

This time last fall, who could have predicted our current state? However, as we move through the 2020-21 academic year and the abnormal “new normal” of the COVID-19 pandemic, our School of Medicine community has risen to the challenges. We are observing practices to limit the spread of coronavirus while finding optimal ways to educate our students, care for patients, conduct research and support our School of Medicine family.

We also are greatly affected by the social unrest resulting from racial injustice and health disparities. We are sensitive to what everyone feels about these issues and have a special concern for the impact they have on our Black students, trainees, staff and faculty. It will take all of us working together to effect the transformative change we need to make.

Despite these difficulties, we have good news.

- UofL Health is completing its first full year as an expanded clinical health system and has performed well beyond expectations.

Early indicators also point to success for our integrated pediatric partnership with Norton Healthcare.

- Our Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Staff has engaged in Continuous Quality Improvement efforts in anticipation of our April 2021 LCME accreditation site visit and the LCME Accreditation Self Study Taskforce has worked diligently to assure our preparedness. Thanks to Ann Shaw, MD, vice dean for UME, and her capable leadership staff and our student leaders who completed an outstanding Independent Student Survey, I am confident we will be well prepared.
- We have begun to implement the school's **2023 strategic plan**.
- To support recruitment efforts and increase our educational, research and clinical prestige, we have created the position of director for strategic marketing and communications for the School of Medicine.

- We will recognize our hard-working staff on Nov. 24 with the **Dean's Staff Excellence Awards**. We have added the Multicultural Engagement Award to recognize staff who exemplify our inclusion and equity efforts.

As we remain vigilant in health and safety measures, we also remember the things for which we can give thanks. We all are working and living with high levels of stress. Be kind to yourselves. Be kind to each other. Be mindful of **resources available to help**. We will get through these days together.



— Dean Toni Ganzel, M.D., M.B.A.

EDUCATION

The UofL Student National Medical Association (SNMA) is partnering with local activist groups to help address the injustices affecting Black and Brown citizens, starting with a public statement written by SNMA and signed by medical student organizations to show solidarity for racial equality. SNMA helped organize a White Coats for Black Lives demonstration and worked with HSC Pride to create a video showing the intersectionality with Black Lives Matter and LGBTQIA+ movements.

[SEE MORE](#)

RESEARCH

A promising technology developed by UofL cancer researcher Paula Bates, PhD, appears to block the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, from infecting human cells. Bates worked with Center for Predictive Medicine director Kenneth Palmer, PhD, to apply the technology, known as AS1411, to coronavirus and discovered it may stop the virus from “hijacking” nucleolin to replicate inside the body. AS1411 has been licensed to Qualigen Therapeutics Inc., which plans to support its continued development and ready it for market.

[SEE MORE](#)

PATIENT CARE

Building on more than two decades of success in cancer research, UofL is poised to advance immunotherapy with a grant of \$11.5 million from the NIGMS to establish the Center for Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy (CCII). The new center will develop and improve strategies that use the immune response to fight cancer. The five-year grant also will support young investigators and develop additional basic, translational and clinical research at the UofL Health - James Graham Brown Cancer Center.

[SEE MORE](#)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Co-Immunity Project, a collaboration of UofL with the Louisville Healthcare CEO Council and local health systems to track COVID-19 in Metro Louisville, monitors COVID-19 activity by testing health care workers and the general population for both active COVID-19 and antibodies to the virus that causes it, SARS-CoV-2. The project also is testing wastewater throughout Jefferson County in collaboration with Louisville Metro Sewer District. The project is directed by UofL faculty Aruni Bhatnagar, PhD, Kenneth Palmer, PhD, and Jon Klein, MD, PhD.

[SEE MORE](#)

Faculty, staff and students in the national spotlight

Robert Caudill, MD, was elected to the American Telemedicine Association College of Fellows. Caudill is professor and director of telemedicine and information technology programs in UofL's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Priya Chandan, MD, MPH, received the Distinguished Public Service Award from the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Mary Nan S. Mallory, MD, MBA, has been elected president

of the American Board of Emergency Medicine. Mallory is vice dean for clinical affairs for the UofL School of Medicine, a professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and an attending physician at UofL Health - UofL Hospital.

Mike Onu Udoh, a second-year UofL medical student, has been appointed vice chair of the Minority Issues Committee in the American Medical Association's Medical Student Section.

[MORE](#)

Class of 2024

162	Students
4,600	Applicants
60%	Female
40%	Male
22%	Rural Kentucky counties
14%	Underrepresented in medicine
13%	Nontraditional (age 27 and older)

Students were accepted from 20 states and 57 colleges and universities, including UofL (40), University of Kentucky (31), Emory, Yale, Morehouse, Princeton and Ohio State University. The students have degrees in 34 different majors, including biology, chemistry, biochemistry, neuroscience, economics, foreign language, history, mechanical engineering, music, psychology, political science and public health.

SMART Program

Staff members in the School of Medicine will collect funds to provide holiday meals for any School of Medicine staff member who indicates a need. More information is available [online](#).

Dean's Celebration of Faculty Excellence

In February, the dean honored 11 faculty members in the inaugural UofL School of Medicine Dean's Celebration of Faculty Excellence. Individuals were recognized for their commitment to service, teaching and outstanding scholarship, research and creative activity.



Scott Whittemore, PhD, and Dean Toni Ganzel, MD, MBA



M. Ann Shaw, MD, and Dean Toni Ganzel, MD, MBA

Outstanding Scholarship, Research and Creative Activity Awards

- Basic & Applied Sciences:
Haval Shirwan, PhD, Department of Microbiology & Immunology
- Career Achievement in Research:
Scott Whittemore, PhD, Department of Neurological Surgery

Distinguished Service Awards

- Service to UofL:
Nicole Herring, PhD, Department of Anatomical Sciences & Neurobiology
- Service to Profession:
J. David Richardson, MD, Department of Surgery
- Service to the Community, Commonwealth and/or the Region:
Jignesh Shah, MD, Department of Neurology
- National / International Service:
Charles Barr, PhD, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
- Career of Service:
Dan Stewart, MD, Department of Pediatrics

Educator Awards

- Gratis Faculty Teaching Award:
Mohan Rao, MD, Department of Surgery
- Outstanding Educator:
Bradon Wilhelmi, MD, Department of Surgery
- Career Achievement in Education:
M. Ann Shaw, MD, Department of Medicine
- Multicultural Teaching Award:
La Creis Kidd, PhD, Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology



Students, faculty and health care providers from the School of Medicine and across the Health Sciences Center participated in the WhiteCoats4BlackLives rally on June 5.

Ganzel named UofL vice president, member of UofL Health Board

School of Medicine Dean Toni Ganzel, MD, MBA, was appointed UofL vice president for academic medical affairs. In this role, she oversees research activity at the Health Sciences Center, including the centers and institutes. In addition, she oversees activities related to diversity and inclusion, faculty development and student health. Ganzel works closely with UofL Health CEO Tom Miller to ensure successful teaching and research in the UofL Health network and serves on the newly formed UofL Health Board of Directors.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Newsletter contributions are compiled from submissions made by units. To submit information for the next issue of the dean's newsletter, go to the [online submission form](#).