was a valuable perspective to gain."

Dr. Warrington says he appreciates the mentorship and support he's had at Mayo Clinic in developing expertise in rare conditions, including vasculitis, and being able to combine his clinical practice and research interests. "The resources and supportive environment at Mayo Clinic have allowed me a very rewarding career."





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

*Sebastien Parratte, M.D., Ph.D.*



**A**fter training and practicing in France for most of a decade, Sebastien Parratte, M.D., Ph.D. (OR '07), made a major geographic move last year. That change came after Dr. Parratte regained consciousness from a near-death incident.

"I was 'dead' for 10 minutes after a spasm on a stenosis in a major coronary artery — the widow maker," he says. "I woke up in the ICU four days later, surrounded by my loved ones wondering what I would be like when I regained consciousness."

Dr. Parratte returned to work at University Hospital in Marseille two months later, without any aftereffects. Soon thereafter he learned that the International Knee and Joint Center in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, was seeking a surgeon with strong knee reconstruction experience. And off he went on a new adventure.

"Thanks to my Mayo Clinic experience, I have incredible links with orthopedic surgeons all over the world," says Dr. Parratte, who received the American Knee Society Insall Traveling Fellowship in 2012. "In 2015 I helped to establish the European Knee Society, based on the American Knee Society, and am now treasurer. Along with our American colleagues, we organized the World Arthroplasty Congress, which debuted in Paris in 2015 for hip and knee arthroplasty surgeons from around the world. The 2021 congress will be in Munich. We all have to learn from each other. This is the spirit of Mayo Clinic and its founders — sharing medical experience, learning from others and keeping our eyes open on the world for the best interests of patients."



**“ Mayo is and always will be the temple of medicine and surgery. There’s nothing like it anywhere in the world.”**

– Sebastien Parratte, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Parratte has retained close ties to and pursued collaborations with Mayo Clinic since completing his fellowship in orthopedic reconstruction. That opportunity was conceived without his involvement.

Mid-residency at Aix-Marseille University, Dr. Parratte heard Daniel Berry, M.D. (ADULT ’91), from the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and the L.Z. Gund Professor of Orthopedics, speak about hip revision surgery at a meeting in Marseille. Dr. Parratte also presented at the meeting and had a follow-up discussion with his mentor and department chair, Jean-Noel Argenson, M.D., and Dr. Berry. The next morning, Dr. Argenson called Dr. Parratte into his office and asked his thoughts about a fellowship in the U.S.

“I said yes immediately without knowing where, when or how,” he says. “Then Dr. Argenson told me he and his friend Dr. Berry had made a plan for me to go to Mayo Clinic upon completion of residency. A few years later, I was on the plane to Rochester for what would become a lifelong adventure. I am forever grateful to Dr. Berry for championing me.

“Mayo is and always will be the temple of medicine and surgery. There’s nothing like it anywhere in the world. You have in Mayo everything a patient can dream about but also everything a surgeon can dream about.”

Mark Pagnano, M.D. (OR ’96), chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery, also championed Dr. Parratte during his time at Mayo Clinic — and beyond. When Dr. Parratte returned to France and

pursued a Ph.D. in health outcomes analysis at Aix-Marseille University, Dr. Pagnano was present for his final presentation and was a jury member.

Dr. Parratte also has close affiliation to Mayo Clinic orthopedic surgeon Matthew Abdel, M.D. (OR ’12), who completed part of his international surgery fellowship with Dr. Parratte in Marseille. Dr. Parratte collaborates with Mayo Clinic on a project involving the use of porous metal to deliver antibiotics in complex revision arthroplasty, and on a robotics project. Despite his relocation to the Middle East, Dr. Parratte remains co-director of the Institut du Mouvement et de l’Appareil Locomoteur (Institute for Locomotion) at Aix-Marseille University. The institute includes a biomechanics and bone modeling lab and is the only center in France recognized by the International Society of Orthopedic Centers.

Dr. Parratte has performed more than 5,000 knee and hip arthroplasties and more than 700 revision arthroplasties with complex bone defects. He specializes in complex surgeries such as post-traumatic and deformity cases. He has helped to train residents and fellows from around the world and provided on-site training in complex knee arthroplasty for surgeons in Europe, Asia and Australia. He also developed a custom 3-D printing system for knee osteotomy in conjunction with Newclip Technics, a French company.

Proving his theory that all roads lead to Mayo Clinic, Dr. Parratte learned that his medical director in Abu Dhabi, Charles Brown, M.D., taught Dr. Berry during the latter’s orthopedic residency at Harvard.

“Dr. Berry once again was a guardian angel and recommended me for the position in Abu Dhabi since he knew Dr. Brown,” says Dr. Parratte.

“Dr. Brown built a center where we have our own clinic, radiology department and physiotherapy department. We rent space in a large hospital for surgeries, staffed with our personnel in the OR and ward. Communication between our medical team and hospital administration is easy. It’s an ideal model to deliver optimal patient care. Dr. Brown created the center with the intent to limit patients having to go abroad for surgery. We’re a referral center for all complex knee surgeries. About 60 percent of our patients are from the UAE. The rest are expatriates who work for local companies, and patients from surrounding countries in the Gulf area and Africa. The mean age of my patients for complex arthroplasty is much younger than in Europe or the U.S., in part because the Asian knee is anatomically different. Many patients have terrible complex knee problems including major deformities. I’m happy to be able to treat all of my patients like VIPs who come from diverse backgrounds, just like they do at Mayo Clinic.”

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**Sebastien Parratte, M.D., Ph.D.**

- Medical director of arthroplasty, International Knee and Joint Center, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- Co-director, Institut du Mouvement et de l'Appareil Locomoteur, Aix-Marseille University, Marseille, France





# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HUMANITARIAN ENDOWMENT AWARDS GLOBAL HEALTH SCHOLARSHIPS



In 2011 the Mayo Clinic Alumni Association established a Humanitarian Endowment — the brainchild of former Alumni Association President Eric Grigsby, M.D. (S '86, ANES '88). Dr. Grigsby provided the initial gift; other alumni and the Alumni Association donated to fully fund the endowment.

Beginning in late 2018 external alumni could apply for two \$2,500 scholarships from the endowment to participate in global health projects in medically under-resourced areas. All global health activities must be undertaken in conjunction with a Mayo Clinic physician or scientist on Mayo Clinic Abroad-endorsed trips.

The inaugural scholarship recipients are Ryan Day, M.D. (PRES '13, S '18), and Alison Hayward, M.D. (EM '11).

