

The Future of Medicine Starts Here

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



UConn
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

WELCOME



From the Dean of the School of Medicine

2022 marks a very special year for all of us connected to UConn School of Medicine.

As our 50th anniversary celebration marches on, our faculty and researchers are the driving forces behind record-breaking clinical care of nearly 1.4 million encounters and a research funding height of \$116 million, with more than half from the prestigious National Institutes of Health.

I am extremely grateful for the awe-inspiring, innovative academic medicine and research happening here, along with the ongoing support of UConn President Radenka Maric, the state of Connecticut, and our alumni and donors. Together, we at UConn are truly making a difference in the lives of our patients, the next generation of health care workers we train, and those in the local communities we serve.

As all our alumni and medical students know, every future UConn doctor pledges at the start of medical school to remain in the service of others and to always put the health of patients first. This is the UConn way, our School's foundational mission, and what UConn truly embodies. We are proudest of the incredible community impact UConn is having on the people of our state. Together, we can and are doing great things.

The future of health care in Connecticut truly starts right here in Farmington at UConn medical school. I am so proud to be leading this energized campus during a period of forward momentum, as we train the state's future doctors, surgeons, scientists, and public health experts.

In this annual report, please enjoy reading all about our latest breakthroughs impacting the future of medicine across medical and graduate medical education, clinical care, and research, as well as our community service.

We are UConn. Go Huskies!

Warm Regards,

Bruce T. Liang, MD
Interim Chief Executive Officer, UConn Health
Dean, UConn School of Medicine
CEO@uchc.edu

The Oath of Hippocrates

At this time of being admitted as a member of the medical profession:

I solemnly pledge myself to the service of humanity. I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude which is their due.

I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity.

The health of my patient will be my first consideration. I will respect the secrets which are confided in me. I will maintain by all the means in my power the honor and noble traditions of the medical profession.

My colleagues will be my brothers and sisters. I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient.

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life even under threat.

I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity.

I will make these promises solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

Formulated by the World Health Association in Geneva, 1948 (Modified)

CLASS OF 2026

110
future doctors

4,000+
applicants

24
average age

66%
from Connecticut

40%
UConn graduates

60%
female

23%
from underrepresented groups in medicine (URiM)



Creator of Connecticut's Health Care Workforce

UConn is Connecticut's No. 1 producer of medical professionals. In fact, we are the largest single source of new physicians and surgeons for the state. We are also a significant source of trained scientists and public health experts. For more than 50 years we've been producing the state's health care workforce, with UConn-educated doctors and trainees continuing to make their mark on the communities they serve — many right here in Connecticut.

SINCE 1972

3,977
medical school graduates

1,000+
public health experts with MPH degrees

6,500+
medical residents

700+
trained scientists with Ph.D.s in the biomedical sciences

2,000
scientists and public health experts

ANNUALLY WE TEACH

450
medical students

100
Ph.D. students

725
medical residents and fellows

100
master's in public health students

100
post-doctoral fellows

40
dual-degree students



COMMUNITY IMPACT

70%
of UConn School of Medicine graduates practice medicine or serve as resident physicians in Connecticut

60%
of all Connecticut pediatricians are UConn medical school graduates or trainees

25%
of all Connecticut's practicing physicians were trained at UConn

Diversity Matters to UConn

The UConn School of Medicine is one of the most diverse medical schools in the nation. For decades, we have served as a national leader in the effort to increase underrepresented groups in medicine. From faculty recruitment to career opportunity programs that build pathways for diverse students, it is our mission to advance medicine academically, clinically, and scientifically while ensuring that the workforce we train reflects the patient population we serve in order to promote health equity.

The UConn School of Medicine takes great pride in its diversity and national leadership diversifying medicine and the future health care workforce. Diversity is a core value for all who work and learn here. We are committed to providing a safe and inclusive community that allows people from all backgrounds to find success. We are committed to increasing the diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) of students, educators, researchers, and the health care workforce within our institution and across the State of Connecticut.

