

GRAND ROUNDS



Excellence Through
Transformation

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“Transformation means that what worked in the past no longer meets today's needs. Fifty years ago, we focused on developing excellent clinicians — today, we still do that, but we also incorporate interactive learning and prepare students for the business side of medicine.”

— **Christine K. Jacobs, M.D., FAAFP**
Gerald A. Maguire, M.D. and Joanne S. Maguire Cura Personalis Dean,
Vice President for Medical Affairs, Saint Louis University School of Medicine

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear friends,

This issue of Grand Rounds highlights key milestones along the School of Medicine’s journey of transformative excellence. We are delighted to share stories of innovation and engagement, guided by our mission of education, research, and care for our community.

For the second consecutive year, SLU School of Medicine has been ranked Tier One in Primary Care by U.S. News & World Report, reaffirming our leadership in producing the next generation of excellent clinicians.

The strong 98.8% Match rate of the Class of 2025 and our successful eight-year reaccreditation reflect the success of our 18-month preclinical curriculum, followed by augmented clinical rotation opportunities.

Our R1 Research Institution status places SLU among an elite group of fewer than 190 universities nationwide and only seven Catholic universities with this designation. To achieve this designation, SLU exceeded the criteria of \$50 million annually in research funding and the graduation of over 70 research Ph.D.s each year.

In May, we welcomed the inaugural cohort of the SLU School of Medicine Master of Medical Science in Anesthesiology program. Fifteen students from across the United States gathered for their orientation, marking the beginning of a rigorous two-year journey to become highly skilled anesthesiologist assistants.

Our new Office of Ignatian Mission in Medicine brings together mission-driven programs serving students, faculty, and staff under one umbrella, promoting cultural sensitivity, wellness, community engagement, and pathways into medical science. Rooted in Jesuit values, we are dedicated to collaboration, professional development, and social justice, to reduce health inequities and uplift the St. Louis region.

This issue also marks an important leadership transition. As we chronicle our achievements under the leadership of President Fred Pestello, we welcome SLU’s 34th president, Edward J. Feser, Ph.D., and look forward to opening a new chapter in our mission of education, research, patient care, and community engagement — shaping a stronger health care future for all.

Best Regards,
Christine K. Jacobs, M.D., FAAFP
Gerald A. Maguire, M.D. and Joanne S. Maguire *Cura Personalis* Dean
Vice President for Medical Affairs, Saint Louis University School of Medicine



Learn More About
President Feser

slu.edu/about/leadership/president/

Transformative EXCELLENCE

AT SLU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital located across from SLU School of Medicine.

SURROUNDING SLU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE’S CAMPUS, THERE IS AN UNMISTAKABLE NEW LOOK. NEW BUILDINGS RISE ALONG GRAND AVENUE, STATE-OF-ART HOSPITALS LINE CITY BLOCKS, AND EDUCATIONAL SPACES PULSE WITH POSSIBILITY.

SLU School of Medicine’s excellence in education, research, and patient care is embedded in this dynamic physical campus. Even as the neighborhood transforms, the school is building on its legacy to meet the new practice of medicine. These changes did not occur overnight. It required years of vision and leadership to keep SLU School of Medicine on its historic path of excellence. Behind the transformation lies a deeper mission, rooted in the Jesuit tradition and an ongoing

responsibility to train physicians who care for the whole person.

“At our heart, we want and need to produce excellent clinicians who are invested in the doctor-patient relationship and have the spirit of *cura personalis*,” Christine Jacobs, M.D., said. “The challenge has been how do we do that in the context of an evolving world.”

EDUCATING THE MODERN PHYSICIAN

Eight years ago, the School of Medicine stood at a crossroads. To better align with accreditation standards, the school launched an overhaul of its academic approach — a move that renewed its curriculum, environment, and culture.

“Students used to sit in a lecture hall and form a certain type of fellowship,” Jacobs said. “Today, that doesn’t happen organically anymore. We’ve fostered an educational environment where students learn, think, and talk together.”

Leaders reimagined an educational philosophy that aligns with SLU’s Jesuit

With active learning, simulation technology, and earlier clinical exposure, students experience the realities of modern medicine. Interprofessional learning prepares them for the team-based nature of today’s health care.

“Medicine for a physician used to be a solo sport,” she said. “It’s no longer that. Instead it’s now teamwork, and we are mirroring this practice in our education.”

New facilities support this collaborative vision. Students train in the SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital, and by 2027, the new SSM Health Cardinal

A NEW RESEARCH ERA

Medical research is deeply rooted in SLU’s legacy — from the first heart transplant in 1972 to COVID-19 vaccine work. Today, new ideas keep SLU at the forefront of research.

The School of Medicine’s deliberate expansion of its research enterprise reached a defining milestone in February 2025, when SLU earned R1 status — the highest classification for research activity awarded by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This achievement reflects a decade-long effort to expand labs, infrastructure, and faculty and student talent.

“We’ve been on a gradual trajectory of increasing our research over the past 10 years,” Jacobs said. “Our research today enables our scholarship, and our scholarship enables our education.”

The M.D./Ph.D. program exemplifies this commitment, training leaders in medicine and science since 1986. In recent years, students have earned grants in cancer, immunology, and molecular biology — pushing the boundaries of medical discovery.

