

May 2018

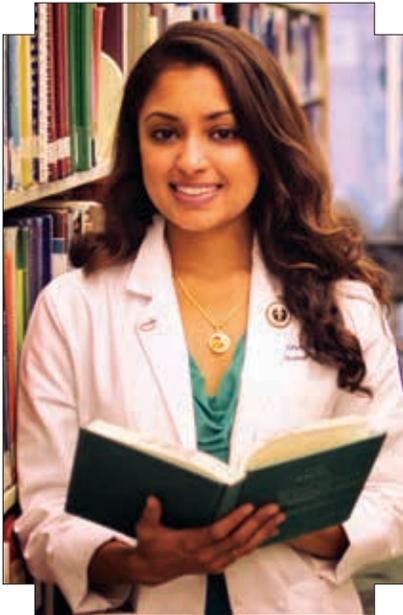
# SGA Rounds

Student Government Association Newsletter

NSU Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

## Letter from the Editor in Chief

By OMS-III Vikisha Hazariwala, SGA Administrator of Public Affairs



I would like to welcome you to the last edition of *SGA Rounds* for the 2017–2018 academic year. This edition will be my last as editor in chief—a role I have carried with utmost honor over the past two years. I will now pass along the torch to OMS-II Brandon Hanai, who has been an invaluable member of the Student Government Association as treasurer for our

college. I am reassured that he will push for more innovative and creative ways to help move this platform forward. It has been a privilege to help make your voices heard, and if I have erred in the process, I ask for your forgiveness.

I would like to leave you all with a few personal thoughts. As I near the end of my third-year in medical school, I have come to the realization that all that is good in medicine is also good for life outside medicine.

I began this year passionately engaged in every clinical rotation because I had one goal in mind: to learn the secret of how to become a good physician. Not knowing which specialty had piqued my interest the most, every field of medicine was a treasure chest waiting to be unlocked. My peers and I diligently tended to the needs of our first non-standardized patients, the people who would teach us the most medicine and grant us with the vision to glimpse all of humankind.

The hours spent in the hospital were too innumerable to count, the tasks often mundane, and the checklists never-ending. Somewhere between dawn and dusk, however, we learned how to communicate with members of the inter-

disciplinary health care team. We also learned the technical skills necessary to suture wounds and deliver babies, how to catch a moment to read or grab coffee with a new friend, and to go home not truly feeling our work had been completed that day. Alas, as every resident-physician has forewarned me, when the doctor says, ‘Go home, thank you for your help today,’ you must leave without delay.

Life never seemed to stop outside of rotations, yet in a strange way, being at the hospital or clinic always helped place my own concerns into perspective. The 38-year-old female with metastatic cancer, the 55-year-old male comatose and mechanically ventilated, and the 60- and the 76-year-old patients hospitalized with the flu were all reminders that I, too, could be a patient one day.

Over the past three years, my classmates have lost loved ones and have found someone to love to help carry them through their challenges. They have experienced devastating loneliness and moments of resounding joy, and they have even brought life into this world. Patient and physician alike, we are all human.

In medicine, we care for our patients as our own loved ones. Equally important is life outside of medicine, in which we must remember to place our own oxygen mask on before helping another and to strengthen our core, physically and mentally, to have the ability to care for another. Therefore, as I have done in each prior edition, I will leave you with the words and photos of my NSU-KPCOM family who continue to push the boundaries of medicine every day.

Thanks again for the honor it has been to serve as editor of *SGA Rounds*. Our students, without whom none of this would have been possible, have demonstrated that their passions are boundless. Thank you to Scott Colton, the incredibly talented editor and graphic design artist of this newsletter and the executive editor of *COM Outlook*, to Debra Gibbs for her journalistic excellence, and to Dr. Traci-lyn Eisenberg for her thoughtful medical expertise in helping make this newsletter the most comprehensive collage of the KPCOM student body.

# Message from the Faculty Editor

By Traci-lyn Eisenberg, D.O., SGA Rounds Faculty Editor

How do I even begin to describe what a fantastic experience I have had here for the past four years? I was welcomed with open arms by my fellow faculty members and the students, and this has truly felt like “home” to me.

I want to start by thanking Vikisha Hazariwala, Debra Gibbs, and Scott Colton for their contributions to this newsletter. Without you, this never would have been a success. Vikisha, it is amazing that you are able to sift through all the materials, all while being an extremely busy third-year medical student. Scott and Debra, your editing, journalistic skills, and guidance have been invaluable to us.

To the students, where do I start? I always knew I wanted to do academic medicine, but I never dreamed the opportunity would present itself so quickly after finishing residency. I could have practiced family medicine anywhere, but not had the opportunity to work with medical students and residents. I always loved teaching when I was a resident, and I hope I have been able to share that enthusiasm and knowledge with all of you.

I cannot say enough about the abundance of experiences we have shared together. From championing for osteopathic medicine in Tallahassee, Florida, and Washington D.C., to the many conferences and conventions attended together, we have all grown together

from these experiences. I would be remiss not to mention my time doing medical outreach in India, which was perhaps the most rewarding experience I have had here at the school.

