Rush prepares for new approaches to care with precision medicine  
Page 12

A distinguished alumna finds that change begins with one simple question  
Page 14

Alumni across programs share their latest news and accomplishments  
Page 16
8  
Transforming Health Through Service

Students and faculty design new models to address health disparities — and create new opportunities for hands-on learning.

12  
The Big Deal About Big Data

14  
The Importance of Asking ‘Why?’

3 Leadership Perspective: Transforming Health Care

4 Rush News

7 College News

16 Alumni Updates & Accomplishments

21 In Memoriam

23 From the Rush Archives
Transforming Health Care

The idea of transforming health care is central to all that we do. But these efforts aren’t limited to the work of our faculty, staff and students. So many of our nearly 25,000 alumni have gone on to do the same, shaping the health of countless patients through practice, research and education in communities across the globe.

As such, it seemed only fitting to center the inaugural issue of Rush University Magazine on this theme of transforming health care.

From students’ and faculty’s work to develop new models for prevention and treatment to Rush’s efforts to advance precision medicine capabilities, we’re pleased to share some of the ways our people and programs are changing health care in Chicago and beyond.

And we know that this issue’s story of alumna Julie Freischlag, MD ’80, vice chancellor for human health sciences and dean of the UC Davis School of Medicine, is one of many such stories we could share about Rush alumni, across a wide range of roles and specialties, who are making an impressive mark on the field of health care. We look forward to telling even more of these stories in future issues.

This new publication is for and about you, our alumni and friends. The news we’ll be sharing in this and future issues is only possible because of the engagement of our alumni, donors, faculty and friends.

We hope you take as much pride in your association with Rush as we do.
Rush unveiled initial plans for the further redevelopment of its campus to continue transforming its clinical, educational and research processes and programs. Central to this effort will be a new nine-story, 620,000-square-foot outpatient care facility located on Harrison Street, just east of Ashland Avenue.

“By virtue of its design and flexible layout, the new building will enhance how we provide care for our patients, so that when necessary, multiple medical specialists can see a patient in one efficient visit,” said Larry Goodman, MD, GME, CEO of Rush University Medical Center and president of Rush University.

This planned outpatient building is part of Rush’s vision to increase access to care for patients, enhance academic teaching programs and grow medical research — all while strengthening and growing Rush’s network of care facilities and providers throughout the Chicago area.

Rush Campus Expanding With New Outpatient Building

Read more about the campus master plan at rush.edu/campusplan.

K. Ranga Rama Krishnan, MB, ChB, joined Rush in October 2015 as the new Henry P. Russe, MD, Dean of Rush Medical College and senior vice president of Rush University Medical Center. Krishnan most recently served for seven years as dean at the Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School in Singapore. Under his leadership, the school established a unique learning program for medical students called Team Lead that has been widely recognized and adapted by other institutions, and he has authored two books on innovative approaches to medical education. Krishnan was chairperson of psychiatry at Duke from 1998 to 2009, when the department conducted more than 270 studies a year, with approximately $40 million per year in funding.

New RMC Dean Brings Unique Experiences

10 Rush University Programs Reach Top 10 in U.S. News Graduate School Rankings

Rush University is well-represented in the 2017 edition of U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Graduate Schools” survey released March 16. Eight programs in the College of Nursing and two programs in the College of Health Sciences are ranked among the top 10 in the country. The College of Nursing is ranked No. 5 in the Doctor of Nursing Practice category and No. 16 in the Master’s category. The College of Health Sciences’ health systems management program is ranked No. 5 and its audiology program is ranked No. 9., among other ranked programs. Learn more about Rush’s ranked graduate programs at rush.edu/usnews-2017.
Simulation Center Plans Expansion

Since opening its new 7,600-square-foot center in 2014, the Rush University Simulation Center has seen 150 percent growth in simulation training among students, staff and faculty. Now an expansion will add new capabilities and more space for this critical practice and instruction. Planned for completion in 2017, the next phase of construction will integrate a standardized patient program, in which students will practice taking histories, making diagnoses and interacting with patients, with live actors posing as patients and family members. The addition will also incorporate a virtual reality room, complete with laproscopic and surgical task trainers; additional space for group learning; and a parts lab for managing synthetic and small cadaveric parts for the practice of procedures and surgical techniques.

To learn more, contact Mari Philipsborn at mari_philipsborn@rush.edu or (312) 942-6567.

Rush University Launching Improved Website

Rush University will soon launch a completely redesigned version of the rushu.rush.edu website. The new website will showcase compelling student, faculty and alumni stories through video, pictures, text and social media. With an intuitive and mobile-friendly site design, users will be able to more easily start on the path to their degree, find resources as they take classes and stay connected with classmates and faculty after they graduate.

Rush Receives Magnet Designations for Nursing Excellence

Rush University Medical Center, for the fourth time since 2002, and Rush Oak Park Hospital, for the first time ever, recently earned Magnet designations — the highest recognition given for nursing excellence. The Medical Center and Rush Oak Park Hospital are among only 7 percent of hospitals in the U.S. that earned the distinction. Independent studies of Magnet hospitals suggest they have shorter patient stays, higher patient satisfaction rates, lower mortality rates and increased nurse retention rates.

Presbyterian Grad Leaves $2.9 Million for Rush Nursing PhD Students

Dorothy Yates, a 1937 graduate of Rush predecessor Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing and former head nurse at Presbyterian during the 1940s and 50s, left the College of Nursing a $2.9 million bequest that will support nursing PhD students’ tuition and living expenses. In 1998 she established the Dorothy Yates Endowed Scholarship Fund for undergraduate nursing students and also funded several gift annuities. Read more about nursing PhD students and Yates’ bequest at rush.edu/yates-nursing.
Road Home Program Opens Intensive Outpatient Services

Rush launched a new three-week intensive outpatient program for veterans and their family members in January as part of the Warrior Care Network, a first-of-its-kind national care network for military personnel. The regimen, which is administered by the Road Home Program: The Center for Veterans and Their Families at Rush, involves group therapy, individualized psychological treatments, family counseling, rehabilitative medicine and innovative therapies like meditation.