Breakthroughs at SLU School of Medicine are shaping the biomedical research landscape. The momentum of its research mission is building on the legacy of Edward A. Doisy, Ph.D., the Nobel award-winning chair of biochemistry in the School of Medicine.

COMMITTED TO THE COMMUNITY

The school’s commitment to service extends its mission of care beyond its classrooms and hospitals through the Mobile Health Van and



Katherine Mathews, M.D., M.P.H., MBA, working outside of the SLU Mobile Health Van with a medical student.

“The Jesuit mission OF BEING MEN AND WOMEN FOR OTHERS IS ABSOLUTELY PLAYED OUT IN HOW WE CONDUCT OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY AND PROVIDE PATIENT CARE FOR THE UNDERSERVED.”

— Christine Jacobs, M.D.



other community-based services. Programming focuses on people who face the most difficult access to medical and behavioral health care.

SLU Mobile Health Van serves people recently released from incarceration, people with unstable housing who are living on the streets, and elderly citizens in North St. Louis. First and second-year medical students participate in this work and learn firsthand how to care for those in greatest need with respect and compassion.

The school’s dedication to community engagement is amplified through the Community Health Distinction, a certification for medical students involved in a longitudinal educational and service learning curriculum. Today, nearly 50 students follow this path, integrating service into their medical education — building relationships and making a lasting difference in urban and rural areas.

Beyond health care delivery, SLU leads the revitalization of its neighborhood. Through its role in the ongoing midtown redevelopment efforts, the University has contributed to making the area surrounding its campus a healthier place to live, work, and learn.

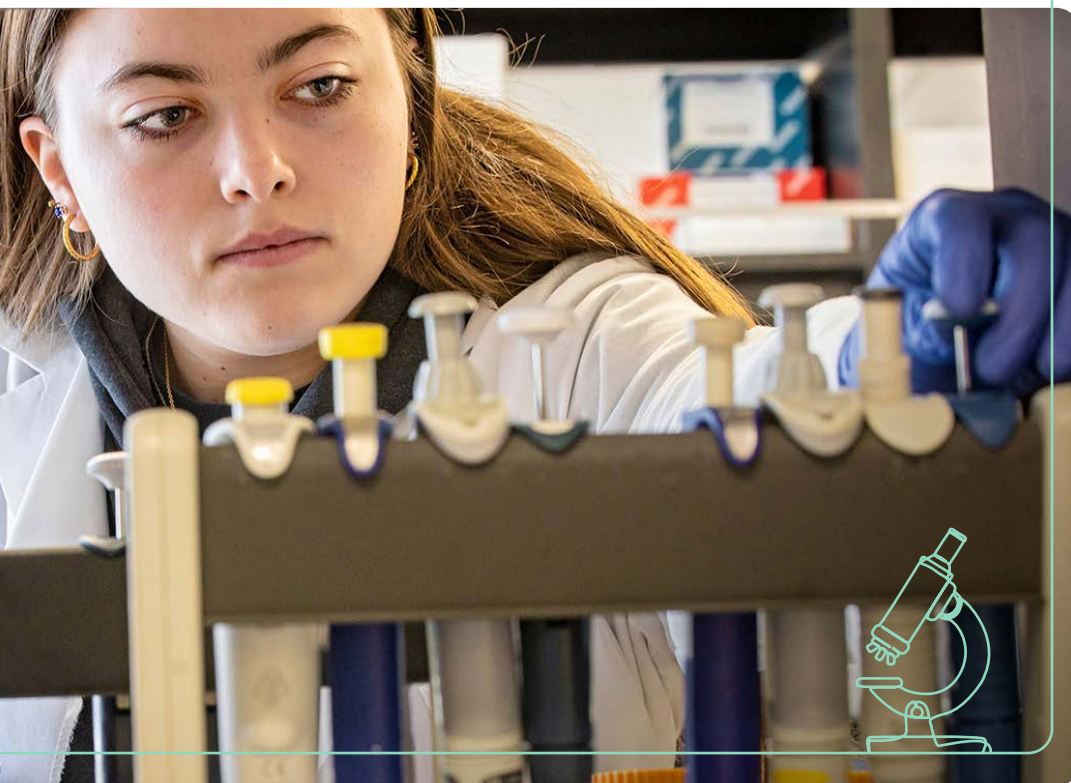
“The Jesuit mission of being men and women for others is absolutely played out in how we conduct outreach to our community and provide patient care for the underserved,” Jacobs said. “We epitomize the community commitment of the University.”

FOCUS ON IMPACT

The transformation of the Saint Louis University School of Medicine is both a return to its roots and a bold step forward. Grounded in its Jesuit values, the school has reimagined how it teaches, researches, and serves.

As new facilities rise and innovation permeates every corner of the campus, the school’s commitment to educating compassionate, collaborative physicians remains constant. In its classrooms, labs, and community, SLU School of Medicine forges a future where excellence is measured not only by outcomes — but by impact.

Transformation means that what worked in the past no longer meets today’s needs,” Jacobs said. “Fifty years ago, we focused on developing excellent clinicians — today, we still do that, but we also incorporate interactive learning and prepare students for the business side of medicine.”



