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Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way

USU Graduate Earns Coveted Expert Field Medical Badge

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On the cover



Leona E. Rouse, D.D.S. (right) is sworn in as the newest member of the USU Board of Regents by the Chair, Ronald R. Blanck, D.O. (left). See story page 3. (photo by MC3 Laura Bailey)

By Kiernan Kiser

Two weeks before he was set to graduate from the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University (USU), then-Army 2nd Lt. James Mega earned one of the Army's most coveted honors, the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB).

Over the last 50 years, members of the U.S. Army, Air Force and Navy medical departments, along with their counterparts from allied nations, have had the opportunity to compete in this grueling one-week competition, in the hopes of earning the EFMB. This year, 258 candidates participated in the Northeastern Regional EFMB competition, which was held at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in New Jersey.

Out of the 50 candidates who made it to the 12-mile road march, only 46 actually completed the march in the allowed three hours. Mega, who finished the road march in two hours, 45 minutes, was the only medical student to finish and earn the EFMB. The typical completion rate is about 19 percent.

"I have been in the Army for 12 years and have always wanted to earn the badge. It is a very difficult badge to earn and is sought after by medical personnel," said Mega, who was the only participant out of four from USU to earn the badge. "This course was never offered while I was [prior] active duty, so this was my first chance to participate. I knew I had to complete the weapons qualification, which I did during my rotation at Brooke Army [Medical Center, San Antonio]. I wanted to have it just in case I had the chance to attempt this course."

During the ten-day course, which ran from April 16-27, candidates completed a series of training lanes where they were tested, while under "enemy" fire, on combat care and various military survival skills. Candidates also took a comprehensive written exam on the skills they learned, completed day and night land navigation, and if they made it to the end, finished a 12-mile road march in full gear, within three hours.



Army then-2nd Lt. James Mega poses after finishing the 12-mile road march that earned him one of the Army's most coveted honors, the Expert Field Medical Badge. (Courtesy photo)

Mega, who has since graduated from medical school, said that the lessons he learned at USU prepared him for all aspects of this competition. "I learned in medical school that 'physician' means 'teacher'. I took it upon myself to help teach other soldiers in my platoon to increase the number of those who earned the badge."

While competitors are expected to be mentally and physically in shape, the EFMB is not just about competition. It is an opportunity for service members of all branches to train together and develop competence and confidence with field and medical tasks. Even though earning the badge is one of the greatest accolades a medic can receive, the recipients know that it is just a badge; the real award comes from caring wounded on the battlefield.

Even so, Mega, who has since been promoted to Captain, is proud of what he has accomplished.

"This has been very exciting for me. After 12 years, I have finally earned the EFMB, and by doing so, have had two big graduations within a few weeks!"

Howard University Dental School Dean Named to USU Board of Regents

By Sharon Holland

Leo Rouse, D.D.S., F.A.C.D., dean of Howard University's College of Dentistry, was recently confirmed by the Secretary of Defense as the newest member of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences governing board. Rouse's appointment was effective May 15, 2015.

A Howard University alumnus, Rouse has served as dean for more than 10 years. Prior to that, he served as associate dean for Clinical Affairs and chair of the Department of Clinical Dentistry at Howard's College of Dentistry. Before entering academia, he served in the U.S. Army for 24 years. He concluded his military career at the rank of colonel as commander and chief operating officer of the U.S. Army Dental Command, commanding the Army Dental Corps worldwide.

Dr. Rouse holds a B.S. and D.D.S. degree from the Howard University College of Liberal Arts (1969) and the Howard University College of Dentistry (1973). He was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters Honorary Degree from the Western University of Health Sciences in 2014. In 1997, he received the Howard University College of Dentistry Alumni Achievement Award for distinguished service to the nation and the

profession of dentistry.

He is widely esteemed as the first African-American to serve as president of the American Dental Education Association (ADEA), the voice of dental education in the United States and Canada. Dr. Rouse also chaired the ADEA Council of Deans and served as one of the four ADEA commissioners on the Commission of Dental Accreditation. In 2009, he was awarded an ADEA Presidential Citation for distinguished service to the association and dedication to the advancement of the dental education community. He received the 2011 Legend Award from the National Dental Association.