This expansion in services is supported by a $15 million matching grant from the Wounded Warrior Project and by the upcoming Road Home Program Benefit 2016 on June 7.

Learn more at rush.edu/rhp-benefit.

Scorecard Shows Rush Health Sciences Grads Among Highest Paid in Illinois

Rush University’s College of Health Sciences, or CHS, leads Illinois schools in undergraduate students’ post-graduation earnings, with an average annual salary of $74,000, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Charlotte B. Royeen, PhD, dean of the College of Health Sciences and A. Watson Armour III Presidential Professor, credits CHS grads’ earnings to targeted programs designed to lead to employment immediately after graduation, as well as the highly specialized nature of the college’s offerings. “It’s hard to say how things will play out with health care reform,” Royeen said, “but what we do know is we have a large aging population, and the care that population will need pretty much guarantees high employability in any of these fields.” Read more at rush.edu/chspay.

Rush Celebrates Its Partnerships in New Annual Report

To truly transform health care, we need transformational ideas, many more of which will come from working together rather than alone. In 2015 philanthropic partners helped Rush make a difference across health care, research, education and community outreach. Rush’s annual report offers a look at some of these partnerships and the advances they made possible. To read the 2015 online Annual Report, please visit annualreport.rush.edu.

Class of 2016 Matches at 71 Institutions

On March 18, 126 members of the Rush Medical College Class of 2016 matched in 20 specialties across 71 institutions; 22 graduating students will remain at Rush for residencies. Graduates also matched at other prestigious institutions, including Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, the Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education and Duke University School of Medicine. Medical alumni, keep an eye out for a communication from the Office of Alumni Relations this summer with the contact information of students who are coming to your area.

Rush, DePaul University Team Up to Reduce Health Disparities

The establishment of the Center for Community Health Equity — a new collaboration between Rush University and DePaul University — seeks to break the link between hardship and health. Rush and DePaul will work to identify health disparities, train health care workers and collaborate in rapidly evolving health fields. Rush faculty and health professionals working alongside DePaul social science faculty will develop projects with the community’s needs at the forefront, evaluate student experiences in community-based programs and analyze epidemiological data. Read more about the effort at rush.edu/depaulequity.
Kathryn S. Keim, PhD, RD, LDN, was appointed chair of the Department of Clinical Nutrition, after serving as acting chair. Keim joined Rush in 2005 as professor and coordinator for the master’s degree program in clinical nutrition.

Kerry D. Ebert, PhD, CCC-SLP, assistant professor and speech-language pathologist in the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences, was awarded $450,000 in National Institutes of Health National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders R03 funding to study attention in bilingual children with language impairment.

Nisha Lulla, MHS, FACHE, adjunct faculty member in Health Systems Management, was appointed associate vice president of hospital operations at Rush in October 2015. Her leadership responsibilities include food and nutrition services; respiratory therapy; patient transport; and religion, health and human values.

Beth Bolick, DNP, CPNP-AC, RN, professor and director of the acute care pediatric nurse practitioner program, developed a major initiative to stop bullying in hospital settings through training videos and other resources during her tenure as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Fellow. The Civility Toolkit offers resources to “empower health care leaders to identify, intervene and prevent workplace bullying,” according to the hosting website. Learn more at stopbullying toolkit.com.

Susan Breitenstein, PhD, RN, PMHCNS, associate professor, received a R01 grant from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality for her four-year project, “Parent Training in Pediatric Primary Care: A Self-Directed Tablet-Based Approach.” The study evaluates the efficiency, cost effectiveness and implementation of a digital parenting program in pediatric primary care sites serving low-income, urban families.

The Illinois Nurses Foundation and the Illinois Healthcare Action Coalition chose eight nurses and nursing faculty members at Rush for the organization’s inaugural 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader Awards. Only one other institution in Illinois had more than one nurse who received the award. Read more at rushperson.rush.edu/2015/11/12/nurses-under-40.

JoEllen Wilbur, PhD, APN, FAAN, professor and associate dean for research in the Department of Women, Children and Family Nursing, published research findings in the American Journal of Health Promotion, addressing physical activity in underserved populations. Wilbur’s study focused on women in predominately African-American communities and found that group meetings were a powerful intervention for increasing physical activity and preventing weight gain.

A new doctoral program in integrated biomedical sciences launched in summer 2015 to increase interdisciplinary research collaborations, promote translational research and better prepare students for careers. The program started with seven PhD students, though three more minority students will join, thanks to an NIH grant from the Initiative to Maximize Student Development, which aims to increase diversity among researchers.

The Graduate College Student Council joined the University in increasing interprofessional education opportunities through clinician-led lunch seminars with heavy research components. The seminars encourage students from all colleges to learn how clinical experiences can influence research hypotheses.

The Graduate College faculty will again work with the University of Chicago and other local institutions to apply for a third renewal of grant funding from the Institute of Translational Medicine. This initiative provides about $5 million in direct support annually for internal pilot project funding, graduate education and other basic science research needs.

Medical education is shifting away from didactic lecture and classroom learning in favor of earlier immersive learning experiences. In its commitment to hands-on education, Rush Medical College began a substantial curriculum renewal to apply more experiential teaching methods and expand how students receive materials through technology. To establish more patient-centered education, faculty is working toward using classes for small-group discussion and application of concepts in place of large lectures. Additionally, normal and abnormal conditions will be taught together during M1 and M2 courses starting in September 2017.

Staff from Med School Tutors visited Rush in January for a series of one-on-one counseling sessions and seminars with M2 students to help them prepare for the Step 1 exam. The tutors provided advice about creating study plans, selecting and optimizing resources, and developing strategies to mitigate stress.

The Grand Rounds in Medical Education program will continue in 2016 to help build best educational practices in courses. In 2015 seminars addressed how best to apply the flipped classroom model of teaching to medical classes and use assessment tools in clinical settings.