OUR DIVERSITY BY THE NUMBERS

TOP 10

medical school with the most African American students

- U.S. News & World Report

24%

of medical students are from underrepresented groups in medicine

47%

of faculty are women

No. 23

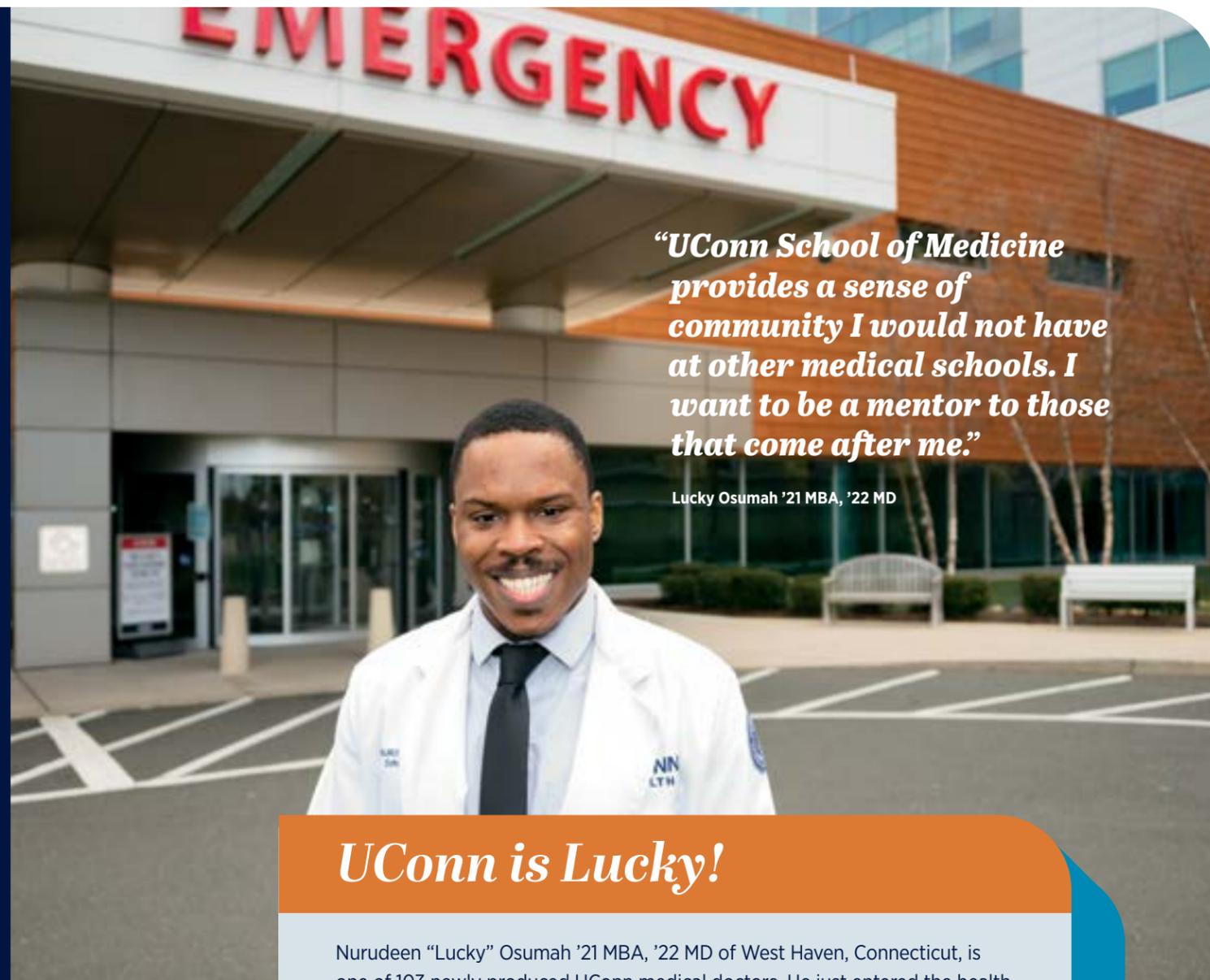
Diversity Index ranking among all public medical schools &

No. 35

nationally among all 125 ranked medical schools

11%

of our medical students are African American



“UConn School of Medicine provides a sense of community I would not have at other medical schools. I want to be a mentor to those that come after me.”

Lucky Osumah '21 MBA, '22 MD

UConn is Lucky!

Nurudeen “Lucky” Osumah '21 MBA, '22 MD of West Haven, Connecticut, is one of 103 newly produced UConn medical doctors. He just entered the health care workforce as an emergency medicine resident training at UConn John Dempsey Hospital. “This is a momentous milestone in my life,” says Osumah. “UConn School of Medicine provides a sense of community I would not have at other medical schools. I want to be a mentor to those that come after me.” Osumah volunteers with the Health Career Opportunity Programs at UConn Health, founded and led by Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor Dr. Marja Hurley to build pathways to create a more diverse medical student body and future health care workforce. More than 55 percent of the School’s Black and Hispanic students have come through these pathway programs. The 14 distinct Aetna Health Professions Partnership Initiative-sponsored programs are critical in getting more young people of all ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds interested in medicine and science.



“Diversity, equity and inclusion is work done by all of us. The biggest success is when DEI is ubiquitous.”

Dr. Jeffrey F. Hines

Meet Our Inaugural Chief Diversity Officer

Dr. Jeffrey F. Hines is the first Chief Diversity Officer (CDO) for UConn Health and its schools. This position is an important institutional milestone with Hines bringing a wealth of experience in developing diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs. As CDO he is building upon the School’s strong diversity commitment and efforts as it continues to advance medicine academically, clinically, and scientifically. Hines will ensure our professional health care community reflects the diverse patient population we serve and the diverse student population we train. “I am a converger,” says Hines. “In my role as CDO I want to build and bring all UConn Health’s strong DEI initiatives together to drive them forward. We have a great deal to celebrate.”

FUTURE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION

GROWING DEI TOGETHER

The School’s Office of Multicultural and Community Affairs (OMCA) and its Diversity Council are collaborating with the new CDO Dr. Jeffrey F. Hines to find ways to further grow diversity; train more “diversity champions;” and increase inclusion for the recruitment, retention, and advancement of students, faculty, and staff. Since 2017 OMCA has been co- led by Dr. Bruce T. Liang, dean; Dr. David Henderson, OMCA’s associate dean; and Dr. Linda Barry, OMCA director. The Diversity Council, also led by Henderson and Barry, is the DEI committee for the School of Medicine, Graduate Medical Education, and Graduate School programs with a cross-section of faculty, staff, students, and residents working together.