Richard Morgan, M.D. (CCMA '85), a member of the Mayo Clinic Alumni Association Board of Directors, chair of the Humanitarian Scholarship Selection Committee and a pain medicine and palliative care specialist in Kansas City, Missouri, says: "Drs. Day and Hayward embody the spirit

of the Humanitarian Endowment award. Their qualifications for global work are outstanding, and their passion is admirable."

Dr. Day is a fellow in complex surgical oncology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He completed a general surgery residency at Mayo Clinic in Arizona and a postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Texas MD Anderson. He received his medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine in Portsmouth, Dominica, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in Gainesville. He is from Orlando, Florida.

In November, Dr. Day will go to St. Luke's hospital in Tabarre, Haiti, with a goal of deepening the relationship with the local health care community and advancing care delivery. Dr. Day will collaborate with Mitchell Humphreys, M.D. (U '06), chair, Department of Urology, Mayo Clinic in Arizona. Dr. Humphreys' team has focused on developing sustainable health care and medical education resources in Haiti since 2012.



Ryan Day, M.D.



Alison Hayward, M.D.

**“ We plan to work on educational initiatives that have potential for high impact, such as point-of-care ultrasound for rapid bedside diagnosis.”**

– Alison Hayward, M.D.

Dr. Day has participated in several global health trips to Haiti and developed relationships with local physicians. He will evaluate and surgically treat patients alongside Haitian physicians, with an eye toward expanding the hospital's trauma capacity and response. He will educate physicians and nurses about care for general surgery and critical care patients in addition to teaching complex hernia and abdominal surgery and trauma care.

“Recently St. Luke's hospital started to take on trauma care, which had been handled primarily by international organizations,” says Dr. Day. “I want to continue my work in Haiti so we can coordinate with local physicians to provide education and build capacity toward a goal of increased local care and complexity of care. I hope my trip builds on this successful program's foundation.”

Dr. Hayward is an assistant professor of emergency medicine at Brown Alpert School of Medicine in Providence, Rhode Island. She received a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences. Dr. Hayward was on staff in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester for one year while she completed a disaster medicine fellowship. She completed a fellowship in disaster medicine and emergency preparedness and a residency in emergency medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center in Worcester. She received her medical degree from Penn State College of Medicine and a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester, New York. She is from Connecticut.

Dr. Hayward will go to Ethiopia in September to teach emergency medicine residents and ancillary staff members. She will collaborate with Kebede Begna, M.D. (HEMO '06), Division of Hematology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, a native of Ethiopia

who has developed a network to improve medical education in the country.

“I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to contribute to Dr. Begna's longstanding work in Ethiopia,” says Dr. Hayward. “We plan to work on educational initiatives that have potential for high impact, such as point-of-care ultrasound for rapid bedside diagnosis.”

Dr. Hayward has more than 15 years of global health experience, primarily in eastern Africa, where she co-founded the Uganda Village Project, which oversees public health programs. She is chair of the executive board of this initiative. Dr. Hayward is past treasurer of Women Physicians for Humanity. She is a core faculty member of “The Practitioner's Guide to Global Health,” a massive open online course, and team leader of @globalFOAMed, a Twitter-based curriculum for emergency medicine residents interested in global health.



#### **To apply for global health scholarship:**

- Submit expression of interest by Dec. 1, 2019, by logging in to Alumni Association website: [alumniassociation.mayo.edu](http://alumniassociation.mayo.edu).
- Go to Resources, then MCAA Humanitarian Endowment.
- If you already know a Mayo Clinic consultant going on a trip, contact them directly. Otherwise, explore any open trip and submit expression of interest.
- Submit letter of support from sponsoring consultant.
- You'll be contacted by Jan. 1, 2020, with information about formal application
- Deadline for application submission is Feb. 1, 2020.
- Scholarship awardees will be notified by Mar. 31, 2020.





# FELLOW BECOMES INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EXPERT ON CELIAC DISEASE



**2019 Mayo Clinic Alumni Association  
Donald C. Balfour Award for Meritorious Research**

Alberto Rubio Tapia, M.D. (GI '09, CTSA '16, GI '19), was a fellowship-trained gastroenterologist in Mexico. He came to Mayo Clinic in 2006 to gain research experience.

"My institution in Mexico City, National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition (Salvador Zubiran), has a long tradition in clinical and research training collaboration with Mayo Clinic, so I was familiar with Mayo," says Dr. Rubio Tapia. "I fully intended to return to Mexico to practice. However, I was offered a research staff position within my first year at Mayo and began to see what career opportunities in the U.S. could be like. So I stayed longer. Thirteen years later, I'm certain my career is in academic medicine in the U.S."

**“When our best people, such as Dr. Rubio Tapia, finish training, the larger medical community benefits.”**

– Joseph Murray, M.D.

It wasn't as easy as it may sound. To practice in the U.S., Dr. Rubio Tapia, who was fully trained, had to complete another residency and fellowship. While completing those requirements, he continued his research and mentored his co-residents and co-fellows with their research, helping several of them get their first articles published and secure their first presentations at national meetings. Dr. Rubio Tapia describes this work as one of the Mayo Clinic opportunities he has enjoyed the most.

“My education and training have been extensive, but I've enjoyed every single step and love what I do,” says Dr. Rubio Tapia. “My residency and fellowship at Mayo were easy because I'd had strong training in Mexico at the best institution in the country for internal medicine and gastroenterology. My commitment to my profession and research is very high.”

Dr. Rubio Tapia's commitment has led him to become an internationally recognized authority on celiac disease. He has been lead author for celiac disease guidelines for the American College of Gastroenterology and has published 81 peer-reviewed manuscripts in all of the major journals of gastroenterology as well as 16 book chapters. His work has thousands of citations. Some of Dr. Rubio Tapia's high-impact first-author studies include demonstration of an increased mortality in patients with undiagnosed celiac disease, the increasing prevalence of celiac disease in the U.S., the first description of olmesartan-induced celiac-like disease, and a new classification score for refractory celiac disease. For these and more efforts, Dr. Rubio Tapia received the Mayo Clinic Alumni Association Donald C. Balfour Award for Meritorious Research.

Laura Raffals, M.D. (GI '11), program director for the Mayo Clinic fellowship in gastroenterology and hepatology, says Dr. Rubio Tapia has more than earned his place as first author on the American College of Gastroenterology celiac disease guidelines. “For most of us, it takes a long time to achieve a milestone such as this. Dr. Rubio Tapia did it even before finishing his fellowship. He is routinely invited to moderate sessions and lecture on celiac disease at meetings of the leading societies in gastroenterology. We are fortunate in our division to train many fellows who go on to achieve international success in this field. We are not sure if we have ever had a better candidate for the Balfour Award.”

