President’s Letter

Since USU’s founding in 1972, the University has produced more than 9,000 physicians, graduate nurses, scientists, advanced practice dentists, clinical psychologists, health policymakers, and health professions educators. We have offered our enlisted service members incredible opportunities for career advancement through the College of Allied Health Sciences and the Enlisted to Medical Degree Preparatory Program.

USU fulfills a national need, and our alumni a key requirement for medical readiness. For nearly four decades, USU alumni have served in every conflict on every continent. Our graduates serve at all levels within military medicine—from staff to program/service directors, to medical treatment facility commanders, to Combatant Command surgeons. Many of them are back here on campus teaching the next generation of military healthcare providers.

Let me give you just a couple of facts: 40 percent of all Army Medical Specialty Consultants to the Surgeon General are USU alumni, 31 percent of all Army GME program directors are USU alumni, and 29 percent of all Navy GME program directors are USU alumni. Thirty-eight USU alumni have been selected for flag/general officer, including four Surgeons General, and numerous Deputy Surgeons General, Chief Nurse Officers, and Chief Medical Officers.

We now have two astronauts—one of them, Drew Morgan, will serve aboard the International Space Station. This report outlines some of the latest achievements from 2019. I’m proud to serve among those who have brought these to fruition.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Thomas, MD, DDS, FACS
President, USU

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2019 ANNUAL REPORT
The F. Edward Hébert School of Medicine is traditional in many ways, but it has unique tenets that make it a special place. Among its singular features is a curriculum that places special emphasis on military and public health medicine. This foundation prepares students for the important roles they will take on as uniformed physicians. Our program melds the study of basic science, the clinical practice of medicine, and military leadership training to produce innovative doctors. This signature blend of education and training distinguishes USU as a leader among institutions of learning.

Our motto: “Learning to Care for Those in Harm’s Way”
USU’s 40th Commencement Exercises were conducted at DAR Constitution Hall on May 18, 2019. The commencement address was delivered by Vice Adm. Forrest Faison.

On June 17–18, nine Pediatric USU and Walter Reed faculty members taught the Military Medical Humanitarian Assistance Course (MMHAC) to 30 GSN students and 22 Pediatric Residents and Fellows. This two-day course is led by PED faculty at seven MTF’s nationally and is supported by CGHE.

The USU Department of Medicine Health Professions Education (MHPE) program has converted more than 15 courses into a blended/distance learning format. With this new format, the Master/HPE and a PhD in HPE are available and can be completed from anywhere across the globe.

In the month of July, SOM had 1 student become an Airborne graduate and 6 students become Air Assault graduates.

Medical Field Practicum 101 (MFP 101) for first-year medical students was conducted in October through the Department of MEM. The overall goals are to provide individual and team-leadership opportunities to train on a variety of field skills and engage in experiences promoting military identity formation and training in military medical skills. Education in patient perspectives and intercultural communications were significantly expanded this year.

The Advanced Combat Medical Experience (ACME) (MFP 102) course, conducted in August, continues to evolve as new technology and techniques become available, such as GoPro camera observation of resuscitations, allowing for better self-evaluation and team evaluation of the resuscitations, and paintball as a means of teaching care under fire. And with that evolution, USU’s first-year medical students will become even better equipped for success in fast-paced combat medical readiness.

“Operation Bushmaster” (MFP 202) allowed USU students to put their skills to the test while receiving feedback from faculty. Twelve international medical students and junior physicians have also participated.

A Global Presence Dedicated to Serving

Army Col. (Dr.) Andrew “Drew” Morgan (SOM Class of 2002 and Clinical Associate Professor) lifted off in a Soyuz from the Baikonur Cosmodrome to dock with the International Space Station. Col. Richard Scheuring (Associate Professor) served as his Flight Surgeon throughout training and launch.

Lt. Col. Eric Garges, Director of Tropical Public Health, served on a World Health Organization stakeholder panel to develop standardized data collection elements and laboratory procedures for global surveillance on antimicrobial resistant gonorrhea. He was also requested by the HHS Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy to serve on the steering committee for the first US Government Action Plan to combat the rising rate of STIs.

PED faculty (billeted and national) trained Uganda People’s Defense Force medical personnel as part of a CGHE sponsored program to stand-up a field hospital capable of supporting UN peacekeeping missions. This is the first iteration of the International Military Medical Humanitarian Assistance Program (IMMHAP) and represents an expansion of Military Pediatric support to combatant command missions.