Suparna Dutta, MD, MPH, medical director of the attending directed service and assistant professor of medicine, was recognized as a Top Hospitalist of 2015 by the American College of Physicians. She was designated for her efforts to improve patient communication scores at Rush and adding nurse practitioners and physician assistants to care teams in place of residents on a nonteaching service.
Transforming Health Through Service

Students and faculty design new models to address health disparities — and create new opportunities for hands-on learning.

BY BEN FELDHEIM

Monique Reed, PhD, RN, uses her research to bring unique health education and prevention programs to populations that need them, like this group of teens at Richard T. Crane Medical Preparatory High School.
At Richard T. Crane Medical Preparatory High School on Chicago’s Near West Side, around 250 teens gathered in the school’s gymnasium for a Power Hour, a physical activity clinic created by students from Rush University College of Nursing and Crane. While there was chatter at the beginning, the students quickly settled before trying out yoga poses and exercises while paying close attention to instructions.

Monique Reed, PhD, RN, a BMO Harris Bank Health Disparities Fellow at Rush, is researching ways to bring more health education to underserved populations. The goal is to reduce medical disparities between wealthier and less-affluent communities, in part by reducing preventable conditions. Among several efforts, Reed oversees students in Rush’s nursing Generalist Entry Master’s Program as they create a curriculum, working with Crane students, faculty and staff during after-school hours, that encourages mindful eating and physical activity. Reed’s work is funded through a $5 million grant from BMO Harris Bank as part of the Building Healthy Urban Communities project — one of many community outreach efforts at Rush.

“Everyone participating gained from this Power Hour program,” Reed said. “The Rush students got hands-on experience leading hundreds of teens in a program. They also recruited their own colleagues for volunteer support, arranged for a Chicago Park District yoga instructor to demonstrate and enlisted Crane staff to assist. Crane itself was in need of diverse after-school programming, and a lot of the Crane students had never actively participated in yoga before.”

Engaging Outside the Medical Center to Prevent Illness

Lowering health care costs requires preventing disease as much as effective treatment. In tandem, health care education has shifted from classroom lectures to hands-on learning — the types of student experiences for which Rush University is known best. Today, Rush students and faculty exemplify both shifts, as they work to improve health education, enhance access to preventive care and address contributing factors like physical activity and nutrition. Through a series of innovative faculty- and student-run programs, Rush University is strengthening the health of its neighbors, while preparing its students for the new realities of health care delivery.

“If we’re really going to achieve health equity, we can’t just address what goes on within the four walls of medical centers,” said David Ansell, MD, MPH, senior vice president of system integration at Rush.

“We’ve made a commitment for the last 25 years to partner with communities and listen to their needs,” Ansell said. “We’re measuring educational outcomes for students, and we’re measuring how we improve the health of our community.

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**IN 2015 THERE WERE**

27
ACTIVE RCSIP PROGRAMS

2,001
RUSH STUDENTS VOLUNTEERING

8,382
HOURS INTO RCSIP EFFORTS

54%
OF RUSH STUDENTS SURVEYED IN 2015 SAID OUR COMMITMENT TO GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY INFLUENCED THEIR DECISION TO ATTEND RUSH UNIVERSITY.
It’s a tall mountain to climb, but if we do this, even in a small way, there’s a model for this city and across the country.”

Taking Care Directly to Those in Need
In 1991, more than 20 years before the Affordable Care Act required medical centers to engage in community outreach, the Rush Community Service Initiatives Program, or RCSIP, was created to match students and faculty with various community health needs.

The nearby community needs are substantial — especially west and south of downtown Chicago. Less affluent areas of the city face significantly greater health issues and have fewer resources that are nearby to meet the needs.

“In Chicago’s Loop, life expectancy is 85, but five miles away in Garfield Park, the life expectancy is 72,” Ansell said. “You go a little further west, it’s 69 years. By building relationships and paying attention to what people need, we can go to Garfield Park and bend that life-expectancy curve.”

RCSIP programs are mostly broken down into three types: health care education, promotion and access, such as community-based clinics; pipeline training, where high school and college students are mentored and guided toward health-related careers, such as Crane Prep; and outreach programs, such as the Day of Service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr., on which all RCSIP participants serve breakfast at shelters, give health screenings and more in honor of the civil rights leader.

Certain RCSIP programs help people better care for themselves, while also educating their peers, such as 5+1=20. Through this program, Rush volunteers teach students at Chicago Public Schools how to screen for common conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure. The CPS students are then encouraged to bring their family members to health fairs at their schools.

“There are studies that show that peer education programs can get the health message across much better than we clinicians can,” said John Nixon, MD ’15, who as a Rush student helped create the 5+1=20 program.

Often scheduled to coincide with report-card pickup or parent-teacher conferences, health fairs are held in support of programs such as 5+1=20, where Rush volunteers supervise screenings and set up referrals to nearby clinics. In the 2013–14 academic year, more than 840 people attended Rush’s community health fairs. Among the attendees, 274 were referred for diabetes screening, 362 were referred for high blood pressure and 196 were referred for mammograms.

“Every time we do one of these fairs, we find people who are in such dire need of care that we’ve sent them immediately by ambulance to Rush,” said Sharon Gates, senior director of community engagement at Rush. “The
Rush nursing students from the Generalist Entry Master’s Program celebrate a successful day at Richard T. Crane Medical Preparatory High School. Under the supervision of nursing faculty, they design and implement physical activity programs and other health interventions for teens.

“Our students can do that every day, and they can do it everywhere they go after graduating.”

More Community Outreach, More Effective Caregivers

Rush faculty, staff and students agree that community outreach develops more committed and well-rounded health professionals. Interest in participating is so widespread that several programs often have waitlists. Additionally, the programs continue to be passed down to new students and participants as years pass and Rush’s population changes, which has helped sustain and enrich this effort for the last 25 years.

“Compassion and empathy, putting yourself in someone else’s shoes, are critical skill sets to develop,” Ansell said. “They are just as essential as any other health care skill one would describe as technical. In fact, these are the technical skills of exceptional health care professionals.”