Medical student placing test tubes in order in a research lab.

mission and current accreditation standards. Students are trained to treat patients holistically, understand care in its social context, and value teamwork as much as clinical skill.

Glennon Children’s Hospital. A recent \$10 million gift is jumpstarting fundraising for a new academic building to advance education. This further elevates SLU’s commitment to shaping talented, thoughtful leaders in medicine.



A LEGACY Revitalized

THE SLU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE HAS EXPERIENCED A DECADE OF PROFOUND CHANGE.

From breathing new life into its surrounding neighborhood to revolutionizing how future physicians learn, research, and serve, the school is forging a bold path that honors its history and pushes the boundaries of medical education.

At the School of Medicine, its updated curriculum, commitment to community, and dedication to research drive excellence in medicine and maintain its mission to care for the whole person. Most importantly, this hard work and success redefines how the school educates and supports the next generation of excellent clinicians.

And its legacy will only continue to grow with each new achievement.

CELEBRATED ACCREDITATION

SLU School of Medicine obtained an eight-year full Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accreditation.



A HISTORIC PARTNERSHIP

SLU and SSM Health formed a partnership to create a fully integrated health care delivery network.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

SLU's Mobile Health Clinic has delivered essential care across Greater St. Louis, reflecting the school's deep commitment to community health.



TOP-RATED PRIMARY CARE

SLU was recognized as a U.S. News & World Report Tier 1 medical school for primary care for two consecutive years in 2024 and 2025.



STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

A new era began with the opening of the \$550 Million SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital and ambulatory care center. Now, a new SSM Cardinal Glennon Hospital is under construction.



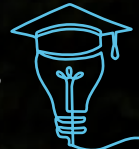
\$10 MILLION HISTORIC GIFT

SLU School of Medicine received a transformative \$10 million gift on behalf of a grateful patient of SLU alumnus Gerald Maguire, M.D., (Med '91), to enhance medical education and research.



DEDICATION TO FACULTY

The Center for Educator Development, Advancement, and Research (CEDAR) was established to provide evidence-based teaching, support faculty development, and foster collaboration in medical education scholarship.



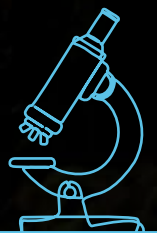
COMMUNITY-DRIVEN EDUCATION

SLU offers a Community Health Distinction through the School of Medicine, preparing students to live purpose-driven careers in service to the underserved in today's health care system.



RISE IN RESEARCH

The University achieved the prestigious R1 classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, joining an elite group of U.S. research universities.



The Monumental Impact of A GRATEFUL PATIENT



“The St. Louis community needs more mental health care, and I could not think of a better group to give to than psychiatry.”

— Gerald Maguire, M.D.



Support SLU School of Medicine's Efforts in Medical Education

SLU was more than a place where Gerald Maguire, M.D., (Med '91) earned his medical degree — it was the launchpad for his lifelong calling to serve.

Maguire's journey to becoming a nationally recognized psychiatrist and expert in stuttering research began with his own experience navigating life with a stutter — an identity that shaped his purpose and was nurtured by the school's support. Through his enduring advocacy for those who stutter and dedication to mental health care, he has witnessed the power of being seen, heard, and understood.

For one patient, Maguire's compassionate care made a lasting impact. Seeking to honor that experience, this person approached him for guidance on how to give back. Maguire immediately had an answer.

“I said that it's not just about the doctors we have now who can transform the community, but the need to support the next generation of physicians to come,” Maguire said.

In March, Maguire facilitated a historic \$10 million gift to the School of Medicine on behalf of his patient — one of the largest contributions in the school's history. The gift is divided to establish and support the Gerald A.

Maguire, M.D., and Joanne S. Maguire School of Medicine *Cura Personalis* Endowed Deanship, the Gerald A. Maguire, M.D., and Joanne S. Maguire Endowed Chair in Neuropsychiatry Research and Education, and support toward a new state-of-the-art Health Education Center. Additionally, Maguire personally pledged \$100,000 to the school to support the education of the next generation of excellent clinicians.

“Other medical schools will teach you how to pass an exam, but there's more to it when you're taught the life, ethics, and professionalism of what it means to be a physician,” he said. “Saint Louis University taught me about caring for the whole person.”

For Maguire, being a physician is a deeply personal mission. Throughout his years in academic leadership, he has remained committed to preparing future physicians to offer compassionate care.

“I hope this gift provides the environment for students to learn and become the most knowledgeable, compassionate, and dedicated physicians,” he said. “Second, it enables our current Dean of the School of Medicine and any future dean the flexibility to make the school the best it can be. Lastly, supporting psychiatry



Gerald Maguire, M.D., and President Fred Pestello, Ph.D., at the 2024 Med Reunion weekend.

will assist our greater mental health community through advanced research, clinical care, and education.”

The contribution toward psychiatry is especially meaningful to Maguire, whose career has focused on breaking barriers to improving the health of those living with psychiatric conditions. He saw an opportunity to directly support education and research in the field through this gift. He hopes future SLU medical students will pursue psychiatry not only for its intellectual challenge but for its deep commitment to healing and human connection — just as he did.