MEETING THE CURRICULUM NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS

“Medical school curriculum is always in evolution,” says Dr. David Henderson, associate dean for Multicultural and Community Affairs and chair of the Department of Family Medicine. Thanks to the input of students and faculty, the School continues to refine its curriculum to be more inclusive and to improve the way it connects the history of racism and discrimination to contemporary health inequities in medical settings. The curriculum changes are designed to enhance the learning environment by decreasing stigmatization and allow the diverse student body to more

fully engage with each other, their faculty, and educational materials. “We need to create a learning environment in which all medical students can thrive, which is different than the traditional medical school environment,” says Henderson, who will be departing UConn for the American Medical Association’s inaugural position of Vice President, Equity, Diversity and Belonging. “Majority students also need to know about the social determinants that may negatively impact their classmates’ learning experience, and their health and well-being, as well as that of their diverse patients.”

OF NOTE

The UConn Foundation, on behalf of the UConn School of Medicine, works to secure funding for DEI initiatives. To learn how you can support DEI scholarships and programs, email supportuchc@foundation.uconn.edu.

OTHER DEI INITIATIVES

The Graduate School at UConn Health Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Residency Program’s Diversity Oversight Committee

Graduate Medical Education Visiting Externship for Students Underrepresented in Medicine

UConn Latino Medical Student Association

Group on Women in Medicine and Science (GWIMS)

To learn more, visit medicine.uconn.edu/diversity

Making More Women Orthopedic Surgeons

Dr. Katherine Coyner, associate professor of orthopedic surgery, is on a mission to get more girls and young women interested in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to close the gender gap, especially in orthopedic surgery where women are historically underrepresented. “I want to improve the field of orthopedic surgery for the next generation of surgeons to come, which is my passion,” says Coyner. Nationally, orthopedic surgery remains a male-dominated field, with women representing only 7% of orthopedic surgeons and 14% of trainees. “I was the first woman through my orthopedic surgery residency

in 2005,” says Coyner. Determined to be an agent of change, she’s founded Inspiring Women in Engineering and Medicine (IWEM), which hosts hands-on educational workshops to introduce young women to the medical sciences. Recently, Coyner was selected to participate in a prestigious one-year Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) women’s leadership fellowship. “Dr. Coyner is an inspiration to her colleagues and to so many medical students and residents,” says Dean Dr. Bruce T. Liang.



WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN: MEET ORTHO RESIDENT FRANCINE ZENG

Connecticut native Francine Zeng '18 (CLAS), '22 MD, is a proud UConn Husky: she was a UConn undergraduate, UConn medical school graduate, and now an orthopedic surgery resident in training here. “When I found out I matched into orthopedic surgery at UConn, my number one choice, I was super excited to be a triple Husky,” says Zeng. Supporting other women in medicine has become very important to Zeng after serving as mentor and president of UConn’s groups for Women in Surgery and American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) and participating in Dr. Katherine Coyner’s IWEM group. “UConn School of Medicine has given me a great medical foundation and the confidence to be a physician. My biggest inspiration and mentor is Dr. Coyner. She took me under her wing and allowed me to gain more exposure to, and ultimately fall in love with, orthopedics. I wouldn’t be where I am today without her support!”



3 Women Orthopedic Surgeons Call UConn Health Home

Dr. Lauren Geaney,
Foot and ankle specialist
and orthopedic residency
program director

Dr. Olga Solovyova,
Orthopedic surgeon
specializing in hip
and knee replacement

Dr. Katherine Coyner,
Orthopedic sports
medicine specialist

State's First Residency Program for Rehabilitation Physicians



OF NOTE

Stethoscopes for Life

Most physicians have the same stethoscope for their entire career. The Stethoscope Fund at UConn School of Medicine ensures each incoming first-year medical student receives their first stethoscope with ceremony and significance, but without expense. To make a gift to the Stethoscope Fund, visit s.uconn.edu/stethoscope or email supportuchc@foundation.uconn.edu.

UConn's medical school has launched Connecticut's first and only Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) residency training program in partnership with Hartford Hospital, Gaylord Hospital, and UConn Health. It fills the need for more PM&R physicians to impact the health and quality of life of Connecticut residents and the nation's aging population. "This program is a testament to the quality and diversity of health care provided here in Connecticut," said Gov. Ned Lamont. "Partnerships like this showcase the true collaborative spirit." PM&R, also known as rehabilitation medicine or physiatry, manages the care of

individuals with disabilities and impairments from disease and injury to return them to independence. "This dynamic program will ensure that the training of the next generation of physiatrists will be able to meet the ever-expanding need for these specialists in the state," said Dr. Steven Angus, assistant dean of graduate medical education. Future rotation sites include Connecticut Children's, Hospital for Special Care, and the Veterans Administration.

