

GRAND ROUNDS



Shaping the Future of Medicine

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“It’s important to be teaching people how to provide superior patient care. Every time I help a patient with great care, I help that patient. But every time I teach somebody how to help a patient while I am helping that patient, then that has ripple effects for generations to come.”

— **Andrew White, M.D.**

Robert W. Wilmott Endowed Professor, Chair of Pediatrics and
Pediatrician-In-Chief, SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital





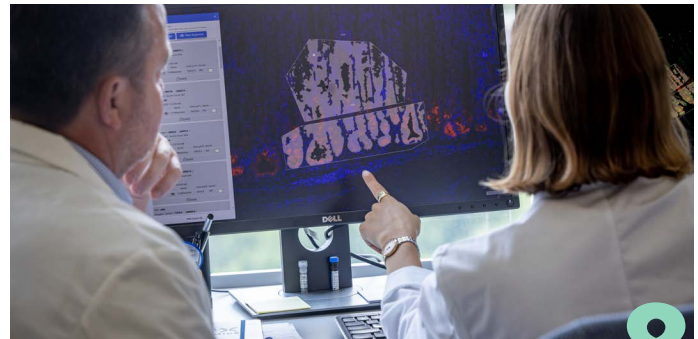
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Letter From the Dean

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Saint Louis University School of Medicine!

Our medical students are busy. Our new SLU School of Medicine Class of 2027 is well into Normal Structure & Function, Clinical Interviewing, and Health Systems Science. M2 students are studying for Step 1 exam and preparing to enter clerkships in January. M3s are in the midst of clerkships, and M4s are about to start residency interviews.

Our academic faculty is growing. SLUCare Physician Group has signed 95 new SLU faculty physicians since January. New investigators are joining our Center for Vaccine Development, Institute for Translational Neuroscience, the Advanced HEAlth Data (AHEAD) Research Institute, and our basic science and clinical departments.

The School of Medicine is transforming. Planning is underway for a Health Education Center, which will enable innovative student learning, high-fidelity simulation, and interprofessional education. We are growing scholarships for medical students from less advantaged backgrounds, supporting and growing research excellence, and establishing endowed chairs for visionary leadership across all departments.

In October, I had the pleasure of attending our annual Med Reunion and spoke with many of you individually and at various events throughout the weekend. I was asked during a presentation on our future vision and transformation, “What do you need from us?” As alumni and friends of the SLU School of Medicine, you are an essential part of our past and our future. Your support has been instrumental, and I hope you will continue to join us in advancing our mission *by considering a year-end, tax-deductible donation.*

This issue of Grand Rounds celebrates our commitment to medical education, patient care, and our community — informed by our core values: *cura personalis*, scholarship, discovery, collaboration, and equity. These values have been the guiding principles of our institution since its establishment in 1836 and they continue to guide us in our ongoing education of future physicians.

In these pages, you will find inspiring stories that capture the essence of our core values and the work of the School of Medicine



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with our students and our community. These stories celebrate the profound impact of our School of Medicine community as we commit to our shared purpose.

Our dedication to medical education would not be possible without your generosity and support year after year.

Thank you for supporting the future of medicine.

Best Regards,

Christine K. Jacobs, M.D., FAFAP

Vice President of Medical Affairs and Dean of the School of Medicine

CORE VALUES

At the Saint Louis University School of Medicine, five core values shape our commitment to medical education, the patients we serve, and the medical profession. Our values are essential in setting the educational foundation of our students, pursuing excellence in medicine, and advancing us into the future.

Cura Personalis

We care for the whole person, rooted in the Ignatian principle that God created us to do good in this world, and embracing the humanity in all people as medical professionals.



Scholarship

We deliver a transformative education and create new knowledge through the efforts of our students, faculty, and staff to benefit the greater community.

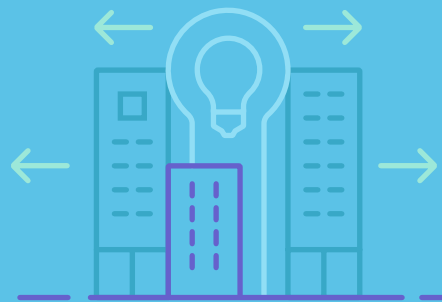


Discovery

We support research, scientific inquiry, and the application of that knowledge to further one's education.

Collaboration

We collaborate through our partnerships across Saint Louis University, SSM Health, and the wider community.



Equity

We strive for justice, fairness, and diversity in our education, research, and service to the community.



“Wellness activities are essential for everyone. There are many ways in which we as a university and a community can continue to identify and meet the needs of our students in order to maximize their development and well-being.”

— Aaron Johnson, D.M.A.

Supporting the Art of Medicine

Music soothes the soul, but it also powerfully impacts the mind — acting as a source of happiness, stimulant of focus, and a relief from stress. Stephen C. Peiper, M.D., (Med '77), recognized the impact of music throughout his years at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine, thanks to the influence of his mother, Gwendolyn Peiper.

“When I was in medical school, my mother commissioned a harpsichord from a prominent maker,” Peiper said. “I would play the harpsichord, eat, go to sleep, and wake up in the middle of the night to study. I realized that it was a stress reduction process for me.”