"I am delighted that Dr. Rouse is joining our Board of Regents. His accomplishments in the military as the leader of the Dental Command, as dean of Howard University's School of Dentistry and as president of the American Dental Education Association, bring a wealth of experience and wisdom to the university. In particular, his strong support of interprofessional education will serve as a catalyst for USU's efforts in that arena," said USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D.

Rouse was sworn in as a member of the USU Board of Regents by board chair

Dr. Ronald Blanck, a retired lieutenant general and former Army Surgeon General, at the board's most recent meeting.

"I am especially pleased to have Dr. Rouse on the Board of Regents because of the wealth of experience he brings as a clinician and an educator. I worked with him in the military and know of his commitment to service and excellence," Blanck said.



Leo E. Rouse, D.D.S., is the newest member of the USU Board of Regents (Photo by Tom Balfour)

Clinical Decision Tools in Electronic Medical Records Can Reduce Childhood Radiation Exposure

By Sharon Holland and Maj. (Dr.) Christopher Bunt

Childhood exposure to ionizing radiation increases lifetime malignancy risk, but a team of researchers has found that with just a little bit of education, the risk can be significantly reduced. Currently, up to 40% of computed tomography, or CT, scans are ordered (for everyone) unnecessarily. The study, "Point-of-care estimated radiation exposure and imaging guidelines can reduce pediatric radiation burden," appeared in the May 1, 2015, issue of the Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine.

Researchers from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU), Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, National Library of Medicine, and Clemson University, led by Air Force Major (Dr.) Christopher W. Bunt, assistant professor in the Department of Family Medicine at USU's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, conducted a study of 115 physicians from 17 military family medicine training programs to determine whether the clinical decision support system – which encompasses a variety of tools to enhance decision-making in the

clinical workflow-- and the order in which decision-support information is presented would impact physician imaging choices.

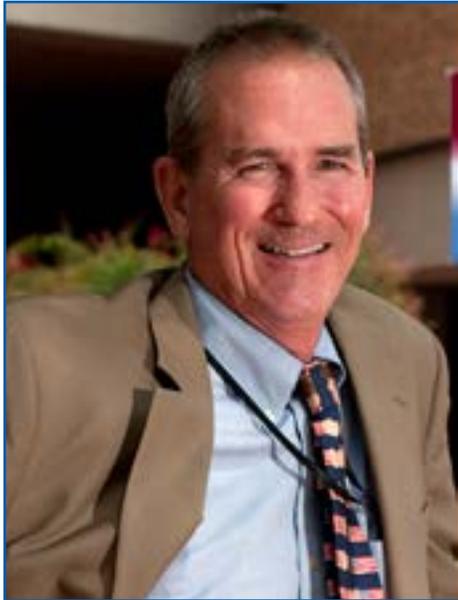
The increased use of CT may unnecessarily expose children to ionizing radiation. Risks associated with radiation exposure are greater in children due to their longer life span and greater radiosensitivity. Given the need to weigh risk and benefit prior to a medical test, physicians need to better understand doses of radiation associated with common imaging modalities. Although imaging guidelines and clinical decision support systems have been devel-

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Tinling Appointed to AAMC GBA Data and Benchmarking Committee

By Sharon Holland

Walter Tinling, Vice President for Finance and Administration at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, has been appointed to serve on the Association of American Medical Colleges' (AAMC) Group on Business Affairs (GBA) Data and Benchmarking Committee.



Walter Tinling, Vice President for Finance and Administration at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, has been appointed to serve on the Association of American Medical Colleges' (AAMC) Group on Business Affairs (GBA) Data and Benchmarking Committee. (Photo by Tom Balfour)

The AAMC GBA advances administrative and fiscal management in academic medical institutions to support medical education, research, and health care. As a member of the GBA's Data and Benchmarking Committee, Tinling will serve as an adviser to the AAMC on appropriate and timely data collection and reporting activities. In addition, as a committee member he will assist AAMC staff in identifying data and procedures for collecting and reporting it that are of value to AAMC members and will work with AAMC staff to develop mechanisms for educating the membership about the availability and use of benchmark data. The committee is also responsible for developing and prioritizing research questions to be included on AAMC surveys and identifying target audiences who can benefit from using the data.