USU-South hosted a delegation from the Japanese National Defense Medical College, led by their Vice President, Dr. Kawamura. The delegation visited USU-South, ISR, and BAMC while in San Antonio. Their requests for the trip were primarily research-focused, so the itinerary was arranged to capture the research by several entities. ISR and the 59th Medical Wing Chief Scientist briefed the visitors on their research efforts. Significant collaborative opportunities were discovered, and we expect a return visit later this year to further those talks.

Col. Catherine Witkop, alongside collaborators at UCSF and Nitid Bit, LLC, launched a new contraceptive decision aid.
mobile app titled Decide + Be Ready (sponsored by Defense Health Horizons/DHA). The app is a patient-facing tool designed to facilitate shared decision making between women and their providers, and includes unique military-relevant considerations for servicewomen.

On March 1, Sgt. 1st Class Sacha Moore, Radiation Sciences Department, AFPRRI, helped deliver the I-RAD course to the Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defence Centre of Excellence, in Vyskov, Czech Republic. Dr. Andrae Brooks, Office of Nuclear Incident Policy and Cooperation, National Nuclear Security Administration, US Department of Energy, gave high praise to Moore for her outstanding support.

Col. Patrick Hickey (PED) leads the IDCRP-supported Deployment & Travel Medicine Knowledge, Practice, and Outcomes Study (KAPOS). Under a CRADA in development between USU, HJF, and 60 Degrees Pharmaceuticals, KAPOS will serve as the study to conduct postlicensure monitoring of adverse effects for the anti-malarial tafenoquine, which is on the DoD Priority list for FDA/CBER.

Dr. Robert Ursano (pictured above) was invited by the White House to serve as the Risk Identification Section Lead on the Research Line of Effort (LOE) for Executive Order (EO) 13861: “National Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End Suicide.” He attended the President’s Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide (PREVENTS) Kickoff Meeting.

On November 30, Col. Brian Hemann (pictured right), USU Associate Professor, WRNMMC, Chief of Medicine, and a staff cardiologist, received the statewide Distinguished Citizen OTY Award at the Oregon Peace Officers Association Awards Banquet. This award was given in recognition of his demonstrated heroism on August 31. While in Oregon on leave, he rescued an elderly woman at risk of drowning after a boating accident in the Deschutes River.

For an astounding sixth time within the past seven years, members of USU’s School of Medicine faculty, in conjunction with the USU/HJF joint technology transfer team, have been selected as recipients of the Federal Laboratory Consortium’s Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer. Dr. Christopher Broder, Chair of Microbiology and Immunology, was selected as this year’s award recipient, making this his second FLC award (m102.4 human monoclonal antibody). Dr. Christopher Broder was also awarded a $24.5 million, 5-year, Center of Excellence for Translational Research (CETR) grant to advance treatments for the highly lethal Nipah and Hendra viruses.

Dr. Ann Jerse has been awarded a $10.9 million, 5-year, U19 grant to the Gonorrhea Vaccine Cooperative Research Center to advance promising vaccine candidates. Both awards are supported by the NIAID, NIH.

Dr. Micheal Daly (PMR) was awarded a new grant entitled “Leveraging Bacteria and Fungi for Nuclear Forensics.” This study was funded by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), and aims to develop environmental organisms as biodosimeters of nuclear activity.

Col. (S) Barton Staat, MC, USAF was awarded Mentor of the Year by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). He was the only OB/GYN in the Armed Forces to receive this national award given by the young members of ACOG and presented by the national president Dr. Lisa Hollier.

Adjunct Professor in PMR, Dr. Rory Cooper (pictured above) was honored with a US Patent & Trademark Office trading card. The card reads, “His team has developed over 100 inventions and hold multiple patents related to wheelchairs, robotics, and wearable instruments designed to improve the lives of people with disabilities and military veterans.”

A JIF (Joint Incentive Fund) proposal to facilitate tele-neurology services between DOD/NCR and VA/VISN5 was funded at $2.1M. This initiative will improve sub-speciality neurological care for veterans and improve the quality of resident and fellow training in neurology.
Uniformed nurses carry out a charge that reaches far beyond traditional nursing roles. They care for patients in locations as dangerous as the wounds they treat, and make decisions that can save one life or thousands at once. Uniformed nurses are the cornerstones of the Military Health System, and USU is the place to learn the advanced skills needed to be expert clinicians and leaders in the profession.

The GSN students explore the fields of nursing through a signature blend of science, research, and field training. The lessons learned on the USU campus and beyond the traditional classroom prepare the GSN graduates to take on a diverse range of challenges and succeed in any environment. Our mission makes the USU graduates uniquely prepared to shape the future of health care within the federal health care system.
Achievements in Academics

U.S. News 2020 Best Graduate Nursing School rankings listed the GSN Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program in the top 5% of the 584 schools surveyed, and listed the Masters of Nursing (MSN) program in the top 16% of schools surveyed.

