



Winter 2022-2023

CAMPUS QUARTERLY

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

With our recent full accreditation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the vision trajectory of the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine continues. Leading this medical school is an honor, especially in light of its mission and the talented people working together to realize it.

Dr. Jeffrey Boscamp, Dean

HMSOM NEWS

Dr. Jeffrey Boscamp is Named Dean of the School of Medicine

Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., a medical leader who helped shape the beginnings of the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, was recently named dean of the school. He also holds the Robert C. and Laura C. Garrett Distinguished Dean’s Chair.

Dr. Boscamp has been interim dean of the school since the sudden passing of his friend and predecessor, Dr. Bonita Stanton, last January. Dr. Boscamp had previously been vice dean of the school.

“Dr. Boscamp has performed terrifically in the interim role, and he’s proven to be a visionary educator,” said Robert C. Garrett, FACHE, chief executive officer, Hackensack Meridian Health. “We are excited to see how he leads the school to an ever-brighter future.”

“Jeff Boscamp has done a great job in stepping in and keeping this medical school moving forward,” said John “Skip” Williams, M.D., chairman of the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine’s Board of Governors. “He took the reins almost a year ago, and has guided the school with an exceptional set of skills and values.”

Dr. Boscamp was selected from a field of qualified candidates after a national, competitive search. Dr. Boscamp has been a clinician and leader in what has become Hackensack Meridian Health since 1987. Dr. Boscamp has been integrally involved with the founding of the school, ever since the concept of starting a new medical school was first discussed more than a decade ago. He co-chaired the search committee that brought Founding Dean Stanton to the school.

At the School of Medicine, he has been the course co-director for a major first-year basic science course: Immunity, Infection and Cancer (I2C). In March 2020, with COVID-19 overwhelming the

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clinical services of Hackensack Meridian Health, Dr. Boscamp selected eight medical students to be embedded in these clinical services to research emerging information on the epidemiology, disease manifestations, and treatments for COVID-19. The students produced 70 papers in six weeks and the details of this innovative “pop-up” course were published in *Academic Medicine*. He also teaches a very popular wine appreciation course (with a set curriculum and textbook).

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School Achieves Full Accreditation from Middle States



Hackensack Meridian
School of Medicine

The Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine has been granted full accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). This milestone brings the school, which admitted its first students in 2018, closer to full accreditation from all regulatory agencies.

“This is further validation of how the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine continues to meet and surpass all expectations, while training incredible doctors of the future,” said Robert C. Garrett, FACHE, chief executive officer of Hackensack Meridian *Health*. “The faculty, staff, and students of this one-of-a-kind institution are forging a new path to a better future.”

“We are immensely gratified that we have achieved this milestone,” said Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., the dean of the school. “We as a team are all working hard in one direction: to offer the best and most innovative medical education anywhere, producing the best doctors for New Jer-

sey and the country.”

The MSCHE, responsible for more than 515 accredited and candidate degree-granting institutions, conferred its accreditation after a visit this past summer. The affirmation extends the school’s privilege to grant M.D. degrees and allows the school to state confidently that, “Our students are well-served; society is well-served.”

“The curriculum is ground breaking and should be used as a model for the future of medical education,” they commented. “The innovations the school has implemented are yielding tangible advancements in medical education.”

The next milestone for the school is final accreditation from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the accrediting body for educational programs at schools of medicine in the United States and Canada. The school received provisional accreditation from the LCME in February 2021.

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AROUND THE SCHOOL

Vice Dean Hoffman Honored with Prestigious ELAM/ELH Fellowship



Miriam Hoffman, M.D., Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, has been named to a prestigious fellowship for women leaders in academic medicine and health care.

The Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® (ELAM®) program is a year-long, part-time fellowship for women faculty in schools of medicine, dentistry, public health and pharmacy. Hoffman will join the inaugural cohort of the Executive Leadership in Health Care (ELH) of ELAM. The fellowship began this summer. The fellows just completed their first in-residence week and will continue for the academic year.

“Miriam Hoffman is one of our key leaders driving the school’s progressive curriculum and

vision forward,” said Robert C. Garrett, CEO of Hackensack Meridian *Health*. “She will continue to be recognized nationwide as a thought leader in this space.”