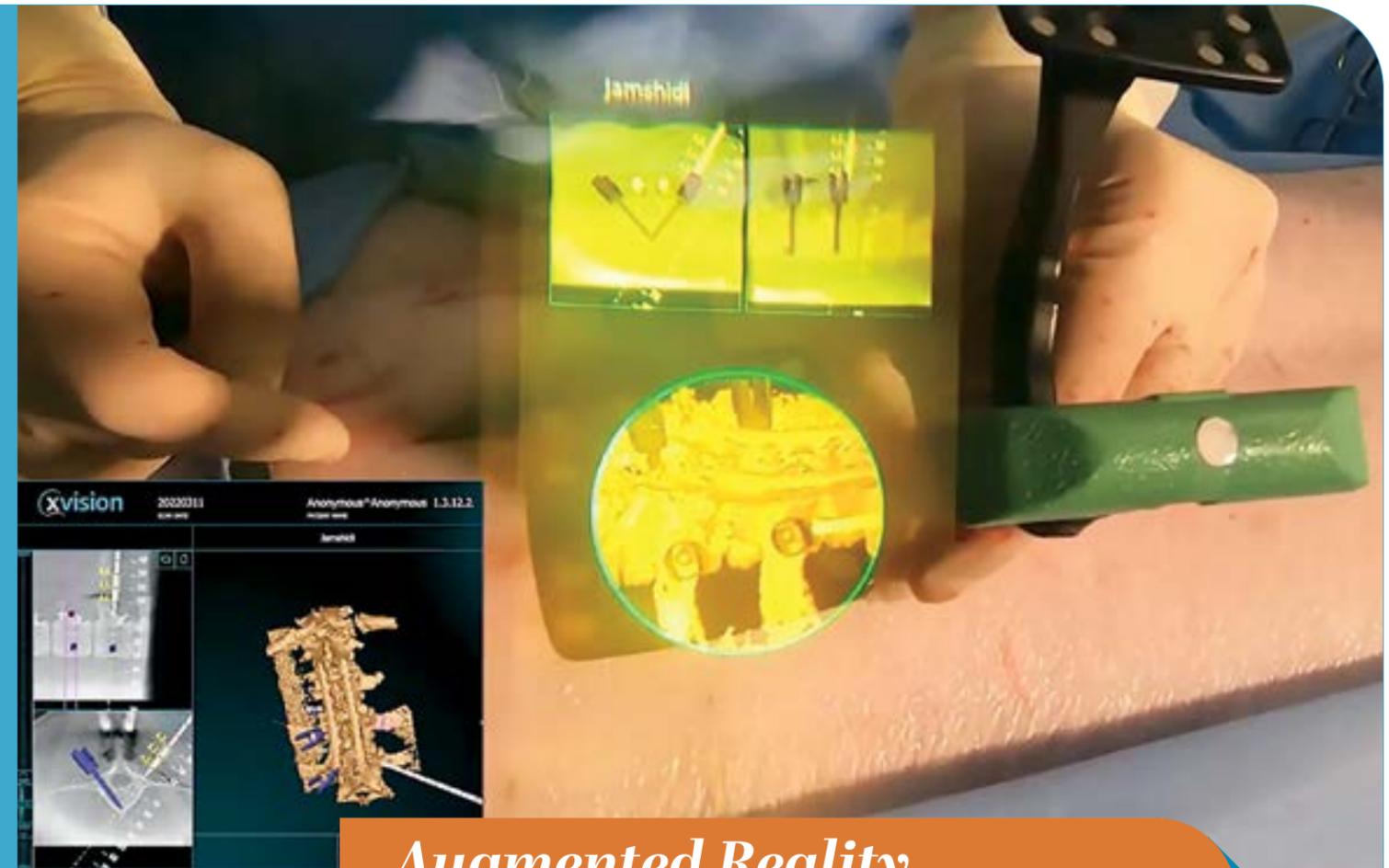
Training Doctors in Lifestyle Medicine



In 2021 the School of Medicine launched its new Lifestyle Medicine Residency track curriculum for those receiving advanced training in its three residency programs of internal medicine, primary care, and family medicine. The new track has 24 trainees specializing in lifestyle medicine. Also, as a result of its leadership in advanced graduate medical education training for lifestyle medicine, UConn has been selected as a founding member of the new Health System Council of The American College of Lifestyle Medicine (ACLM) to help further develop a national collaborative learning community of health systems that promote lifestyle medicine. "Education on lifestyle medicine is a critical part of teaching among residency programs to train clinicians," says Dr. Varalakshmi Niranjan, director of the new lifestyle medicine residency. "Our goal is to create a healthy community. By adopting healthy lifestyle, we will decrease chronic medical conditions and thereby decrease health care cost and burden in the long term."

Breaking Barriers for Glycogen Storage Disease

On June 1 the first patient traveled from Texas to Connecticut to receive the Moderna messenger RNA (mRNA) infusion for Glycogen Storage Disease (GSD1a). This brave patient was the first in the world to receive the single intravenous vaccine in the phase 1 Balance Trial for GSD1a to test the investigational mRNA-3745 medication's safety and assess if it can restore the liver's ability to effectively break down glycogen into glucose. This rare disease causes life-threatening low blood sugar unless cornstarch is consumed every 3-4 hours. "This trial is exciting and historic. This could be a life-changing treatment for so many children and their families across the globe," says Dr. Juan C. Salazar, physician-in-chief at Connecticut Children's and chair of Pediatrics at UConn School of Medicine. Malaya Mount, RD/MS stresses that a reduction in cornstarch also would permit better nutrition in GSD patients. "If successful, mRNA-3745 could provide both a safer and markedly improved quality of life for GSD1a patients," says the collaborative study's Principal Investigator Karen J. Loechner, MD, Ph.D., of Connecticut Children's, whose Co-PI is Dr. Narinder Maheshwari from UConn's Department of Medicine.