“Doctors have said that they were walking time bombs. They are alive because they attended the health fairs.”

Exposing Students to the Populations They Will Serve

For many Rush students, a community outreach experience may be the first time they have closely interacted with people whose ages, ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds differ from their own. These opportunities are often watershed moments in the students’ paths toward lifelong careers, built on invaluable interactions that cannot be replicated in any class setting.

“I tell students that they’re not just going to treat people who look like them,” said Gates. “So often I witness students walking into rooms, and they see they are no longer among the dominant culture. And because of these experiences, they are confident, comfortable and ready to help all people.”

While participating in Rush’s community outreach, students also see firsthand the myriad challenges people in need face, including homelessness, drug addiction and teens raising their own children. “Bearing witness to suffering of others is an act of compassion that gives people hope when they have none,” Ansell said.

“Alumni and students: was there a community service experience that transformed your outlook on health care? Tell us about it.”

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twitter.com/rushualumni

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“If we’re really going to achieve health equity, we can’t just address what goes on within the four walls of medical centers.”

— David Ansell, MD, MPH, Senior Vice President of System Integration at Rush

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The promise of precision medicine is that, in the not-so-distant future, health care practitioners will be treating individuals instead of diseases. The present challenge is how to gather and harness the massive data store that will form the bedrock of this new approach to health care.

Building a Road Map for Health Care

Bala Hota, MD, GME, Rush University Medical Center’s chief research informatics officer, likens the colossal bioinformatics project underway nationwide, and at Rush, to the one that brought the sophisticated GPS network to the dashboard of our cars, where it now helps us find our way to our daily destinations.

“First, somebody had to map out every street in the world. They had to gather all that data to build a GPS system,” said Hota, who completed both his residency and a fellowship at Rush. “You need that same approach for genomics — collecting and mapping our genomic data to disease and health. Those databases have to be built.”

Currently Hota and his colleagues are making plans to do just that, collaborating with other health care institutions to advance these efforts in Chicago. Rush is part of a consortium of Chicago academic medical centers that has applied for a grant from the National Institutes of Health to help build a diverse, voluntary national research cohort of one million Americans whose data will be gathered and shared. The plan is to enroll 130,000 individuals in Chicago alone.

The effort complements Rush’s work as a participant in the Chicago Area Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Network, or CAPriCORN, under which some of those same academic medical centers, government-funded hospitals and other partners pool data and other resources with a goal of improving care for all the area’s residents.

Using Data to Improve Outcomes

While these collaborations represent the future of bioinformatics in Chicago, precision medicine is already bearing fruit at Rush, Hota says. Genetic tests discern differences in how patients metabolize drugs, for example. Other advances are individualizing the treatment of cancer.

With node-negative breast cancer, for example, only about four of 100 patients whose tumors are fed by estrogen will benefit from chemotherapy. Director of Medical Oncology at Rush Melody Co-

“Context is critical. The end goal of bioinformatics isn’t just to create and digest huge amounts of data. It’s to provide patients and their doctors with relevant information at the time of care.”

— Bala Hota, MD, GME
Conducting research in breast cancer gene mutation, Rebekah Hamilton, PhD, RN, associate professor in the College of Nursing, discovered quickly the critical role nurses must play in precision medicine, recognizing the complex and personalized support each patient needs.

Working with at-risk females ages 18-40, Hamilton studies pre-symptomatic genetic testing and how the results influence patients’ decision making about their health as well as their psychological and emotional well-being.

“Women who lose their mothers early to breast cancer are likely to lessen their own risk by having their breasts removed by their early twenties — a demographic not usually faced with such a decision. Many patients simply can’t live with that risk,” Hamilton said.

“When Precision Medicine Gets Even More Personal

In terms of how precision medicine will “impact the total cost of care,” Hota says the answers aren’t yet obvious, in part because new technology can initially be very expensive, but becomes exponentially cheaper over time. “The big opportunity,” he said, “is to use information to give the treatment best suited for each unique patient, thereby providing the best, most efficient care.”

bleigh, MD ’76, GME, whom Hota described as a “pioneer” in precision medicine, says her team developed protocols to identify those four patients, “so we could spare the others the use of chemotherapy.”

“We’ve been able to take the information we have and personalize treatment for our patients,” Cobleigh said. “We helped develop a test that allows us to identify patients who actually need chemotherapy. This test has been ordered by more than 20,000 physicians in 70 different countries with about a quarter of a million women benefitting thus far.”
Born and raised in a small Illinois town, Julie Freischlag, MD ’80, knows for certain that where she came from helped her get to where she is now.

“In the Midwest, and at Rush, there's a sense of openness you develop toward other people or ideas,” said Freischlag, now vice chancellor for human health sciences and dean of the UC Davis School of Medicine. “As I've worked in different systems across the country, it's undoubtedly been an advantage. You're comfortable asking questions and confronting your peers — and sometimes your bosses.”

Freischlag, a board-certified vascular surgeon, currently oversees UC Davis Health System's academic, research and clinical programs, including the School of Medicine, the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, a 1,000-member physician practice group and UC Davis Medical Center. And it’s no secret her passion for academic medicine was first sparked at Rush.

“Tom Witt was my biggest mentor at Rush — a great surgeon and resident, always open to ideas, encouraging me that I could do it and never doubting my role as a woman,” said Freischlag, who previously served 11 years as Johns Hopkins Medical Institute's first-ever female chief of surgery.

“Rush continues to have incredible clinical teaching for their students with hands-on experience and the opportunity to participate in the care of patients,” she said. “That's really what turned my head and

Her Rush education taught her to be open and inquisitive. Today she uses this simple question to make transformational changes in care and education.

By Anna Seifert
showed me the best way to teach.” Today Freischlag’s teaching methods hinge, in part, on her open, inquisitive nature, always encouraging students and peers alike to consider the “why?” factor, a process that ultimately leads to transformations in care and education.

“Creating an environment where someone can question what you’re doing has always allowed me to reflect on how we can make things better,” Freischlag said.