“The St. Louis community needs more mental health care, and I could not think of a better group to give to than psychiatry,” he said. “If students are drawn to discovery and love to seek knowledge, break barriers, and transform lives, the field of psychiatry will certainly be rewarding.”

As he reflects on the impact his patient's gift will have, Maguire feels tremendous gratitude. He encourages others who were shaped by SLU's values to explore how they can support its medical education and help prepare the physicians of tomorrow.

\$2M

Gerald A. Maguire, M.D., and Joanne S. Maguire Endowed Chair in Neuropsychiatry Research and Education

\$3M

Gerald A. Maguire, M.D., and Joanne S. Maguire School of Medicine *Cura Personalis* Endowed Deanship

\$5M

Future State-of-the-Art Health Education Center



Dean Christine Jacobs, M.D., and SLU President Fred Pestello, Ph.D., connecting at a recent board meeting.

“Dr. Pestello and I have been good partners in moving the School of Medicine forward. He had a mixture of pushing me, but not too far.”

— Christine Jacobs, M.D.

Architects of Advancement: President Pestello’s Legacy with SLU School of Medicine

As Saint Louis University welcomes President Edward J. Feser, Ph.D., the School of Medicine enters a new chapter — built on more than a decade of transformation led by the mission-driven leadership of President Fred Pestello, Ph.D. This transition offers an opportunity to reflect on one of Pestello’s most visionary contributions: the advancement of the School of Medicine, one of only four Jesuit medical schools in the nation and a cornerstone of SLU’s commitment to compassionate care, research excellence, and community impact.

When President Pestello began his tenure 11 years ago, the School of Medicine was in a period of transition across leadership, infrastructure, and clinical operations. Recognizing the need for a hospital partner whose values aligned with SLU’s Jesuit principles, he worked with the school’s leadership to establish a landmark agreement with SSM Health in 2015 — resulting in the opening of the \$550 million SSM Health Saint Louis University Hospital and ambulatory care center.

As the partnership progressed, it became clear that deeper integration between SLUCare and SSM Health was critical for long-term sustainability and to align clinical practice with the school’s academic and research goals. Fulfilling that vision required a leader who understood the complexity of academic medicine and could guide both institutions through a trust-driven, collaborative process.

In 2021, Christine Jacobs, M.D., was named dean of the School of Medicine and vice president for medical affairs. Jacobs led the school through this final and most critical phase of its transformation. Her ability to build consensus across the clinical community proved pivotal — 98% of the practice agreed to transfer, far surpassing the 85% threshold required to proceed. As a result, the school now operates with a more unified practice model, stronger physician engagement, and a streamlined structure that supports better planning and collaboration.

“In hiring Dr. Jacobs, we had a leader,” President Pestello said. “There’s no one else who could have moved us through this integration. She had the confidence of the physicians and the clarity to see it through.”



Saint Louis University President Fred Pestello, Ph.D., delivering the 2025 Spring commencement address at Chaifetz Arena.

Jacobs credits President Pestello’s trust and partnership as key to her success, highlighting his unique ability to provide both support and space to lead.

“Dr. Pestello and I have been good partners in moving the School of Medicine forward,” Jacobs said. “He had a mixture of supporting and pushing me, but not too far. He trusted and believed in me.”

Today, the SLU–SSM Health partnership continues to evolve — positioning the school to focus on its next major goals — new facilities, expanded regional impact, and continued excellence in medical education and research.

“This has been nearly a 10-year journey,” President Pestello said. “As the partnership strengthens, we continue to see mutually beneficial opportunities. We’re in this together so the synergies strengthen both institutions — especially in preparing the next generation of physicians to help meet our region’s growing health care needs.”

As Pestello reflects on his presidency, he expressed confidence in incoming president, Edward J. Feser, Ph.D., and his ability to continue the school’s momentum forward.

“Dr. Feser will see, as I did, just how important the School of Medicine and this partnership are to everything we do at SLU — advancing research, applying knowledge to patient care, and educating the next generation of health care leaders,” Pestello said.

SLU Confronts Critical Medical Need with New Anesthesiology Graduate Program

SLU School of Medicine announced the launch of a new Master of Medical Science in Anesthesiology program, which began in May 2025. The 27-month, year-round program addresses the national shortage of anesthesia providers and expands on SLU’s dedication to advance health care through innovative education and community service.

The program has already generated strong interest and a competitive applicant pool. SLU received hundreds of applications for its inaugural cohort of 15 students. This overwhelming response reflects both the career prospects within anesthesia care and the reputation of the University’s medical education programs.

“We have developed a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum designed to prepare competent, entry-level Certified Anesthesiologist Assistants (CAA) across cognitive, psychomotor, and affective learning domains,” Program Director Jamie Haar, CAA, said. “The program represents not just an educational initiative, but a commitment to addressing health care workforce challenges while maintaining the highest standards of professional preparation.”



Discover the New Anesthesiology Graduate Program
slu.edu/medicine/medical-education/graduate-programs/mms-anesthesia.php

Saint Louis University School of Medicine Masters of Science (MSMS) program is a rigorous one-year masters degree that mirrors the structure of the first year of medical school and prepares students for applications to medical schools and other health professional schools, such as nursing, physician assistant, and dentistry programs.