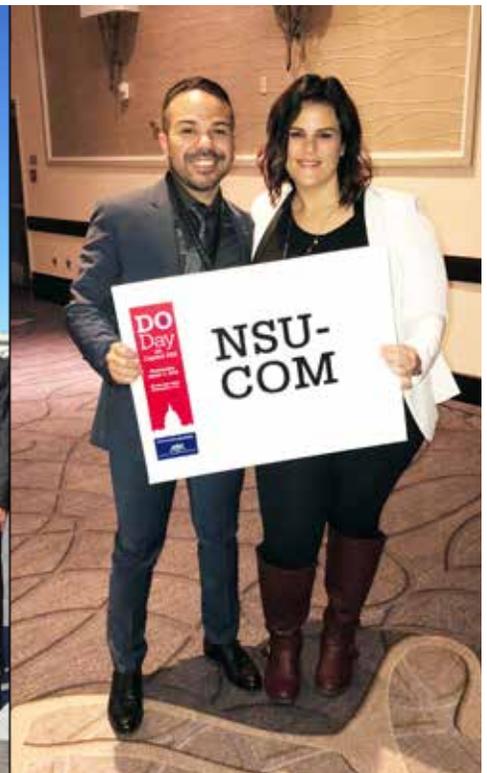
From discovering “Narnia” to seeing the joy on the patients’ faces when we were able to help them with their problems, be they medical or social, it is a time I will not forget. I will wholeheartedly remember those times, along with the many, many laughs and good times we shared.

So, I am going to sign off on my last issue as faculty editor of *SGA Rounds* with a little advice. Medical school can be a tough environment, but please remember to have a good work-life balance, because those good habits will carry with

you during your careers. Put down that book and step outside, if only to take a five-minute walk. Take a day or weekend trip down to the Keys, or simply take in that movie you’ve been putting off seeing.

Four years can and do fly by quickly, but the memories and friendships you make will hopefully last a lifetime. You won’t remember what you got on that FACR midterm, but you will remember the relaxation a day out on the water brings.

I wish you all nothing but good luck in your future careers. I know you will all be successful in whatever path medicine takes you down. Thank you again for all you have taught me and shared with me over the past four years, as they were truly great ones.



## SGA Rounds

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Nova Southeastern University  
Dr. Kiran C. Patel  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
3200 South University Drive  
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[osteopathic.nova.edu](http://osteopathic.nova.edu)  
[facebook.com/novaosteopathic/](https://www.facebook.com/novaosteopathic/)

### DR. KIRAN C. PATEL

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

*Elaine M. Wallace*, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S.  
Dean

### EDITOR IN CHIEF

OMS-III *Vikisha Hazariwala*  
[vh350@mynsu.nova.edu](mailto:vh350@mynsu.nova.edu)

### EXECUTIVE EDITOR/GRAPHIC DESIGNER

*Scott Colton*, B.A., APR  
HPD Director of Medical  
Communications and Public Relations

### FACULTY EDITOR

*Traci-lyn Eisenberg*, D.O.  
Assistant Professor of Family Medicine

### ASSOCIATE EDITOR

*Debra R. Gibbs*, B.A.  
Medical Communications Coordinator

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Alex Breslau (OMS-IV)  
Scott Colton, B.A., APR  
Juan M. Dangond (OMS-II)  
Traci-lyn Eisenberg, D.O.  
Vikisha Hazariwala (OMS-III)  
Jodian Hemmings (OMS-II)  
Adedeji Olusanya (OMS-II)  
Yimika Oyekanmi (OMS-II)  
Milee Patel (OMS-II)  
Zachary Smith (OMS-II)



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Osteopathic Medicine

## KPCOM Well Represented at Omega Beta Iota Ceremony

During the Omega Beta Iota (OBI) Induction Ceremony held March 6 in Washington, D.C., two KPCOM students and one faculty member earned recognition. OMS-III Alixandria Fiore, who served as 2017–2018 OBI national membership chair, was named 2018–2019 OBI national director. Additionally, OMS-III Urvi Patel was inducted as a new member, while Traci-lyn Eisenberg, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine and director of the Simulated Patient Program, was inducted as an honorary member.



## Compassion Video Receives AACOM Award

On April 20, the college's D.O. Day of Compassion video, which was coordinated by KPCOM students and filmed by the college's student photography club, earned an honorable mention accolade in the 2018 American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Excellence in Communications Awards Program. The video received recognition in the Best Podcast/Video category.

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# Student Government Association Update

The Student Government Senate, comprising members of each class SGA, recently elected a new SGA board to lead the KPCOM student body. First, we would like to thank OMS-III Natalie Negron for her excellent leadership over the past year as president. The outstanding service she provided is unanimously recognized among students and faculty members,

and was recognized during this year's NSU STUEY Award ceremony held on March 27.

We are excited to welcome OMS-II Michael Goldstein as president, OMS-I Regina Zambrano as president-elect, OMS-II Brandon Hanai as administrator of public affairs, OMS-I Jessica Figueredo as parliamentarian, and OMS-I Jackie Glodener as treasurer.

The Student Government Senate also voted in a new interest group named Plant-Based Health Care, created by enthusiastic first- and second-year students. Plant-Based Health Care's goal is to help raise awareness of chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease, which can be ameliorated with a plant-based diet.