Augmented Reality Surgery is Here

Surgeons in The Brain & Spine Institute are using advanced augmented reality "AR" technology in the operating room, providing them with 3D renderings of the patient's anatomy and latest imaging tests, to operate more efficiently and safely (*pictured on cover*). The first to use the 'X-Ray Vision' technology for augmented reality minimally invasive spine surgery in central Connecticut was Dr. Isaac Moss, orthopedic surgery chair and co-director of the Comprehensive Spine Center. As of July, UConn Health had the largest suite of the AR tech-assisted surgery tools in the world. The surgeon's view from the headset during an AR procedure is similar to a "heads-up display on your windshield," says Moss. "Instead of having to look away from your patient to see a scan on a screen, you can see the scan inside your patient in real time, so you are always focused on safely and efficiently completing the procedure you are performing." The high-tech advancement allows all our UConn Health spine surgeons to do more complex procedures with higher accuracy through smaller exposures with less bleeding, fewer infections, and shorter recovery.

Transforming the Aging Process

The UConn Center on Aging, directed by Dr. George Kuchel, is the lead institution for a transformative \$13.5 million NIH-funded consortium establishing an NIH Common Fund U54 Tissue Mapping Center. This KAPP-Sen Tissue Mapping Center is mapping senescent cells found in human tissues with a particular focus on kidney, adipose, pancreatic, and placental tissues, hoping to discover why these abnormal cells stop dividing and begin causing aging and chronic disease development. "This is a big deal for the future of clinical medicine. For the first time it will allow the identification of senescent cells in healthy human tissues opening the avenue for transformative clinical therapies," says Kuchel, the Principal Investigator. Other consortium members are The Jackson Laboratory, the Joslin Diabetes Center, Brigham and Women's Hospital, the Mayo Clinic, and the University of Texas Health Sciences Center at San Antonio. UConn and JAX are receiving a robust pipeline of tissue samples from nationwide surgery and transplant centers, analyzing and cataloging them, and posting the results to the NIH databases. "We are mapping each senescent component to more thoroughly understand how they work, and in time, we will develop medicines that will limit their negative effects and accentuate their positive properties," says Kuchel.

CATCHING CIRCULATING CANCER CELLS

Tumor cells from patients with both early and late stage cancers are known to circulate in the bloodstream. However, current technology falls short in characterizing and quantifying the small numbers of circulating tumor cells (CTCs). But a powerful microscope technology is now detecting and analyzing these hard-to-find CTCs from the blood samples of breast cancer patients. The ongoing CLINBREAC clinical trial study of the novel RareScope™ at the Carole & Ray Neag Comprehensive Cancer Center is identifying CTCs using high-powered 3D optical tomography imaging developed by the UConn Technology Incubation Program (TIP) biotech start-up company QCDx LLC (Quantitative Cell Diagnostix). The testing of breast cancer patients' blood includes those with both early and late-stage disease as well as healthy volunteers. The technology also stains breast cancer cell receptors typically found via tissue biopsies and other cancer biomarkers. "The strength of this new technology is its ability to see and quantify all cancer cells circulating in each patient's body at different time points of treatment revealing their response over time," says CLINBREAC clinical trial Principal Investigator Dr. Susan Tannenbaum, chief of Hematology-Oncology. "This promising technology has the potential to personalize cancer therapies with a simple blood draw rather than biopsies. Our hope is that this will impact patient outcomes."



UConn Health/JAX COLLABORATING TO CURE ENDOMETRIOSIS

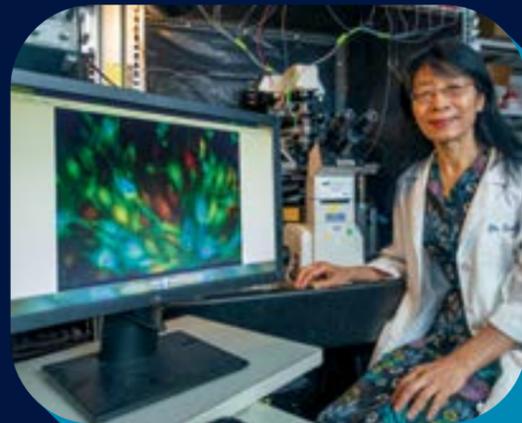
Dr. Danielle Luciano, associate professor of OB/GYN, has teamed with The Jackson Laboratory to gain more scientific insight into painful endometriosis. Despite affecting one in 10 women, little is known about its genesis. JAX's Elise Courtois, Ph.D., is further studying UConn Health endometriosis patient tissue samples after Luciano performs endometriosis surgery at UConn Health's Center of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology. Luciano and Courtois are part of the new Connecticut Endometriosis Working Group, formed by state Rep. Jillian Gilchrest, raising awareness of endometriosis and the need for research. Thanks to the legislature's Public Health Committee, UConn Health and JAX are collaborating closely to establish an endometriosis clinical data and biorepository program to create new therapeutic strategies to lead and speed discoveries for future diagnosis and treatment options. The research team's new study findings in *Nature Cell Biology* provide a robust foundation for a better understanding of endometriosis and how it grows. "It's exciting progress that we hope leads to earlier diagnosis and the ability to specifically target these abnormal cells for better treatments," says Luciano.

Powering Discovery with \$40M Grant

Jeffrey Hoch, Ph.D., professor of molecular biology and biophysics, received the largest-ever grant award in UConn history. The \$40 million research grant from the National Science Foundation created a national Network for Advanced Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), a powerful method for analyzing molecules. It will advance multidisciplinary molecular research nationally, and biological sciences research into disease biomarkers to improve diagnostics, drug discovery, treatments, and potential cures. Hoch's Network is with co-principal investigators at the University of Georgia and the University of Wisconsin. Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont and state legislators visited UConn Health to celebrate the University's record-breaking research funding and tour Hoch's state-of-the-art Gregory P. Mullen NMR Structural Biology Facility, which is home to huge, powerful superconducting magnets and liquid helium recycling technology.

