

Class Notes

50s]

Richmond Simmons (M.D. 1954) wrote and compiled *Anthology:*



Brief Biographies of Members of the University of Michigan Medical School Class of 1954 for the 2014 Medical School Reunion. For over a

year, Simmons acquired data from each living classmate and from relatives of those deceased. He plans to update the information periodically.



he will work closely with the vice medical information officer and chief information officer to advance the application of the science of informatics to improve the use of technology in clinical practice. Poterack is also an assistant professor in the anesthesiology department at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale Arizona, where he has practiced since 1997.

00s]

Zachary Kitchen (M.D. 2000) published two novels in 2014: *Promises*



to Keep and *The Unbeliever* (Ashton Publishing Group). Kitchen received a Navy scholarship to attend the U-M Medical School. He trained at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, for his internship, residency and fellowship.

Erica Proctor (M.D. 2006, Residency 2013,



Fellowship 2014) joined the Josephine Ford Cancer Institute at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Proctor will perform breast cancer surgery at

Henry Ford Hospital and will see patients in clinic each week. In her role at Henry Ford, Proctor also serves as the director of Breast Cancer Disparities Research, which aims to improve breast cancer health outcomes in southeast Michigan by increasing access to screening and treatment.

70s]

Louis D. Saravolatz (M.D. 1974) began his four-year term as



governor of the Michigan Chapter of the American College of Physicians in April. The national organization of internists is the largest medical

specialty organization in the United States. A resident of Grosse Pointe Shores, Saravolatz is the chairman of the Department of Medicine at St. John Hospital and Medical Center and a professor of medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine.

90s]

Robin B. Shermis, M.D. (Internship 1987, Residency 1990), was



inducted as a fellow in the American College of Radiology, one of the highest honors the ACR bestows. A diagnostic radiologist at Toledo

Radiological Associates in Toledo, Ohio, he is also medical director of the Promedica Breast Care Center and is on the board of directors for Promedica Toledo Hospital Foundation. Shermis is the medical director of Toledo Hospital and clinical associate professor at the University of Toledo Medical Center. He is a member of the Ohio State Radiological Society, the Society of Breast Imaging and the Aurora Breast MRI Society, and he is on the board of directors for Susan G. Komen of Northwest Ohio.

80s]

Karl A. Poterack (M.D. 1985) has been named medical director for

Applied Clinical Informatics in the Office of Information and Knowledge Management at Mayo Clinic. As medical director,

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Alumni Profile] The Practice of Medicine: Alumna treats NYC Ebola patient

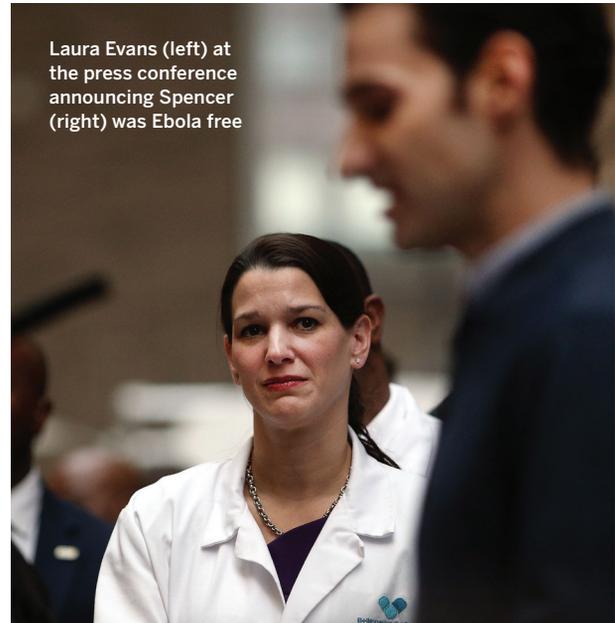
WHEN THE PATIENT ARRIVED WITH A FEVER and a suspected case of Ebola, Michigan alumna Laura Evans (M.D. 1999) initially assumed the man was part of another drill. Bellevue Hospital in New York City had been designated an Ebola treatment center three months earlier, and in the ensuing months, “We practiced and practiced and practiced,” says Evans. As Bellevue’s medical director of critical care and associate chief of medicine, Evans would oversee the successful treatment of the city’s first and only Ebola patient, Craig Spencer. But first she — and dozens of other staff — needed to prepare.

Over the course of the summer, they began training for the arrival and care of a potential patient. Evans’ team practiced simulation exercises — from transporting the patient out of the ambulance to figuring out the specific path they would travel to the patient’s room. They practiced so much that when Evans first encountered Spencer, who had recently treated Ebola patients in Guinea with Doctors Without Borders and was rushed to Bellevue by ambulance, her initial thought was, “Wow, he’s very good, very convincing!”

Spencer’s diagnosis was no drill, but all the practice at Bellevue had paid off. Spencer was successfully treated and released 19 days later. Amid the press coverage was a triumphant statement from New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio declaring, “New York is Ebola free.”

Evans’ interest in critical care dates back to her M4 year, when she rotated through the Critical Care Medicine Unit. “I thought the physiology was fascinating,” she says. “I liked the acuity. I liked the fast pace and the decision-making.”

She also thought highly of Michigan’s critical care physicians. In particular, she cites Douglas Arenberg, M.D. (Residency 1993, Fellowship 1996), and Eric White, M.D. (Residency 1998, Fellowship 2001). “They were smart,” she recalls. “They were really good with patients. They were wonderful at teaching. And they had an awesome sense of humor.” Evans remembers rounding with them one day when the two spontaneously started singing a Monty Python song. “I had this moment of thinking, I totally want to be like these guys,” she says, laughing. Evans still keeps in touch with both U-M physicians.



Laura Evans (left) at the press conference announcing Spencer (right) was Ebola free

Evans and other hospital staff did experience some frustrations while treating Spencer. As fears of Ebola spread throughout the city, some Bellevue workers reported being denied service at local businesses. While Evans did not experience this personally, she says some Bellevue nurses encountered negative reactions from others. Evans was also disappointed by initial media coverage, which she felt vilified the patient. She argues on Spencer’s behalf: “He went overseas to help people, which is the ultimate way to protect the United States, addressing the problem at its source. He came back, he followed every procedure, and as soon as he developed symptoms, he notified the appropriate people.”

Evans notes that by the time of Spencer’s discharge, government officials and the wider public were increasingly expressing appreciation for the efforts of health professionals working overseas. Evans speaks most enthusiastically about the efforts of the Bellevue team and experts around the country, even around the world, who lent their support. Throughout Spencer’s hospital stay, she says, there was “a real outpouring of knowledge, expertise and a spirit of collaboration.” —SARA TALPOS