Family Nurse Practitioner/ Women’s Health Nurse Practitioner program performed a needs assessment to realign curriculum, addressing service needs and adjusting to increasing program enrollments.

In the spring of 2019, we welcomed the new GSN Commandant/Student Affairs Dean Lt. Col. Craig Budinich (pictured left). Budinich has become a role model, mentor, and guide to future nursing leaders.

Two Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) students on clinical rotation (Maj. Kelly and Lt. Bunag) provided Advanced Trauma Life Support and emergency care at the scene of a motor vehicle accident until EMS arrived.

The GSN successfully graduated 40 DNP, 2 MSN, and 2 PhD students at the May 2019 commencement ceremony. All graduating nurse practitioners have passed board certification exams.

GSN was awarded 10-year maximum accreditation for both its Masters Degree and Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The School is accredited through 2029.

Four Registered Nurse Anesthetist program students successfully piloted and completed the Gunpowder Field Exercise in conjunction with the School of Medicine 3rd Year Medical Cohort.

An Exceptional Blend of Experience

Two 2019 graduates deployed on the USS Bataan to provide disaster relief in the Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian, providing general anesthesia, emergent airway management, and operational resource management while ensuring a walking blood bank, and demonstrating the importance of operational readiness components of the GSN curriculum.

Maj. Regina Owens, GSN faculty, participated in the WPPMCC Canine Welcoming Ceremony of the late President George H.W. Bush’s canine, “Sully” (pictured right).

Dr. Heather Johnson represented USU and the American Association of Nurse Practitioners on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) task force in creating a tool kit for primary care clinicians for pediatric suicide screening and prevention.

The Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program hosted the Combat and Operational Stress Course in collaboration with U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence, and SOM Psychology and Psychiatry Departments. Interprofessional attendees included students, psychiatric residents, nurse practitioners, chaplains, registered nurses, and technicians.
The Army, Navy, and Air Force Postgraduate Dental Schools form USU’s Postgraduate Dental College. Under the leadership of the deans, department chairs, and program directors, instruction in Master of Science in Oral Biology degree granting residencies is provided at seven locations, in 19 programs, comprising seven different disciplines of dentistry. Although each location is unique, they all combine education, research, and dynamic residency opportunities to cultivate excellent clinicians ready to serve a mobile force-at home and abroad, in war and peace.
To Educate, Train, and Prepare

A team from the Air Force Postgraduate Dental School (AFPDS) developed models simulating forensic dental remains using 3-D printing technology located at the AFPDS, JBSA Lackland. These models have been used to teach a Forensic Dental Identification Course at one Air Force location, with plans for wider implementation moving forward. These simulated “specimens” are being used as replacements for cadaveric remains, alleviating problems with storage, transport, and availability without sacrificing educational goals.

Three significant collaborative agreements were completed:

1) The MOA between USU and MEDCOM established affiliation of the Army one-year general dentistry certificate. These dentistry programs began in the summer of 2019.

2) The MOU between USU and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio focused upon collaboration in research and academic efforts that span the health services, including the role of underrepresented populations.

3) The MOU between USU, the 59th Medical Wing Dental Group, the Army Institute of Surgical Research at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the Navy Medical Research Unit San Antonio, and the Air Force Dental Evaluation and Consultation Service outlined a process for sharing resources and facilities involved with dental research application when collaboration is deemed beneficial to the individual participants.

Seven PDC graduation ceremonies were held in May and June. 74 graduates have been awarded Masters of Science (MS) in Oral Biology degrees for this academic year, bringing the total number of degrees awarded to 469 since the PDC formed in 2010.

President Thomas conferred degrees for 21 graduates at the Naval Postgraduate Dental School and 11 graduates at Fort Bragg, Dr. Schneid conferred degrees upon 5 graduates at Keebler AFB, 3 graduates at Schofield Barracks, and 17 graduates at JBSA Lackland, TX. Dr. Rodney Phoenix, PDC Associate Dean for Dental Research (ADDR), conferred degrees upon 11 graduates at Fort Gordon and 6 Comprehensive Dentistry graduates at Fort Hood.