At Johns Hopkins, she helped re-evaluate and revolutionize how teams ran the operating room — creating a more transparent environment.

“We started having everyone introduce themselves, calling each other by our first names and discussing the operation beforehand. Because of this, people felt more comfortable speaking up if there were issues, which in turn created an overall safer experience.” Freischlag would also meet with the chair of anesthesia, the head nurse and the administrator weekly to discuss issues between teams.

Now as a mentor of UC Davis medical students, Freischlag recalls, “At Rush I remember thinking how amazing it was that you could be an incredible educator — teaching people to be surgeons and researchers — but I never realized how much I would end up learning from my students.” Most recently, a young faculty member working with Freischlag questioned her on why certain operation practices regarding extra X-rays and placements of chest tubes were applied to all patients instead of selectively.

“I had never thought of it that way before, so we took another look,” Freischlag said. “As a result of this person simply asking ‘why?’ we no longer take as many X-rays with our patients or put as many chest tubes in. These are the moments when I take great joy in teaching others because I know they will go on to do even better work than I ever could before.”

Amid the shift of population health, Freischlag admits — especially as a vascular surgeon — it’s always been part of her career to take care of patients for the long haul. And now the next set of leaders must be ready to take over.

“Influencing medical students while looking at a whole system of care, especially as it’s rapidly changing, is really something,” she said. “I talk to them about being leaders in medicine — much like my mentors at Rush once did — about staying open and grounded, trying to have a sense of humor, taking care of themselves and most of all, realizing how lucky we all are to take care of patients and create new ways to help people stay healthier longer.”

Julie Freischlag, MD ’80 (right, with UC Davis genomics specialist Katherine Rauen, MD, PhD), credits her Rush education with laying the groundwork for her career.
SANDRA ABEL MCShAN, ST. LUKE’S ‘58, is living in a Del Webb community near Sacramento, California. After several joint replacements, she is still playing golf and swimming. She took her first trip to Europe in October 2015 and hopes to attend her reunion in 2018.

MARY JO STELK CORBOY, PSL ‘62, and DIANE KLEIN CLOWERS, PSL ‘62, traveled through Europe, visiting Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Monaco, Vatican City, France and other sites before flying to Chicago for their reunion.

INGRID FORSBERG, PSL ‘65, returned to Rush in 2000 as a family nurse practitioner in faculty practice. In 2009 she became a clinical faculty member, now an instructor in the Family Nurse Practitioner program, and is in her second year in Rush’s Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

CAROLE SEVERS ROOT, PSL ‘65, is now retired and currently volunteers at a hospice agency in Rockford, Illinois. Her son is a 2006 alumnus of Rush Medical College.

MARY ELLEN GILLESPIE SJOSTROM, PSL ‘65, although retired, recently worked as a long-term school nurse sub at Illinois’ Oak Park and River Forest High School, where she was previously employed for 20 years.

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MARGARET FAUT CALLAHAN, CRNA ’76, MSN ’79, PHD ’84/CON, was named provost of the Loyola University Chicago Health Sciences Division in September 2015. She is leading academic initiatives in the Health Sciences Division, including the Stritch School of Medicine, Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing and graduate school programs.

ROBERT N. JONES, MD ’76/RMC, thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon at MidMichigan Health, has been named president-elect of the Michigan Society of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeons, Board of Directors. He will serve in this capacity until 2017, at which time he will become president of the society.

MARIE BROWN, MD ’79/RMC; GME, associate professor of medicine at Rush, discussed medication adherence, health outcomes and costs as part of Alliance for Health Reform’s briefing on Capitol Hill last fall. Brown is also governor of the Northern Illinois Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

EDWARD HIRSCH, MD ‘80/RMC, has been appointed vice president and chief medical quality officer for Kaweah Delta Health Care District. Hirsch is a member of the district’s executive team, responsible for medical staff affairs, medical education, performance improvement and patient relations.

CAROLYN MIES, MD ‘80/RMC, recently transitioned into the emeritus faculty at the University of Pennsylvania and began a new job as director of Clinical Pathology at Genomic Health Inc. in Redwood City, California.
ROCKNE L. BRUBAKER, MD ’82/RMC, has been appointed Greenwood Leflore Hospital’s new otolaryngologist in Greenwood, Mississippi. Brubaker works alongside his wife, Jill, in the Greenwood Leflore ENT and Allergy Clinic.

DANIEL J. SHERIDAN, BSN ’82, MSN ’85/CON, and his efforts in founding the Rush Coalition Against Spouse Abuse, an all-volunteer group that sought to raise awareness and educate medical providers about domestic violence, were featured as part of an exhibition by the National Library of Medicine called Confronting Violence, Improving Women’s Lives. Sheridan wrote the first policy and procedure on domestic violence for the emergency room.

CARYN M. BING, MS ’83/HSM; GME, is mostly retired while still working as a pharmacy-related consultant and writer. She spends her free time planning scuba dive trips and editing her underwater photography.

RONALD JON ANDRO, MS ’85/HSM, is the president and CEO at West Penn Hospital, part of the Allegheny Health System and Highmark Corporation in Pittsburgh.

CAROL FARRAN, PhD ’85/CON, professor at Rush University College of Nursing, was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. Farran also serves as the Nurses Alumni Association Chair in Health and the Aging Process.

ROBERTA BLOOM and LILLIAN LONGINOW hold a photo of their St. Luke’s graduating class of 1957. The two maintained more than 100 letters, photos, documents and artifacts from their time at St. Luke’s, which they recently donated to the Rush Archives. “Our time at St. Luke’s was so special and influential that, even when it was time to graduate, I didn’t want to leave,” Longinow said. “That’s why we preserved all these memories.”

At their fall 2015 reunion celebration, Rush Medical College alumni who marked milestone reunion years came together to make significant contributions to their college. In fact, Reunion 2015 classes raised more than classes in any other reunion year to date, providing vital support of student scholarships and programs like the RMC Alumni Summer Research Program.