## National Osteopathic Medicine Week Commemorated April 15–21

During National Osteopathic Medicine Week, held April 15–21, the KPCOM Student Government Association hosted a panel comprising newly matched fourth-year medical students, who shared advice, perspectives, and

stories on how to match successfully into one's desired field of medicine. Traci-lyn Eisenberg, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine, also delivered an interactive presentation on tips for residency applications and interviews.

National Osteopathic Medicine Week brings the osteopathic medical profession together to focus on one common goal—increasing awareness of osteopathic medicine and D.O.s in communities across the country.



# A Call to Action Regarding Gun Violence

By OMS-II Juan M. Dangond, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Alumnus

On March 2, the future physicians of the NSU Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine stood in solidarity with the faculty members, families, and students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in

Parkland, Florida. The message is simple: the Dickey Amendment must be repealed. It effectively has restricted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from conducting research on gun violence in America

since its introduction in 1996. Regardless of the nation's political stance on the reformation of gun laws, it is imperative that we are able to study, with proper funding, why gun-related violence is so prevalent in our society.



## KPCOM Sweeps Bethesda Poster Competition

Third-year KPCOM students claimed the top prizes at the Bethesda Health Fifth Annual Medical Student Poster Competition held in April at the hospital's graduate medical education wing in Boynton Beach, Florida. Adaobi Ibe (center) earned first-place honors, while Michael Turchiaro came in second, followed by Elizabeth Ray in third.



# Match Day Ceremony Elicits Excitement

By Alex Breslau, OMS-IV and Class of 2018 President

The greatest honor I have had during my tenure as president of the class of 2018 was serving as host and emcee of our Match Day Ceremony. On March 16, medical schools across the country hosted similar ceremonies as their senior students received their match results for where they will be attending residency.

One of the intricacies of the Nobel Prize-winning algorithm that runs the matching process is that students initially found out whether or not they matched on March 12, but had to wait all week to find out specifically where they were going. That quirk usually means that at the stroke of noon on May 16, which is when the contents of the envelopes are revealed, the ceremony is filled with outpourings of emotion because the tension had mounted for days.



With that being known, the planning of this event was much debated. Thanks to the input of my fellow class leaders and amazing collaborators Khadeeja Ashai, Hiba Bilal, and Leanne Iorio, we agreed that we needed no over-the-top plans and trusted the one thing that has always turned our events into success: our class camaraderie.

With simple, yet creative, ideas, we mostly relied on the fact that by just having everyone in the same room, our class would thoroughly enjoy itself. All else were merely event logistics and the tempering of anxiety prior to the envelope reveal, which we decided would be a mostly impromptu speech by me to fill the time as necessary. My thoughts at the time were, “How bad could it be?”

I had already received my match via the Military Match, which took place in December, so one would expect me to be anxiety-free since my future had already been determined. As the ceremony drew near, however, I realized that would not be the case. I had endured four daunting years of medical school alongside these very classmates

seated in front of me, so I felt invested in their successful matches.

With more than 150 students, family members, friends, and faculty and staff members in attendance, there was a palpable, excited tension in the auditorium. When the time came for my “words of distraction and thanks,” the excitement clearly caught hold of me, and I found myself struggling to fulfill my duty to ramble about our journey and successes along the way.

One could even say I was speechless at times, which is not an adjective often applicable to me. But I sputtered through it, finding ways to make the countdown timer tick faster. While *SGA Rounds* does not have the video capabilities of *Harry Potter’s Daily Prophet*, the best way to describe what followed were shrieks of joy in such rapid succession, it would be difficult to quantify.

On a final note, thank you to the class of 2018 for trusting in me and allowing me to helm the journey through medical school. It was my pleasure and my honor.



# Pediatrics Club Wins STUEY Award



*Natalie Negron displays her KPCOM Student of the Year STUEY with the college's dean, Elaine M. Wallace, D.O., M.S., M.S., M.S.*