Following Gwendolyn’s passing, Peiper and his wife, Zi-Xuan “Zoe” Wang, Ph.D., wanted to honor her legacy as a beloved piano teacher in the St. Louis area. This led to their gift of multiple pianos to the SLU community and an established endowment for a yearly piano concert called the Gwendolyn Peiper Music in Medicine Program.

This past September, the program hosted its first piano concert in the Pitlyk Auditorium for students, donors, and the SLU Medical School community to enjoy. Nine students performed during the concert and said they played daily on the pianos as a source of practice, pleasure, and stress relief.

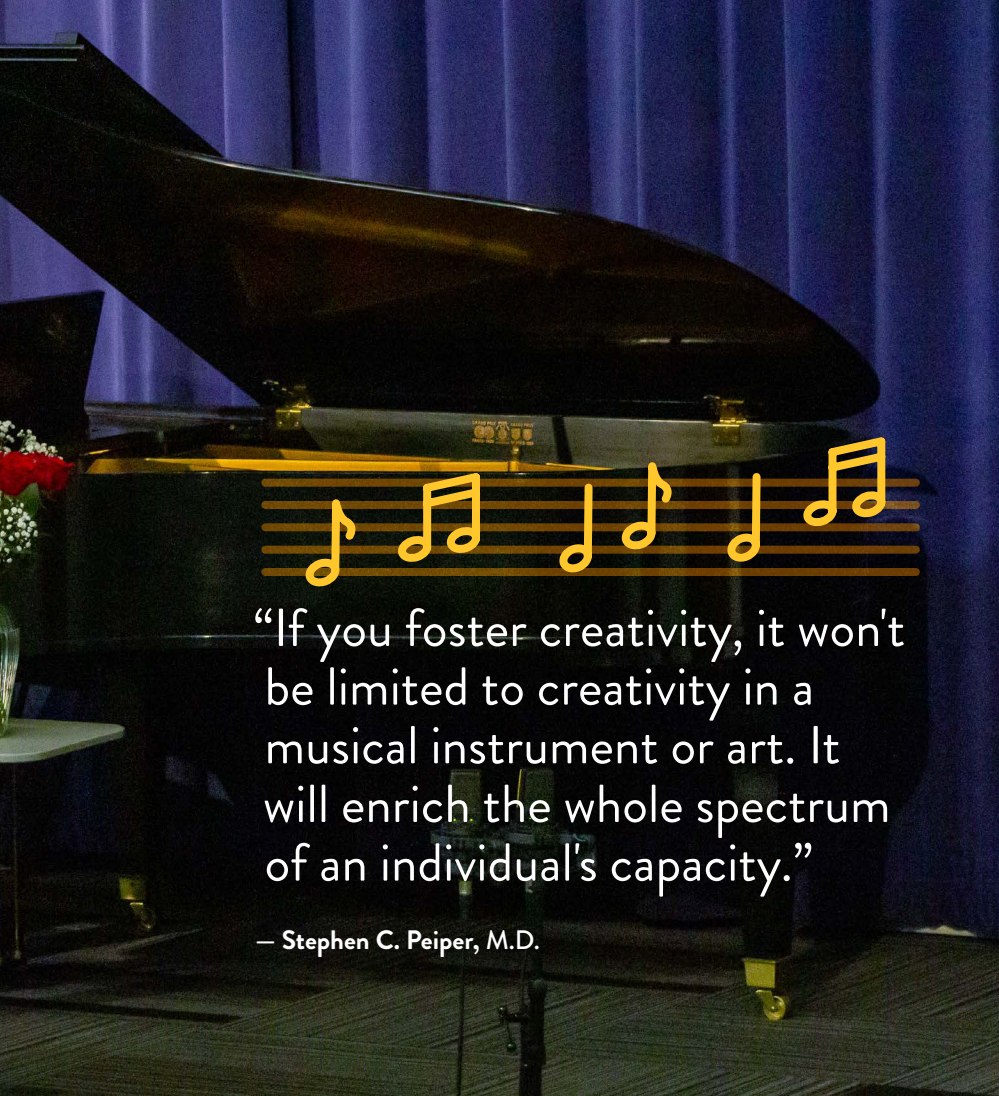
The program offers opportunities to showcase music talents, relieve tension, and foster an overall appreciation for music among medical students and the greater SLU community. Additionally, greater collaboration between the School of Medicine and the music program will inspire and benefit the broader SLU community.

“Partnerships between music programs and medical schools are few and far between,” said Aaron Johnson, D.M.A., associate professor and director of the SLU music program. “We are giving students the opportunity to explore and practice something deeply meaningful to them — showing there is room for the arts in STEM education.”

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for wellness programs within medical education has only grown. Lauren Schwarz, Ph.D., assistant dean of student affairs, explained that having adequate resources for mental health rivals the importance of a



Cura Personalis



“If you foster creativity, it won't be limited to creativity in a musical instrument or art. It will enrich the whole spectrum of an individual's capacity.”

— Stephen C. Peiper, M.D.



students' education. Programs like this show our support for students' lives outside of the classroom and recognize that listening and practicing music is a major aspect of well-being.

“By showing students that we care for them as people, we demonstrate care for their minds, bodies, and spirits,” Schwarz said. “We want them to know that for themselves so they can model it for their peers and, ultimately, their patients.”

Through this program and other existing wellness initiatives, Peiper believes these efforts will produce more humane, creative, and compassionate physicians.



