

In Partnership with University of Pittsburgh



A Message from Our Vice Chair for Education

Dear Critical Care Medicine alumni,

I want to welcome you back to our newsletter after a year away. I heard from many of you that you've missed hearing the goings-on in our CCM family just as much as I've missed hearing from you.

This past year brought us an official end to the COVID-19 pandemic that besieged all aspects of our lives for the last few years. Many of us, including myself, welcomed the return to in-person events, especially the 2023 Critical Care Congress.

In this issue, we say goodbye to our 2023 graduating fellow class and we look forward to welcoming our 2024 incoming fellows over the next 2 months. We also profile our first Infectious Diseases Critical Care Medicine fellow, who happens to be one of our Fink Scholar Day abstract winners.

As always, I look forward to hearing your feedback and ideas for our next issue in the winter.

[Lori Shutter](#), MD, FNCS, FCCM
Vice Chair for Education



L to R: Kyle Gunnerson (CCM/IM '03), Randy Wax (IM '00) and David Kramer (IM '88)

Alumni reunite in person at SCCM 2023

We had another successful SCCM conference this year in San Francisco. And with the world slowly shifting back to normalcy, it was refreshing to see colleagues and old friends in person at our first in-person alumni reunion since Feb. 2020. Be on the lookout for information on the 2024 reunion at the SCCM Critical Care Congress in Phoenix, AZ, next January. We look forward to seeing you there.

By the numbers: Class of 2023 fellow graduation



- 20 Adult fellows graduated
- 5 Pediatric fellows graduated
- 4 T32 postdoctoral fellows graduated
- 2 APP fellows graduated
- 12 Faculty positions across the U.S.
- 7 Undertaking a second fellowship at UPMC
- 1 Faculty position at UPMC



Fink Day focuses on medical education

The 12th Annual Mitchell P. Fink Scholar Day highlighted our fellows this spring. Leading off the day with her keynote address, Kristen Burkart, MD, MSc, professor of medicine at Columbia University Medical Center, provided a thought-provoking discussion on the future of AI in medicine and teaching with her talk, "Innovations and Challenges in Medical Education: Teaching with Technology and Training for a Technology Enhanced Future". Twenty-two trainees presented their work during the poster session with awards going to Amanda Curry, Somair Malik, Matthew O'Donnell (profiled below) and Kelly Potter.



Fellow profile: Matt O'Donnell, DO

As a second-year Infectious Diseases Critical Care Medicine fellow, Matt is the first fellow in the new Infectious Diseases Critical Care Medicine track.

You're our first fellow in this new, integrated infectious diseases and critical care medicine fellowship. What made you interested in this track and what has your experience been like so far?

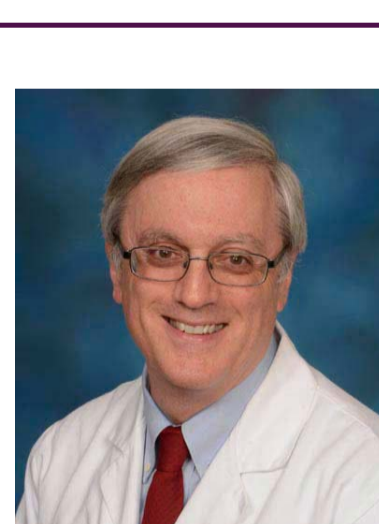
I became interested in the fellowship during my internal medicine residency when I developed a strong interest in the ICU and infectious disease consult service. I appreciated that the program offered comprehensive exposure to a variety of ICU settings and the opportunity to learn from attending physicians and fellows with diverse skill sets and perspectives different from my own.

So far, my experience has been excellent. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of this fellowship and I am confident that this training will shape me into a well-rounded physician capable of providing comprehensive and specialized care to critically ill patients.

Has your fellowship changed your career plans?

It's solidified my career plans. I aim to pursue a clinical role that encompasses both critical care and inpatient infectious disease consultations. Additionally, I have developed an interest in employing quality improvement strategies to optimize antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention practices in the ICU with the goal of improving patient outcomes.

[Meet Our Fellow](#)



Distinguished alumnus lecturer: Sam Tisherman, MD

Samuel A. Tisherman is a professor of surgery and in the Program in Trauma at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Sam Tisherman (CCM '94) was our 20th alumnus to present the Distinguished Alumnus/Alumna Lecture. He spoke on "Critical Care Education: Time for a Revolution" as part of our department's Grand Rounds series on March 8, 2023. Sam's impact on the Adult Multidisciplinary Critical Care Fellowship remains, and it was a pleasure to welcome him back to Pittsburgh.

If you have suggestions for future Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus Lectureship speakers, please contact GME Academic Manager Mackenzie Coffy at martinm9@upmc.edu.

Do you know anyone in this photo?

We need your help! We came across this photo and need your help identifying people. If you think you know who anyone is, email your best guesses to CCMcomm@upmc.edu.



Quick news

- Chris Seymour's sepsis advocacy efforts paid off and, for the first time ever, sepsis funding and directives are included in the federal budget.
- Matt Cove (IM '12) brought the REMAP-CAP trial to Singapore and was profiled along with a patient for a feature in The Straits Times.
- Danielle Devine (2nd-year Peds/CCM fellow) was accepted to the UPMC Senior Resident and Fellow Leadership Academy.
- Tram Duran (Anes/CCM) was awarded the School of Medicine's Clerkship Preceptor of the Year Award.
- Christine Leeper (Surgery '20), Hernando Gómez Danies (Anes/CCM '10) and Firas Abdulmajeed assumed new leadership roles as Surgical Critical Care Fellowship program director, Anesthesiology Critical Care Fellowship associate program director and Neurocritical Care Fellowship associate program director, respectively.
- Hülya Bayir (CCM '02) accepted a position as chief of the Division of Critical Care and Hospital Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics at Columbia University as of March 1, 2023.
- Marie Baldisseri (CCM '87) retired on June 30, 2023, after 35 years in the department.

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Tell us what you think

Please [click here](#) to provide us with your feedback and suggestions. Thank you in advance for your time and insight.

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