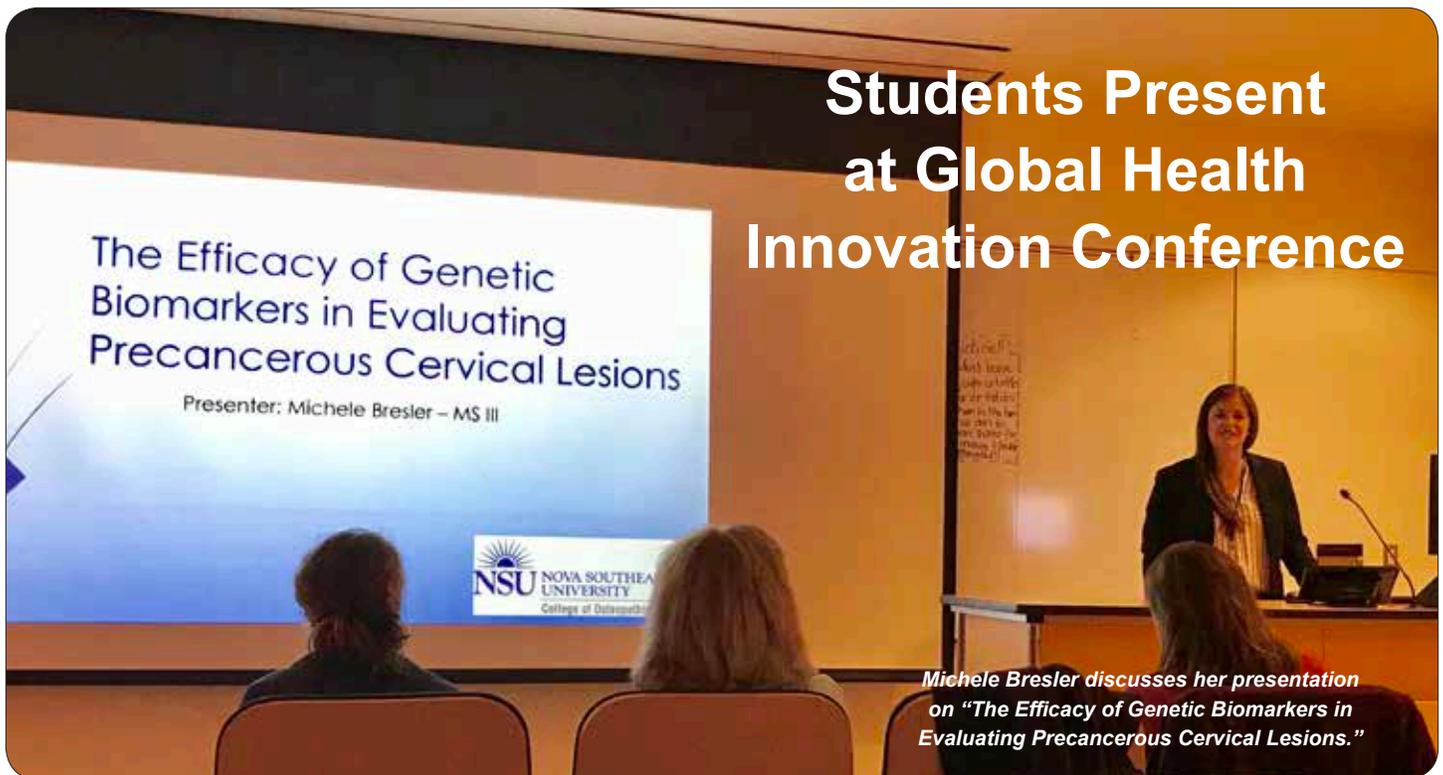
On March 27, the KPCOM's Pediatrics Club won the NSU Graduate Organization of the Year Award at the 20th Annual Student Life Achievement Awards (STUEYS) held March 27 in the NSU Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center. For those unfamiliar with the STUEY Awards, the event honors the people and organizations that best exemplify the NSU Core Values of academic excellence, student centered, opportunity, scholarship/research, integrity, diversity, innovation, and community within the university community.

Additionally, OMS-III Natalie Negron was nominated in the NSU Student of the Year category. Although she didn't win the overall NSU Student of the Year Award, Negron was recognized as the KPCOM's Student of the Year.



*George L. Hanbury, Ph.D., NSU president and CEO (center), poses with Pediatrics Club members and Edward Packer, D.O., FAAP, FACOP, KPCOM assistant dean of clinical affairs and cocurricular adviser to the Pediatrics Club (far right).*

## Students Present at Global Health Innovation Conference



*Michele Bresler discusses her presentation on “The Efficacy of Genetic Biomarkers in Evaluating Precancerous Cervical Lesions.”*

Several third- and fourth-year students presented their research at the Global Health and Innovation Conference held April 14–15 at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. OMS-III Michele Bresler delivered a presentation on “The Efficacy of Genetic Biomarkers in Evaluating Precancerous Cervical Lesions.” Additionally, under the direction of Renee Alexis, M.D., M.P.H., associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology, OMS-IV Kristina Gemayel and OMS-III Kelly Hilton launched their clinical research study and exchanged ideas with an expert panel and global audience members.



*From left: Conference attendees OMS-III Alixandria Fiore, OMS-III Domonique Weathers, Kristina Gemayel, Michele Bresler, and OMS-III Vikisha Hazariwala pose for a commemorative photo at Yale University. Not pictured: Kelly Hilton and OMS-III Christina Baxter.*

## KPCOM Students Shine at AAO Convocation



*David Boesler poses with the 2017–2018 KPCOM predoctoral OPP fellows. They are (from left) Rajinder Persaud, Urvi Patel, Anna Mercer, Anna Roman-Pleschko, Stephany Giraldo, and Paul Kim.*



**SAAO officers Sara Rodriguez (vice president) and Gabrielle McDermott (national liaison) proudly display the Most Improved Chapter Award.**

Several KPCOM students earned recognition at the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) Convocation held March 21–25 in Dallas, Texas. OMS-III and OPP fellow Anna Mercer was elected national vice chair and will serve as a member of the national student AAO Executive Board for the 2018–2019 school year. She also earned fifth-place honors in the national A. Hollis Wolf Case Presentation Competition.

During the poster presentation competition, OMS-III and OPP fellow Urvi Patel placed first in the case-study category for her poster “CRI Over MRI: A Cranial Approach to Dizziness,” while OMS-III and OPP fellow Anna Roman earned second-place honors in the case-study category for her poster “Releasing the Impact: A Concussion-Related Somatic Dysfunction Case.” Additionally, the KPCOM’s Student American Academy of Osteopathy (SAAO) chapter received the national award for Most Improved Chapter.