Watch the first concert.
<https://bit.ly/49ESrqx>



An Oasis for Student Wellness

The rigorous nature of medical school can take a toll on any student, but the Wellness Center at the SLU School of Medicine provides a dedicated haven to alleviate the pressure. Second-year classmates Grace Trello and Blake Sparkman recognize its immediate effect on forming a stronger community among medical students.

“The Wellness Center is an oasis in the middle of medical school,” Trello said. “It is a comfortable and welcoming place with windows to have lunch, study, play games with friends, or just relax.”

The Center gives students a sense of place among the comfort and safety of their peers — opening the doors for more shared experiences. Its comfortable chairs, warm blankets, and large windows welcome students to make meaningful connections and balance academic rigors with activities promoting positive mental health.

“I appreciate that our school allocates time and resources toward student wellness,” Sparkman said. “I hope current and prospective students continue to utilize the space and have it serve as a reminder to devote time to their own mental health.”

— Jacob Gibson, Med '27



Scholarship

Welcoming the Class of 2027

In July, the Saint Louis University School of Medicine welcomed its new cohort of first-year medical students at the annual White Coat Ceremony. The momentous ceremony symbolizes the trust bestowed upon them to carry on the honorable tradition of doctoring.

The Class of 2027 boasts 182 students — hailing from 24 states and 70 different colleges or universities. As they slip on their white coats and begin their journey, this year's class is ready to make an impact through its studies and connections to the greater community.



6,000+ Applications Submitted

• • • • •

11%
Underrepresented
Students in Medicine

13 First-Generation College Students

104 Female 

+78 Male 

182 Students in the Class

130 Students Completed
Their Undergraduate
Education in the Midwest

100+ Students From Missouri and Illinois

30

Enjoy Artistic Hobbies
such as Crafting,
Painting, Photography,
and Dance

25 Are Musically Talented and Can Sing or Play at Least One Instrument

70
Participated in Sports
with Skills Varying From
Hobby to Varsity Level



The Gift of Medical Education

The Saint Louis University School of Medicine has a strong foundation — rooted in service to the greater community. Patrick and Emily Lo recognized the School’s dedication and passion for service early on through their daughter, Daphne (Med ’11). Now, they are giving back through the Lo Family Foundation, with their new scholarship for exemplary medical students who are dedicated to academic excellence and service to the community.

“We hope this scholarship will enable more do-good dreamers to stay and serve St. Louis without having to worry about paying back heavy student loan debts,” Patrick Lo said.

One of those passionate future physicians is this year’s Lo Family Scholarship recipient, Jacob Gibson. As a member of the Class of 2027, he embraces the SLU community and looks forward to all the service opportunities SLU offers its medical students within the St. Louis region.

Beyond his first classes, meetings with faculty, and newfound connections with outside organizations, he eagerly awaits working directly with patients in the clinical setting. Prior to SLU, Gibson worked in two ophthalmology offices in Springfield

and Kansas City, Missouri — gaining additional experience building relationships with patients.

“Being a part of a community, getting to know patients, and helping make a difference in their lives is what I enjoy,” Gibson said. “I don’t think I will end up in a specialty where I see a patient once and never see them again because I enjoy forming long-lasting relationships.”

As Gibson explores all that SLU has to offer its medical students, he will focus his time on his studies and community service efforts to accomplish his dream of becoming a physician and an advocate for his patients.

“When you’re caring for someone, we should be mindful of where they live, where they come from, and what they may be encountering in that place rather than just treating their symptoms,” he said. “It’s not about giving someone medicine and hoping it sticks. It’s about being a part of their journey, too.”

“It’s not about giving someone medicine and hoping it sticks. It’s about being a part of their journey, too.”

— Jacob Gibson, Med ’27



Give more students like Jacob access to a quality SLU School of Medicine education.
giving.slu.edu/Lo

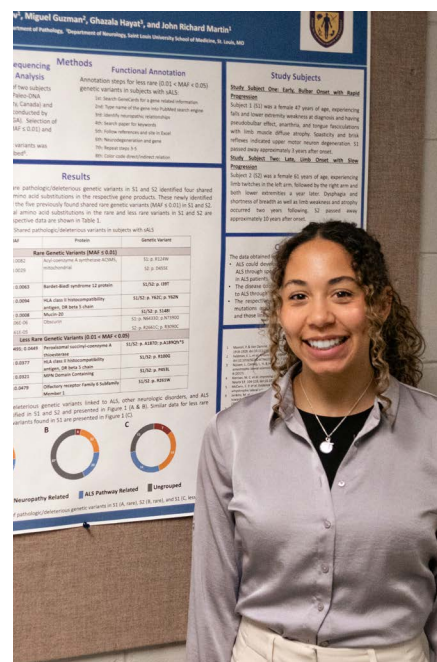
Student Research in Action

Stimulating transformative knowledge in medicine starts by offering opportunities that promote discovery. The Saint Louis University School of Medicine dedicates itself to the pursuit of excellence in education, research, clinical care, and improving overall community health. This year, the School made significant progress in research — by initiating a new pipeline program, expanding existing summer fellowships, and opening doors for more student research opportunities across campus.