Despite the accolades, what Dr. Rubio Tapia is most proud of is being part of the Mayo Clinic family. “In particular, I'm very proud of the relationship I have with my mentor, Dr. Joseph Murray (GI '98, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology).”

Dr. Murray says with Dr. Rubio Tapia on board, Mayo Clinic's celiac disease research program has had its most productive years and Mayo has been cemented as a center of excellence for treatment of celiac disease. “His energy, enthusiasm, maturity, curiosity, insight, critical thinking, and ability to persevere despite challenges and limitations are part of the secret sauce of Dr. Rubio Tapia's success. He developed a predictive tool for survival in refractory celiac disease and wrote the guidelines for celiac disease in Mexico. His work in the natural history of the disease is groundbreaking. There's been a sea change around the world in regard to celiac in the last decade, and Dr. Rubio



Tapia's contributions have been central to that progress. We no longer think of celiac disease as rare. Today most physicians know it's a common chronic disease they can test for."

Bringing it all back home, Dr. Rubio Tapia says he's especially proud of being inducted into the National Academy of Mexico in 2016. "This peer-review induction is the most important distinction for doctors in Mexico. Most people achieve that at the end of their careers. It's very difficult to achieve before age 40. It feels good to be recognized for my hard work in research and the clinic by my home country."

As Dr. Rubio Tapia prepares to complete his fellowship and continue his academic career, Dr. Murray reflects. "When our best people, such as Dr. Rubio Tapia, finish training, the larger medical community benefits. As a Mayo Clinic-trained clinician-investigator, he will expand the field of celiac disease across the nation and world. Dr. Rubio Tapia will continue to be a valued colleague and peer. His success is our success."

### **Alberto Rubio Tapia, M.D.**

- Fellow, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Medicine
  - Assistant professor of medicine
  - Mayo Clinic in Rochester
- 
- Fellowships: Clinician-investigator, gastroenterology, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education; postdoctoral research, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education; gastroenterology, National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition (Salvador Zubiran), Mexico City, Mexico
  - Residencies: Internal medicine, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education; internal medicine, National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition (Salvador Zubiran)
  - Certificate in biomedical sciences: Clinical and translational science, Mayo Clinic Center for Clinical and Translational Science, Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences
  - Medical school: National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico City
  - Native of: Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico





# FELLOW'S RESEARCH WILL HELP HEALTH CARE SAFETY AND QUALITY



## 2019 Mayo Clinic Alumni Association Edward C. Kendall Award for Meritorious Research

From a young age, Mohamed Seisa, M.D. (ANES '16), had a passion to study biology. His uncle was a pediatrician and his father was a physicist in Egypt, so Dr. Seisa grew up around science. In medical school, he worked in a lab and enjoyed research.

But while Dr. Seisa was a medical student, his father died. "He developed sepsis and was in the ICU for a month," says Dr. Seisa, describing his motivation for pursuing improvements in critical care and anesthesiology. "I felt helpless and wish I could have done something."

In 2013 Dr. Seisa was one of two medical students invited to present posters at the 18th International Conference on Continuous Renal Replacement Therapies (CRRT) in San Diego, California. Dr. Seisa's research focused on acute kidney injury. Among those who Dr. Seisa encountered at the meeting was Kianoush Kashani, M.D. (CCMI '05, CTSA '16), Division of Nephrology and Hypertension and Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Mayo Clinic's Rochester campus. Dr. Kashani was Dr. Seisa's first in-person exposure to Mayo Clinic.

Within two years Dr. Seisa would be a research fellow at Mayo Clinic. First, he completed medical school and rotations in anesthesiology and cardiology as a visiting medical student at the University of Alabama in Birmingham's University Hospital.

"In Egypt our training isn't as advanced as in the U.S.," says Dr. Seisa. "Training here is the best education available, and Mayo Clinic is one of the best in the world. It was a big honor to be invited to do research at Mayo Clinic. I was ecstatic. It's an amazing, inspiring environment, and I work with the best physicians and

## “ Mayo Clinic attracts people who really want to do something important.”

– Mohamed Seisa, M.D.

researchers in the world. Mayo Clinic attracts people who really want to do something important.”

Dr. Seisa can count himself in that category of people. After only four years at Mayo Clinic, he's earned the Mayo Clinic Alumni Association Edward C. Kendall Award for Meritorious Research. Now a postdoctoral research fellow in the Division of Preventive Medicine and a researcher in the Evidence-Based Practice Research Program, Mayo Clinic Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Center for the Science of Health Care Delivery, Dr. Seisa is having an impact on others' lives.

Since he joined the Evidence-Based Practice Research Program, Dr. Seisa has led and contributed to the use of evidence summaries by medical scientific societies including the American Society of Hematology and federal entities including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ). Mayo Clinic, through its Evidence-Based Practice Research Program, is one of only 12 institutions in North America designated and funded as an evidence-based practice center by AHRQ. Through this program, AHRQ became a science partner with private and public organizations in their efforts to improve the quality, effectiveness and appropriateness of health care by synthesizing the evidence and facilitating the translation of evidence-based research findings. Evidence reports generated by Mayo Clinic for AHRQ can be used for informing and developing coverage decisions, quality measures, educational materials and tools, clinical practice guidelines and research agendas.

Dr. Seisa's research focuses on evidence synthesis including systematic review, meta-analysis and development of clinical practice guidelines — the foundation of evidence-based medicine. He has published 16 peer-reviewed papers and 12 scientific reports about research, some of which are highlighted below.

**Sickle cell disease:** Led 10 systematic reviews about the treatment of pain in sickle cell disease patients. Dr. Seisa's work in this area is being used to develop

clinical guidelines for effective pain management in sickle cell disease, which will lead to improvement in the quality of patient care and help to reduce health disparities.

**Airway devices:** Conducted a technology assessment to evaluate home mechanical ventilators, bilevel positive airway pressure (BPAP) devices and continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) devices in adult patients with chronic respiratory failure. The results of the study will help the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services develop policies and procedures for the devices used in home settings.

**ICU intubation:** Conducted a cross-sectional survey study of critical care physicians in academic and nonacademic centers nationally and internationally to determine intubation practice in ICUs. Dr. Seisa conducted this study as part of his involvement in HEMAIR (Hemodynamic and Airway Hemodynamic and Airway Consortium), a group of ICU physicians whose aim is to understand hemodynamic and airway management of tracheal intubations in the critically ill. His work in this area included a study to identify predictors of immediate hemodynamic decompensation during the pre-intubation period and a prospective cross-sectional study of adult critically ill patients who needed endotracheal intubation. Dr. Seisa published the protocol for the multicenter, observational, prospective study of this project.