“We’re saving lives right here at UConn Health...through the important research you are conducting. The significant research funding you are receiving is a testament to the great work being done here.”

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont



PREVENTING CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

Research led by cell biologist Lixia Yue, Ph.D., holds potential for treating heart disease, the leading cause of death in the U.S. Macrophages travel through our arteries, gobbling fat the way Pac-Man gobbled ghosts. But fat-filled macrophages can narrow blood vessels and cause heart disease. When macrophages eat excess fat inside artery walls they can become foamy and encourage inflammation, sometimes busting apart artery plaques or freeing clots that can cause heart attack, stroke, or embolisms. In *Nature Cardiovascular Research* they show in mouse models how deleting a protein called TRPM2 could prevent this bad behavior and potentially prevent heart attacks and strokes by stopping the vicious cycle of atherosclerosis, the buildup of artery plaque. Now researchers are studying TRPM2 in human blood as a risk marker.

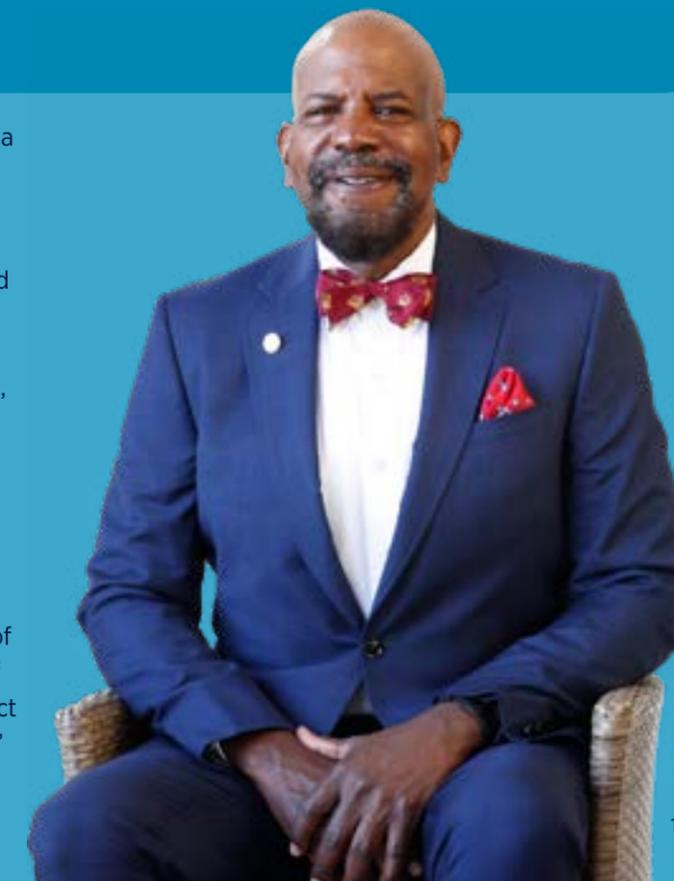


DELETING DIABETES

A UConn Center on Aging and School of Medicine research discovery could change future treatment for diabetes. Researchers have found that eliminating old, dysfunctional damaged cells called senescent cells in human body fat can alleviate signs of Type 2 diabetes. Obese mice lost all signs of diabetes after treatment with a combination of experimental drugs dasatinib and quercetin, already shown to extend lifespan and good health in aged mice. These drugs can also kill senescent cells from cultures of human fat tissue. The findings published in *Cell Metabolism* could help with care of Type 2 diabetes, the most common U.S. metabolic disease, impacting about one out of every 10 people. “If a therapy worked that well in humans, it would be a game-changing treatment for diabetes,” says Ming Xu, Ph.D., assistant professor in genetics and genome sciences who led the research, along with UConn’s Dr. Lichao Wang and Binsheng Wang, Ph.D. UConn and the Mayo Clinic are now pursuing human clinical trials using the combination drugs.

Revolutionary Synthetic Artificial Stem Cell Created

Dr. Cato T. Laurencin, University Professor and Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Distinguished Endowed Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, has invented synthetic artificial stem cells (SASC). This new fourth class of stem cells may help patients someday avoid traditional pitfalls associated with stem cell therapies and even regenerate human tissue and limbs. Laurencin published his breakthrough in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* adding to the current stem cell types of embryonic, adult, and induced pluripotent stem cells. Laurencin tested SASC cells in the lab for knee joint osteoarthritis, successfully reducing inflammation more effectively than current state-of-the-art treatment. This discovery opens the door for future advances in regenerative therapy using the small cells without the risks of other stem cells such as an adverse immune response. “We’re excited about using SASC cells for a variety of different conditions,” says Laurencin, whose research is part of his larger project called the Hartford Engineering a Limb project (HEAL). “We are working to regenerate an entire leg by 2030.”



Did You Know?



ZEBRAFISH POWERING HUMAN GENOMICS

Zebrafish have a very similar genetic structure to humans: the two species share 70% of genes. When it comes to human diseases, this genetic similarity jumps to 85%. The lab of Jean-Denis Beaudoin, Ph.D., assistant professor of genetics and genome sciences, includes a fish facility with the capacity to comfortably host more than 20,000 zebrafish. Since female zebrafish lay their eggs in water to be fertilized by male zebrafish, the embryos can easily be collected and examined under a microscope. The Beaudoin Lab watches zebrafish embryos develop in real-time during their first 24 hours to see how all their major tissue and organs grow. This studies the earliest stages of zebrafish development to better understand on a molecular and genetic level how defects and diseases develop in humans too. This knowledge is helping fuel future research, therapeutics, and treatments.