Naval Postgraduate Dental School (NPDS) faculty provided lectures on forward management of maxillofacial/Dental Injuries and forward management of non-traumatic Oral and Dental Injuries to School of Medicine and Graduate School of Nursing students during the Military Contingency Medicine (MCM) course. The objective was to familiarize future non-dental health professionals with common dental emergencies that may be encountered in the deployed setting, along with basic diagnosis and management. As of the date of this report, planning continues for faculty and residents from the Navy and Air Force Certificate programs to jointly participate in MFM 101 with 16-year medical students. The dental residents will be assigned to platoons with medical students where field medical and expeditionary skills will be taught in a joint environment. This is the 6th consecutive year that the PDC has participated in USU field exercises.

74 new Army, Navy, and Air Force Masters of Science in Oral Biology students started training on July 1 at 6 locations within the Postgraduate Dental College.

Leaders in the Field of Dentistry

The Tri-Service Center for Oral Health Studies became key members of the GAH Tri-Service High Caries Risk Program Alignment team as a sub-working group of the GAH Dental Systems Integrated Product Team (DISIPT). Dental Policy Alignment and Integration Working Group (DPAIWG). The Group places emphasis on preventive efforts to support and increase readiness. The Team will evaluate ways to create a program aligned across the 3 Services as well as recommend policy for program simplification, thereby improving patient care while providing meaningful data to manage population health.

Lt. Col. Christopher McMains, USU Professor of Surgery at San Antonio Military Medical Center, and Dr. Drew Fallis, PDC Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, are collaborating to develop an interdisciplinary-focused version of the Stanford faculty development course planned for future implementation in the USU Southern Region.

The 2019 Federal Services Dental Educators Workshop was held at JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX, from April 16-18. More than 100 military dental educators attended, the majority of whom were USU faculty. Dr. Tom Travis, Senior Vice President, USU Southern Regions, served as the keynote speaker for the opening session. Faculty Development Lectures were given by Dr. Chris Mains, Professor, USU SOM, and 6 USU Faculty Development Certificates for Teaching were awarded. Continuing education lectures on Ethics were given by representatives from the American College of Dentists.

Fifteen PDC faculty members, current and former students, attended the MHSRR. 13 Poster presentations were displayed, and an evening Tri-Service Dental Research Session was held that included 7 oral presentations.

The TSCOHS staff have been primary writers and contributors for their respective services to the upcoming 2020 Surgeon General’s Report (SGR) on Oral Health. The contributions address the current status of dentistry and oral health in the services, progress since the last SGR in 2000, continuing challenges faced while improving readiness, and opportunities and initiatives that will lead to improvements in military dentistry and oral healthcare.

The ADDR and the Director, TSCOHS, are collaborating with Dr. Elizabeth Kostas-Polston from the Graduate School of Nursing, along with her colleagues from the National Cancer Institute and the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, on research concerning Human Papilloma Virus-associated oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma.

In FY19, PDC faculty and residents have published or submitted for publication 74 manuscripts or abstracts. In addition, PDC faculty and residents have given over 250 presentations at national international, regional, and local meetings.

For the first time, one of our PDC faculty, Associate Professor Lt. Col. Cade Salmon from the Air Force Postgraduate Dental School, was selected for a university-level faculty award for the 2019 Innovation in Education Award in Clinical Education for his work on “Microsoft Access-enhanced Application of Entrustable Professional Activities in Postgraduate Dental Education.”
The College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS) exists to educate and train highly competent personnel qualified and dedicated to serving the needs of the uniformed services and the United States. The competencies and credentials students acquire from CAHS translate directly to the civilian section, allowing students to be trained for the needs of military medical as well as peacetime healthcare.

In 2019, CAHS served a growing number of students, with more than 800 enrolled throughout the college’s 11 programs of study in three locations. The College of Allied Health Sciences continues to be sought by DoD and the civilian sectors for best business practices and partnerships for delivery of enhanced readiness at reduced cost with zero compromise of rigor.

In total, CAHS has 1536 graduates. The College of Allied Health Sciences offers an Associate of Science in Health Sciences degree and a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences degree. In 2019, 84 students were awarded degrees from CAHS.
President John F. Kennedy once said, “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” For nearly 40 years, USU alumni have embodied that spirit of selfless service to our nation. Their actions—whether through clinical care, deployment, humanitarian missions, research, policy development, or space exploration—demonstrate their dedication to our service members, retirees, veterans, and their families, as well as to our fellow Americans.
Here’s what some of our alumni have been up to in 2019:

**Drew Morgan Goes to Space**

The late Space Shuttle Columbia astronaut Navy Capt. (Dr.) David M. Brown once said, “I remember growing up thinking that astronauts and their job was the coolest thing you could possibly do... But I absolutely couldn’t identify with the people who were astronauts. I thought they were movie stars.”

