

The Official USU Newsletter

# the pulse

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Photo by Sharon Willis

**On the cover**

*The Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing created a display case in honor of its namesake, which includes mementos and awards from the late senator's illustrious career. Read more about Daniel K. Inouye on page 3.*

# Esteemed physician delivers annual John H. Cross Memorial Lecture

By MC2 Brittney Cannady, writer

The Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics at the Uniformed Services University hosted the third annual John H. Cross Memorial Lecture, Oct. 30.

At the lecture, Dr. Thomas Quinn, director of the Center for Global Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, delivered the keynote speech called, "Response to the AIDS Pandemic: A Global Health Model," which reviewed the epidemiological evolution of the AIDS pandemic, biological data on viral transmission, the international response to the AIDS pandemic, and prevention strategies aimed at controlling HIV/AIDS.

Although Quinn highlighted recent groundbreaking discoveries in HIV/AIDS research during his talk, he also discussed the need for more pioneering advancements.

"AIDS has had a dramatic impact around the world, there's no doubt about that. To address the disparities and inequities in the key populations infected will take leadership, governance, financing and a health systems workforce," he said.

More than 70 million people have contracted HIV infections since the disease was identified in 1981, and it has led to more than 36 million deaths worldwide.

Quinn's work, however, has affected much needed positive change. He is an HIV/AIDS consultant to the World Health Organization, a founding member of the Academic Alliance for AIDS Care



Courtesy photo

Dr. Thomas Quinn

in Africa, and has been involved in HIV clinical and epidemiological investigations in 25 countries with current projects in Uganda, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, China, Thailand and Brazil.

Quinn's impressive work was the basis for his invitation to speak as this year's John Cross lecturer at USU. The memorial talk honors one of USU's most accomplished and longest-serving faculty members. Cross, who died in 2010, was a world-renowned parasitology expert. Over the course of his 34-year tenure at USU, he taught parasitology to more than 5,000 students.

In another homage to Cross, the university formally named A2040 – his old research space – the John H. Cross Memorial Laboratory of Parasitology before the memorial lecture began.



## Save the Date

November 18, 2013 at 11 a.m.

Dedication Ceremony for the Val G. Hemming Simulation Center

RSVP at <https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/index.cfm?i=173929&k=03664100795E>

# USU celebrates 20 years of graduate nursing education, honors GSN namesake

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

The Graduate School of Nursing at the Uniformed Services University recognized an important milestone, 20 years of groundbreaking education, with an all-day celebration that included a dedication ceremony to honor the school's namesake, Daniel K. Inouye, Oct. 29.

The event began with a retrospective look at GSN history beginning in 1993. Back then, only one program existed, and just two students comprised the first graduating class.

The school's legacy, however, quickly multiplied with the matriculation of hundreds of uniformed nurses over the past 20 years. Like the first cohort, every ensuing GSN class has received a unique education with a strong focus on military medicine.

The benefits of this signature approach were highlighted by all five GSN program directors, who led a panel discussion about the growth of their school, which now includes both master's and doctoral-level programs in several disciplines of advanced practice nursing.

Dr. Mary Wakefield, the administrator for the Health Resources and Services Administration at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, further illustrated USU's impact during her morning talk.

"This university has a very significant reputation and a unique approach to education and research, and your nursing programs have become an important resource for the health of our military and for the nation's public health," she said.

Wakefield's words and the tone of the entire day's discussions validated the goals Inouye – the second longest-serving U.S. senator at the time of his death in 2012 – had for establishing a GSN at USU in the first place.

The school's opening was a personal victory for Inouye, a World War II veteran, who was grievously



Photo by Army Spc. Ernest Stiva

*Uniformed Services University President Charles Rice cuts the ribbon as USU Dean of the Graduate School of Nursing Ada Sue Hinshaw raises a triumphant fist as they officially dedicate the nursing school as the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing. Joining them are (from left to right): Karen McManus, Office of Congressman Chris Van Hollen; Victoria Anderson and Helen Golden, the first two GSN graduates; Ken Inouye, son of the late senator; and Dr. Patrick DeLeon, USU professor and former Inouye chief of staff.*

injured during a firefight with enemy forces. Although his right arm had to be amputated, military doctors and nurses saved his life, and helped Inouye move past his wounds.