OF NOTE

Discovery Fellowship Fund Fuels 300+ Research Projects

Research during medical school provides students with the tools they need to stay up to date once they enter medical practice. The UConn Health Discovery Fellowship Fund, established in 2015 with a generous gift from an alumnus, has helped 329 medical students complete summer research projects on a variety of topics including public health, mental health, cardiology, diabetes, cancer, geriatrics, global health, informatics, and laboratory science. To support this fund, visit s.uconn.edu/discovery-fund or email supportuchc@foundation.uconn.edu.

Mosquitoes Smell Viral Infection



Some viruses can make you smell tastier to mosquitoes. School of Medicine researchers in *Cell* report that mosquito-spread Zika and dengue fever viruses alter the scent of those they infect to attract other mosquitoes to bite and carry the virus to its next victim. Each year, mosquito-viral diseases afflict approximately 400 million people worldwide, including more than 100 million with symptomatic dengue fever, and leading to about 20,000 deaths, mostly in children. Zika causes serious birth defects in unborn children of pregnant women who are infected. “These viruses manipulate their host skin microbiota to attract more mosquitoes,” says study author Penghua Wang, Ph.D., an immunologist. “Dengue/Zika virus infection increases a person’s odorant (i.e., acetophenone) that attracts other naïve mosquitoes to get a blood meal and acquire the virus.” According to Wang, promising interventions include isotretinoin (a vitamin A derivative) medication to bring down acetophenone emission from an infected person and the development of an electronic “nose” to detect acetophenone for rapid, noninvasive diagnosis.

Fixing The Formula Shortage



U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy and U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes on May 31 had a roundtable discussion at the UConn Health Women’s Center on the national baby formula shortage. UConn was applauded for being the state’s first and only hospital with a milk depot collecting vital breast milk donations for premature NICU babies. “We are deeply appreciative of all the work that the team at UConn Health does to support moms and families and children,” Murphy said.



EXPANDING MATERNAL HEALTH COVERAGE IN CONNECTICUT

Gov. Ned Lamont headed to the UConn Health Women’s Center on June 6 to announce enhancements to Connecticut’s maternal health coverage and services. “UConn Health is extremely pleased to see the state’s recent and planned expansions for maternal health care coverage — to help women and their babies stay healthy, no matter their financial status or immigration status,” Dr. Bruce T. Liang, interim UConn Health CEO, said during the visit.



PROTECTING KIDS FROM COVID-19

Dr. Jody Terranova, assistant professor of pediatrics, participated in a press conference on July 6 with U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra to promote the importance of COVID-19 vaccines for kids under 5. “We have in our office now a tool to keep our children healthy and safe, and we must use it,” stressed Terranova, president-elect of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Connecticut Chapter.

HEALTHIER HARTFORD DINING

Experts have worked with restaurants in Hartford’s North End to create healthier menu options. The CDC-funded effort is led by UConn Husky Programs with the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the City of Hartford. Recipes reduced sodium and saturated fat while increasing whole grains, fruits, and vegetables when appropriate. On June 15, UConn Health’s Center for Population Health and the UConn Husky Programs had a taste-test tour with community members.



Rallying UConn to Stop COVID-19’s Spread



UConn’s cross-campus community has united for an Indoor Air Quality Initiative, building, donating, and studying the power of hundreds of inexpensive do-it-yourself (DIY) “Corsi-Rosenthal Box” air purifiers. The pilot project’s goal is to improve health in local elementary schools and beyond. Research shows the DIY devices stop the spread of COVID-19 by removing 90% of virus-carrying aerosols from the air. The nurse-led initiative is spearheaded by Marina Creed, APRN, of the Comprehensive Multiple Sclerosis Center.



Knock, Knock: Door-to-Door Vaccinations



UConn doctors, staff, and students, with the City of Hartford and CT Area Health Education Center (CT AHEC) based at UConn Health, have been going door-to-door to offer COVID-19 vaccinations, knocking on doors where COVID-19 vaccine rates are low and answering any questions residents

might have. "If willing, we vaccinate them right then and there," says Professor Emeritus Dr. Bruce Gould, medical director of Hartford's Department of Health and Human Services. "The response from the residents of the neighborhoods has been incredibly positive and the experience of volunteers has been incredibly fulfilling."

PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



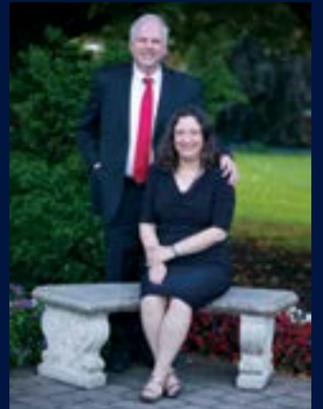
Entering its 26th year, the Connecticut Area Health Education Center (CT AHEC) at UConn Health was awarded \$2 million in renewed five-year federal funding by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "CT AHEC is an invaluable resource to UConn Health and continues to meet its mission of improving the health status of Connecticut residents and communities," says Dr. Bruce T. Liang. Last year, CT AHEC, with its four regional centers, offered programming to more than 21,000 residents. This included outreach by UConn students in underserved communities with free health screening and education, including COVID-19 testing, vaccinations, and care bags.