“Miriam is so important to what we’re doing at the school,” said Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., the Dean of the school and a professor of pediatrics. “She is a brilliant educator – but she also incorporates that distinctive human element that’s so important to our school. This fellowship is supremely well-deserved.”

The Drexel University College of Medicine runs the fellowship program. According to Drexel, the ELAM program is dedicated to developing the professional and personal skills required to lead in today’s complex health care environment – with special attention to the unique challenges facing women in leadership positions. More than 1,200 ELAM alumnae hold leadership positions in institutions around the world.

Hoffman was promoted to Vice Dean of the school in April, and was previously the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. She has led the development, implementation, and continuous enhancement of the medical education program. Hoffman’s goal is to align medical education curricula with health outcomes of populations and individuals, including addressing health inequities.

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AAMC Awards Dean Stanton Posthumous Honor



Bonita F. Stanton, M.D., the late dean of the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, was honored with a special award for her decades in medical education.

Stanton, the founding dean of the medical school, was given the posthumous Special Recognition Award by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) for her long and illustrious career.

The award was bestowed at the AAMC's annual awards event, held virtually the afternoon of Oct. 26.

Stanton passed away unexpectedly in January 2022 from a sudden illness, however not before she saw the June graduation of the school's inaugural class — a class whose training was shaped by her mission and vision.

"How fortunate we were to have such a visionary educator and physician to start our medical school journey," said Robert C. Garrett, FACHE, chief executive officer of Hackensack Meridian *Health*. "Bonnie was one-of-a-kind, and we miss her every day."

"Bonnie was a terrific leader who created this magnificent school based on her experiences in

academics, and among underserved communities across the globe," said Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., the dean of the school and a professor of pediatrics. "Her legacy lives on, and thrives, in what we do everyday."

Stanton was a pediatrician and was known for her pioneering work in impoverished corners of the globe, where her research and care improved and saved countless lives. She returned to the United States as a visionary medical educator at leading institutions and served as the founding dean of Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine. She was 70 at the time of her passing.

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HMH Physician, Bioethicist Publishes Surgery Decision-making Piece in *New England Journal of Medicine*



A Hackensack Meridian Health physician and bioethicist explores the difficulties of decision-making for surgeons in a new publication in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

Making clinical decisions based on how a patient appears to a surgeon may be subject to "ableist" biases. A doctor's subjective "eyeball test" might make assumptions about a patient's quality of life and influence whether or not a patient is of-

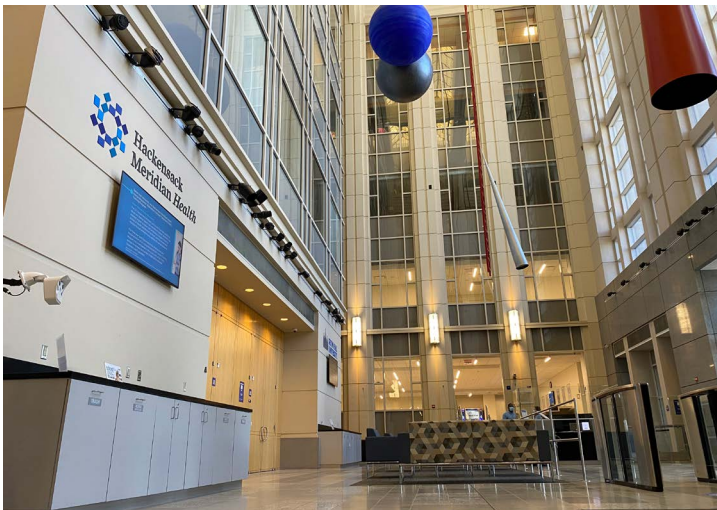
ferred a surgical procedure, writes Charles Binkley, M.D., FACS, HEC-C, the director of Bioethics for the health network's Central Region, and associate professor of surgery at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, one of the paper's authors.

"From the Eyeball Test to the Algorithm – Quality of Life, Disability Status, and Clinical Decision Making in Surgery," contends that more data and an empirical framework involving algorithms would aid doctors, who must seek out more input than just their sole observation of the patient in deciding whether a surgical intervention is "worth it."