- Four Rush Medical College classes raised at least $50,000 to create endowed scholarships, which will allow them to support students for years to come.
- The Rush Medical College class of 1975 alone raised nearly $290,000.
- In total, the entire amount of philanthropy achieved by the medical reunion classes was $833,789.
As executive vice president and COO of Beaumont Health, Carolyn Wilson, BSN ’95/CON, is a firm believer that health care is a team sport. “Nursing has helped me tremendously in terms of being a team member, and my experience at Rush solidified the interdependence on the interprofessional team,” said Wilson. “I use all the team-oriented skills I learned every day in my career.”

In her recently appointed role at the Michigan-based health system, Wilson ensures systematic, coordinated operations and patient care across Beaumont Health’s eight hospitals, helping the organization to deliver on its mission of providing compassionate, extraordinary care every day. Before her current role, Wilson served as executive vice president and chief operating officer at Fairview Health Services in Minneapolis, an award-winning nonprofit health care system, where she oversaw operations of the University of Minnesota Medical Center, community hospitals and specialty clinics, shared clinical services, system facility services, home care, long-term care and hospice.

“Rush’s focus on patient centeredness has remained a key tenant for my career,” Wilson said. “When all decisions are made from a patient or community perspective, the best and right choices are made.”

JULIE HOFF, BSN ’86/CON, was appointed director of the Eleanor Mann School of Nursing at the University of Arkansas in July 2015. Hoff leads the nursing school as it continues to grow and expand degree offerings, including several online. She previously served as the director and chair of the Department of Nursing and Health Sciences at Elmhurst College in Illinois.

FRED RICHARDSON JR., MD ’87/RMC; GME, was featured on NBC’s “Today” show for his work in treating the elderly in Chicago’s underserved neighborhoods through home visits and his dedication to educating and mentoring minority medical students for 25 years. He is the founder and medical director of Dr. Richardson’s Neighborhood Family Practice in Oak Park, Illinois.

LAWRENCE G. DUNCAN, MS ’88/HSM, began a new role as vice president of pediatrics and administrator of the Children’s Hospital for Renown Health in Reno, Nevada.

MARK LOAFMAN, MD ’88/RMC, was appointed chairperson of the Family and Community Medicine Department at Cook County Health & Hospitals System last year. He leads the department of 60 family physicians and other providers in delivering comprehensive, compassionate primary and preventive care. Loafman is a national expert in community medicine and maternal and child health.

LISA BRADY, MS ’89/HSM, was appointed senior vice president and chief operating officer for St. Joseph’s Healthcare System in Paterson, New Jersey.

MARY BRUCKER, PhD ’89/CON, was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing. The academy has fewer than 2,300 members, or less than 0.001 percent of registered nurses in the United States. She also served as an editor for Pharmacology for Women’s Health.

CATHERINE CATRAMBONE, MSN ’89, PhD ’00/CON, was inaugurated as the 31st president of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. She is currently an associate professor in the adult health and gerontological nursing department at Rush University College of Nursing.

LORETTO A. GLYNN, MD ’89/RMC, medical director of pediatric surgery of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago, has been recognized for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in pediatrics.

SHEILA MOORE-NEFF, MS ’94/AUD, audiologist for the hearing impaired program at Leis Center in Virginia, recently presented at the American Speech Language Hearing Association national conference on a variety of Medicaid topics and school funding.

The Health Systems Management Alumni Association kicked off the first in a series of educational webinars in October with ANDREW PROCTOR, MS ’94/HSM, director of business intelligence at Cleveland Clinic, who presented on enterprise information management and analytics.
ALUMNI UPDATES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Giving Back While Coming Home

In conjunction with Homecoming each year, nursing reunion classes generously support the College of Nursing and its students through a class gift — support that is already making a big difference.

- Hands-On Training: The Presbyterian-St. Luke’s School of Nursing Class of 1964 supported the new state-of-the-art Rush Center for Clinical Skills and Simulation, allowing students to practice communication skills and master essential nursing techniques.

- Global Service: The Presbyterian-St. Luke’s School of Nursing Class of 1965 sponsored four nursing students on a Global Health Service Trip to Belize, where students provided patient care at a local clinic and built a home for a family in need.

- Student Scholarships: The Presbyterian-St. Luke’s School of Nursing Class of 1966 will leave their legacy by contributing to the newly created Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Endowed Scholarship Fund in honor of their 50th reunion, which they will celebrate at Homecoming in the fall.

Homecoming is Friday, Oct. 28, and Saturday, Oct. 29. Please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (312) 942-7199 or alumni@rush.edu with questions or if you would like to assist us in organizing your class.

RUTH M. KLEINPELL, CERT. ’95/CON, director of the Center for Clinical Research at Rush and professor at Rush University College of Nursing, was the lead author for a national survey published in the American Journal of Critical Care titled “Assessing the Impact of Telemedicine on Nursing Care in Intensive Care Units.”

TODD FITZ, MS ’96/HSM, is a senior vice president in Kaufman Hall’s strategy practice. His responsibilities include strategic planning assistance to hospitals and health systems nationwide, focusing on network development, physician integration and governance, performance improvement and organizational transformation. He is a frequent contributor to publications and presentations regarding physician services, the impacts of reform, innovation and health system strategy.

NICOLE MOHIUDDIN, BSN ’97/CON; MS ’01/HSM, is now the director of clinical consulting and education at Versus Technologies in Traverse City, Michigan.

JENNIFER K. O’CONNOR, MS ’97/HSM, works in Chicago for Sg2, a MedAssets company that is becoming a part of Viziant. She was married in July 2014 and welcomed a baby girl in February 2016.

VINOD CHARLES, PhD ’98/GRAD, serves as the group leader for neuroscience review and associate director for training in the division of extramural activities at the National Institute of Mental Health. In November Charles received the Office of the Director Honor Award for his involvement with the White House’s BRAIN Initiative.

JEFFREY C. HOROWITZ, MD ’98/RMC; GME, was promoted to associate professor of medicine with tenure at the University of Michigan. Horowitz is a physician-scientist practicing pulmonary and critical care medicine and investigating cell biology in the context of lung injury, repair and fibrosis.