"Senator Inouye was an American hero, a servant leader, an advocate, a mentor, and an inspirational man, who in the face of challenges rose to become a person to embody patriotism, resilience and dedication," said Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, the surgeon general of the Army.

Horoho – Inouye's long-time colleague and friend – delivered the keynote address at the GSN dedication ceremony. Her emotional talk included anecdotes about personal encounters with the senator.

"I came to know Senator Inouye when I was a colonel, and he showed me what an impact one person can have on the world. He would remind me time and time again how much gratitude he had

for nurses and for all of military medicine. His stories reminded me of why I became a nurse," she said.

The commemoration event also included talks by Dr. Christine Engstrom, acting chief nursing officer at the Department of Veterans Affairs; Dr. Marguerite Littleton-Kearney, the GSN's associate dean for Research; Dr. Sandra Bibb, the GSN's associate dean for Faculty Affairs; Dr. Carol Romano, the GSN's associate dean for Academic Affairs; Dr. Ada Sue Hinshaw, dean of the GSN; Dr. Patrick DeLeon, Inouye's chief of staff for more than 38 years and GSN faculty; Dr. Dale Smith, a professor of military medicine and history in USU's Department of Military and Emergency Medicine; retired Navy Rear Adm. Nancy Lescavage, a Senator Inouye Fellow; Ken Inouye, the late senator's son; and Victoria Anderson and Helen Golden, the school's first graduate.

# New clinical trials launched for USU-developed antibody, vaccine

By Christine Creenan-Jones, editor

Dr. Christopher Broder, a professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Uniformed Services University, and his colleagues made international headlines last year after a human antibody and vaccine they developed showed tremendous promise as potential treatments for Hendra and Nipah virus infections in humans and horses. Since then, his groundbreaking work has progressed into new pioneering human clinical trials at Queensland Health in Australia and the first licensed and commercially deployed vaccine against a Biological Safety Level-4 agent.

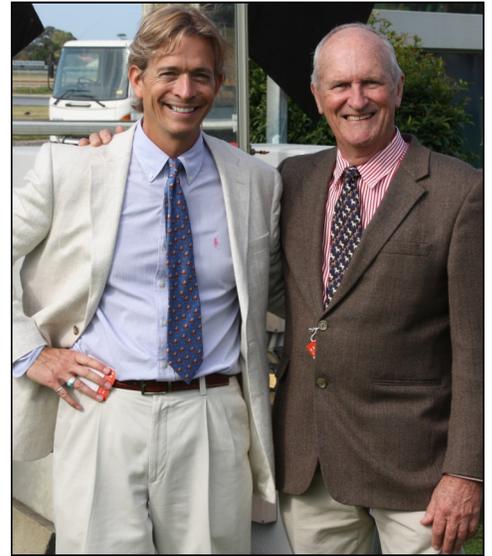
In October, Queensland Health received a \$1.2 million grant to investigate Broder's antibody to treat people with Hendra virus – a rare but lethal bat-borne disease that is passed from infected horses to humans.

To date, the antibody has been used on a compassionate basis on four people, who were at risk of contracting Hendra or Nipah virus infections in Australia and the United States. If successful, the

antibody could save many additional lives, since Nipah – a close relative of Hendra – is a major health problem in Bangladesh, India and other parts of the world.

Broder's research is also an example of the One-Health approach in combating infectious diseases through use of the horse vaccine, Equivac® HeV, which prevents Hendra infection in animals and subsequent virus transmission from animal hosts to humans. Over the past year, it has been used in more than 80,000 horses in Australia without any incidences of a Hendra outbreak among equine subjects or their human handlers. Equivac® HeV has been welcomed by the Australian veterinarian community, including Dr. Peter Reid, an equine veterinarian surgeon who collaborated with Broder and others to secure the funding of horse vaccine trials.

