

the pulse

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Lauren Little Cohn Fellowship

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Every year the Cohn Family Foundation provides grant support to junior Rush University faculty who are mentees in the Rush Research Mentoring Program. The Cohn Fellowship allows mentees to gather preliminary data for research proposals and for their continued engagement in research activities. After a competitive selection process, Lauren Little, PhD, OTR/L, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, was selected as a Class of 2020 Cohn Fellow. Little's program of research focuses on innovative service delivery models for families of young children with developmental conditions, including autism spectrum disorders (ASD). Her Cohn Fellowship leverages funding from the American Occupational Therapy Foundation to expand a telehealth intervention aimed at increasing adaptive behavior (i.e., toilet training, mealtime behaviors) among children with ASD. Specifically, Little's work will be testing the efficacy of individualized versus group-based services delivered online.



Keep us posted on your
news and updates at
chs_admissions@rush.edu.

Kudos

MLS Awards and Accomplishments

- Colleen Hinrichsen, MS, a 2019 graduate of the Clinical Laboratory Management program just passed the Diplomat in Laboratory Medicine certification examination, our first graduate to take and pass this exam.
- Nadine Lerret, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, received a research grant from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science Education and Research Fund.
- Nadine Lerret, PhD, MLS(ASCP)^{CM}, received an Honorable Mention for the Joseph J. Kleiner Award for Best Manuscript Published in Clinical Laboratory Science in 2018 for her article, “The Role of Hyperglycemia in CD4 T Cell Survival and Differentiation” published with coauthors Naomi Iwai, Catherine Steib (both of whom were students in the program who contributed to the data collection) and Amanda Marzo.
- Nicholas Moore, PhD, MLS(ASCP), received the Member of the Year Award from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science – IL.
- Nicholas Moore, PhD, MLS(ASCP), was inducted into Alpha Mu Tau Fraternity, in recognition of his outstanding professional contributions to the field of clinical laboratory science.
- Alexandra Vardouniotis, MS, MLS(ASCP)SBB, received the Educator of the Year Award from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science – IL.
- Alexandra Vardouniotis, MS, MLS(ASCP), SBB received the President's Award from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science - IL.

Diversity and Inclusion Awards



Every year, the Rush University Office of Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs presents awards to students who demonstrate leadership in encouraging inclusiveness and understanding diversity while in their programs. The Diversity and Multicultural Leadership Award is given to students who enhance communication between diverse groups of people, innovate methods for increasing diversity, promote a bias-free environment on campus, facilitate events that promote diversity and inclusiveness, commit to continuous inclusion and serve as a role model for other students in these capacities.

The two College of Health Sciences students who received the 2019 awards are Daniel Vasquez from the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences program and Katherine Koo from the Master of Science in Health Systems Management program. Both of these students have gone above and beyond during their tenure at Rush to ensure that students from all backgrounds felt safe and included on campus. These students demonstrated the importance of setting an example for others in promoting healthy and positive communication among people from different backgrounds.



Women in Mentoring Spotlight: Laurie Gillard



Laurie Gillard, MS, MT(ASCP)SBB, was recently interviewed for the Rush Women Mentoring Program and highlighted online at <https://www.rushu.rush.edu/news/mentoring-profile-laurie-gillard-ms-mlsacp-sbb-college-health-sciences>. As the director of the Specialist in Blood Bank Technology program, Gillard has shown tremendous leadership and technical skill while guiding students through the certificate program. The interview focused on the importance of women professionals supporting and encouraging other women who are coming up in their field. Gillard says of her graduate students, “It’s an honor to be a part of their journey.” In her focus on patient safety, Gillard is ensuring that her students become experts in their field and become the best practitioners they can.

AAPA Student Challenge

A team of Rush physician assistant studies students came in second place among 104 teams at the American Academy of Physician Assistants Challenge Bowl in Denver this past May. This is a huge accomplishment, and congratulations are in order for the student competitors and the faculty members who helped them achieve this accomplishment. Students Jamie Landau, Michelle Silver, Griffin Tanenbaum and Brent DeManby were accompanied at the conference by instructor Aleen Shah, MS, PA-C. For this competition, teams first answer multiple choice questions on a keypad. The top 36 teams then get to compete on-stage, answering free response questions. The question topics range across the field of medicine. The Rush PA team worked very hard, and the PA faculty is doing an amazing job ensuring that students gain a wealth of knowledge during their program.



A Visit From the Surgeon General

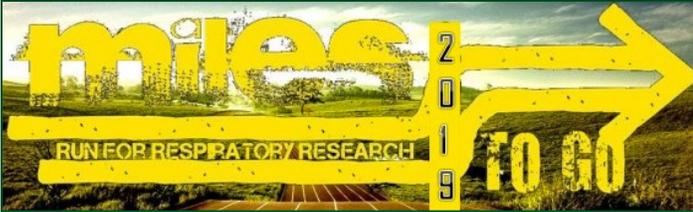


Students from the Physician Assistant Studies program had the opportunity to meet the United States Surgeon General Jerome Adams at a conference in Chicago. “Addressing Chicagoland’s Opioid Crisis: A Healthcare Response” is a collaborative conference hosted by Rush, UIC and Cook County Health. This annual conference brings experts, professionals and students from the Chicago area together to discuss the strategies for combatting the opioid crisis that has led to a steep rise in opioid related overdose deaths in the past 20 years.

The PA students were able to hear the surgeon general and Senator Dick Durbin address the audience at the conference.

Miles to Go 5K

Recently, respiratory care students hosted their annual “Miles to Go: 5K Walk/Run” in Lincoln Park. This event raises money for the Kathleen Mai Research Fund, which supports master’s level respiratory research projects. The fund was created by respiratory care students after the mother of one the students passed away suddenly from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. Students started the fund four years ago and have raised more than \$50,000 since then. Some of the money-raising efforts include partnerships with



restaurants, happy hours, wristbands and raffles along with this annual charity 5K. Once again this event was a success, and respiratory care students will continue to work with this fund to honor the legacy of Kathleen Mai.

Anne Fisher Visits Rush

Anne G Fisher, ScD, OT, FAOTA, joined Rush students, faculty and clinicians, along with occupational therapists from across the nation, for a thought-provoking course. Fisher is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Colorado State University and was recently honored by the American Occupational Therapy Association as one of 100 people who influenced occupational therapy’s 100-year history. She spoke with participants about her Transactional Model of Occupation, recently released in the book she co-authored, *Powerful Practice*. She went on to discuss application of the Occupational Therapy Intervention Process Model as a guide to maintain authentic occupational therapy practice. Fisher challenged conventional occupational therapy practice, pedagogy and research to keep occupation as the means and the end to the profession. To conclude the course, participants collaborated to identify action items that could be implemented in their current roles.



Speech-Language Pathology Event



The Department of Communications Disorders and Sciences recently hosted an event with the Apraxia Kids organization in Armour Academic Center for families with children with Childhood Apraxia of Speech, also known as CAS. This workshop for professionals, families, caregivers and students in speech-language pathology included two breakout sessions about practices to integrate at home and evaluating children for CAS. Speakers at the workshop included a Rush graduate from the speech-language pathology program, Aubry Cortez, MS '15.

Events like this are important to build support systems for families who have children dealing with the same developmental issues, like CAS. The event was a huge success with more than 100 attendees.