David Boesler, D.O., M.S., associate professor and chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice, served as the convocation’s program chair and helped coordinate the symposium.

# Excellence Exemplified at Awards Ceremony

On April 16, numerous awards and scholarships were presented to students at the annual First- and Second-Year Student Awards Ceremony. Students were honored in areas such as research, academic excellence, and community service.

## Matthew A. Terry Endowment



First-year student **Kayla Brown** and second-year student **Mohammad Dlewati** were the recipients of the Matthew A. Terry Scholarship Endowment. The academic accolade was established in 1999 to honor first- and second-year medical students who epitomize virtues such as scholastic excellence, service to the school, empathy, and congeniality. *Pictured (from left) are Mohammad Dlewati; Kayla Brown; and Pamela Moran-Walcutt, D.O., assistant professor of family medicine.*

## Four Students Win Bradley I. Silverman Scholarship



Second-year students **Hytham Rashid** and **Zachary Smith**, along with third-year student **Kiersta Borrego** and fourth-year student **Jaclyn Siegel**, were the recipients of the Bradley I. Silverman Memorial Scholarship, which was established in 2006 to honor outstanding KPCOM students who participate in cancer-related community service and display compassion, commitment, and other laudable traits exemplified by Dr. Silverman. *Pictured (from left) are Jaclyn Siegel; Zachary Smith; Marilyn Silverman, the mother of Bradley Silverman; and Kiersta Borrego.*

## Eight Students Earn Kenneth Burnell Research Awards



A number of students received the Dr. Kenneth Burnell Student Research Award, which is bestowed to KPCOM students who conduct outstanding research in either clinical medicine or biomedical science. The recipients (listed alphabetically) were OMS-I **Andrea Alvarez**, OMS-I **Evelin Arzanova**, OMS-I **Samar Eisa**, OMS-I **Maria Labra**, OMS-III **Drumil Patel**, OMS-II **Everett Rogers**, OMS-I **Scarlett Somarriba**, and OMS-II **Paige Spagna**. *Pictured (from left) are Drumil Patel; Scarlett Somarriba; Samar Eisa; Alison C. Bested, M.D., FRCPC, chair of integrative medicine; Andrea Alvarez; Maria Labra; and Evelin Arzanova.*

## Robert Klein Endowed Scholarship Award



Second-year student **Jeena Kar** was the recipient of the Robert Klein, D.O., Society Endowment Scholarship, which is presented to a member of the Klein Society who demonstrates active participation or leadership within the society. *Pictured are Mark Sandhouse, D.O., M.S., associate dean of administration, and Jeena Kar.*

## Humana Terry G. Smith Preceptorship

First-year student **Adithi Vemuri** earned the Humana Terry G. Smith Preceptorship, which is presented to first-year students selected to participate in a paid summer preceptorship with Humana.

## Judy Morris Memorial Scholarship



ate dean, and Mansi Upadhyay.

Second-year student **Mansi Upadhyay** received the Judy Morris, M.D., Endowed Memorial Scholarship, which is presented to a student based on his/her educational goals, leadership, and active participation in the Master of Public Health program. Pictured (from left) are

## Beth and Joel Rush Endowed Charter Scholarship



Second-year student **Jodian Hemmings** received the Beth and Joel L. Rush, D.O., Endowed Charter Scholarship, which is provided to KPCOM students who are in good academic standing and are in significant financial need at any juncture in their KPCOM education. Pictured (from left) are

## Jeff Grove Scholarship



Second-year student **Shanae Nguyen** received the Jeff Grove Scholarship, which is presented to a KPCOM student selected for his/her dedication to student service. *Shanae Nguyen receives her award from David Boesler, D.O., M.S., chair of the Department of Osteopathic Principles and Practice.*

## Morton Morris Osteopathic Medicine Public Health Scholarship



Public Health program, presents the scholarship to Shelley Xu.

Second-year student **Shelley Xu** received the Morton Morris, D.O., J.D., Osteopathic Medicine Public Health Scholarship, which is awarded to a student based on his/her educational goals, leadership, and active participation in the Master of Public Health program. *Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.S., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP, director of the college's Master of*

## Rosebud Foster Public Health Scholarship



*Steven Zucker, D.M.D., M.Ed., associate dean for community affairs, presents the award to Manelle St. Hilaire.*

**Manelle St. Hilaire**, M.P.H., KPCOM tobacco cessation services coordinator, received the Rosebud Foster, Ed.D., Memorial Public Health Scholarship, which is presented to a graduate public health student who exemplifies leadership and demonstrates concern for underserved populations through community service and advocacy.