Adriana Montañó, Ph.D., vice dean for research, and professor of pediatrics, biochemistry, and molecular biology, explained that SLU endeavors to provide students, faculty, and staff with the necessary resources to thrive in their research.

“We make sure to provide opportunities for our students to engage in cutting-edge research,” Montañó said. “They are able to develop new research skills, be a part of scientific discoveries, exchange ideas, build their network, and feel represented within our greater SLU community.”

Through its summer programs, high school, undergraduate, and graduate students expand their knowledge alongside skilled faculty mentors and gain invaluable academic experience in research. Students make their own discoveries that push the boundaries of scientific knowledge much sooner.



Three Research Programs

- 1 Summer Undergraduate Research Program
- 2 Summer Scholars Program for Grades 10 to 12
- 3 SLU Summer Research Program Fellowships



Be the reason SLU students have access to research opportunities.
giving.slu.edu/MedDEI

“Research can be a bridge between a gap in knowledge and a solution that will benefit our community. These programs will help students improve their skills, including critical thinking, communication, collaboration, problem solving, and organization, that can be applied to their future careers.”

— Adriana Montañó, Ph.D.



Discovery



Research as Exploration in Medicine

The Saint Louis University School of Medicine’s dedication to expose students to research begins with opportunities for mentorship and time in a lab setting. Students quickly realize the world of possibilities for a career in medicine.

The School of Medicine sponsors three summer research programs for students at different stages of the pipeline to a medical career: the Summer Undergraduate Research Program, Summer Scholars Program for grades 10 to 12, and SLU Summer Research Program Fellowships. The programs allow students to participate in research, develop confidence, and network with medical students and physicians.

Tim Murrell, Ed.D., program director for pipeline development, student engagement, and retention, witnessed this during the first year of the Summer Undergraduate Research Program. The 8-week pilot research program hosted a group of four enthusiastic undergraduates who are interested in pursuing an M.D. or Ph.D. program.

“This program provides an opportunity for students to learn about themselves, learn about research, and gives an extra boost to students who normally would not have the chance because they are underrepresented in medicine,” said Murrell, who proposed and designed the program.

Clarissa Turner, a SLU undergraduate biology student, was a pilot program member this summer. She and her cohort were each assigned to a different primary investigator, each working



on a different project and meeting at least once a week to share developments. Turner researched the genetic insights of two deceased individuals with different presentations of sporadic amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Her experience pushed her out of her comfort zone and allowed her to make connections across campus.

“The medical school devotes itself to teaching physicians who will provide holistic care to every patient they encounter,” Turner said. “This program helped to connect me to my pre-med identity and further inspires me to become the best physician and researcher I can be.”

Medical students can also participate in research opportunities through a fellowship. The summer research programs are conducted at SLU in its basic science labs or under the supervision of a clinical research project by a faculty member.

Kathleen Botterbush, (Med '26), worked alongside Tobias A. Mattei, M.D., FACS, assistant professor and chief of spine surgery, to research health care fraud and abuse in spinal surgery. Her research allowed her to explore important questions related to neurosurgery, spine surgery, and the intersection of medicine and law.

As the School of Medicine continues to develop student programs, it will open doors for students at many levels so they may explore and interact with medical research.

Igniting an Early Passion for Medicine

The Adventures in Medicine and Science (AIMS) program cultivates an early interest in medicine — offering interactive exposure to practical anatomy, auditorium presentations, hands-on dissection, summer workshops, and distance learning to high school students across the country and world. Michael Williams, Jr., M.D., FACS, associate professor of surgery and general surgery residency program director, ignited his own passion for medicine after attending the AIMS program while he was in high school. His participation opened his eyes to the field and set him toward his current career in general and vascular surgery.

What makes a program like AIMS important to high school students?

The awesome part about the AIMS program is its universal appeal to students of different backgrounds and locations. It gives students an amazing opportunity that comes from being a part of the Saint Louis University's School of Medicine, and the awesome accessibility of experts in so many different fields of medicine.

What are the benefits of the program for a young person thinking of attending?

The AIMS program opens up a whole new world of possibilities. Many kids have no idea what medicine truly is, what is out there, and where to start. AIMS allows students to see the unlimited possibilities a career in health care can offer them.

What involvement do you currently have with the AIMS program today?

I return to AIMS every year and give back through its auditorium programs and summer camps. It is important to pay it forward because I wouldn't be a doctor without the program playing the role in my life that it did. I want to inspire the next generation of physicians to find their own passions and achieve their highest career aspirations.



“By learning to push myself, I gained new perspectives and confidence that I otherwise wouldn't have had in research. I didn't let fear make me withdraw to what is most comfortable for me. I gained a lot of knowledge, developed new skills, and gained the courage to identify my purpose.”

— Kelci Crandall, SLU '25



Equity &
Community



Connecting Business Ethics and Medicine

Saint Louis University established the Bander Center for Medical Business Ethics in 2007 to promote ethical business practices in medical care and research. It focuses on conducting events and educational programming around the ethical relationships between health care professionals, patients, business, and society.

Over the last year, its influence has melded into the existing medical education curriculum with the addition of the health systems science pillar. SLU medical students are taught the impact of the financial drivers of health care and how medicine impacts society. However, the Center's impact goes further than the walls of the classroom.