M. Hassan Murad, M.D. (PREV '07), director of Mayo Clinic's Evidence-Based Practice Center, says Dr. Seisa's research will inform Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services policies. “He's a highly productive and rigorous researcher whose mission is to produce evidence to make health care safer and of higher quality. Dr. Seisa is very goal oriented and dedicated to his work. He never says no to helping someone who wants to collaborate.”



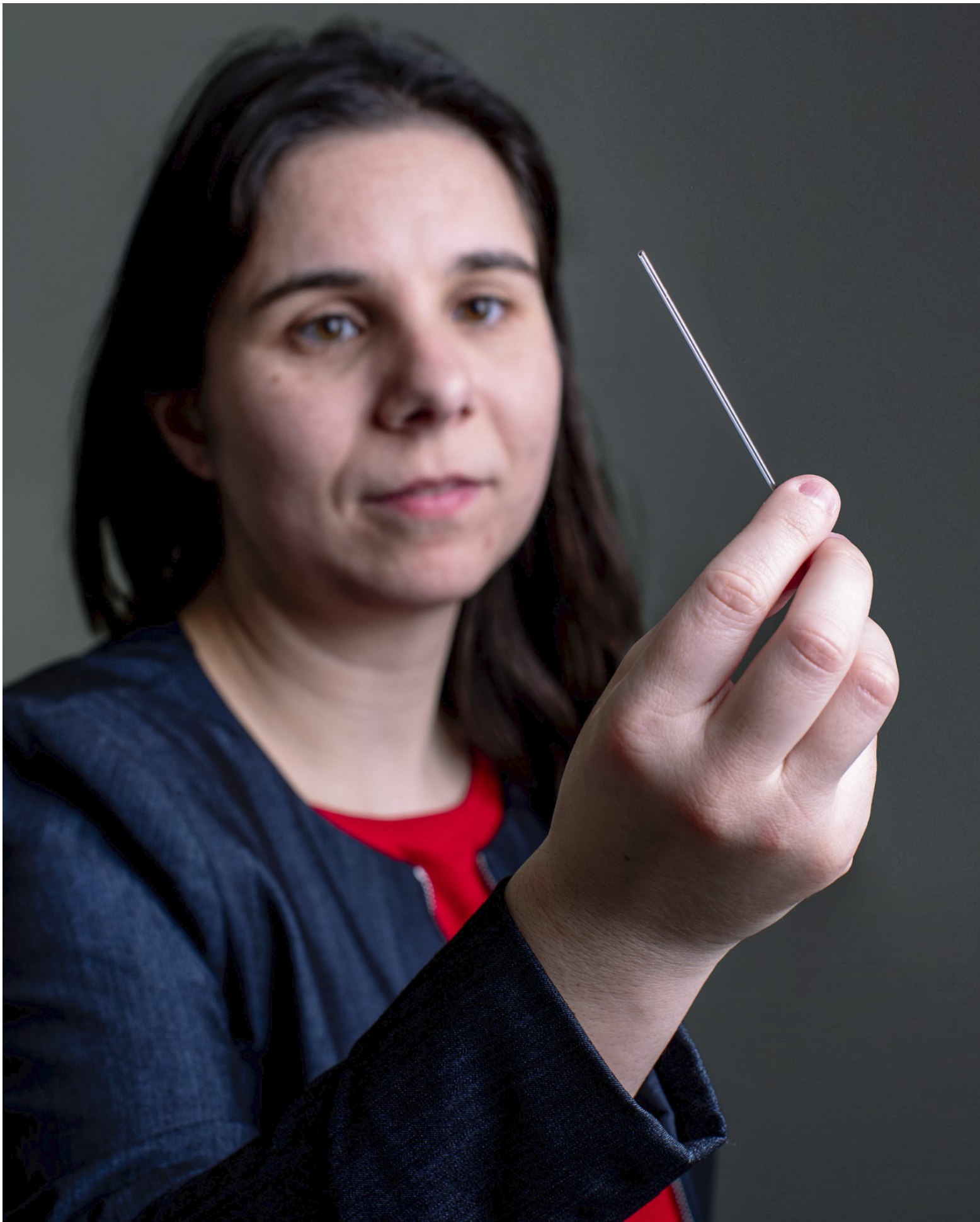
Drs. Kashani and Murad, along with Nathan Smischney, M.D. (CCMA '12, CTSA '18), Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, sing a chorus of praise for Dr. Seisa's work ethic.

"Dr. Seisa is diligent and motivated and has an intrinsic drive," says Dr. Smischney. "His focus and resilience are tremendous."

Now Dr. Seisa is focused on studying for board exams and determining where to apply for residency in anesthesiology. "I'm honored to receive the Kendall Award and feel blessed for the encouragement. As a physician-scientist, I want to do research and practice critical care medicine that makes a difference for very sick patients whose life-threatening illnesses require a quick response."

### **Mohamed Seisa, M.D.**

- Postdoctoral research fellow, Evidence-Based Practice Research Program, Division of Preventive Medicine; Mayo Clinic Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Center for the Science of Health Care Delivery
  - Mayo Clinic in Rochester
- 
- Fellowship: Postdoctoral research, Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine, Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education
  - Medical degree: Mansoura University School of Medicine, Dakahlia, Egypt
  - Native of: Mansoura, Egypt





# THE MACGYVER PROJECT

*Researcher challenges her team to develop solution for health crisis in DRC*



**M**arina Walther-Antonio, Ph.D. (S '15), has a full plate. An associate consultant in surgical research in the departments of Surgery and Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, she studies the microbiome role in human health and disease, particularly endometrial and ovarian cancer. She also develops technology in her lab, including microbial single-cell technologies for point-of-care applications. And Dr. Walther-Antonio is actively involved in astrobiological research, with projects involving NASA and the European Space Agency. A full load for any researcher.

In spring 2016 Dr. Walther-Antonio's plate got a bit fuller, thanks to a lunchtime talk she attended. Sean Dowdy, M.D. (OBG '01, GYNO '04), chair of the Division of Gynecologic Surgery; along with Deborah Rhodes, M.D. (GIM '97), Division of General Internal Medicine, presented about their experiences in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through Mayo Clinic

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Marina Walther-Antonio, Ph.D., is a native of Portugal. She was recruited to Mayo Clinic for a postdoctoral research fellowship after working for the NASA Astrobiology Institute/Indiana-Princeton-Tennessee Astrobiology Initiative in Bloomington, Indiana, and Washington State University in Pullman, Washington.



**“If you just stick to your own thing in your own little corner, you might miss an opportunity to do something that changes health care and helps others around the world.”**

– Marina Walther-Antonio, Ph.D.