“Wide-spread use of the Hendra horse vaccine could potentially eliminate the risk and concern of Hendra infection that many veterinarians and staff have when treating ill horses, and the successful



*Dr. Christopher Broder and Dr. Peter Reid at the Doomben Brisbane Racing Club in Australia. Broder and Reid collaborated on horse vaccine trials for Hendra, a lethal disease that affects humans and animals.*

completion of a Phase I safety trial in humans with the antibody may allow it to be used in natural or laboratory acquired high-risk infection scenarios on a compassionate use basis,” said Broder.



*Photo by MC2 Britney Cannady*

## Diwali comes to USU

For nearly 27 years, personnel at the Uniformed Services University, led by long-time pathology professor Dr. Radha Maheshwari, have celebrated the festival of Diwali. Diwali, often referred to as the "Festival of Lights," is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists, and is an official holiday in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Mauritius, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Malaysia, Singapore and Fiji. Participants at this year's USU Diwali celebration, Oct. 28, were treated to a variety of traditional foods, including chickpeas and curry, samosa, naan, and rice pudding.

# USU alum becomes first female field grade officer

by Lance Cpl. Jose Mendez Jr., writer in the 2nd Marine Division

For the first time in 2nd Tank Battalion, 2nd Marine Division history, a field grade officer billet is being filled by a female, and she is a Uniformed Services University alumna.

After her promotion to lieutenant commander, Shannon Stout officially became the first female in 2nd Tanks to complete this feat Sept. 4, 2013, aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Stout, who is from Sarasota, Florida, holds the billet of battalion medical officer, better known to some as the battalion surgeon.

"It's exciting to be the first female medical (field grade) officer with 2nd Tank Battalion, and I am honored to be holding the plank with some other outstanding female Marines and Sailors that were also part of the women in combat integration," she said.

Stout began this unique journey more than a decade ago while attending the University of North Carolina Wilmington in 2000.

Stout was enrolled in a medical school preparatory class when she met a female Navy corpsman.

"We were on a sailboat during sailing class and she was telling me about the amazing opportunities in traveling and the amazing things she had done in the Navy," Stout said. "So I decided as a travel-happy person that the Navy would be a great marriage of both wanting to do medicine and also being able to be in a service role."

Hearing about the opportunities the Navy could provide her was just one of the reasons Stout decided to join.

While applying to medical school, she found a second reason to join the Navy. On Sept. 11, 2001, the World Trade Center was attacked, which solidified her decision to commission.

After graduating from UNCW, Stout enrolled in USU's medical school.

"June of 2003 is when I commis-



Navy Lt. Cmdr. Shannon Stout, the 2nd Tank Battalion medical officer, is the first female field grade officer in 2nd Tanks history.

sioned as an ensign. From there I was in medical school in Bethesda for four years. Upon graduation in May of 2007 I was commissioned again as a Lieutenant," Stout said.

Stout has been with Tanks for more than one year as the battalion surgeon and really enjoys being with the unit.

"It is the most fun, the most rewarding and the most frustrating thing I have ever done," Stout said.

## USU students participate in DC Regional Public Health Care Challenge

by Sharon Willis, managing editor and deputy vice president for External Affairs

Six medical students from the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University are participating in an upcoming public health case competition sponsored by the Institute of Medicine and Georgetown University.

The DC Regional Public Health Care Challenge took place on Nov. 15, 2013, and will feature teams from USU, American University, George Mason University, George Washington University, Georgetown University and Howard University.

Teams will address a topic that presents a realistic public health concern within the Washington, DC, area. This year's topic is "Gender-Based Violence."

The Hébert-team received its case Nov. 1, and will research and craft a systems-approached public health solution for presentation to a panel of judges at the National Academy of Sciences on competition day. Each case is judged on its creativity, content, feasibility, interdisciplinary nature and strength of evidence base.