Recently, the Center hosted a panel discussion that focused on Tom Mueller's book, "How to Make a Killing: Blood, Death and Dollars in American Medicine." The event brought together over 200 students to explore how dialysis became a for-profit enterprise and broader conversations regarding the health care system in our country. Additionally, attending first-year medical students were able to fulfill a

curriculum requirement and received a copy of Mueller's book from Steve Bander, M.D.

The event united panelists from diverse areas of medicine and business, allowing current medical students to form connections with industry leaders and the SLU School of Medicine alumni. Jim Junker, M.D., (Med '79), had the opportunity to meet with five first-year students during the event.

"One of the students spoke to me about how *cura personalis* has permeated the culture of the medical school and all of them left the panel inspired and educated," Junker said. "Your graduates will be looking back on their medical school years and remembering how the faculty cared about them."

The Bander Center's ongoing efforts will continue to educate the medical community by fostering a positive environment for critical thinking and hosting events. With each interaction, they hope to foster important dialogues that bring about equitable change among students and the community at large.

Panel included:

Steve Bander, M.D.
Bander Center for Medical Business Ethics

Steven Miller, M.D.
EVP and Chief Clinical Officer (retired)

Tom Mueller
Author "How to Make a Killing: Blood, Death and Dollars in American Medicine"

Fr. Michael Rozier, S.J., Ph.D.
SLU Department Chair Health Management Policy

Jason Turner, M.D., Ph.D.
Interim Dean College of Health Sciences, Professor of Health Services Management Rush University

Katherine Mathews, M.D.
SLU Associate Dean Health Systems Science

Mackenzie Poole
SLU MBA, M4 Student

Our Partners

External Partners

St. Louis Integrated Health Network
St. Louis City Office of Violence Prevention
The Inside Out Alliance at Bonne Terre Prison
Keyway Center for Diversion and Reentry
Missouri Department of Corrections
The Transition Center of St. Louis
Mission: St. Louis
St. Louis City Justice Center
Marsha McBride (Med '95)
Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital

SLU Partners

Family and Community Medicine
Family Medical Therapy Program
Physician Assistant Program
Nursing Program
College for Public Health and Social Justice
Department of Psychology
Student "Mobile Health Initiative"
SLU Cancer Center
Nutrition and Dietetics
Clinical Health Sciences
Department of Pathology
Department of Psychiatry



Collaboration



Partnering for Health

The Saint Louis University School of Medicine's commitment goes far beyond physician education. It seeks to improve the health of our diverse community by connecting others to health care services, reducing health inequities, and forming partnerships across SLU, SSM Health, and St. Louis. This summer, a major goal became a reality with the acquisition of a mobile health van.

Programs delivered through the van will help reduce pre-existing health care barriers in our city — servicing areas where community members have less access to health care facilities, transportation, or the technology to utilize telehealth options. Additionally, these programs will include training that prepares health care providers and medical students to address unmet health and wellness needs across the region.

Before the van puts its wheels on the road, SLU and its dedicated partners

are working together to establish trust, develop community relationships, and plan the van's future programming. Through ongoing partnerships, SLU reaffirms its commitment to collaborate and serve the greater community and build a healthier St. Louis.

In preparation for launching the mobile van, current efforts center on providing health care services to those coming out of incarceration, whether they are pre-trial, out on bond, or being released from prison. By working directly with our state's corrections department and additional St. Louis re-entry programs, SLU and its partners will address behavioral and emotional health needs, provide routine health care and case management support, and help people adjust to life after incarceration.

As mobile van plans evolve, SLU and its partners will continue to seek ways to make health care in St. Louis and its surrounding counties stronger and open to all.

Excellent Care Yields Top Rankings for SLU Pediatric Programs



For pediatricians at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine and SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, providing outstanding care fulfills their mission to improve children's health. The annual U.S. News & World Report Best Children's Hospitals rankings reaffirmed their immense dedication to the community and its children.

Led by SLU faculty, SSM Health's Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Surgery (CT) and Neonatology programs ranked #1 in St. Louis and #1 in Missouri. Three additional programs also ranked in the top 50 based on overall clinical outcomes, efficacy of care, patient safety, and staffing.

Andrew J. White, M.D., Robert W. Wilmott endowed professor, chair of pediatrics, and Pediatrician-In-Chief at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, credits the excellent rankings to the care they offer to patients and families that goes beyond the bedside.

"This is a tremendous recognition," White said. "For us, it's not only about the skill and the quality of our doctors and nurses — it's also about the processes and systems we have put in place that help us deliver outstanding care."

SLU's tradition of providing compassionate care, excellent medical education, and service to our greater community stems from its focus on caring for the whole family, and training the next generation of physicians to sustain our mission into the future.

Cardinal Glennon National Rankings

No. 39 Cardiology and CT Surgery
#1 in Missouri

No. 40 Neonatology
#1 in Missouri

No. 46 Gastroenterology & GI Surgery

No. 47 Nephrology

No. 50 Cancer

SSM Health Announces New Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital

On September 28, 2023, SSM Health unveiled plans to build a new, state-of-the-art children's hospital at Chouteau Avenue and Grand Boulevard in St. Louis. As the nation's first free-standing, not-for-profit Catholic children's hospital, Cardinal Glennon has cared for generations of children. The new location will provide world-class pediatric services and premier pediatric medical education for generations to come. Construction will be a multi-year project and is targeted for completion in 2027.