"We're delighted that the AAMC has selected Mr. Tinling to serve on this important committee," said USU President Charles L. Rice, M.D. "He will bring a very different perspective and years of experience to its deliberations."

Joining Tinling on the GBA Data and Benchmarking Committee are:

-Matthew Comstock, Executive Director for Administration and Finance, University of Michigan Medical School,

chair;

-Sheila Dolezal, Director of Finance and Administration, Stanford School of Medicine;

-Kevin Eide, Director, Compensation and HR Technology, Medical College of Wisconsin;

-Anelia Farhi, Director of Budget, Financial Reporting and Analysis, University of Virginia School of Medicine;

-Richard D. Katz, Director of Academic Fiscal Affairs, State University of New York-Downstate;

-Lin Majors, Director Business Resource Management, University of California San Diego;

-Laurie Molloy, Director of Research Institutes, Centers and Shared Resources, Wake Forest University;

-Patricia Oliver, Assistant Dean/Chief Financial Officer, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine;

-Katherine Peck, Executive Associate Dean for Administrative Services, Indiana University;

-Anna Rusnak-Noon, Vice President for Finance and Administration, The Commonwealth Medical College; and

-Michael White, Associate Dean, Finance and Administration, Boston University School of Medicine.

USU Holds Memorial Service for Anatomical Gift donors

by Kiernan Kiser

The Uniformed Services University (USU) held its first memorial service to honor the individuals who donated their bodies through the University's Anatomical Gift Program to further the education of USU students and researchers. Family members of donors were invited to a short service on May 18, during which faculty and students from the School of Medicine and the School of Nursing had an opportunity to offer thanks and pay tribute to their loved ones.

The University's Anatomical Gift Program is a vital resource, with the majority of the donations that come to
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Dr. Alan Seyfer, Distinguished Professor and course director of Gross Anatomy, Imaging, and Embryology, in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Genetics at USU, addresses attendees at the University's anatomical donor memorial service, May 18. (Photo by Sharon Holland)

7 Soldiers, 3 Airmen Selected for EMDP2

by Sharon Holland

Ten enlisted U.S. military service members stationed around the globe were selected as the second group of students to participate in the “Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program”, or EMDP2, headquartered at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

The EMDP2 is a 24-month program for highly-qualified enlisted service members interested in a career as a military doctor. Candidates attend school full-time at George Mason University-Prince William (GMU-PW) campus in Manassas, Va., to prepare them to apply to medical school, while remaining on active duty. Candidates must possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited academic institution with a minimum of a 3.2 grade point average and meet Service requirements for commissioning. While going through the program, the candidates keep their rank and stay in their promotion cycle.

Seven Army and three Air Force students will report to the USU campus in August to begin the program, which includes full-time medical school preparatory coursework in a traditional classroom setting at GMU-PW, structured

pre-health advising, formal Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) preparation, dedicated faculty and peer mentoring at USU, and integrated clinical exposure. Students completing the program successfully will qualify to apply to USU, or to other U.S. medical schools through the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program.

“Leveraging George Mason University’s rigorous curriculum, along with the dedicated faculty of both universities, USU mentors, and state-of-the-art facilities, the EMDP2 program will position all of these students for successful application to medical school and careers as future military doctors,” said USU President Dr. Charles L. Rice.

This year’s EMDP2 candidates include:

Air Force:

-Senior Airman Laura Stull, Joint-Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

-Staff Sgt. Katherine McCroary, Kunsan Air Base, Korea

-Staff Sgt. Drew Raboy, Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas

Army:

-Sgt. Kristan Baird, Washington, D.C.

-Sgt. Matthew Duff, Fort Wainwright, Alaska

-Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Eads, Fort Campbell, Ky.

-Sgt. 1st Class Cody Harrington, Phoenix, Az.

-Sgt. Landin Sorenson, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

-Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Sullivan, Fort Bragg, N.C.

-Master Sgt. Alexander Villahermosa, Washington, D.C.