Global Health. The talk included a discussion of the widespread sexual violence in the DRC, where four women are raped every five minutes in what is referred to as the rape capital of the world. In part as a result of this humanitarian crisis, cervical cancer — caused by human papillomavirus (HPV) — is the leading cause of cancer-related death among women in the area.

When they were in the DRC, Drs. Dowdy and Rhodes met with Denis Mukwege, M.D., Ph.D., a gynecologist at and founder of Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, who specializes in the treatment of women who require surgery due to injuries sustained during rape. Many of the women have been assaulted by multiple men and with sticks, knives and bullets. Dr. Mukwege received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018, in conjunction with Nadia Murad, for efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. Dr. Mukwege said what’s most needed in his country is medical research, including knowledge to combat the high rates of cervical cancer at an early stage. To be tested for HPV requires women to make long trips to hospitals, crossing dangerous areas and risking more violence. Could a self-test be developed that wouldn’t require a visit to a lab and a provider for medical interpretation — similar to a home pregnancy test?

Dr. Walther-Antonio was moved to tears by her colleagues’ talk. “Dr. Dowdy said the DRC

experience was traumatic, and he became quite emotional when discussing it,” she says. “It was remarkable to see him so affected because he’s usually quite reserved.” Dr. Walther-Antonio did her homework and created a brief presentation for her lab staff about what she’d learned. “I told them it seemed like something we could help with if we put our heads together — that we had the right people in the room. Fortunately they were all on board.

“I feel if I can help, it’s my responsibility to do so. You never know when a problem could go unsolved if you do not help. My team agreed to move ahead with a solution — a MacGyver (in reference to the TV character known for creatively engineering his way out of predicaments). We called this the MacGyver Project.”

Fast forward three years, and Dr. Walther-Antonio’s team has made great strides in developing an easy-to-use, affordable home urine test that provides immediate positive or negative results for HPV detection. The team is working with Sam Kounaves, Ph.D., at Tufts University in Boston, Massachusetts, to develop test prototypes and is enrolling patients in a phase 1 test.

Dr. Walther-Antonio received a Mayo Clinic Discovery Translational Program grant, benefited from a Mayo Clinic benefactor gift, and received a market assessment from Mayo Clinic Ventures to explore applications of the test for the U.S. market.

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Denis Mukwege, M.D., Ph.D., and his team at Panzi Hospital have pioneered a holistic approach: survivors of sexual violence in conflict have access to medical, psychological, legal and socioeconomic support in one place. In the existing hospital in Bukavu, survivors follow a personalized healing path and receive all the care they need. In the last 20 years, more than 50,000 survivors received treatment at Panzi Hospital from the team’s world-leading expertise.

Within a year, her team plans to begin phase 2 testing and next steps — identifying a company to license the test and, eventually, selecting a partner to distribute the test in the DRC.

This whirlwind effort is Dr. Walther-Antonio's first foray into test development. She met with colleague David Ahlquist, M.D. (MED '77, I '80, GI '83), Emeriti staff, who developed the Cologuard colorectal cancer test. "Dr. Ahlquist was very helpful, sharing his experiences and advising about how to navigate the road ahead," says Dr. Walther-Antonio.

While her motivation to develop the test was related to the crisis in the DRC, Dr. Walther-Antonio is excited about other applications for the test. Women around the world lack easy access to, time for and resources to pay for preventive health care. Some cultures consider it taboo for a male physician to perform a Pap test. And diseases associated with sexual transmission cause shame and, therefore, inaction, among some people. "It bothers me that many people die from preventable diseases for no logical reason every year," she says. "In my work, I try to think of simpler ways to solve complex problems. I knew my team was resourceful enough to solve this problem for a vastly underserved part of the world. I can't say enough about my team."

Heidi Nelson, M.D. (CRS '88, S '89), was Dr. Walther-Antonio's Department of Surgery chair and a chief supporter (now Emeriti staff). "The development of this HPV test kit is a great example of what happens at Mayo Clinic when clinicians and

scientists come together and solve a complex problem," she says. "A compelling human problem engages with a thoughtful, motivated leader such as Dr. Walther-Antonio, a team of experts creates a brilliant technical plan and health care gets a little bit better."

Realistically, within a few years, a woman in the DRC could be handed a test kit from a worker in a humanitarian aid mobile unit and shown how to use the kit in the privacy of her home — without having to make an often-dangerous trip to a medical facility. The test strip will indicate whether or not she needs to seek lifesaving medical care.

About that scenario, Dr. Walther-Antonio says she'll be able to retire happy (one day) knowing she accomplished something meaningful. "My background is in astrobiology. When you work in a field such as that, you do it for future generations — often you know you won't see your work come to fruition in your lifetime. In comparison, I hope to see the impact of the HPV detection kit — saving lives and improving the world."

When asked what would have happened had she not attended the lunchtime talk by Drs. Dowdy and Rhodes that day in 2017, Dr. Walther-Antonio says, "I often go to these kinds of talks because I have to eat anyway — I may as well learn at the same time. It's important to keep your eyes and ears open and learn what else is going on around Mayo Clinic. If you just stick to your own thing in your own little corner, you might miss an opportunity to do something that changes health care and helps others around the world."

Thanks to interest from a Mayo Clinic benefactor, Dr. Walther-Antonio (pictured with senior research fellow Yuguang Liu, Ph.D. [SR '16]) and her team also are developing a version of the HPV test to detect oropharyngeal cancer via a saliva sample.







# EPIC MAKES LIGHT WORK OF PATIENT REFERRALS



**T**he Epic electronic health record platform implemented at Mayo Clinic in 2018 makes the task of referring patients to Mayo much easier. With the new referring physician portal, referring physicians and office staff can:

- Initiate referrals to Mayo Clinic, [alumniassociation.mayo.edu/resources/refer-my-own-patient](http://alumniassociation.mayo.edu/resources/refer-my-own-patient)
- Upload relevant clinical documents and images
- Stay up to date on the patient's clinical, laboratory, radiology, hospital and surgical results during the patient's visit and follow the patient in real time
- Send secure messages to the patient's Mayo Clinic care team to share new details with treating physicians
- Maintain an electronic trail of the referral
- Coordinate access for office staff so they can monitor referral scheduling, proxy orders and patient results
- Receive correspondence and patient records electronically

"We invite referring alumni to use the new portal," says Dawn Davis, M.D. (PD '03, DERM '06), medical director, Enterprise Referring Provider Office. "If you had an active account in our previous portal, you can sign in to the new Epic-based portal using your same username and password. If you don't have an active account, you can sign up for a new account."