Medicine Across GENERATIONS

When Passion Creates a Legacy

When you have passion for your chosen profession, you have the potential to change the lives of those around you. For Paul A. Young, Ph.D., professor emeritus of anatomy at the SLU School of Medicine, (A&S '47, Grad '53), his passion for teaching medical professionals shined through every facet of his life until his passing on June 24, 2023.

Paul A. Young began teaching at Saint Louis University in 1957 as the neuroscience course director and chaired the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology from 1969-2004. His teaching methods and dedication to medical education impacted the careers of colleagues, educated generations of SLU graduates, and inspired many members of his family to become physicians.

His son, Paul H. Young, M.D., (Med '75), shared his father's immense dedication to his courses and love for his students.

"If you're good at what you do, it's not an occupation — it's a lifestyle," Paul H. Young said. "For my dad, that is what teaching was, and he was a teacher 24 hours a day."

He loved the University, he loved his students, and he just loved to teach."

It's rare to be taught by a parent in medical school and even rarer to have that same parent teach one of the most complex medical courses — anatomy and neurobiology. For Paul H. Young, he knew he wanted to become a neurosurgeon as a child — his father's role as his teacher of the brain gave him a strong foundation as a surgeon and now, as a teacher himself.

"After retiring from neurosurgery, I teach junior high and high school students, teachers, counselors, and parents about the developing brain," Paul H. Young said. "I've taken my love of the brain and tried to share its incredible structure and potential with others."

Through their passions for medicine and education, both father and son found ways to serve others — passing along their lives' work to the next generation of medical professionals.

"Each of us needs to give back in some way because it helps the next generation do the same things we were able to do," Paul H. Young said. "Put your heart and soul into what you do every day, and then put your heart and soul into making sure it continues forever."



Give to the future of medicine with your contribution to the Paul A. Young Endowed Medical Education Scholarship.
giving.slu.edu/Young

1957

Paul A. Young, Ph.D., arrives at SLU to begin his teaching career in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology.

Inspiring a Love for Medicine

In our lives, there are places that hold key family memories. For the Sly Family, Saint Louis University is where passions originated, research emerged, and a lasting family legacy continues to flourish.

William Sly, M.D., professor emeritus of biochemistry and molecular biology, (Med '57), has been an integral member of the SLU School of Medicine community for over 70 years as a student, faculty member, and world-renowned physician and scientist. And now, his granddaughter, Caroline Hughes, (Med '27), joins SLU's newest class of medical students to become a physician herself.

"My grandfather was the first example of a physician in my life," Hughes said. "Having the honor and opportunity to attend the same institution that formed him into the physician he is today is so special."

Sly's passion for medicine and science fuels his work, but it is his family at home and his SLU family that inspire his deep love for medicine. His gratitude to the University is boundless — forming both his dedication to discovering treatment for mucopolysaccharidoses and teaching invaluable lessons to his students.

Now, he gets to witness his granddaughter take her first steps toward her career. Her path officially started with him placing her white coat on her shoulders this summer.

"I knew that I would have the opportunity to confer her white coat, but I did not realize how much of an



impact it would have on me," Sly said. "It was then that it dawned on me: Caroline was here and a part of the same University that I had a 70-year association with, and it was quite moving."

"My grandfather was the first example of a physician in my life."

— Caroline Hughes, Med '27

As she tackles her first year of studies, Sly's greatest hope is that his granddaughter will be the medical professional she wants to be and follow her own path in the years ahead.

"I want her to choose a specialty that is really exciting for her, where she thinks she can make a difference and be fulfilled in her career."

Caroline Hughes, (Med '27), receives her white coat from her grandfather, William Sly, M.D., (Med '57), professor emeritus of the SLU School of Medicine.

2023

TALENTS BEYOND MEDICINE



Keniesha Thompson, M.D.

Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

Keniesha Thompson grew up in a family of creators. Her grandfather was an artist by trade and her mother took every opportunity to beautify their home while staying on a strict budget. Today, she channels her family's artistic influence into her passion of event decorating and organic balloon designs. She enjoys sharing her talent with others at their events, but it also gives her a creative outlet beyond her work in medicine.

"Having a creative outlet has really helped me to find balance in life. It allows me to use my hands and express my creativity in a way that is not always possible at work."

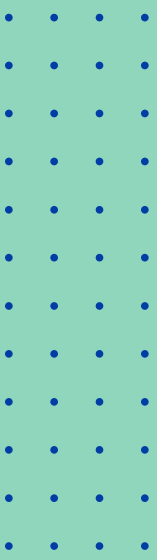


Jamie Sutherell, M.D., M.Ed.

Professor and Vice Chair of Education in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of Cardiology, at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine

Jamie Sutherell has pursued art for as long as he can recall, with an initial dream to become a medical illustrator before starting his own journey through medical school. Today, he uses his talent for creating realistic landscapes and wildlife paintings to showcase the beauty and complexity of nature. He explained that painting is a form of meditation where his busy days as a physician and professor melt away with the strokes of his paintbrush.

"We all need a way to decompress and activate other parts of our brain and free our mind. For me, that's painting. I try to end most days by painting — even if only for 20 minutes — to help me provide closure to each day and settle my mind."