“The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, along with the Services, developed this wonderful two-year medical school preparatory program to attract the best and brightest enlisted service members,” said Dr. Art Kellermann, dean of USU’s F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine. “Some of our most extraordinary graduates came to us after prior service as non-commissioned officers. These men and women bring maturity, a high level of professionalism and real-world experiences to the classroom that make the academic experience more worthwhile for all of our students.”

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oped to improve appropriate use of medical imaging, these initiatives have been inconsistently adopted and are largely unavailable for children.

Using an American College of Radiology (ACR) Appropriateness Criteria pediatric clinical scenario, researchers examined how decision support provided in the electronic medical record just before they made their decision -- in the form of estimated radiation exposure coupled with current imaging guidelines -- influenced family physician selection of pediatric imaging modalities. Participants were broken into two groups: those who reviewed the ACR Criteria and then radiation exposure information and those who received radiation exposure information and then the

ACR criteria.

Going into the study, ultrasound was the initial imaging modality of choice (between ultrasound, CT, MRI and multiple types of X-rays) for more than 70% of the participants. This was significant since ultrasound has no radiation exposure. In the group that viewed the ACR criteria prior to radiation exposure information, there was a significant change to their imaging choices, with ultrasound use increasing. In the second group, who reviewed radiation exposure initially, the effect was not noted.

“Busy clinicians in the civilian sector or in the military welcome information that helps them make a quick, safe and evidence-based decision. This study provides them with evidence that the information helps save kids from unnecessary radiation

exposure,” said Bunt. “As a parent, I want my kids to receive the imaging studies that they need to diagnose and treat illness or injury. Making sure that these decisions are supported by evidence and are safe for my children is extremely important. Our study helps parents feel comfortable about their clinician's decisions.”

This study is the most recent publication resulting from the Military Primary Care Research Network (MPCRN), also centered at USU. The MPCRN is a practice-based research network that is composed of all 15 Family Medicine training sites in military treatment facilities across the U.S. The network encompasses more than 300 practicing physicians and is the only network of its kind in the U.S. military.

USU, Partners Launch Terrorism Bereavement Study

By Sharon Holland

Terrorist attacks were responsible for the deaths of more than 2,977 individuals killed on Sept. 11, 2001, at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in Shanksville, Pa., and 329 individuals (268 of them Canadian citizens) who lost their lives in the Air India Flight 182 bombing off the west coast of Ireland in 1985. Both attacks remain the worst acts of terrorism in the history of their respective countries.

In a unique study examining the impact of terrorism related death on family

to research the impact of terrorism on surviving family members from these two attacks.

The study, entitled “Investigating the Long-Term Impact of Bereavement Due to Terrorism: Factors that Contribute to Trauma, Grief, Growth and Resilience”, will identify the long-term needs of individuals impacted by terrorism, and will help expand scientific advancement of research in the field, guide communities in providing services to victims’ families, and help individuals heal after traumatic events.

Cozza, professor of Psychiatry in USU’s F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine and associate director of the CSTS, specializes in clinical and community response to trauma and the impact of deployment and combat injury on military service members and their families. He was instrumental in executing the first mental health response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the Pentagon and is in the midst of the first systematic study of the impact of bereavement on surviving family members of those who died while on active duty -- the National Military Family Bereavement Study (www.militarysurvivorstudy.org).

Cozza will serve as Principal Investigator for the new study. “This study will help us better understand the longer term effects of terrorism-related bereavement and, by doing so, further define community resources and support

services that can foster the integration of grief under such difficult circumstances,” he said.

“The death of a family member, especially in a terrorist attack, is a life-changing event for the entire family,” said VOICES Founding Director Mary Fetchet, LCSW, whose eldest son, Brad, perished in the attacks on the World Trade Center. “The research project is a unique opportunity for families to provide important insight into factors that contribute to trauma, grief, personal growth and resilience.”

“We are honored to be part of this innovative research project with family members who lost loved ones in 1985 and 2001,” added Heidi Illingworth, Executive Director of the CRCVC. “By participating in the research, the Air India Flight 182 and September 11th families will identify what is needed to help facilitate healing and recovery over the long-term for persons affected by terrorism.”

The study is funded by Public Safety Canada’s Kanishka Project Contribution Program. According to Cozza, a final report on the study’s findings will be issued in March 2016.

