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Veteran Academy member Chris Bush, MD, FAAFP (Riverview) was appointed to serve on AAFP’s Commission on Finance and Insurance for a four-year term that began December 15, 2017. This Commission—one of eight that direct AAFP policies and programs—monitors the Academy’s financial performance, provides ongoing financial and budgetary advice, reviews and submits the annual budget for approval of the Board of Directors, and reviews and advises on the Academy’s investment policy, among other charges.

As a solo practitioner, co-founder of Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital’s Department of Family Medicine, and president of Downriver Community Clinic—which provides free primary medical care to financially challenged uninsured and underinsured working adults through volunteer physicians and staff—Dr. Bush is knowledgeable and experienced in both the clinical and entrepreneurial / business aspects of practicing medicine. His volunteerism spans terms as president and chairman of MAFP in 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, respectively, and as the 2014-2015 president of Family Medicine Foundation of Michigan. Today he is a member of the MAFP Board of Directors (Delegate to AAFP Congress of Delegates), Advocacy Committee, and editorial panel.

WSU’s Dr. Markova Honored for ‘Courage to Lead’

When the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) hosted its annual Educational Conference in Orlando in March, Tsveti Markova, MD, FAAFP, Wayne State University School of Medicine’s Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education, was honored with the distinguished Parker J. Palmer Courage to Lead Award.

This annual award recognizes designated institutional officials (DIO) who have demonstrated excellence in overseeing residency programs at their sponsoring institutions. As WSU School of Medicine’s DIO, Dr. Markova oversees the 10 residency programs the school sponsors. She is also a professor and chair of the school’s Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences.

“This award is a recognition of the commitment to excellence by all medical educators, not only at Wayne State University School of Medicine, but also throughout the state of Michigan. I am proud to be one of them,” said Dr. Markova.

Among Dr. Markova’s many accomplishments, it was under her leadership that the school’s graduate medical education achieved the maximum ACGME accreditation status for institutional accreditation, with a commendation and no citations.

“MAFP and Family Medicine Foundation of Michigan tremendously value Dr. Markova’s leadership and partnership in advancing the specialty in our state. We congratulate her on receiving this prestigious award that recognizes her exemplary contributions to Family Medicine education,” said MAFP Chief Executive Officer Debra McGuire, MBA, IOM, CAE.

Michigan FP Editor of Essential Immunization Guide for Primary Care Physicians

Nationally recognized immunization expert Pamela Rockwell, DO (Ann Arbor), associate professor at University of Michigan Medical School and AAFP’s liaison to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, edited the new and comprehensive Vaccine Science and Immunization Guideline: A Practical Guide for Primary Care, now available for purchase at springer.com. Included is the history and science of vaccines, clinical recommendations for every day practice, and evidence-based recommendations for communicating with patients and parents about the importance of immunizations as a personal and community preventive care measure.
Appalled by the crude care provided on battlefields, five Civil War-era physicians set out 150 years ago to dedicate their post-war careers to create something better. That led to founding what is known today as Wayne State University (WSU) School of Medicine.

Since its inception in 1868, the school has changed its original name of Detroit Medical College, but its commitment to quality healthcare, research, education, and community service remains a driving force for students and faculty, in collaboration with healthcare systems and community partners, to find innovative ways to improve health, reduce health disparities, and save lives. At the center of this innovation is WSU’s Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences.

Medical Student Engagement

The high regard for Family Medicine is demonstrated by the school’s popular primary care-focused student organizations, which provide volunteer clinical and outreach opportunities. For example, at the Robert R. Frank Student-Run Free Clinic—a first for the state when it opened in 2009—students put acquired knowledge into practice, cultivate leadership skills, and build an understanding of Family Medicine's vital role in individual and population health.

WSU’s successful Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) has also been instrumental in advancing student interest in the specialty. American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) recognized the FMIG, which has more than 100 active student members, as a Program of Excellence at the 2017 National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students last July. This marks the third time WSU’s FMIG has received this recognition.

Also at the National Conference, fourth-year WSU medical student Sway Wu was elected as an AAFP Student Alternate Delegate to the Congress of Delegates. Ms. Wu, who also served as MAFP Student Delegate to the National Congress of Student Members that convened during National Conference, drafted mental health resolutions that were approved for further action.