DOING OUR PART FOR THE EARTH

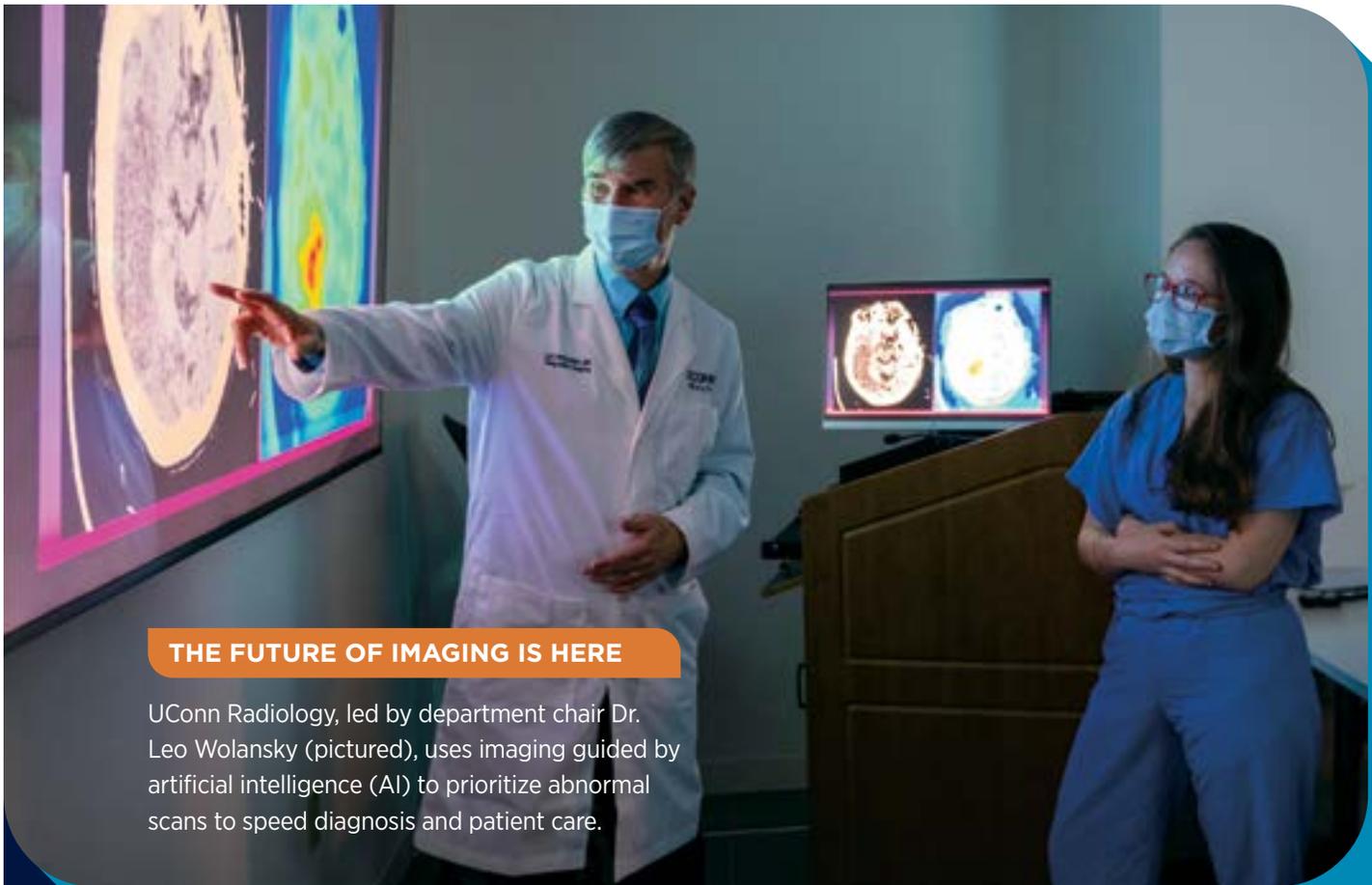


Connecticut's only public academic health system has a dedicated Sustainability Working Group. It finds new opportunities to minimize pollution and waste. Of all UConn Health's annual waste, 29% is already recycled — that's 486 tons! We also reuse 286 tons through a waste-to-energy plant, and recycle 19.2 tons in electronics and 1.8 tons in toner. The Surplus Store sells reusable goods too. UConn Health is currently exploring solar panels and fuel cell technology that convert to electricity. The Operating Room's Sustainability Committee is also working to reduce its carbon footprint 50% by 2024 via waste reduction, recycling, reusable equipment, reduction of anesthetic gas releases, less electrical and HVAC consumption, and expanded education of OR staff for optimization. When ORs are not in use, energy-saving modes are activated.

OF NOTE



A small classroom in the Academic Rotunda will be named after Benjamin Zigun '88 MD, '97 JD, '12 MBA and Dr. Jennifer R. Zigun in recognition of their generous philanthropic gift to the UConn School of Medicine. "UConn has provided me opportunities and skills for a successful career in psychiatry and the formation of Strategic Locums, LLC," Dr. Ben Zigun said. "We are grateful and value this opportunity to give back."



THE FUTURE OF IMAGING IS HERE

UConn Radiology, led by department chair Dr. Leo Wolansky (pictured), uses imaging guided by artificial intelligence (AI) to prioritize abnormal scans to speed diagnosis and patient care.



UCONN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

medicine.uconn.edu