"The paper proposes that AI may actually de-bias some of the quality of life assumptions that affect physicians in their clinical decision making," said Binkley.

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Michael B. Harris, M.D. Professorship Established at School of Medicine and Children's Cancer Institute Thanks to \$1 Million Gift



Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation is pleased to announce the establishment of the Michael B. Harris, M.D. Professorship at Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine and Hacken-

sack Meridian Children's Health Children's Cancer Institute, thanks to a generous \$1 million gift from an anonymous donor.

The gift was made in honor of longtime physician, Michael B. Harris, M.D., director emeritus of the Children's Cancer Institute and former director of the Cure and Beyond Survivorship Program, who founded the pediatric cancer program at Hackensack Meridian Children's Health at Joseph M. Sanzari Children's Hospital. The professorship is an endowed position that will be awarded to the physician serving in the role of chief of pediatric hematology-oncology at the Children's Hospital and of the faculty at the School of Medicine. It will support the chief's academic goals in clinical investigations and translational research and fund key positions that encourage further growth and evolution in the treatment and care of children with blood disorders and cancers.

"We are so grateful to our anonymous donor and all who joined us to celebrate Dr. Harris' visionary work throughout his 35 years of service at Hackensack Meridian *Health*," said Joyce P. Hendricks, president and chief development officer, Hackensack Meridian Health Foundation. "In addition to our incredibly generous donor, many of Dr. Harris' colleagues and grateful patients have also joined in support of this endowed professorship, which will ensure our commitment to his incredible legacy through world-class education and training for our medical students, residents and fellows. I know that this transformational professorship will directly impact the compassionate care our youngest and sickest patients need and deserve."

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FEATURED FACES

Remembering Dr. Michael Kelly, Pioneering Surgeon and Founding Ortho Chair

Michael A. Kelly, M.D. (pictured above), founding chair of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine passed away after a long and valiant battle with prostate cancer.

Dr. Kelly was present at the school's beginnings and he played a critical role in establishing the Hackensack Meridian Health network. He was always a voice of reason; expressing strong and constructive ideas as the school came together. He was an incredibly proud mentor to students and was bursting with pride when the school placed a student in one of the most competitive orthopedics residencies in its first national match.

He was a pioneer in total knee replacement who was a founding member of the Insall Scott Kelly Institute in New York. He was on the medical staff of Hackensack University Medical Center since 2002 and was named Chairman of Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine in 2005.

Throughout his prestigious career, Dr. Kelly held many prestigious positions: he served as president of the American Knee Society; he was head team physician for the New Jersey Nets basketball team; he was named Orthopedist of the Year by the New Jersey Arthritis Foundation; and he received two Lifetime Achievement awards for

academic contributions to the advancement of orthopedic surgery at the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery.

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Voices of HMSOM: Caitlin Sarubbi, Paralympian and Healer-in-Training

The alpine ski slope was a daunting challenge. But for the little girl, it was also thrilling – an utter freedom that combined the exhilaration of speed with the possibility of a crash.

With that risk came the reward for the

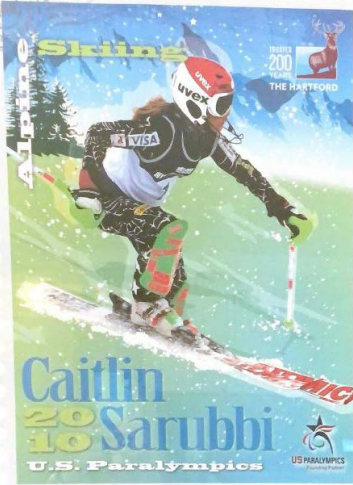
11-year-old city girl, who had never before seen a slope like that snowy run in the Rocky Mountains. The momentum, the rush, gave her a feeling she'd never felt before.

It was like Caitlin Sarubbi was on top of the world – and nothing could stop her.

For the very first time, it felt like there were no boundaries, no limits – and no disability.

"The sense of freedom from running down a hill and being outside was something I immediately connected with," recalled Sarubbi, a Hacken-





sack Meridian School of Medicine student from the 2019 cohort. “It’s one of those sports where you win, because you’re on the edge of winning – or crashing hard... I really just like to push the limits, to push myself and better myself.”