The project is accessible through the VOICES website at www.voicesofseptember11.org. The team is seeking as many family members as possible to participate in the study to include a variety of unique personal experiences. Participants, who must be directly or indirectly related to a victim of one of these attacks and 18 years or older, will be asked to complete an online questionnaire that takes approximately 40-50 minutes. For more information on the study, visit the project website.



Close-up of the top of the southeast corner of the Victims of Terrorist Attack on the Pentagon Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, in the United States. (Photo by [Tim1965](#)) USU’s Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress has launched a new study to look at the effects of a terrorism death on survivors of the 9/11 attacks, and the Air India Flight 182 bombing in 1985.

bereavement, scientists from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress (CSTS), led by Dr. Stephen Cozza, will team with Voices of September 11th (VOICES) and the Canadian Resource Center for Victims of Crime (CRCVC)

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the University being used to teach students anatomy. Through the AGP, students from the F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine and the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing have the opportunity to apply the skills which they have learned in the classroom.

“For most students, these cadavers are their first encounter with a patient,” stated Ronald Rivenburgh, curator for the Anatomical Teaching Laboratory. Rivenburgh oversees all anatomical donations made to USU and, along with Brigade Chaplain Navy Lt. Cmdr. Pratik Ray, helps guide families through this often difficult time.

“Even after spending 40 years in the Army, my husband wasn’t done serving his country. He insisted that, when he passed, his body be donated for research -- but only to this University,” said Patricia Angellatta, of Pasadena, Md., whose husband, Frank, passed away last year.

During the ceremony, students from the School of Medicine and the Graduate School of Nursing shared reflections on how these donations have benefited their studies. Army 2nd Lt. John Scanaliato, a first-year medical student, said that the relationship the medical students have with their cadavers is one of “teacher and student, not of healer and sick.”

Graduate School of Nursing student, Air Force Maj. Robert Sherman, reminded the families that their loved ones are treated with the utmost respect and dignity while at the University and that, because of their selfless donations, the students that graduate from USU are “better prepared to be providers.”

The memorial service ended with Army Chaplain Lt. Col. John O’Grady, from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, thanking the families once again, and USU’s student-led a capella group, the Dermatones, performing “Amazing Grace.”

USU Faculty, Alumni Among 89 Named Walter Reed Bethesda Associate, Master Clinicians

by Sharon Holland

Nearly 90 health care providers, including 66 Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences faculty and alumni assigned to the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, were honored as Associate or Master Clinicians in a recognition ceremony held May 28.

The 89 providers, who represent the top four percent of clinicians at Walter Reed Bethesda, were selected based on clinical productivity, contributions to research and the impact of their teaching and/or mentoring on other clinicians.

Dr. Arthur L. Kellermann, dean of USU's F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine, a guest speaker for the ceremony, shared lessons that he learned from his attending physician early in his career that were relevant to the medical center honorees.

"Through your actions as well as your words, you set an example for your fellow physicians and other Walter Reed Bethesda health care professionals. Even more important, from my perspective, you are a role model for my medical students, as well as the HPSP students who come to Walter Reed Bethesda from all over the country. But most important of all, you are a source of comfort, confidence and healing for your patients and those who love them, and because you provide a daily example of clinical mastery for your medical students, residents and fellows to emulate, you will indirectly help every patient they ever touch, too. That is the heart of what it means to be a doctor and a teacher," said Kellermann.

USU faculty and alumni named as Master Clinicians include:

Navy Capt. Arne J. Anderson - SoM '89 - Pediatrics faculty
Dr. Dean Baird - SoM '87 - Radiology faculty
Dr. Darrel J. Baranko - Medicine faculty
Dr. Carlton Brown - Anesthesiology faculty
Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak - Medicine faculty
Dr. Anne Cannard - Psychiatry faculty
Army Lt. Col. Patrick B. Cooper - SoM '99 - Surgery faculty
Army Lt. Col. John M. Csokmay, III - SoM '02 - OB/GYN faculty
Air Force Col. Jeffrey N. Davila - SoM '90 - Orthopaedics
Navy Cmdr. Jonathan E. Gilhooly - SoM '01 - Surgery faculty
Air Force Lt. Col. Daniel D. Gruber - OB/GYN faculty
Air Force Lt. Col. Chad Hamilton - OB/GYN faculty
Army Lt. Col. Joshua D. Hartzell - SoM '02 - Medicine faculty
Army Lt. Col. Sandra L. Hernandez - OB/GYN faculty
Navy Cmdr. John A. Hodgson - SoM '02 - Anesthesiology faculty
Army Lt. Col. Derek F. Ipsen - Surgery faculty
Navy Cmdr. Michael B. Jacobs - Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation faculty
Army Lt. Col. Jefferson W. Jex - SoM '01 - Surgery faculty
Dr. Timothy L. Krohe - Medicine faculty
Air Force Lt. Col. Kerry P. Latham - SoM '00 - Surgery
Ms. Barbara Leiner - Psychiatry faculty

MAJ Renee M. Mallory - Medicine faculty
Army Lt. Col. Jeannie Muir - Pathology faculty
Navy Cmdr. Matthew Needleman - SoM '03 - Medicine faculty
Ms. Naomi Osborne - Pediatrics faculty
Dr. Joseph Pasternak - SoM '87 - Surgery faculty
Army Lt. Col. Roseanne A. Ressler - Medicine faculty
Dr. Joan B. Ritter - Medicine faculty
Army Col. Inger L. Rosner - SoM '97 - Surgery faculty
Navy Cmdr. Adam K. Saperstein - Family Medicine faculty
Dr. Jeffrey Sagel - Anesthesiology faculty
Dr. Jeffrey N. Schmidt - SoM '01 - Anesthesiology faculty
Army Col. Scott B. Shawen - Surgery faculty
Navy Lt. Cmdr. James B. Solomon - SoM '01 - Anesthesiology
Army Lt. Col. Dawn M. Torres - SoM '01 - Medicine faculty
Dr. Juanita Villalobos - Anesthesiology faculty
Navy Cmdr. Timothy J. Whitman - Medicine faculty
Dr. Donald S. Wiersma - SoM '90 - OB/GYN faculty
Army Lt. Col. Kevin M. Woods - Medicine faculty
Army Lt. Col. Belinda Yauger - OB/GYN faculty
Navy Cmdr. Patrick E. Young - Medicine faculty
Associate Master Clinicians:
Navy Lt. Cmdr. Terrence D. Anderson - Surgery faculty
Navy Cmdr. John R. Benjamin - Anesthesiology faculty
Navy Cmdr. Grant H. Bonavia - SoM '03 - Radiology faculty
Navy Cmdr. Wayne A. Cardoni, Jr. - Surgery faculty

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Rebecca J. Chason - OB/GYN faculty
Navy Lt. Cmdr. James G. Demitrack, Jr. - SoM '04 - Pediatrics faculty
Army Maj. Tobin T. Eckel - Surgery faculty
Navy Cmdr. Harold J. Gelfand - Anesthesiology faculty
Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott E. Grabill - Surgery faculty
Army Maj. Max L. Gratrix - SoM '06 - Dermatology
Navy Lt. Cmdr. Travis E. Harrell - Medicine faculty
Army Maj. Melvin D. Helgeson - Surgery faculty
Army Maj. Micah Hill - OB/GYN faculty
Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jean D. Kemp - Pathology faculty
Navy Cmdr. Michael L. Kent - Anesthesiology faculty
Army Maj. Esther Kim - Surgery faculty
Army Maj. Jeffrey T. Laczek - SoM '03 - Medicine
Army Maj. Andrew W. Mack - Surgery faculty
Army Maj. Patrick J. Malafronte - Pathology faculty
Navy Cmdr. Michael T. Newman - Surgery faculty
Army Capt. Michelle J. Nordstrom - Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation faculty
Army Lt. Col. Benjamin "Kyle" Potter - Surgery faculty
Army Lt. Col. Robert Y. Shih - Radiology faculty
Navy Lt. Cmdr. Micah J. Sichel - Psychiatry faculty
Army Maj. Justin M. Wells - SoM '05 - Pathology



The F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine held an Open House for prospective medical students, June 4, in the Sanford Auditorium. Current USU medical students participated in the event with a panel Q & A session. (Photo by Danielle Snowden)