## **New refer-a-friend feature**

Also new is the option to refer a family member or friend who is not the physician's actual patient.

"Since we introduced the refer-a-friend feature, more than 50 alumni have referred friends and family," says Dr. Davis. "Our alumni appreciate this feature because their family and friend referral requests receive priority attention."

"Individuals referred to Mayo Clinic in this way must be aware the referral is being made so staff from the Referring Physician Office can contact them. Friend and family referrals for individuals who live in other countries must include an email address for contact. For HIPAA reasons, we cannot communicate with referring alumni about family members and friends they refer who are not their patients — the contact ends with the referral request."

# 71ST MAYO CLINIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BIENNIAL MEETING

**“Together We Are Mayo Clinic”**

**Hosted by Mayo Clinic**

**Sept. 26–28, 2019**

**Hilton Hotel**

**Rochester, Minnesota**

**Program details and registration:**  
**[alumniassociation.mayo.edu/events](http://alumniassociation.mayo.edu/events)**  
**Register by Friday, Sept. 20**

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## CONFERENCE HEADQUARTERS

**Hilton Hotel Rochester**

Mayo Clinic Area • 10 East Center St.

**Accreditation Statement**  
In support of improving patient care, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.



This activity has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™.

Returning to Rochester for the first time since 2013, this Biennial Meeting celebrates you — our alumni — and the way you represent Mayo Clinic values wherever you are.

Come “home” to Minnesota, and see the transformation of Mayo Clinic and our city in the cornfields. Bring your family and celebrate the relationships and families that began here.

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## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome reception ..... Thursday evening, Sept. 26

Scientific sessions..... Friday, Sept. 27

Recognition of award recipients and named lecturers

Doctors Mayo Society Lifetime Achievement

Distinguished Lectureship

Raymond D. Pruitt Lectureship

Judd-Plummer Lectureship

Humanitarian Award

Professional Achievement Award

President’s dinner with

live music and dancing..... Friday, Sept. 27

Priestley Society ..... Friday & Saturday, Sept. 27-28

Women’s Alumni

Subgroup..... Saturday morning, Sept. 28

### Scientific program co-chairs

Nathan Jacobson, D.O. (FM ‘05),

Department of Family Medicine, Mayo Clinic in Rochester

Mary Kasten, M.D. (INF ‘92),

Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine,  
Mayo Clinic in Rochester

### General chair

Gianrico Farrugia, M.D. (I ‘91, GI ‘94),  
president and CEO, Mayo Clinic

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## HIGHLIGHTS

### **Raymond Pruitt Lecturer**

Walter Franz III, M.D. (FM '82)  
Department of Family Medicine  
Mayo Clinic in Rochester

### **Doctors Mayo Society Lifetime Achievement Distinguished Lecturer**

#### *"Reflections on Giving Hearts"*

S. Ann Colbourne, M.D. (I '93, ADGM '94)  
Professor of medicine  
University of Alberta, Canada

### **Judd-Plummer Lecturer**

#### *"Mayo Clinic Surgery: Honoring Legacies and Exploring Frontiers"*

Bobbie Gostout, M.D.  
(MED '86, I '87, OBG '91, BIOC '93, GYNO '96)  
Vice president, Operations  
Mayo Clinic Health System  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Department of Surgery, Mayo Clinic in Rochester

#### *"The Year in Outbreaks, 2019: Infectious Diseases Impacting World Population"*

Pritish Tosh, M.D. (I '06, INFD '09)  
Division of Infectious Diseases  
Department of Medicine, Mayo Clinic in Rochester

#### *"Effective Stress Management"*

Anjali Bhagra, M.D. (I1 '05, I '08)  
Division of General Internal Medicine  
Department of Medicine, Mayo Clinic in Rochester

#### *"Vaccine Research"*

Keith Knutson, Ph.D. (IMM '05)  
Department of Immunology  
Director, Discovery and Translation Labs Cancer Research Program, Mayo Clinic in Florida

#### *"Hormones & Breast Cancer: Is There More to It Than Estrogen?"*

Lonzetta (Loni) Neal, M.D. (GIM '00)  
Division of General Internal Medicine  
Department of Medicine, Mayo Clinic in Rochester

#### *"Watchman Device and New Management for Afib"*

Sunil Mankad, M.D. (CV '06)  
Division of Cardiovascular Ultrasound  
Department of Cardiovascular Medicine  
Mayo Clinic in Rochester

#### *"Teleneonatology"*

Jennifer Fang, M.D. (MED '02, PDNE '17, PDNPM '17)  
Division of Neonatal Medicine  
Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine  
Mayo Clinic in Rochester

Christopher Colby, M.D. (PD '03)  
Chair, Division of Neonatal Medicine  
Department of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine  
Mayo Clinic in Rochester

#### *"Mayo Clinic's Green Initiatives"*

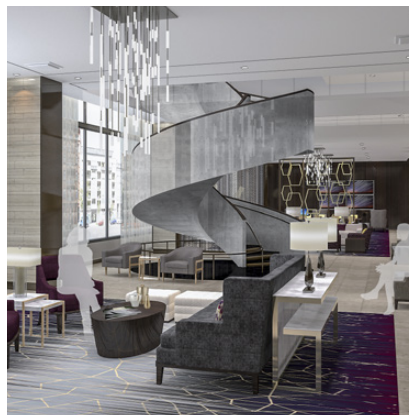
Alanna Rebecca, M.D. (PLSR '05)  
Chair, Division of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery  
Department of Surgery, Mayo Clinic in Arizona

#### *"Healthy Living"*

Stephen Kopecky, M.D. (I '84, CV '87)  
Division of Preventive Cardiology  
Department of Cardiovascular Medicine  
Mayo Clinic in Rochester

#### *"Simulation Training for Care in Unconventional and Underserved Environments"*

Mariela Rivera, M.D. (CCMS '11)  
Division of Trauma, Critical Care & General Surgery  
Department of Surgery, Mayo Clinic in Rochester



# MAYO CLINIC UPDATE

## **Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine in top 10 *U.S. News & World Report* 'Best Medical School' ranking**

Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine was ranked No. 9 in the ranking in the "Top 10 Best Medical Schools" in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2020 "Best Graduate Schools" feature.

The school was in a three-way tie with Cornell University and New York University medical schools.

"To be included as one of the top schools in the country is a testament to the tremendous educational efforts of our faculty, students and staff," says Fredric Meyer, M.D. (NS '88), the Juanita Kious Waugh Executive Dean of Education and the Alfred Uihlein Family Professor of Neurologic Surgery at Mayo Clinic. "It also recognizes the strong bonds between practice, research and education at Mayo Clinic and how we work together to develop the workforce of the future."

