MD Class of 2017 White Coat Ceremony

On September 7th, TUSM held its annual White Coat Ceremony for first-year students at the Cutler Majestic Theatre. This year’s ceremony featured a keynote address by TUSM alum Randy Christensen, MD/MPH'95. For over a decade, Christensen has operated the Crews’n Health-mobile, a thirty-eight foot mobile medical unit, in Phoenix, AZ. Also known as “Big Blue,” the traveling health clinic offers free treatment for homeless and at-risk youth, whose living conditions not only limit their access to healthcare, but subject them to a host of medical issues different from those others their age face.

On September 6th, Christensen was also the guest at a lunch talk open to the TUSM community entitled "Reflections on a Career in Public Health and Medicine," and he read excerpts at a Book Talk in the Hirsh Health Sciences Library from *Ask Me Why I Hurt: The Kids Nobody Wants and the Doctor Who Heals Them*, a memoir recounting his experiences as a physician and advocate for a population that is often overlooked.

Celebrating three generations. Kayle Shapero, M17, attends the White Coat Ceremony with her parents Paul, M73, and Jane, M79, and grandfather Benjamin, M39.

PHPD Launches New Programs

The *Master of Science in Development and Regulation of Medicines and Devices (DRMD) Program* is designed for those in the life sciences sector who wish to enhance their career options through training in the array of disciplines that contribute to the development and regulation of pharmaceuticals and medical devices. The DRMD Master’s Program is closely aligned with the activities of the Tufts CSDD and offers breadth and detail not found in other programs.

The *Certificate Program in Digital Health Communications* will give graduates the skills for creating effective health communication messaging and campaigns using digital media, including the web, mobile, and social media. The program starts with the existing week-long on-campus summer session, Digital Strategies in Health Communication, and continues with an additional three semesters of online courses.

The new dual *BS/MS in Health Communication* allows Tufts students to complete a professional degree in five years. Students who apply during junior year will take three required undergraduate courses before matriculating into the MS-HComm program upon graduation.
PHCM Welcomes New Faculty

The Department of Public Health and Community Medicine welcomes two new assistant professors, Fernando Ona, PhD, and Thomas Stopka, PhD. Ona’s research focuses on environmental health, environmental and spatial epidemiology, and sociomedical sciences. Stopka’s interests are in the area of infectious disease epidemiology and prevention, nutrition and spatial epidemiology, health disparities, and global health.

In Memoriam: Jane Desforges, MD

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Jane Desforges, MD, a renowned hematologist and an authority on anemia, specifically sickle-cell disease, and Hodgkin’s lymphoma. She was only one of five women in TUSM’s Class of 1945 and was an inspiration to countless members of the Tufts community, particularly women in medicine. Since 1952, Dr. Desforges held a Tufts faculty appointment; she was appointed Distinguished Professor of Medicine in 1992 and Professor Emerita in 1994. She had an extraordinary reputation as a teacher, receiving the Outstanding Teacher Award for 13 consecutive years.

During more than 60 years in medicine, she had a profound and lasting impact on generations of physicians. In her honor, her family and many supporters established the Jane F. Desforges, MD, Chair in Hematology and Oncology in 2003. Charitable contributions in her memory may be made at https://tuftsgiving.org: in the select an area, click “other” and mention Jane F. Desforges Chair in Hematology/Oncology. A memorial service will be held at noon on October 25th in the Wolff Auditorium at Tufts Medical Center.

Award for “Pathways to PhD” Program

Laura Liscum, PhD, received the AAMC Award for Innovative Institutional Partnerships in Research and Research-Focused training for the Pathways to PhD Program. The award is given to health professionals who develop programs that display creative, collaborative partnerships and impact institutional practices.

Accreditation Update

The LCME Self Study Committees completed their work in July and generated thoughtful and comprehensive reports of their reviews of the database as well as interviews with members of the TUSM community. The Steering Committee met over the course of the summer to consider the findings of the Self Study Committees and to address the questions posed by the LCME. A number of strengths, challenges and recommendations for improvements were identified, and these will form the basis of the summary report submitted to the LCME at the end of October.

Pre-visit planning meetings are scheduled for the first week in December. These sessions will help prepare for a productive LCME review by acquainting visit participants with the format and objectives of the February meetings.

Chair for New Department Named

Integral to the reorganization of the basic science departments, the Trustees of Tufts University approved the creation of TUSM’s twentieth clinical department, the Department of Anatomic and Clinical Pathology. This department will provide an academic home for pathologists for purposes of appointments, promotions and scholarly and teaching activities as they relate to the medical school. Barbarajean (BJ) Magnani, PhD, MD, FCAP has been named the inaugural chairperson of the new department.

Chair and Pathologist-in-Chief at Tufts Medical Center since 2011, Dr. Magnani is internationally recognized for her expertise in the field of laboratory medicine, specifically in clinical chemistry, clinical and forensic toxicology, and natural toxins. She has presented numerous workshops and seminars in the field and holds several leadership positions in the College of American Pathologists (CAP). She also has a strong interest in quality improvement and greater involvement of the pathologist in medical decision-making. We are fortunate to have an individual of her caliber at TUSM and we look forward to continued growth and excellence in the academic arena of pathology.

From left, Dean ad interim Dr. Nicolaos Madias, Dr. Jane Desforges and Dr. Philip Tsichlis at a ceremony inaugurating Tsichlis as the Jane F. Desforges, MD, Professor of Hematology and Oncology in 2003.