Discover the New M.S.M.S. Program
slu.edu/medicine/medical-education/graduate-programs/masters-medical-science.php

BOUND BY PURPOSE, BUILT FOR PROGRESS

When driving through Midtown St. Louis, an air of opportunity surrounds you. New restaurants and small businesses line the streets. Housing and apartment developments beckon a new generation to the neighborhood. Sidewalks once quiet have gained a sense of purpose and excitement. Behind this revitalization is a story not only of economic development, but also of leadership, vision, and legacy.

It all began with Saint Louis University.

Under President Pestello's leadership in 2017, SLU and SSM Health partnered with the city of St. Louis to launch a redevelopment plan that eventually led to the formation of the St. Louis Midtown Redevelopment Corporation. From the start, SLU pioneered redevelopment efforts through its resources, credibility, and steadfast Jesuit mission to reinvigorate the neighborhood it calls home.

"When you look at midtowns across the country, they are not where you go just for school or health care," Brooks Goedeker, the Redevelopment Corporation's executive director and SLU alumnus, said. "They're also where you go for retail, entertainment, jobs, and housing. That's what we are building in our Midtown."

Campus visitors can quickly sense the Midtown revival. The work of the Redevelopment Corporation, SLU, and SSM Health has redeveloped the Prospect Yards



Aerial view of the growth and progress of Midtown St. Louis and SLU medical campus.

neighborhood, advanced the progress on the Brickline Greenway, and brought SLU's main and medical campuses closer together.

SLU's South Campus, where the School of Medicine is located, borders several historic neighborhoods, including the Gate District West. Once a vibrant part of

"SLU cares, and its reach is vast after being here over 200 years."

— Brooks Goedeker, SLU alumnus

the city, the area had spent decades in decline. During the 1980s and 1990s, former SLU President Fr. Lawrence Biondi, S.J., began acquiring vacant and deteriorating properties to help stabilize the neighborhood — a move that created the foundation for today's renewal.

One of the Redevelopment Corporation's first actions in 2017 was to support the reestablishment of the Gate

District West Neighborhood Association — a vital step in ensuring active community participation.

The neighborhood's development committee is now directly shaping the neighborhood — from preserving historic architecture to facilitating new housing projects in Gate District West. But, one building slated for demolition stood out as a structure they wanted to save.

"The neighborhood wanted to save a building at Grand and Park Avenues," Goedeker said. "We worked with SSM Health and [the committee] to evaluate different developers. Now, it's complete and called the Nicholas Building."

SLU hasn't slowed down in its push to uplift the surrounding community. The University returned 48 previously purchased lots to Gate District West that were adjacent to the School of Medicine, partnered with the Urban League to launch a home repair program, and continues to sponsor its local events. Each initiative reflects a broader truth: SLU isn't just in St. Louis. It is St. Louis.

"SLU cares, and its reach is vast after being here over 200 years," he said. "Continuing to give back makes this place special, and the city of St. Louis is better for it."



Three medical students discussing their coursework on the way to their next class.

Care for Our Community at SLU and Beyond

At Saint Louis University School of Medicine, inclusivity, respect, and community engagement are at the heart of our mission. We strive to build strong, resilient communities and improve the quality of life for those we serve.

To further align our commitment to these values, we have united our community engagement and inclusion efforts under the newly reenvisioned Office of Ignatian Mission in Medicine. This office is a welcoming space dedicated to fostering collaboration, reducing health disparities, and advancing well-being throughout the St. Louis region.

"The Office of Ignatian Mission in Medicine integrates our mission-driven programs with our commitment to ensuring that our people are at the core of everything we do," Christine Jacobs, M.D., said.

OUR GOALS:

- **Educate a culturally competent health care workforce**, preparing students to serve diverse communities with empathy and knowledge.
- **Promote wellness for School of Medicine members**, fostering a supportive environment for faculty, staff, and students.
- **Expand STEM community initiatives**, ensuring maximum outreach and impact.
- **Encourage student engagement**, empowering learners to actively contribute to the communities they will serve.

Through programs focused on the School of Medicine and St. Louis community, the Office of Ignatian Mission in Medicine is helping our faculty, students, and staff build a future where everyone is welcome, respected, and supported.



Three SLU medical students engaging in an active learning session.

Collaborating for the Greater Good

The art of healing is not a solo act. Future physicians, nurses, and health professionals learn that great care doesn't grow in silos. And, the SLU Interprofessional Education (IPE) program facilitates unity across campus.

In 2024, the IPE program underwent a necessary transformation — moving from the School of Medicine to the Office of the Provost. Now centrally positioned, the program invites medical students and undergraduate and graduate students pursuing health care professions to sharpen skills in collaboration, communication, and leadership.

“Moving out of a single academic unit was important for [the IPE program],” Anthony Breitbach, Ph.D., ATC, Director of Interprofessional Education, said. “It provides tangible evidence that interprofessional collaboration is core to who we are at Saint Louis University.”

Integration is even more apparent in graduate programs, where medical students and other health professional students are able to earn a new graduate-level microcredential in interprofessional collaboration.

