Class Notes

60s

Richard Lockey, M.D. (Residency 1968, Fellowship 1970), has co-edited two books in 2014: *Asthma, Comorbidities, Co-Existing Conditions, and Differential Diagnoses* (Oxford University Press) and *Allergens and Allergen Immunotherapy: Subcutaneous, Sublingual and Oral* (fifth edition, CRS Press Taylor & Francis Group). Lockey, a tenured physician at the University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine Health Science Center, donated a copy of each to the University of Michigan medical library.

70s

Richard T. Miyamoto (M.D. 1970) stepped down from his position as Arilla Spence DeVault Professor and chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the Indiana University School of Medicine, a position he has held for the past 27 years. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and the National Academy of Science and the Collegium Otorhinolaryngologicum Amicitae Sacrum. He has served as a director on the American Board of Otolaryngology for 10 years and six years on the Residency Review Committee for Otolaryngology.

90s

James Hammel (M.D. 1994) has been named the William H. Fleming, M.D. Endowed Chair in Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Hammel is clinical service chief of pediatric cardiac surgery, director of pediatric cardiac transplantation, and associate professor of Surgery at University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Medicine. The first endowed chair at Children's Hospital and Medical Center, is named for Fleming, who was the first pediatric heart surgeon in Omaha.

00s

Keira Barr, M.D. (Residency 2000 & 2003), co-founder and president of Aegist Consulting Group, LLC., has launched an app called Brightly, which she developed with Seattle-based company A.R.O. The app monitors UV exposure, makes recommendations based on skin type and provides skin health education. It also has a timer that alerts users when they need to seek shade and re-apply sunscreen. Prior to her work at A.R.O., Barr practiced dermatology and dermatopathology on faculty at University of California Davis School of Medicine.

The U-M Medical Center Alumni Society will honor four distinguished alumni for their contributions to medicine during the Oct. 31 Medical School reunion.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

CLAIRE POMEROY (M.D. 1979) serves as president and chief executive officer for the Albert and Mary Laser Foundation. Pomeroy has also served as C.E.O. and vice chancellor of the health system, and dean of the school of medicine for the University of California Davis. As an advocate for patients with HIV/AIDS, she currently leads a research team studying host responses to viral infections.

DISTINGUISHED HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AWARD

GUS GILL (M.D. 1969, RESIDENCY 1975) IS A FORMER FACULTY member of the U-M Medical School. A board certified otolaryngologist, Gill is an associate professor in the Department of Otolaryngology at Charles R. Drew University. There, he has also served as president of the faculty council and of the university's academic senate. Additionally, Gill is the former director of the International Health Institute.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

PAUL LICHTER (M.D. 1964, RESIDENCY 1968) is a professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences in the U-M Medical School, where he served as chair of the department from 1978 to 2012. Additionally, Lichter is the founding director of the W.K. Kellogg Eye Center which opened in 1985. Lichter's clinical and research interests have included glaucoma, cataract, the femtosecond laser, genetics, quality of life, ethics and medical professionalism. He is the current, and 100th, president of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

EARLY DISTINGUISHED CAREER AWARD

SANJAY GUPTA (M.D. 1993, RESIDENCY 2000) is the multiple Emmy-award-winning chief medical correspondent for CNN. He plays an integral role in CNN's reporting on health and medical news for "American Morning," "Anderson Cooper 360°" and CNN documentaries, and anchors the weekend medical affairs program "Sanjay Gupta, MD." Gupta is also a member of the staff and faculty at the Emory University School of Medicine, and associate chief of neurosurgery at Grady Memorial Hospital, and regularly performs surgery at both hospitals.

Alumni Profile | Larry Miller Invents...

IN 2001, NICK DAVILA, A SAN ANTONIO paramedic was involved in a terrible car accident. Bleeding badly but alive, he waited for first responders to arrive. When they did, they tried desperately to find a vein and start an IV but they couldn't; Davila died.

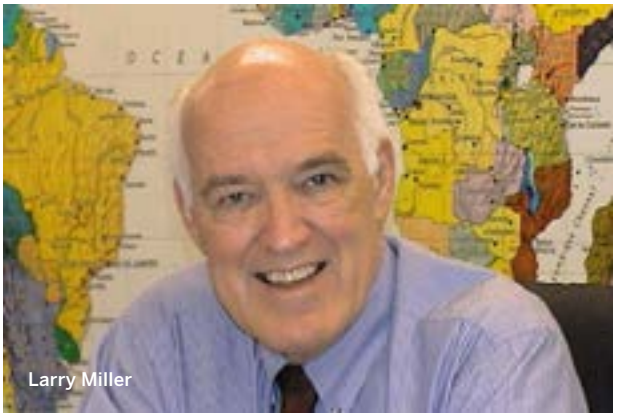
"I call it 'the cruel law of nature,'" says Larry Miller (M.D. 1965), a San Antonio emergency physician, inventor and entrepreneur. "If you don't need an IV, veins are easy to find. But when the body goes into shock, due to blood loss or cardiac arrest, it maintains circulation for vital organs and shuts down circulation to the arms and legs; the veins collapse."

At the funeral, Miller remembers thinking of his friend, "Nick died because they couldn't start an IV and that's completely unacceptable. This isn't rocket science. I'm going to find a quick and easy way to get a needle into bone marrow so that people like Nick don't have to die."

And, Miller did. The result, the product of years of work that begin before the Davila's death, is the EZ-IO: a handheld device that looks like a small drill and establishes infusion access via bone marrow, in just seconds. Today, the EZ-IO is used in ambulances and emergency departments throughout the United States and around the world.

Miller grew up outside of Detroit. His father, a machinist for the auto industry, maintained a fully-stocked machine shop at home. There, Miller learned woodworking, electronics, metalworking – the hows and whys of making stuff work. Miller grew up thinking up things to build and building them. He earned his medical degree from the University of Michigan in 1965. With his wife, Jane, Miller eventually settled into an emergency medicine career in San Antonio.

Exhausting ER shifts followed by several days off allowed Miller time to launch a side career as an inventor and entrepreneur. He successfully conceived, developed and marketed car top wheelchair carriers, omni-directional wheelchairs and van conversions for people with disabilities. In the mid-1990s, he created the osteoport: a device to inject chemotherapy drugs into bone marrow. The device worked in trials but ultimately didn't receive FDA approval because it contained silicone.


Larry Miller

Following the death of his friend, Miller began reimagining the osteoport for use in emergency medicine. The puzzle: to pierce the bone without shattering it, and to leave a line inside when the drill was withdrawn. The answer came to Miller when he woke up at 3 a.m. and remembered his dad's tiny, hollow, oil-cooled drill. The EZ-IO emerged from all of that and has since been used millions of times. Thousands of the devices were sent to Haiti following the earthquake there in 2010. A variant is used widely in obtaining bone marrow biopsies.

"I've spent my life trying to save patients one at a time, and this invention has given me the opportunity to save thousands of lives," says Miller.

But, he maintains, he didn't do it alone.

"I stand on the shoulders of a lot of great people who helped me along the way: my parents for giving me the courage to be an entrepreneur, my investors, an amazing group of employees. And it goes back to the University of Michigan – what a great place it was to study. I'm forever grateful for my education there."

Today, Miller is proud to share his vision and expertise mentoring Medical School students.

"I'm so happy to be going back and talking to students and working with the residents there in the ER, helping them look at their ideas and develop them. The greatest ideas come from need..." —Whitley Hill

PHOTO CREDIT