Caring for patients also requires time where physicians and medical students step away from the bedside to cultivate their own gifts and talents. We connected with four members of our Saint Louis University School of Medicine community to explore their passions outside of their profession.



Victoria Leung

Third-Year Medical Student

Victoria Leung has a lifelong connection to making art — first as an acrylic painter and now as a scratch artist. Scratch art uses tools such as a scratch knife, wooden stylus, or an etching needle to draw lines on a white cardboard that is covered with a thin layer of black tempera paint. She said her work with scratch art allows her to freely express herself and transform her emotions and memories into a beautiful creation. It also provides her with a hobby outside of her medical school studies.

“We spend countless hours of our day studying and caring for patients in inpatient and outpatient settings. We, like our patients, are humans, too, and we should be able to cultivate our interests that make us feel good about ourselves. Finding sufficient ways to destress to be in our best place mentally, physically, and emotionally is crucial to providing the best care for our patients.”



Torrey Guan

Third-Year Medical Student

Before Torrey Guan embarked on his studies in medicine, he initially attended Case Western Reserve University on a full-ride music scholarship to become an oboist. He started playing with a family friend who was a professional oboist for the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. From there, he participated in multiple orchestras — including the California Youth Symphony — performed abroad, and played for various volunteer organizations. He loves the challenge that a new piece of music brings, and it gives him something to look forward to outside of his studies.

“During my time in orchestra, I’ve met incredible individuals from all walks of life. I’ve made lifelong friends, who I continue to talk with today. But besides the interpersonal benefits of having a hobby outside of medical school, it also acts as a way to help me recharge after a long day.”

More than 225 people joined Saint Louis University for its 2023 School of Medicine Reunion on October 13-15. The reunion celebrated the Classes of 1958, 1960, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1976, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, and 2018.

Guests flew in from all over the country, with the two largest classes represented being the Class of 1973, celebrating its 50-year reunion, and the Class of 1993, celebrating its 30-year reunion.

The weekend kicked off Friday at Chase Park Plaza with a welcome and an all-class reunion dinner. At a continuing medical education program the following morning, the new SOM Metabolic and Nutrition Institute was introduced by Directors Wing-Kin Syn, M.D., Ph.D. and Ajay Kuman Jain, M.D. Dean Jacobs provided updates on the School of Medicine and a current medical student spoke about their experience at SLU at the Meet the Dean Luncheon, followed by tours of SSM Saint Louis University Hospital and SLU's Practical Anatomy and Surgical Education facilities. Events concluded with a cocktail reception Saturday night and an opportunity to attend Sunday Mass at St. Francis Xavier College Church.



2023 School of Medicine REUNION





Save the Date for Med Reunion 2024

Calling all alumni from the School of Medicine Classes of 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014, and 2019! The School of Medicine and Dean Christine Jacobs invite you to a special reunion weekend on October 25-27, 2024. Celebrate this milestone with fellow classmates and visit the School of Medicine for a series of events.

For more information and to become involved with planning your class's reunion, please visit slu.edu/medreunion.



View additional photos from the weekend here:
[flickr.com/photos/slualumniphotos/albums/72177720312011849](https://www.flickr.com/photos/slualumniphotos/albums/72177720312011849)

In Memoriam

In remembrance of our colleagues who have passed away. The following notices of deaths were received from June 1, 2023 - October 9, 2023.

Dr. Ralph Kinsella, *Class of 1943*
Dr. William O'Meilia, *Class of 1946*
Dr. Stanley Legner, *Class of 1947*
Dr. Thomas Noto, *Class of 1957*
Dr. Frank Apicella, *Class of 1958*
Dr. William Kennedy, *Class of 1958*
Dr. Brian Williams, *Class of 1958*
Dr. James Barrow, *Class of 1959*
Dr. Nolan Pitsinger, *Class of 1960*
Dr. Scott Guth, *Class of 1961*
Dr. Robert Kane, *Class of 1961*
Dr. Peter Sheaff, *Class of 1961*
Dr. Richard Munch, *Class of 1962*
Dr. Neal Olson, *Class of 1962*
Dr. Leonard Brennan, *Class of 1963*
Dr. Eugene Leone, *Class of 1963*
Dr. Charles Davis, *Class of 1964*
Dr. Daniel Fisher, *Class of 1964*
Dr. Philip Shanahan, *Class of 1964*
Dr. Joseph D'Apice, *Class of 1965*
Dr. Patrick Hogan, *Class of 1965*
Dr. John O'Neill, *Class of 1965*
Dr. Charles Sheehan, *Class of 1965*

Dr. Stuart DuPen, *Class of 1967*
Dr. John O'Brien, *Class of 1968*
Dr. Marilyn Boitano, *Class of 1970*
Dr. Richard Butler, *Class of 1970*
Dr. David Kukura, *Class of 1970*
Dr. Harold McCartney, *Class of 1971*
Dr. Dennis Chez, *Class of 1972*
Dr. John Tongue, *Class of 1972*
Dr. James Williams, *Class of 1972*
Dr. David Minna, *Class of 1973*
Dr. Charles Earnshaw, *Class of 1974*
Dr. Joseph Stothert, *Class of 1974*
Dr. Peter Carrillo, *Class of 1975*
Dr. William Rose, *Class of 1975*
Dr. Murali Sundaram, *Class of 1975*
Dr. Michael Hutchinson, *Class of 1976*
Dr. Douglas Mallory, *Class of 1977*
Dr. Thomas Shultz, *Class of 1977*
Dr. Gregory Freed, *Class of 1978*
Dr. David Tapp, *Class of 1978*
Dr. Kirk Packo, *Class of 1979*
Dr. Jeffery Clarke, *Class of 1983*
Dr. Thomas Martin, *Class of 1983*
Dr. Dean Paulsen, *Class of 1983*
Dr. Torgeir Finsaas, *Class of 1986*
Dr. Dwight Helmrich, *Class of 1986*
Dr. Michael Lane, *Class of 1990*
Dr. Teresa Knight, *Class of 1998*
Dr. Timothy Breedlove, *Class of 1999*