“While jobs have different degrees of training, each role is important to healing people, and having interprofessional education will benefit my colleagues and me as we go on to practice in the clinical setting,” Isabella Caley, first-year medical student, said.

SLU medical students naturally connect with health care peers through simulations, research, and community service. One recent collaboration grew from a degree requirement for advanced nursing students in the Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing.

A group of medical students wanted to conduct a flu vaccine clinic at a local Vietnamese church. They developed a plan and found an organization to offer interpreting services, but they needed training in vaccine administration.

“We found an innovative solution by collaborating with our Nursing faculty colleagues on the IPE Core Team,” Katherine Mathews, M.D., associate dean of health systems science and School of Medicine liaison for the program, said. “We realized that the Accelerated Masters in Science of Nursing students needed clinical nurse leadership hours, so they trained 20 of our students in giving vaccinations.”

It's health care collaborations like this that Breitbach and his team hope will flourish under the broader University umbrella and students will carry into their future health professions.

A Bridge Between Academic and Community Medicine

Physicians and leaders are often drawn to environments where innovation thrives and meaningful change drives better patient care. When Jeremy Fotheringham, RN, MHSA, J.D., joined SSM Health's leadership team in 2021, he immediately recognized the dynamic possibilities of SLU and SSM Health's partnership in providing academic, value-based care throughout the St. Louis and Southern Illinois region.

One principle remains at the center: advancing their joint missions to better serve the whole patient.



“The integration has been an overwhelming success,” Fotheringham said. “We have seen tremendous growth in both our abilities to care for the community and in our research and teaching abilities because we are focused on the outcomes we can achieve together.”

With a background in nursing and leadership roles in Utah and Missouri, Fotheringham brings a multifaceted perspective to the team. He now serves as a regional president for SSM Health, with a strong focus on strengthening community care across St. Louis and Southern Illinois. The merger has extended academic medicine into hospitals and clinics located throughout the region and advanced programs such as the new neurocritical care unit.

“The integration has been an overwhelming success.”

— Jeremy Fotheringham, RN, MHSA, J.D.

“We have taken SLUCare Physician Group and the School of Medicine's academic medical expertise outside of Grand and into several community settings where they otherwise would not have been,” he said. “It is an important initiative that allows our SSM Health Medical

Group physicians and our independent physician partners to collaborate and have a tighter relationship — ultimately, leading to better patient care.”

As the partnership evolves, Fotheringham emphasizes their shared commitment to education and delivering intentional, community-based care in a complex health care environment. Reflecting on the progress, he describes the speed and scale of the integration as truly remarkable.

“This has been one of the best things for us,” he said. “Our collective group of leaders will look back on their careers and understand what a transformative moment they seized, and we can all be proud of the exceptional care that is delivered to our patients as a result.”

Three SLU School of Medicine Faculty Named Senior Members by the National Academy of Inventors

Three Saint Louis University researchers from the School of Medicine were named to the 2025 Class of Senior Members of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). Enrico Di Cera, M.D.; Nicola Pozzi, Ph.D.; and Silviya Zustiak, Ph.D., received this prestigious induction in June for their innovative technologies that have made, or aim to make, a meaningful impact on society. They were inducted alongside fellow SLU researcher and associate professor of biomedical engineering, Koyal Garg, Ph.D., at the NAI's 14th Annual Conference.

Not only are the inductees leaders in innovation, but they also play a vital role in educating and mentoring the next generation of inventors.

Please join us in congratulating them for this honor.

Enrico Di Cera, M.D.
Alice A. Doisy Professor and Chairman of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Nicola Pozzi, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Silviya Zustiak, Ph.D.
Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Pharmacology and Physiology



Learn More About Their Work
slu.edu/news/2025/february/national-academy-inventors.php



Humans are inextricably linked — yet, medical practices vary greatly across geographic lines. Nicole Xynos, M.D., adjunct faculty and global health elective advisor, recognized that a global perspective is essential to sustainable care and hoped to help SLU students cultivate that perspective early in their journey.

She contacted Creighton University’s Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC) and arranged for SLU medical students to join its international OB/GYN rotation. Five M4 students traveled to the Dominican Republic in 2025, including Christie Jok, Haleh Matinrad, Megan Halloran, Olivia Spaedy, and Mayuri Jayaraman.

Over four weeks, the group immersed themselves in the community — staying with host families and shadowing local OB/GYNs. Additionally, they gained hands-on experience by building and running preventative health care clinics in surrounding regions.

“It taught us a lot about teamwork, using resources, asking for help, and reflecting on the impact we can have on patients,” Haleh Matinrad said.

Day by day, the students experienced how Jesuit values present in a professional setting. Rather than using advanced technology, the physicians were wholly present with their patients. Warmth permeated their interactions, putting patients at ease when it mattered the most.

“It’s a unique way to look at medicine, especially when there’s so much competing for your interests,” Christie Jok said. “Taking the extra time to care about someone is not always the easiest choice to make, but I saw people make it repeatedly.”

Upon returning to the U.S., students praised the experience for instilling the adaptability and compassion modern medicine requires. More importantly, they identified a vital commonality between

“Taking the extra time to care about someone is not always the easiest choice to make, but I saw people make it repeatedly.”