## East Florida Physicians Alliance Endowed Scholarship



Third-year student **Aman Kaur** and fourth-year student **Kristina Gemayel** received the East Florida Physicians Alliance Medical Education Endowed Scholarship, which was established to support third- and fourth-year osteopathic medical students who want to attend and/or make presentations at medical conferences by providing funding for registration fees and travel expenses. *Aman Kaur receives her award from Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D., associate dean of preclinical education.*

## Osteopathic Medicine General Scholarship



First-year students **Zheng Jin**, **Maria Labra**, and **Jay Patel**, along with second-year student **Mohammad Dlewati**, received the Osteopathic Medicine General Scholarship, which is presented to students selected for academic merit and dedication to osteopathic medicine. *Pictured (from left) are Mohammad Dlewati; Zheng Jin; Hilda De Gaetano, D.O., M.S.Ed., FACOP, FAAP, senior assistant dean; Jay Patel, and Maria Labra.*

## C.H.A.S.E. Anesthesiology Scholarship



Third-year student **Adaobi Ibe** and second-year student **Connor Voirin** garnered the C.H.A.S.E. Honorary Anesthesiology Scholarship, which is presented to students interested in attending the Florida Society of Anesthesiologists Annual Meeting in June in Palm Beach, Florida. *Pictured (from left) are Connor Voirin; Jennifer Jordan, Ed.D., assistant dean of medical education; and Adaobi Ibe.*

## Society Awards Recognize Outstanding KPCOM Students



Second-year students were honored for their contributions to their individual societies as well as their commitment to fellow society members. Honorees included **Aemad Komarizadeh** (William G. Anderson, D.O.); **Anas Dalloul** (Fred Lippman, Ed.D.); **Sheikh Ali** (Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O.); and **Zachary Smith** (Ross Zafonte, D.O.). First-year students **Betsy Rodriguez** (Morton Terry, D.O.); **Shelby Schuh** and **Mike Downing** (Louisa Burns, D.O.); **Davan Jamraj** (Bradley I. Silverman, D.O.); **Ankit Srivastava** (A.T. Still, M.D., D.O.); and **Chad Richards** (James Turner, D.O.) also earned recognition. No winner was selected for the Robert Klein, D.O. Society.

All winners are nominated by their peers as being supportive and involved society members who exemplify the attitudes regarding KPCOM participation, community service, and professionalism within their societies. *Pictured are the honorees with Guy M. Nehrenz, Ed.D., M.A., RRT, senior associate dean of osteopathic medical education.*

# Success Achieved at FOMA Poster Competition

During the 115th Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention, held February 21–25 at the Bonaventure Resort and Spa in Weston, Florida, the KPCOM and its affiliated postgraduate programs were well represented at the association's Eighth Annual Student/Intern/Resident/Fellow Research Poster Competition.

Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., M.S., associate professor of internal medicine and assistant dean of graduate medical education, served as the competition's head judge. Due to the overwhelming response to the competition, the FOMA instituted a review process and accepted only the top 62 entries for presentation.

Seven NSU faculty members judged the event. The NSU-KPCOM judges were Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.S., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP; Gary Cravens, M.D., M.S.; Marie Florent-Carre, D.O., M.P.H.; Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D.; Annisah Ishmael, Ed.D.; Guy Nehrenz, Ed.D., M.A., RRT; and Algevis Wrench, Ph.D., from the NSU College of Medical Sciences.

Entrants submitted abstracts that were judged as part of the acceptance process. Those accepted produced posters and made poster presentations that were judged on event day. Prizes were awarded in two categories: Osteopathic Intern/Resident/Fellow Research and Osteopathic Medical Student Research.

Six winners were selected from the two categories, with first-, second-, and third-place winners receiving \$750, \$250, and \$100, respectively. This year, the judges also awarded a \$250 Future



From left: Shuhua Zheng, Vikisha Hazariwala, Kyle Boltson, and Christopher Garcia

of Osteopathic Medicine Award for a study that best advances the principles and practices of osteopathic medicine. Following are the NSU-KPCOM student-affiliated poster winners.

## STUDENT RESEARCH (First Place)

*"The Impact of MDM2 on XIAP Expression on Various Cancer Cell Lines"*

OMS-III Kyle Boltson  
OMS-III Christopher Garcia

## (Second Place)

*"Pevonedistat-Mediated NEDDylation Inhibition Induced DNA Damage Response and SIRT1 Downregulation in Pediatric Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)"*

OMS-I Shuhua Zheng, Ph.D.

## (Third Place)

*"Therapeutic Temperature Management in the Setting of Cardiac Arrest Without Structural Heart Disease"*

OMS-III Vikisha Hazariwala

## FUTURE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE AWARD

*"CRI Over MRI: A Cranial Approach to Dizziness"*

OMS-III Anna Mercer  
OMS-III Urvi Patel



Urvi Patel receives her award from Janet Hamstra.

# Clubs and Organizations Overview

## Indian Physicians of South Florida Charity Banquet Finds Success

By OMS-II Milee Patel, IPOF Treasurer

On March 15, the Indian Physicians of South Florida (IPOF) club hosted its second annual charity banquet with the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) to raise donations for acid-attack victims in India. Every year, about 300 acid attacks occur in India—a number that may be grossly underestimated due to unreported incidents. However, this number increases each year, which is why our organization agreed upon the importance of raising awareness for this growing problem and soliciting donations to help support the victims.

The Chhanv Shelter in New Delhi, India, is a safe place that welcomes victims to seek shelter and support after their violent attacks. The shelter also helps women regain the courage and strength to return to society as

strong, successful women by providing financial support to cover the costs of health care, and psychosocial support to help them overcome this traumatizing event. Chhanv plays a large role in helping these women acquire jobs to help them provide for themselves independently. Many of the women in the shelter longed to become fashion designers and physicians, and Chhanv is helping them fulfil their ambitions.