A Focus on Research

The department’s research roots run deep in population health sciences, behavioral health, and health equity, encompassing psychology, epidemiology, primary care clinical science, and health policy.

Clinical research includes studies to improve the delivery of primary care at the individual, family, and community levels. It also promotes health promotion services that recognize the role of family and the community in health maintenance.

To provide undergraduate, graduate, and professional students an opportunity to present research and quality improvement projects under mentorship of faculty advisors, the department hosts an annual Research Day and Conference. Topics in 2017 ranged from prostate cancer screenings, to quality improvement in infectious disease management, to the impact of food and transportation on food security in low-income families,
and beyond. The second annual Research Day and Conference will be held April 18.

Innovations in Resident Wellness and Education

Ensuring that residents receive high quality education, including training on maintaining personal wellness, is a central focus of WSU School of Medicine’s Office of Graduate Medical Education. Led by Professor Tsvent Markova, MD—who also chairs the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences, and whose leadership has been recognized nationally (see page 14)—the office sponsors and supports resident-led interventions that encourage rewarding training geared toward residents’ professional growth and improved work/life balance. The effectiveness of each intervention is measured by WSU’s Resident Wellness Scale, established in 2017.

Also in 2017, the office partnered with the school’s Office of Teaching and Learning to create Developing Active Resident Teachers (DART), a four-phase, certificate-based educational initiative open to residents at all training levels who wish to develop teaching skills, improve their program curriculum, and contribute to academic medicine.

Both the Resident Wellness Scale and DART have been adopted by other educational institutions and health systems in the U.S.

Educationally, the department recently designed and implemented an intensive scholarly activity curriculum to provide experiential learning for Family Medicine residents in the current healthcare environment. Included are didactics on various scholarship topics, such as quality improvement. During the QI didactic, residents assemble interdisciplinary teams to test changes in the work setting using the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle. WSU Family Medicine residents presented results of their PDSA cycles at several research events in Michigan.

To gain invaluable experiences in system-based practice and develop knowledge of the administrative operations of a hospital, WSU residents are required to join a committee in their first year and attend all meetings throughout residency. Continuous participation in a committee (e.g., cancer, Continuing Medical Education/library, infection control, intensive care, pharmacy and therapeutics, stroke, transfusion, perinatal safety, and, new in 2018, medical ethics) gives residents opportunities to make suggestions that impact hospital operations.

Educational Innovation and Leadership for Michigan

In collaboration with the Michigan Area Health Education Center (MI-AHEC) and the State of Michigan, WSU’s Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences plans to implement the “Urban Track” Family Medicine residency program in 2019 to address healthcare disparities and population health.

MI-AHEC was established in 2010 by WSU’s medical and nursing schools with the goal of increasing access to quality primary care in underserved communities by training a culturally diverse, caring, and professional healthcare workforce. Since its inception, MI-AHEC has offered continuing education training to 5,000 healthcare professionals on opioid abuse disorders, autism spectrum disorders, veterans’ health, primary care, and trauma.

With co-principal investigators from the medical and nursing schools—Dr. Markova and Ramona Benkert, PhD, respectively—MI-AHEC is the only one of its kind in the nation, exemplifying interdisciplinary team-based care.

In fall 2017, the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration awarded a five-year, $4.2 million grant to MI-AHEC, which Dr. Markova acknowledged as great news for the future of healthcare in Michigan.

“This will allow us to build upon our efforts to improve access to healthcare in underserved areas and help us positively impact the current and future healthcare workforce across the state,” she said.

MI-AHEC is using the funding to strengthen its statewide network of five regional centers in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Mount Pleasant, Houghton Lake, and Marquette.

These centers are managed by community advisory boards and interprofessional and host partners, including universities, non-profit health organizations, and Federally Qualified Health Centers. Among the partners are WSU Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and School of Social Work, University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry, Central Michigan University, Western Michigan University, Northern Michigan University, Mid-Michigan Community Health Services, and Covenant Community Care Inc.

More than 80% of health career pipeline participants are underrepresented minorities or disadvantaged students. Already, nearly 3,000 health profession students in Michigan have earned clinical rotation hours in underserved or health professional shortage areas through MI-AHEC programming.