— Christie Jok, Med ’25



SLU medical students pictured alongside fellow ILAC international OB/GYN rotation experience participants on their trip to the Dominican Republic.

international and local patients: everyone deserves someone in their corner.

“As a future physician, that’s a role I will hold with pride — serving as an advocate for patients and speaking up for them when they are no longer able to,” Matinrad said.

With a global perspective and a deeper understanding of humanity and healing, the group will continue their journey in medicine. **Each will soon pursue the following specialty:**

- **MEGAN HALLORAN**
Obstetrics and Gynecology, Tufts Medical Center
- **MAYURI JAYARAMAN**
Urology, University of California, Irvine
- **CHRISTIE JOK**
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics, University of Illinois Chicago
- **HALEH MATINRAD**
Family Medicine, University of Colorado Denver
- **OLIVIA SPAEDY**
Obstetrics and Gynecology, Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

Advancing St. Louis Talent

The fleur-de-lis has traditionally represented purity, heritage, confluence, and honor — but for select SLU students, it also symbolizes opportunity.

The Fleur de Lis Scholarship helps highly talented students from the St. Louis area attend the School of Medicine. The merit-based award provides candidates with \$30,000 annually, easing financial burdens and empowering recipients to focus on their path to becoming physicians.

In 2025, two second-year medical students received the award: Sarah Monsey and Avery Fredman. They emphasized that it makes the dream of becoming a physician more accessible to St. Louis residents from all backgrounds.



“I am grateful to continue my education where I have the support of friends, family, and mentors at arm’s reach,” Fredman said. “This scholarship gives students like myself the chance to prioritize the important things: learning as much as we can so that we can effectively care for others.”

Both students are eager to embrace the experiences the School of Medicine has to offer and find their path of impact along the way. Monsey is currently leaning toward cardiology, while Fredman is exploring anesthesiology, ophthalmology, and internal medicine.

The pair ultimately expressed their gratitude to generous donors who, with each contribution, enable students to become physicians.



“There are many passionate individuals who dream of becoming physicians but are discouraged by the cost,” Monsey said. “By giving, you are not just investing in one student — you are helping shape the future of medicine and the care of entire communities.”

“One of the important things I learned as a medical student at SLU was to make a ‘human connection’ with your patient.”

— Richard Strathmann, M.D.

Building a Path for the Betterment of Humankind



After being accepted into the Medical Scholars Program at SLU, Richard Strathmann, M.D., (Med '06), had a clear path for both his undergraduate and medical education. However, it wasn't until he set foot on campus that he discovered the impact the University would have on him.

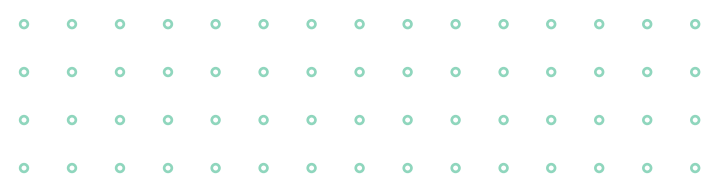
At SLU, he learned the Jesuit motto, “Men and Women for Others,” and began applying it to his own life. Between studies, he volunteered with Alpha Phi Omega, learned about worldwide health disparities, and explored his role in the greater good.

“I still think about it often,” Strathmann said. “How can I be of service to my community? What can I do for the betterment of humankind?”

What he gave while at SLU, he got back tenfold. He thrived during his clinical rotations as a medical student, receiving excellent education and guidance that prompted him to remain in St. Louis for his obstetrics and gynecology residency. Ultimately, his academic experience shaped his view of medicine to be one of compassion.

“One of the important things I learned as a medical student at SLU was to make a ‘human connection’ with your patient,” he said. “See them not as a disease to be treated or a problem to be solved, but as an entire person deserving of care and dignity.”

Strathmann currently resides in Naples, Florida, where Jesuit principles continually push him to go above and beyond. In recent years, alongside his practice in women's health, he has provided affirming services for the LGBTQ+ community and delivered babies for migrant farmworkers with the Immokalee Clinic, a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).



Answering the Call of Geriatric Medicine



Growing up, Monica Ott, M.D., (Med '05), always found comfort in her great-grandmother. They spent long hours in the kitchen together, bonding over games of pinochle and fresh-baked cinnamon rolls.

Their connection led Ott to respect the wisdom of the elderly and understand the importance of treating all people with

compassion. At SLU School of Medicine, she elected to pursue geriatric medicine and found joy in the unique challenge of aging patients.

“In medical school, I learned how to examine patients at a nursing home,” Ott said. “It was a great experience, given that very few patients had ‘normal’ exams.”

Ott carved a place in her heart for people living in their later chapters. She learned not only how to help her patients but how to approach them with positivity. While treating conditions like pneumonia and dementia, she gleans wisdom from each patient.

“It's fascinating to hear their experiences with family, friends, hobbies, and occupations,” Ott said. “These details unlock the meaning behind behavioral expressions in those with dementia.”

Now, Ott is a successful physician who is actively expanding her impact. Notably, she was appointed as a board member of the Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medical Association.

Ott plans to use her platform to create tailored resources for clinicians, families, and patients. Amid workforce shortages and an aging population, she encourages the next generation of physicians to find fulfillment in geriatric medicine.