More than 80 percent of Mayo's M.D. students graduate with a research manuscript published in a peer-reviewed journal. This is more than twice the national average.



Sandhya Pruthi, M.D.

## **Sandhya Pruthi, M.D., is president of National Consortium of Breast Centers**

Sandhya Pruthi, M.D. (FM '94), Division of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, is the new president of the National Consortium of Breast Centers, a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to excellence in breast health. The consortium develops, maintains, advances and improves high-quality, patient-focused breast centers via education, certification and interdisciplinary communication.

## Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees news

The Mayo Clinic Board of Trustees re-elected two trustees and elected another:

**Michael Powell:** president and CEO, The Internet & Television Association; former chair, Federal Communications Commission

**Paula Menkosky:** chief administrative officer, Mayo Clinic in Arizona

**Nancy Peretsman:** managing director, Allen & Company LLC, a private investment bank, New York City

The Board elected two internal trustees:

**Claudia Lucchinetti, M.D.** (N '94, NIMM '95): chair, Department of Neurology; Eugene and Marcia Applebaum Professor of Neurosciences, Mayo Clinic in Rochester

**Christina Zorn:** chief administrative officer, Mayo Clinic in Florida

The Board named a new emeritus trustee:

**Heidi Nelson, M.D.** (CRS '88, S '89), retired in June after serving as chair, Department of Surgery, Mayo Clinic in Rochester

The Board recognized and honored emeritus trustees:

**William George:** senior fellow at Harvard Business School; former chair and CEO of Medtronic

**Wyatt Decker, M.D.** (MED '90, I '93): retired as CEO, Mayo Clinic in Arizona, in January

**John Noseworthy, M.D.** (N '90): retired in December after serving as Mayo Clinic's president and CEO

**Veronique Roger, M.D.** (CV '92): Division of Circulatory Failure, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine; Elizabeth C. Lane, Ph.D., and M. Nadine Zimmerman, Ph.D., Professor of Internal Medicine

**Mary Jo Williamson:** vice chair, administration, Mayo Clinic

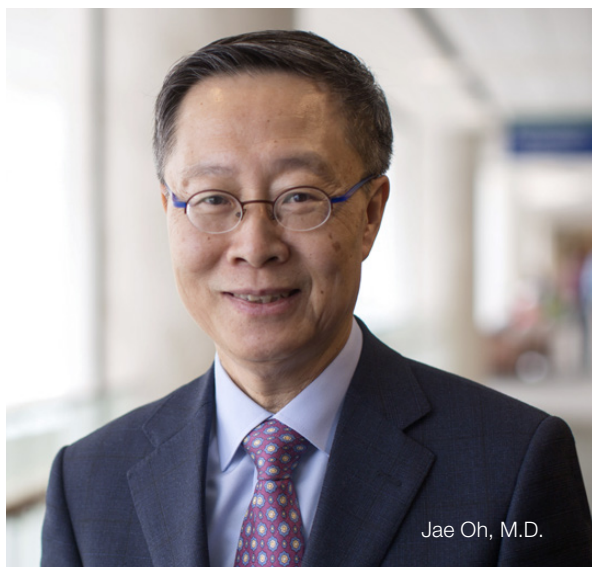


Stephen Ekker, Ph.D.

## Stephen Ekker, Ph.D., named dean of Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Stephen Ekker, Ph.D. (BIOC '07), Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, was named dean of Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. He succeeds Louis (Jim) Maher III, Ph.D. (BIOC '95).

Dr. Ekker received a Ph.D. in molecular biology and genetics from Johns Hopkins University. He is a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science, and an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota. Since 2013 he has been associate director of Mayo's Clinical and Translational Sciences Ph.D. training track within the Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Ekker also is director of Mayo Clinic's Office of Entrepreneurship, where he develops new entrepreneurship educational tools and coursework for the bench-to-business-to-bedside translational path.



Jae Oh, M.D.

## Jae Oh, M.D., receives American Society of Echocardiography Physician Lifetime Achievement Award

Jae Oh, M.D. (I '82, CV '85), Division of Cardiovascular Ultrasound at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, received the American Society of Echocardiography Physician Lifetime Achievement Award, recognizing 25 years of outstanding achievements in cardiovascular ultrasound. Dr. Oh has served as a role model through service, research and teaching and has been recognized at local, national and international levels for his many contributions to echocardiography. Dr. Oh is the Samsung Professor in Cardiovascular Diseases.

## Mayo Clinic's recent rankings

### No. 1 *Newsweek* "World's Best Hospitals"

Ranked No. 1 in the world by *Newsweek* in its list of the "World's Best Hospitals."

### No. 9 *Forbes* "America's Best Large Employers"

Ranked No. 9 by *Forbes* in its list of "America's Best Large Employers."

### "Most Wired" health care organization

Recognized among the "Most Wired" hospital and health care organizations by the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives. Key factors for recognition include cybersecurity, value-based care and patient engagement.

## Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education announces 2019 fellowship awards

The Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education announced the following 2019 fellowship award recipients. These awards honor Mayo's very best residents and fellows.

### Mayo Brothers Distinguished Fellowship Award

This award is given for clinical performance, scholarly activities and humanitarian work.

#### Haidar Abdul-Muhsin, M.B., Ch.B.

(UEND '16, S '17, U '20)

Department of Urology, Mayo Clinic in Arizona

#### Narjust Duma, M.D. (HEMO '19)

Division of Hematology, Department of Medicine  
Assistant professor of medicine and oncology

Mayo Clinic in Rochester

#### Waleed Gibreel, M.B.B.S. (PRES '14, S '16, PLS '19)

Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery  
Department of Surgery, instructor in surgery  
Mayo Clinic in Rochester

#### Ryan D'Souza, M.D. (ANES '20)

Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative  
Medicine, Mayo Clinic in Rochester

#### Laura Suarez Pardo, M.D. (P '19)

Department of Psychiatry and Psychology  
Mayo Clinic in Rochester

#### Mark Waddle, M.D. (I '16, RADO '20)

Department of Radiation Oncology  
Mayo Clinic in Florida

### Barbara Bush Distinguished Fellowship Award

This award is given to one Mayo trainee each year for humanitarianism.

#### Rosalyn Adigun, M.D., Pharm.D. (CV '19, CTSA '20)

Department of Cardiovascular Medicine  
Mayo Clinic in Rochester



Mark  
Waddle, M.D.



Haidar  
Abdul-Muhsin,  
M.B., Ch.B.