BRAD BERNARDINI, MD ’99/RMC, sports medicine specialist, avid triathlete and four-time Ironman finisher, returned as the medical director of the Challenge Atlantic City Ultra-Distance Triathlon in 2015. Bernardini is the executive director and founder of the USA Triathlon-certified performance center within the Virtua Health and Wellness Center in Washington Township, New Jersey. Additionally he serves as the director of ReconSports and is co-director of Virtua Medical Group’s sports medicine program.

TANYA BROWN, MS ’99/HSM, accepted a position as business project program manager at Aetna in October 2015.

ELIZABETH HAMMES DAY, BSN ’99; MSN ’03/CON, clinical nurse specialist at Rush, was featured on Nurse.com in a story highlighting the four generations of nurses in her family and how their passion for health care was passed down through the years. She was also nominated in 2015 by Nurse.com as a GEM Awards finalist in the Clinical Inpatient, Nursing category.

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2000s

SHAUN T. COOPER, MS ’02/HSM, was appointed associate vice president at Rush Children’s Hospital. Cooper will plan, develop and execute strategies for implementing and growing the pediatric service lines while ensuring the best quality, most effective and innovative care is delivered. He previously served as the director for financial operations at Rush.

MAIJA R. ANDERSON, DNP ’03/CON, became program director of nursing at Morgan State University in Baltimore. An accomplished grant writer, she has secured more than $8 million in federal and state funding to improve outcomes in minority nursing students.
Shortly after graduating from Rush, Stephanie O’Brien, MS ’13/HSM, moved to Portland, Oregon, for a yearlong administrative fellowship that would truly jump-start her career. “My program at Rush provided practical classroom education while simultaneously building my resume through unique internship opportunities,” O’Brien said. “Having peers and mentors who trusted my work ethic and skills really enabled me to obtain these one-of-a-kind jobs — including my latest, very exciting position.” O’Brien now manages a $340 million ambulatory expansion on Oregon Waterfront campus, the state’s only academic medical center. Working alongside architects and contractors, O’Brien ensures the clinical enterprise provides input into the design and execution of an outpatient surgery/procedure center, 48-hour recovery unit and cancer center — opening in July 2018.

“Because of my experience at Rush and the relationships I built, I could not have been more prepared for my post-graduate career or better equipped with the right tools for success,” O’Brien said.

JENNIFER K. GINGRASS, MS ’04/HSM, relocated back to Chicago after nearly 12 years in Seattle and launched the Chicago office for the consulting firm ECG Management Consultants.

TAMARA K. PYLAWKA, MS ’04/GRAD; MD ’06/RMC was welcomed into the International Association of Health Care Professionals with her upcoming publication in The Leading Physicians of the World. Pylawka is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon with special expertise in sports medicine and shoulder surgery. She currently serves patients at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Quincy/Springfield, Illinois.

CONNIE WEISSMAN, MS ’06/HSM, information services senior analyst at Rush, recently presented “Central Staffing Office & Enterprise Float Management — Ingenious Harmony” at the 2015 InSight conference in Nashville, an annual meeting for users of McKesson Technology Solutions.

MOLLY BATHJE, MS ’09/HSM, assistant professor and academic coordinator in Rush’s Department of Occupational Therapy, was named the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association’s 2015 Occupational Therapist of the Year for her outstanding contributions in promoting and advancing the field.

RITA MOLDOVAN, DNP ’09/CON, was one of 50 nurses interviewed for a new multimedia documentary project, “Dying in America: Nurses Leading the Conversation,” that focuses on the dying experience and how nurses navigate the process with their patients.

ELISHA E. PETERSON, MD ’10/RMC, is a pediatric anesthesiology fellow at St. Louis Children’s Hospital/Washington University in St. Louis. After completing this fellowship, she will go on to Boston Children’s Hospital to complete a pediatric pain fellowship and return to the East Coast with her husband, Justin, and two children, Julian and Elise.

The American Association of Colleges of Nursing awarded JENNIFER L. COOPER, MSN ’11/CON, a $10,000 DNP Evidence Based Project grant. Cooper will study the effect of a community/public health nursing intervention of blood pressure monitoring and coaching on blood pressure and lifestyle changes in the at-risk and hypertensive population.

ANTOINETTE GOLDEN, MD ’12/RMC, has completed her emergency medicine residency at Mount Sinai St. Luke’s-Roosevelt in New York City. She then plans to complete a medical simulation fellowship at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

MARY SHEHAN, DNP ’12/CON, became the chief nursing officer at Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago in July 2015. She leads Weiss’ shared leadership model and professional nursing practice efforts in addition to overseeing the delivery of nursing and patient care.

REBECCA PERYE'A, MS ’14/OT, moved to Arizona and now works as an occupational therapist with Horizon Pediatric Therapy, Inc. and Phoenix Children’s Hospital.
MARY G. HEITSCHMIDT, PhD ’15/CON, was appointed director of clinical research at Rush in August 2015. This is a first for the Rush System for Health, as the position bridges the corporate partners of Rush University College of Nursing with the Divisions of Nursing at Rush University Medical Center and Rush Oak Park Hospital. Heitschmidt will also have a faculty appointment in Rush University College of Nursing. She is responsible for developing the interests of nursing research projects to improve patient care and outcomes.

VERONIKA SPEEDWELL, BS ’15/BSHS, has been named a National Health Service Corps Scholar. The scholarship is a competitive federal award given to students with demonstrated interest in being primary health care providers to patients in designated health professional shortage areas.

NEIL BADLANI, MD, GME, has been appointed vice president of medical affairs at Nobilis Health in Houston. Badlani oversees physician and patient outreach, supports the company’s marketing initiatives and has expertise in minimally invasive and motion-sparing techniques.

DAVID G. JAIMOVICH, MD, GME, president of Quality Resources International, has been awarded an honorary doctorate degree in medicine by Universidad Siglo XXI/Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México for his career achievements and long-standing dedication to improving patient safety and quality of health care worldwide.