The banquet was a wonderful way for us to raise awareness for this ongoing issue. It also gave students and faculty members the chance to immerse themselves within Indian culture through food, clothing, and dancing. We rented a photo booth, held a live art auction, and hosted several dance performances by NSU's Indian

fusion dance team, Maasti, which allowed students to take a break from studying and enjoy a night dedicated to the women at the Chhanv shelter. The event was coordinated by Jeena Kar, who also initiated ChariTea—an IPOF fund-raiser for the Chhanv Shelter—by selling chai tea throughout the year.

Since starting this event last year, we are happy to report that the banquet was an even greater success this year. Donations increased from \$1,400 to \$2,600, all of which will go directly to the Chhanv Shelter women. IPOF and AMWA would like to thank all of the students and faculty members who supported and donated to this great cause. We hope to see more awareness brought to this issue through this banquet in the coming years.



# Student Osteopathic Student Association Hosts National Conference at NSU-KPCOM

By OMS-II Zachary Smith, SOSA President

On March 17–18, the KPCOM chapter of the Student Osteopathic Surgical Association (SOSA) hosted the 2018 National SOSA Conference. In attendance were 228 students representing 24 osteopathic medical schools in the United States. The conference provided attendees the opportunity to network with their student peers, as well as established surgeons and non-operative physicians from around the country.

Our keynote speaker was Ray Morrison, D.O., FACOS, who serves as president of the American College of Osteopathic Surgeons, speaker of the AOA House of Delegates, and chair of surgery at Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Lynchburg, Virginia. Morrison provided prospective osteopathic surgeons with an outlook of the profession and answered questions students had about their path to becoming a successful osteopathic surgeon.

Included in the conference were topics related to neurosurgery, colorectal surgery, trauma surgery, gynecology, urology, and radiology. Through these lectures, students were able to gain exposure to cases and innovative techniques that are revolutionizing each of these surgical specialties. A residency panel also was conducted in which recently matched fourth-year medical students, surgical residents, and a surgical program director were able to answer questions and provide guidance to students for getting into and flour-

ishing in surgical residencies.

Following the morning lectures, students were able to participate in a multitude of procedural workshops to enhance their skills for rotations and residency. Workshops included training in open reduction and internal fixation, suturing, casting, surgical hand tying, ENT minimal invasive surgery, laparoscopy, sterile scrubbing and gowning, central-line placement, intubation, lumbar puncture, surgical dexterity manipulation, and operative planning with virtual reality technology.

In addition to the lectures and workshops, all conference attendees were eligible to present any medically related research and case studies they conducted. The winner of the medical category was “A Case of Anoxic Brain Injury: The Importance of Preventing, Diagnosing, and Treating Obstructive Sleep Apnea” by NSU-KPCOM student Veronica Lopez and her coauthors.



# Student National Medical Association Takes on San Francisco

By OMS-II Jodian Hemmings, SNMA President; OMS-II Yimika Oyekanmi, SNMA Secretary; and OMS-II Adedeji Olusanya, Class of 2020 Vice President

On March 29, nine students from NSU-KPCOM embarked on a journey to San Francisco, California, for the Annual Medical Education Conference hosted by the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). The SNMA is a student-run organization focused on the needs and concerns of minority medical students with an interest in advocacy and service to underserved communities and medical students. The symposium's theme was Embracing Our Diversity: Filling the Gaps and Building the Future.

This surreal experience immersed students in a setting where accomplished minority physicians were the majority. This conference was not only about celebrating physicians of color, but it was also an opportunity to connect with a variety of prestigious residency programs. As minority medical students, it is imperative to

not only further one's education, but to also network with colleagues with shared passions and established physicians who have paved the way for us to achieve our goals.

During the Board of Directors Banquet, there was a segment of the program where graduating students were recognized. It was exhilarating to witness our colleagues, who matched into a diverse group of specialties such as ENT, orthopedics, emergency medicine, internal medicine, family medicine, general surgery, OB/GYN, and into an even more diverse group of programs such as Harvard, Stanford, Jackson Memorial, and the Mayo Clinic, to name just a few. We sat in awe of the great minds that surrounded us and realized that with hard work and a genuine passion for our craft, no dream can ever be out of reach.

"It was gratifying to witness the

genuine enthusiasm and admiration that overcame my classmates while interacting with like-minded professionals such as Zoanne Clackan, M.D.—an executive producer of our beloved *Greys Anatomy*. This experience warmed my heart,

because as daunting as medical school can become, my colleagues embraced this experience, taking full advantage of the ample networking as well as educational opportunities," said Jodian Hemmings, the KPCOM's SNMA chapter president.

In addition, this conference served as a platform for us to educate our allopathic counterparts on the principles of osteopathic medicine and the importance of integrating these principles into the practice of medicine. As students with a thirst for lifelong learning, we were eager to share the wealth of information gained during our training, with the hopes of motivating others in their journey to become impactful physicians.

Being a medical student is challenging—especially with the added pressure of preparing for board examinations—but attending this conference, making connections, and witnessing accomplished minority student physicians match into exemplary programs reminded us of the goal toward which we tirelessly work.

It reminded us that every time we pull up our bootstraps and put our best foot forward, we are one step closer to the light at the end of the tunnel. It was a glorious weekend, and we, too, shall have our moment in the years to come, where our accomplishments will be an inspiration to all those pursuing their dream of practicing medicine.