A lot of people hold today’s astronauts in the same high regard. Within days of being named by NASA officials as one of America’s newest astronaut candidates, USU alumnus then-Army Maj. (Dr.) Andrew “Drew” Morgan was already getting requests for his autograph. Morgan, a USU class of 2002 graduate and Military and Emergency Medicine department assistant professor whose previous experience includes serving as an emergency physician and flight surgeon for the Army special operations community, was among the eight military and civilian astronaut trainees selected out of more than 6,100 applicants by NASA for their 2013 class. Now, he’s headed to space as the first USU graduate and Army physician to do so.

**Korey Kasper in the ‘right place, at the right time’**

“Are you a doctor? We need help!”

An employee of a youth camp for military children outside the Fitness Center on MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., rushed into the base medical clinic, looking frantically around the room. The clinic had, up until that point, been otherwise pretty quiet that morning. With her was a visibly shaken and weak 8-year-old child, who the camp counselor believed had just suffered a seizure after seeing her collapse and convulse. Temperatures were already in the low 90s that morning, and there was little to no breeze. The humidity was also high.

“Yes, I can help, I’m a doctor,” said Air Force Capt. (Dr.) Korey Kasper, a physician currently in the National Capital Consortium’s Military Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship based at USU.

Kasper helped the disoriented child to lie down and assessed her vital signs.

**Kelly Gambino-Shirley Making an Impact on Community, Global Health**

Air Force Lt. Col. Kelly Gambino-Shirley became a public health officer because she wanted to find new ways to focus on real-world solutions to health problems. Today, thanks to opportunities provided by the military and by pursuing her Master of Public Health degree at USU, her efforts have been making an impact on the overall health of a community.

A 2007 graduate of USU’s MPH program, Gambino-Shirley is now serving as the chief of the Epidemiology Consult Service division at the U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM) in Dayton, Ohio. USAFSAM provides opportunities to engage with other military services, and state and international partners in the field of public health and infectious disease medicine. In this role, Gambino-Shirley routinely helps conduct disease surveillance for the Air Force, monitoring outbreaks and unusual events. She also helps provide epidemiological consulting services, while responding to questions from Congress, the Air Force Medical Service, other major commands, and other agencies.
Ronald Panganiban Conducts Genetic Research to Find Asthma Treatments

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, asthma affects more than 25 million people in the United States. More than 3,500 die each year from the disease that causes wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing from narrowed, swollen air passages and mucous production. Ronald Panganiban, who is originally from the Philippines, earned his PhD in Molecular and Cell Biology at USU, under the supervision of Dr. Regina Day.

Earlier this year, Panganiban and his colleagues at the Harvard University T.H. Chan School of Public Health discovered a variant of the gene Gasdermin B that reduces the susceptibility to asthma. That discovery was published online in January 2018 in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, and Panganiban was the study’s lead author. In another related research effort, Panganiban used modern genetic tools to identify factors that prevent endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress response, a cellular response to buildup of abnormal proteins in the ER organelle (specialized structures within a living cell).

“I’m working on a project to identify negative regulators of endoplasmic reticulum stress response. We knock out all the genes in the human genome to find what the novel suppressors of ER stress response are,” Panganiban said.

Adrian Arnett and Daniel Raboin Draw on ‘Bushmaster’

“‘There’s no doubt in my mind [that], had we not intervened, he would’ve died.’”

Army Maj. (Dr.) Adrian Arnett, a USU class of 2011 graduate, punctuated a story from fellow alum Dr. Daniel Raboin (class of 2012) that told of a wounded Afghan Special Operations soldier who had been transferred to the U.S. Army-led combined joint NATO Role 2 Military Treatment Facility (MTF) at the Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) in Kabul, Afghanistan.

“The Afghan hospital that he had been transferred from had reported to us that he was basically dying on the table over there,” Raboin, an Army physician, recalled. “We received him and (Dr. Arnett) led the resuscitation. We did everything we could.”

In his role as the Officer in Charge (OIC) of the Emergency Department at the NATO hospital, Arnett is no stranger to acting quickly. On a day-to-day basis, Arnett works to keep the ED functioning while simultaneously coordinating mass casualty training events, allocating resources to patients, and putting on extra trainings for those who work in the hospital or one of the coalition nations.

“At this hospital, we have partners from all over the world, including Australia, Denmark, Romania, Albania, Turkey, Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Germany,” said Arnett. “Our Role 2 hospital consists of about 42 people who actually belong to us, and with other nations calculated in, that number gets to the upper 50s, lower 60s depending on deployment cycles.”
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