(Clockwise from left)  
Rosalyn Adigun, M.D., Pharm.D.;  
Waleed Gibreel, M.B.B.S.;  
Ryan D'Souza, M.D.;  
Narjust Duma, M.D.;  
Laura Suarez Pardo, M.D.

## Online stories

### Mayo Fellows' Association Teacher of the Year Awards

The Mayo Fellows' Association honored Rochester faculty members with Teacher of the Year Awards at an annual awards celebration in April. The event was sponsored by the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, Mayo Fellows' Association and Mayo Clinic Alumni Association.

Residents and fellows nominate and vote on the awards. Teacher of the Year Awards originated at Mayo Clinic in 1970. A Teacher of the Year Hall of Fame was created in 1986 to recognize those who have received the award three or more times.

Visit [alumniassociation.mayo.edu/news](http://alumniassociation.mayo.edu/news) to see who won these awards.



## New Chapter

New Chapter is a feature where we highlight younger alumni including:



### Lauren Bartholomew, M.D.

(MED '14), recently completed residency and started practicing family medicine at a community health center in her hometown of New Orleans, Louisiana. She's glad to be back in the Big Easy and is eager to make a difference caring for the underserved in the city she loves.



### Linda Drozdowicz, M.D.

(MED '14), says Mayo Clinic supported her development as a full person, not just as a physician. As a result, she says Mayo Clinic is in everything she does. Dr. Drozdowicz was chief resident in psychiatry at Mount Sinai in New York City last year and is now a fellow in child and adolescent psychiatry at the Yale Child Study Center in New Haven, Connecticut.

[alumniassociation.mayo.edu/new-chapter-stories](http://alumniassociation.mayo.edu/new-chapter-stories)

## Obituaries

**S. Peter Angelos, M.D.** (S '61), died Oct. 16, 2018.

**Claude Blondin, M.D.** (I '66, RHEU '68), died Oct. 30, 2017.

**John Camp Jr., M.D.** (RD '62), died Dec. 19, 2015.

**William Chapman III, M.D.** (S '82, U '86), died Feb. 24, 2019.

**Marilyn Cowger, M.D.** (PD '60), died Jan. 17, 2019.

**Lynn DeMarco, M.D.** (I '63), died Feb. 15, 2019.

**Anthony Fons III, M.D.** (N '60), died March 19, 2017.

**Michael Hollen, D.D.S.** (ODON '76), died March 24, 2017.

**Douglas Leeland, M.D.** (I '77), died March 5, 2019.

**Joseph Merrill, M.D.** (S '50), died Sept. 19, 2017.

**William Nygren, D.D.S.** (OMS '63), died Nov. 15, 2018.

**Hitoshi Ohtomo, M.D.** (N '89), died in 2015.

**Ronald Olin, M.D.** (I '64), died Nov. 9, 2018.

**Thad Rodda, M.D.** (PATH '57, S '57), died Sept. 11, 2016.

**Donald Schmidt, D.V.M.** (VETM '50), died Dec. 29, 2018.

**Bernard Spencer, M.D.** (S '53), died Jan. 4, 2018.

**Robert Tanenberg, M.D.** (I '74), died Oct. 27, 2018.

**Frank Ubel Jr., M.D.** (I '54), died Jan. 9, 2019.

**Arthur Waltz, M.D.** (N '62), died Jan. 10, 2019.

**Morris Wessel, M.D.** (PD '48), Aug. 20, 2016.

## LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER



PETER AMADIO, M.D. (OR '83)

Secretary-Treasurer, Mayo Clinic Alumni Association  
Lloyd A. and Barbara A. Amundson Professor of Orthopedics  
Mayo Clinic in Rochester

This issue of *Mayo Clinic Alumni* magazine has an international theme, focusing on Mayo Clinic's footprint around the world and the ways we benefit from physicians and scientists who come to work at Mayo Clinic from other countries. One exciting component of our international reach is our new clinic in London in collaboration with Oxford University. It's a most fitting union of two leading medical organizations in the land of W.W. Mayo's birth, and builds on a longstanding relationship between Mayo and Oxford.

The Alumni Association continues its long tradition of presenting the Balfour and Kendall awards to trainees for outstanding research efforts, and you'll read about the impressive recipients. The Alumni Association has a new tradition with the Humanitarian Endowment award, and you can read about the first two recipients of this award. I hope you'll explore applying for this award later this year and spread the word about it.

Dr. Will once said, "Science knows no country," and I couldn't agree more. Reading about our colleagues who came to Mayo Clinic campuses from far and wide to train or work, the international work our colleagues and alumni undertake, and Mayo's evolving international strategy make me proud to be part of this institution. I hope you feel the same way.

If you haven't seen the Ken Burns documentary about Mayo Clinic that you'll read about in this issue, you'll want to. I've been at Mayo Clinic for 35 years and still got misty-eyed watching the special. The wondrous union of the Mayos and Sisters of Saint Francis 130 years ago — women of faith and three men of science — has truly given rise to a place full of hope, staffed by and caring for people of all types and from all parts of the globe. The accompanying book makes a wonderful memento (and a great gift!).

There's much to be proud of, fellow alumni! Let's celebrate at the Biennial Meeting in Rochester this September. I hope you'll join me.

*Mayo Clinic Alumni* magazine is published quarterly and mailed free of charge to physicians, scientists and medical educators who studied and/or trained at Mayo Clinic, and to Mayo consulting staff. The magazine reports on Mayo Clinic alumni, staff and students, and informs readers about newsworthy activities throughout Mayo Clinic.

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Fax 507-538-7442

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Receptions  
[alumniassociation.mayo.edu](http://alumniassociation.mayo.edu)

**ALUMNI PHILANTHROPY**

Emily Green  
800-297-1185  
507-284-9101  
[doctorsmayosociety@mayo.edu](mailto:doctorsmayosociety@mayo.edu)

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507-284-2317  
[mayoalumni@mayo.edu](mailto:mayoalumni@mayo.edu)  
[alumniassociation.mayo.edu](http://alumniassociation.mayo.edu)

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Arizona 866-629-6362  
Florida 800-634-1417  
Rochester 800-533-1564  
[mayoclinic.org/medicalprofs](http://mayoclinic.org/medicalprofs)

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Mayo Clinic College of  
Medicine Student Services  
Fax 507-538-0771  
507-538-7129  
[msgmeverification@mayo.edu](mailto:msgmeverification@mayo.edu)

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Mayo Clinic MedAir  
Mayo One  
800-237-6822  
[mayomedicaltransport.com](http://mayomedicaltransport.com)

*Mayo Clinic is committed to  
creating and sustaining an  
environment that respects and  
supports diversity in staff and  
patient populations.*

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