The competition is held each year to promote interdisciplinary, problem-based learning. The event also

provides an opportunity for teams to practice for the Emory University International Global Health Case Competition, held annually in Atlanta. The winning team's case will be published by the Institute of Medicine.

Members of the Hébert-team include class of 2017 medical students Navy Ensign Jun Hu; Public Health Service Ensign Yaroslav "Ross" Bodnar; Navy Ensign Erin Mack; Navy Ensign Savannah Woodward; Public Health Service Ensign Brandon Shumway; and Air Force 2nd Lt. Emily Bien. Two Hébert graduate program students – Juleon Rabbani, who is pursuing his DrPH degree in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Biometrics and Joe Wagman, a PhD student in the Emerging Infectious Diseases program – will help the team prepare for the competition. Air Force Col. (Dr.) Edwin Burkett, assistant professor in PMB's Global Health division, and Navy Cmdr. (Dr.) David Blazes, the program director for PMB's Military Tropical Medicine Course, are serving as the team's faculty advisors.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose Mendez Jr.

# USU students visit White House Medical Unit

By Tech. Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson, deputy director of Media Affairs

More than 20 students from the Family Medicine Interest Group at the Uniformed Services University had a chance to visit the White House Military Office responsible for the medical needs of the White House staff and visitors.

Known as the White House Medical Unit, the team provides worldwide medical care to the U.S. president, vice president, and their families.

“This is an awesome experience,” said Army 2nd Lt. Paul Patterson, PhD, a USU medical student and FMIG president. “Getting an opportunity to visit the White House and getting insight on how these medical professionals operate at the highest level is a wonderful opportunity.”

Patterson and the rest of his group got a chance to tour the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and hear how staff members meet unique medical challenges. The students also got a peek at the inner-workings of the WHMU, the EEO Building, and received a compelling glimpse of what goes on inside the highest-levels of government, including a unit responsible for the medical needs of approximately 7,000 people.

“You get a phone call in the middle of the night, because a White House official is not feeling well. Well if you’re the doc on call, you grab your gear, get ready and in walks the president of the United States,” said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Merlene Horan, the WHMU senior medical officer, who has been with the unit for more than three years. “You have to get over the fact that it’s the president standing in front of you. It’s an awesome responsibility, so you have to focus on caring for the patient and not get overwhelmed by who they are.”

The three-hour tour included many other personal stories from WHMU staffers. In addition, students were afforded the opportunity to receive mentoring and learn from the vast experiences of the WHMU staff, who shared insights about their deployments and the unique medical practices of different U.S. military services.

“This was extremely interesting to me because I have never sat down and heard stories and deployment experiences from the perspective of military doctors and physicians assistants,” said Air Force 2nd Lt. Armando Aguilera, a USU medical student and FMIG member. “So when the internist was telling us about a patient that came in the middle of the night complaining of pain, and when she was the only doctor available in a foreign country, I started to think about what I might be doing in the future. She was talking about being a dependable doctor, with limited resources available. She spoke of having to do her job skillfully, because her patient’s life depended on it. Her story



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Oshawn Jefferson

Students in the Family Medicine Interest Group at the Uniformed Services University visited the White House Medical Unit, Sept. 28.

hit home for me. That is why I joined the military to have the opportunity to go and care for people in unique places across the world. I look forward to those challenges.”

For another student, the WHMU experience gave her a new perspective about the far-reaching possibilities in military medicine.

“They made me think about where I wanted to go in my career” said Army 2nd Lt. Brooke Pati, a USU medical student and FMIG member. “Getting to hear about all the unique opportunities available is going to help me focus. It’s awesome I go to a school like the Uniformed Services University and can have an opportunity to talk to a White House staff doctor and realize how broad my options are in the military. Sometimes when your head is buried in a text book you don’t think of the world you’re studying to step into. I really enjoyed this and I would come back if I could.”

USU’s partnership with the White House Medical Unit has been ongoing for about a year. This was USU’s fourth trip to the medical unit, which officials try to facilitate each quarter. According to WHMU officials, the staff looks forward to each visit.