# KPCOM Student Achievements



**Daniel Bral**, class of 2018, was named chair-elect of the Emergency Medicine Resident Association Toxicology Committee, which

educates emergency medicine residents regarding careers in toxicology.



**Srividya Kakulavarapu**, class of 2021, received an invitation to present her coauthored research project “Impact of Viewing

System Choice During Primary Retinal Detachment Repair” at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology National Conference held April 29–May 3 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Her coauthors presented the research at the conference. Additionally, Kakulavarapu coauthored a chapter on “Persistent Fetal Vasculature” for the textbook *Vitreoretinal Surgical Techniques: 3E*.



**Vatche Melkonian**, class of 2018, will be presenting a poster of his current research project “Falling Down the Slippery Slope of

Anticoagulation in the Elderly” at the American College of Surgeons Quality and Safety Conference being held July 21–24 in Orlando, Florida. His research involves a retrospective chart review of anticoagulation use in octogenarians who presented with fall injuries to the trauma bay at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Florida.



**January Moore**, class of 2021, presented her first-authored Mayo Clinic project “Long-Term Results of Surgical

Resection of Head and Neck Paragangliomas: A 20-Year Experience” at the Florida Vascular Society’s 31st Annual Scientific Sessions on April 26 in Orlando, Florida. Additionally, Moore received a conference scholarship from the Society of Vascular Surgery for the 2018 Vascular Annual Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts, being held June 20–23.



**Natalie Negron**, class of 2019, was elected 2018–2019 national first vice chair of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government

Presidents, which serves as the official national representative voting voice for all osteopathic medical students. Its members work to maintain communication, disseminate information, foster student leadership, and provide a mechanism for the exchange of ideas between students of different colleges of osteopathic medicine.



**Daniel Novak**, class of 2019, coauthored a case study with 2014 KPCOM alumnus Burr Fong, D.O., titled “Bilateral Phlegmasia

Cerulea Dolens Following Warfarin Reversal for Acute Rectal Bleeding,” which was published in the April issue of *The Journal of Emergency Medicine*.



**Austin Price**, class of 2020, received a Next Generation Student Scholarship to attend the Florida Vascular Society conference

in Orlando, Florida, held April 26–29. He presented his case “Bilateral Peripheral Vascular Disease: The Hidden Complications of Fatigue.”



**Hytham Rashid**, class of 2019, received first-place honors for his coauthored poster “From Safe Sex to Safe Zones: Assess-

ing Sexual Healthcare Competency in Osteopathic Medical Education” at the inaugural American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) Minority/LGBTQI Poster Contest. The poster competition took place at the ACOFP’s 55th Annual Convention & Scientific Seminars held March 22–25 in Austin, Texas. Rashid coauthored the poster with third-year students **Sanela Andelija**, **Andrew Harb**, **Deborah Adaobi Nwafor**, **Tracey Karen Topacio**, and David Boesler, D.O., M.S.



**Joshua Riederman**, class of 2020, coauthored the abstract “Characteristics of Sleep in Persons with Varying Levels of Health Literacy,”

which he presented at the Society of Behavioral Medicine 39th Annual Meeting & Scientific Sessions held April 11–14 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

# IT'S OK TO NOT FEEL OK

BROUGHT TO YOU  
BY  
THE KPCOM MENTAL HEALTH  
AWARENESS TASKFORCE

Created by OMS-I Michael Lai, Mental Health Chair

From everyone here at the KPCOM, we are here to support you with a variety of mental health and emotional wellness options.

Take control of your health and seek out professionals to assist you if needed.

## ABOUT GRIEF

Grief is a multifaceted response to the loss of a loved one or a traumatic experience.

Yes, it's normal to experience grief, but that doesn't mean you need to face it alone.

There are a variety of resources and people available to help you in these difficult times.

## YOU



### HENDERSON STUDENT COUNSELING

- All NSU students have **10 free sessions per year**.
- Services include individual and group counseling, as well as medication management.
- **Grief counselors are available.**
- NSU campuses with videoconference capabilities are **Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando, Palm Beach, Tampa, and San Juan.**

Walk in or call for an appointment.  
**(954) 424-6911**

[hendersonbh.org/studentcounseling](http://hendersonbh.org/studentcounseling)

## ARE NOT



### NSU PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

- Located in the **Maltz Building**, the center provides services to children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly.
- Specialties include Family Services, Traumatic Stress, Anxiety, Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment.

Call for an appointment.  
**(954) 262-5730**

## ALONE



### NSU MEDICAL FAMILY THERAPY

- offers therapy, education, and advocacy and helps facilitate open dialogue between you and your family
- Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine Clinic, **First Floor, Room 4189 (Suite 4123)**

**Monday—Friday**  
**9:00 a.m. —5:00 p.m.**  
**(954) 262-4113**

### EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- **Suicide Prevention Lifeline**  
1-800-273-8255  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)
- **National Youth Crisis Hotline**  
1-800-442-HOPE (4673)
- As always, in case of emergency, call **911**.

### OTHER GRIEF SUPPORT

- **The Coalition to Support Grieving Students**  
[Grievingstudents.org](http://Grievingstudents.org)
- **Grief Speaks**  
[GriefSpeaks.org](http://GriefSpeaks.org)