Class Notes

Donald A Bentrovato, M.D., FACS, (Med '73)
I'm pleased to report that I recently received a honor from the Medical Society of Schenectady NY, at a celebration of being a physician for 50 years. In addition, my classmate, Dr. David Rockwell, also received his certificate of honor for our service to our community!

I am fully retired from active clinical and surgical practice, but remain Clinical Associate Professor, Departments of Surgery and Urology, Albany Medical College and Center. I mentor both PreMed students from Union College and Albany Medical College, run shadowing clinical experiences for students, and am on

the Admissions Committee, interviewing prospective students to the Medical College.

A labor of love, and my attempt to "pay it forward" to help train the future healers of the future!

Mark J. Fesler, M.D., (Med '03)

Dr. Mark J. Fesler has led the development of a bispecific immunotherapy program focused on advancing the treatment of blood cancer at St. Luke's Center for Cancer Care in Chesterfield, Missouri. The program offers this novel treatment as part of standard of care and in the context of clinical trials.

Paul A. Young, Ph.D.

1926 — 2023



Paul A. Young, Ph.D., professor emeritus of anatomy at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine, died June 24, 2023. He was 96. Young was born on Oct. 3, 1926, in St. Louis to Dr. Nicholas and Olive Young. He graduated St. Louis University High School in 1944, received his B.S. in Biology from SLU in 1947, and played on the 1944-45 SLU basketball team while older players were away at war.

After obtaining his Ph.D. in Anatomy from the University of Buffalo, he returned to SLU to teach neurobiology and chair the anatomy department. He began teaching in 1957 and remained at SLU for over 60 years until his retirement. Young married Catherine Ann Hofmeister in 1949. She preceded him in death in 2004. He is survived by 10 children, 30 grandchildren, and 36 great-grandchildren.

Paul Pitlyk, M.D.

1933 — 2023



Paul Pitlyk, M.D., retired neurosurgeon and navy captain, died on April 5, 2023. He was 90. Pitlyk was born on January 26, 1933, in St. Louis to John and Odell Pitlyk. He graduated Saint Louis University in 1955, went on to obtain his medical degree from the School of Medicine in 1959, and then studied neurosurgery at Mayo Clinic from 1960 to 1965.

He served as a trauma neurosurgeon on the front lines in Vietnam before beginning his successful practice in both Burlingame and Santa Clara, California. He also volunteered with the Flying Samaritans, a group of medical personnel who traveled to Baja California once a month to set up a weekend clinic. Pitlyk is survived by his wife of 29 years, Nicole, two stepchildren, and three siblings.

GET ENGAGED

Support the Future of Medical Education

Medical and science education is transforming, and the School of Medicine is elevating the student experience with its innovative curriculum, patient-focused learning, and impactful research – but taking these important steps forward requires your support.

Your financial support makes the vital work of our students, faculty, and researchers possible.

We'd love to hear from you!

We are interested in our graduates' news and accomplishments, both personal and professional. Share your news with us at som-deansoffice@health.slu.edu.



Give Before the Year Ends!

When you make a gift to the School of Medicine by December 31, 2023, you will strengthen and expand our ability to meet the needs of our students, faculty, researchers, and the community in the new year.

Dean's Education and Research Fund

Excellent faculty and innovative curriculum attract the best and brightest learners to the School of Medicine. Your gift will provide faculty and curricular resources.

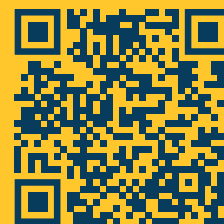
Seed grants are an essential resource for investigators to accelerate their basic, clinical, and translational research. Your gift will increase the availability of seed grants to start programs.

The School of Medicine Annual Fund

A gift to the SLU School of Medicine Annual Fund allows us to designate funds as needed, ensuring key priorities receive the funding to succeed.

White Coat Society Scholarship Fund

Many of our students rely on scholarships to attend SLU School of Medicine, and we are committed to making our high-quality education more attainable. Your support will lower the cost barriers for our students, helping them achieve their dream of a SLU School of Medicine education.



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[giving.slu.edu/
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GRAND ROUNDS VOL. 9, WINTER 2024

“In addition to strengthening and renewing old friendships, participating in med reunions bolsters class spirit, goodwill, and facilitates efforts to support current students.”

— William Oetgen, M.D., (Med '73)
Class president and helped to organize the 1973 50th reunion

**Help plan the perfect
reunion weekend
for yourself and
your classmates!**

No matter how you would like to be involved, we have the opportunity for you! Contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at reunions@slu.edu for more information.