THOMAS MCNALLY, MD, GME, was named medical director for the Chicago Spine Center at Weiss Memorial Hospital.

MARY G. HEITSCHMIDT, PhD ’15/CON, was appointed director of clinical research at Rush in August 2015. This is a first for the Rush System for Health, as the position bridges the corporate partners of Rush University College of Nursing with the Divisions of Nursing at Rush University Medical Center and Rush Oak Park Hospital. Heitschmidt will also have a faculty appointment in Rush University College of Nursing. She is responsible for developing the interests of nursing research projects to improve patient care and outcomes.

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When Science Hits Home
Grant Corbett, PhD ’15/GRAD

After neurodegenerative diseases struck his family, Grant Corbett, PhD ’15/GRAD, knew early on exactly where he wanted to focus his research efforts. “During my first year at Rush, my advisor played an incredibly instrumental role in my development and steering me down the right academic path — there was no time that he wasn’t available,” Corbett said. “A student can learn the science, but having someone there to help them work through the process is so important.”

Upon graduation Corbett received the John E. Trufant, EdD Award for Excellence in Graduate College Research, and his work had been featured in various publications. Driven by his passion for neurodegenerative disease research, Corbett is now a postdoctoral fellow in neurology in the Ann Romney Center for Neurologic Diseases at Brigham & Women’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School, where he applies molecular, biochemical, biophysical and cell biological methods to understand the role of protein aggregation abnormalities in central nervous system degeneration.

“My program at Rush was small, which means lots of hands-on contact in classes and labs,” added Corbett. “Everybody was so collaborative and cordial, and the comradery and personal experience was undoubtedly beneficial to my work then and still today.”
“My Rush education is giving me the experience and confidence to know that I’ll be among the best-prepared health care professionals in the nation.”

— Megan Childs, Generalist Entry Master’s Nursing Student

Make a gift. Make a difference.
When you give to Rush University, you help to ensure that the next generation of health care leaders can pursue their passion for health care, regardless of their financial means.

You improve the quality and quantity of available resources, like the new Rush Center for Clinical Skills and Simulation. You facilitate immersive community service experiences and build up our vast alumni network. Above all your philanthropy enables Rush’s students to become the best practitioners, researchers and health care leaders they can be.

Find out more about supporting Rush University at rush.edu/giving.

IN MEMORIAM CONTINUED

DORIS ANN VOLLE, ST. LUKE’S ’52, of Happy Valley, Oregon; April 16, 2015
ELIZABETH JANE WALDEN, PRES ’52, of Saint Louis, Missouri; June 26, 2013
MARY LOU T. LANGENBERG, ST. LUKE’S ’53, of West Point, California; Jan. 5, 2015
JEAN E. DOMKE BERNARD, ST. LUKE’S ’53, of Ashland, Oregon; Oct. 20, 2015
SARA JANE PASTOOR O’CONNOR, ST. LUKE’S ’54, of Elm Grove, Wisconsin; Oct. 10, 2015
MARTHA BRODKORB, ST. LUKE’S ’56, of Peoria, Illinois; April 4, 2015
VIRGINIA TRONC WILLIAMS, ST. LUKE’S ’57, of Grapevine, Texas; May 1, 2015
MAUREEN A. HART, ST. LUKE’S ’58, of Rochester, Minnesota; Nov. 2, 2015
COLLEEN BURNS JENSEN, PRES ’58, of Plainfield, Illinois; Sept. 9, 2015
GLORIA SPIESS, ST. LUKE’S ’58, of Vero Beach, Florida; March 26, 2016
HARRIET J. SCHWARTZ, ST. LUKE’S ’59, of Portland, Oregon; Aug. 13, 2014
LINDA OYLER RUDER, PSL ’61; June 17, 2015
VIRGINIA WILLIAMS THOMPSON, PSL ’61, of Woodland Hills, California; Dec. 11, 2015
JUDITH UNGER, PSL ’62, of Las Vegas, Nevada; July 11, 2015
ABBIE GAIL MOORE ENGEL, PSL ’66, of Tinley Park, Illinois; May 7, 2012
ELENA ECONOMOU SACLARIDES, MS ’78/CON; July 18, 2015
RUSSELL C. GUERIN, MS ’81/HSM, of Charlotte, North Carolina; Aug. 6, 2015
DIANNE CHAPMAN, MS ’89, CERT. ’02/CON, of Chicago, Illinois; July 8, 2015
TANYA L. ROMANOWSKI, DNP ’14/CON, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Feb. 25, 2016
JOSEPH J. AMATO, MD, GME, of Arezzo, Italy; Jan. 31, 2016
Celebrating 25 Years of Service

In this archival photo, Rush Medical College students assist homeless patients at Chicago’s Franciscan House of Mary and Joseph shelter in 1994. The shelter’s clinic, operated by Rush student and clinician volunteers once a week, currently sees 90-100 patients per clinic night.

Since 1991 Rush’s students have volunteered their time and skills through programs like this through the Rush Community Service Initiatives Program, or RCSIP. This spring RCSIP celebrates 25 years of community outreach and hands-on service opportunities.

Read more about RCSIP’s 25 years of service at rush.edu/rcsip-25.

Credit: Photographer Jean Clough; Photo courtesy of the Rush University Medical Center Archives

To learn more about the history of Rush and explore our unique collections, contact the Rush University Medical Center Archives at rush_archives@rush.edu and visit online at rushu.libguides.com/rusharchives.
ALUMNI EVENTS CALENDAR

For more information, call (312) 942-7199 or email alumni@rush.edu.

MAY
24 Golden Lamp Society Luncheon (CON)
   Chicago
25 Rush Medical College Commencement Banquet
   Chicago
26 Rush University Commencement
   Chicago

JUNE
21 Meet the Dean Alumni Reception (RMC)
   Oak Brook, Illinois

SEPTEMBER
21 Rush University Golf Outing
   Orland Park, Illinois

OCTOBER
28-29 Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Nurses Alumni Association Homecoming
   Chicago

NOVEMBER
16 Benjamin Rush Society Reception (RMC)
   Chicago