“All of us were students at one time, sitting where they are sitting right now,” said Army Maj. Tom Hetlich, WHMU physician’s assistant. “This is an opportunity for us to be mentors and let the students see a potential place where they could be stationed. The students also get a chance to meet some people they may work with in the future and make some points of contact. It’s always nice to have resources you can get guidance from today or get advice about their careers later on in life. We love doing this and we look forward to seeing this partnership with USU continue.”

# USU students complete ruck marathon to honor injured servicemembers

By Dana Crudo, writer at health.mil

As the sun rose on Oct. 27, five Uniformed Services University medical students wearing combat pants, boots, school t-shirts and 40-pound rucksacks prepared for a 26.2-mile trek through Washington, D.C., determined to carry on a school tradition.

Since 2010, a group of USU students have “rucked” the Marine Corps Marathon to show support for injured servicemembers and their families.

“Most view this marathon as a way to support the military tradition that our school is founded on,” said Army 2nd

Lt. Gregory Lausé, a second-year medical student who led the ruck team. “The marathon serves as a small reminder of the future population we will be serving.”

Nicknamed the “Marathon of Monuments,” the race course wended through the National Mall, Georgetown, the Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway and the scenic Tidal Basin, hitting all the major museums, memorials and historic sites of the nation’s capital.

At 7:55 a.m. in chilly weather, Lausé, 26, along with his classmates – Army 2nd Lt. Daniel Lammers, Navy Ensign Teresa Gilbride, Army 2nd Lt. Thomas Deacy and Navy Ensign Clara Lee – joined 30,000 other runners at the start line between Arlington National Cemetery and the Pentagon hoping to complete the third-largest marathon in the United States.

To prepare for this moment, the students took breaks from their academic studies on weekends to hike the Rock Creek Park and Capital Crescent trails with varying amounts of weighted packs strapped to their backs. For most of the USU runners, this was their first marathon.

“We have to maintain slightly below a 15-minute-per-mile pace in order to complete the race,” Lausé said before the start of the marathon. “In years past, every member of the team has been able to finish the mara-



Five medical students at the Uniformed Services University carried on a university tradition by completing the Marine Corps Marathon, Oct. 27, while carrying 40-pound rucksacks.

Photo by Dana Crudo

thon.”

The months’ worth of Saturday mornings the students spent training paid off. They finished the course in six hours and 31 minutes, beating last year’s school record of six hours and 55 minutes. They maintained an average pace of 14.55 minutes per mile.

After overcoming the final uphill challenge and crossing the finish line at the Marine Corps Memorial, the students were beaming and expressed feelings of relief and accomplishment at

completing their goal together.

“We look forward to being able to ... pass our experiences down to the class of 2017,” Lausé said.

The students credit their achievement in part to the spectators who lined up all along the course to encourage the runners.

“We couldn’t have done it without all the support and cheers of everyone along the way,” Lee said. As the students slowly made their way to collect their medals, they were already making jokes and reminiscing about their long journey.

“Look,” Gilbride said pointing to the towering Washington Monument in the distance. “We were just there.”

Other non-rucking personnel at USU also completed this year’s Marine Corps Marathon, including: Air Force 2nd Lt. Arek Hidirsah, Navy Lt. Cmdr. John Litchfield, Air Force Maj. Jacqueline Killian, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Christopher Martin, Navy Ensign Sean Ouimet, Army Capt. Miguel Perez, Navy Lt. Joshua Swift, Navy Cmdr. Andrew Hoburg, Navy Ensign Christopher Parsell, Army 2nd Lt. Danny Jones, Army 2nd Lt. Caitlin Toffler, Army 2nd Lt. Alexandra Shams, Army 2nd Lt. Briana Lindberg, Army 2nd Lt. Mary Ford, Navy Ensign Dale Parsons and Air Force 2nd Lt. Haydn Roberts.

# Final Frame



Photo by MC2 Britney Cannady