For the medical student, life has presented her with a series of opportunities to push limits: her own, and those of the world. The Paralympian alpine skier and Harvard graduate is poised to begin her medical career early in 2023, after earning her degree.

She’s been tackling challenges since “day one” – quite literally. When she was just three days old and still in the hospital, she had the first of 80 reconstructive surgeries to help correct a syndrome she inherited at birth. Now 32, she remains partly visually and hearing impaired, but her unique experience means she brings empathy to her career as a healer.

“Caitlin is a remarkable doctor-in-training. Her drive and persistence in overcoming obstacles is inspirational to all of us. And she is, quite simply, a wonderful person,” said Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., the dean of the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine.

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New Institutional Effectiveness Specialist

Marycarmen Kunicki comes to HMSOM with a wide variety of experience in both higher education and public health.

Marycarmen has a Master’s degree in Psychology with a specialization in program evaluation from Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, Cal-

ifornia. She has spent the last 12 years providing administrative leadership, overall management, and general support to the Passaic County 4-H Youth Development Program, which is a part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Marycarmen has also collaborated on research and evaluation efforts for large scale projects including the Boston Public Health Commission’s CDC-funded REACH (Racial and Ethnic Community Approaches to Health) initiative and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s CYFAR (Children, Youth, and Families at Risk) Sustainable Communities Project.

Marycarmen is excited to join the Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment team as the Institutional Effectiveness Specialist.

New HD Special Projects Coordinator

Maria Mansfield joined the HD & Community Programs Team in December. She has worked at Hackensack Meridian Health as a Research Assistant and Tobacco Treatment



Specialist since 2018. In the newly created position of HD Special Projects Coordinator, she will support expanding and sustaining our community programs. In addition to her marketing background, Maria has a Master’s in Administrative Science and a Non-Profit Organizational Development Certificate. She also serves as Adjunct Professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University, teaching and training young adult and non-traditional students.



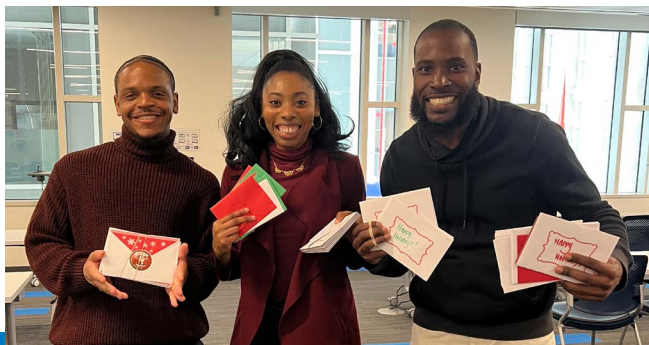
HMSOM UPDATES

First Dr. Bonita F. Stanton Visiting Professor: Dr. Charles Pannenburg

Dr. Charles "Ok" Pannenburg (pictured in center, above) was on campus on Nov. 22 as the first-ever Dr. Bonita F. Stanton Visiting Professor at our school. One of the earliest global health proponents, beginning in the 1960s, Dr. Pannenburg served as the World Bank Group's Chief Health Advisor & Director and Chief Health Scientist. He is a world traveler and was a close friend of our beloved Dr. Stanton. It was an enlightening visit.

Student Group Makes Holiday Cards For Patients, Health Care Workers

Doing their part to spread good cheer, the school's chapter of the Student National Medical Association devoted their time to make holiday cards for patients, the homeless, and the health care workers at Hackensack University Medical Center.



SOM Poet Selected for Award



M2 Maya Sorini's poetry book was selected for the 2023 Press 53 Award

"I am delighted to share that my collection has won the [2023 Press 53 Award for Poetry](#) and will be available for purchase in April 2023. I will continue to update the school as preorder links go up and as I get more detailed information about the release."

Congratulations on your hard work paying off, Maya!

Student Clinician Humanism Ceremony



Congratulations to our 2021 Cohort on their Student Clinician Humanism Ceremony and for moving on to clerkships. A big thank you to every-

one who contributed to creating this wonderful event.

It was a beautiful ceremony and we hope you all enjoy [watching the replay!](#)

Paint Night: An Artful Success

The students made a splash with the TC Paint Night in November.