“Geriatrics is a great career with opportunities in many settings — not just post-acute and long-term care, but clinics, hospitals, and hospice,” Ott said. “Given the aging population, you will always be in demand.”

Living in the Spirit of Service



At every stage of his life, William M. Fogarty, Jr., M.D., M.A.C.P., (Med '60), found inspiration in the people around him. Neighbors, high school teachers, and college professors nurtured his love of medicine.

Fogarty studied internal medicine at SLU School of Medicine and the University of Minnesota, where he pursued a Ph.D. in biochemistry.

His studies were interrupted by the Vietnam War. He subsequently joined the U.S. Public Health Services, serving at the National Institutes of Health.

“Not completing my Ph.D. is one of my life's greatest disappointments, but my years at the NIH were terrific,” Fogarty said. “I worked under a SLU School of Medicine graduate, Dr. Harvey Itano (Med '45), and immensely enjoyed my time there.”

Fogarty returned to St. Louis as a member of the SLU faculty and then practiced as an internist/endocrinologist at Southwest Medical Center. After a 30-year career there, he retired in 2001 — yet he found the change of pace did not suit him.

Not one to sit idly by, Fogarty threw himself into volunteer work — lending a hand across St. Louis at the Community Health-In-Partnership Services (CHIPS) Clinic, and La Clinica, which later became Casa de Salud. He also made 12 medical trips to Guatemala and one to Honduras. This service graphically demonstrated the devastating effects of the lack of access to medical care.

“Volunteering is life-changing,” Fogarty said. “One should volunteer — whenever possible, especially after retiring when there is time to explore new areas of service, whether it be medicine or whatever is most interesting.”

Reflecting on his journey, Fogarty noted education as his catalyst for impact. He urges the next generation of physicians to look upon medicine not as a job but as a way to serve people at the moments of their greatest need.

“I owe SLU a great deal,” Fogarty said. “My time there prepared me to be a part of a great profession and to develop the skills needed to serve patients for the past 65 years.”

STUDENT AND RESIDENT NARRATIVES

Meher Arora M3

During my geriatric psychiatry rotation, I met a patient experiencing cognitive decline. Despite the hardships she shared, there was something so charming and full of life about her — it was impossible not to smile during the visit. She was the first patient I ever administered a Saint Louis University Mental Status exam to.

When I asked about her education, she joked, “Well, you must think I didn’t make it past third grade the way I can’t answer these questions.”

As we progressed, she nudged me playfully and said, “I’m starting to not like you very much,” frustrated but laughing. Even during the smell test — where she couldn’t name the scents — we laughed together about how putrid some were, especially the garlic.

At the end of the visit, my attending asked how I had done. “She was great,” the patient replied. I teased back, “Do you still feel that way even after I made you answer all those questions?” She smiled and said, “Absolutely,” and gave me a big hug on her way out.

It took everything in me not to tear up. I felt a deep sense of comfort interacting with her — and sadness knowing I might never see her again.

Later, I reflected on why I felt so emotional. I’ve always connected easily with the elderly. Perhaps this is because of my close bond with my grandparents, who live in India and I don’t get to see them often. Since high school, I’ve also sung with a church choir made up of 80- to 90-year-olds who feel like grandparents to me. Some have passed; others are beginning to lose their memory. This patient reminded me of the close relationships I have fostered in that community.

Aging is inevitable — and often isolating. She reminded me to live in the moment, to be grateful for every year of good health, and to not take life too seriously. Even as she struggled, she found humor and grace in the moment. I truly believe that reflected who she is as a person, and it was a privilege to be part of her care. Though she may not remember me, I’ll always remember her.

Discover the experiences of a SLU School of Medicine student and resident. In this series, they share stories about moments in their work that touched their lives and changed their perspectives.

Lanerica Rogers, D.O. Internal Medicine Resident

Dear James,

Or should I say, “Mike Jones,” as you jokingly told me the last time I asked you orientation questions. I’ve lost patients before, but losing you hurt the most. It was unexpected — at least for me. I knew you weren’t doing well, but I still thought I’d see you again when I returned. Maybe, if I’d known you’d be gone the very next day, I would’ve worked one more shift — just to be by your side.

We’d spent days trying to transfer you out of the ICU, but the hospital was full. You kept asking why you couldn’t just go home, but you weren’t strong enough for discharge.

When your belly became more distended, we planned another paracentesis. I assisted, with the hope of becoming more confident with the procedure. Everything seemed to be going well until blood came through the needle. The fellow quickly took over and drained a liter of it. That night, we monitored your blood counts and got a CT. Nothing looked concerning.

The next morning, I saw you again — but something didn’t feel right. You had never complained of pain before, but

now you were describing back pain and unsteady feet. I worried the paracentesis had caused internal bleeding, but repeat imaging proved that was not the case.

I left that day without saying goodbye, certain I’d see you again, even if you may not remember me due to your worsening encephalopathy. A few days before, you tried to tell me something, thinking you’d be discharged soon. I reassured you, saying we had more time.

I thought we did.

On my day off, I logged into Epic and saw the word “Deceased” next to your name. My heart dropped. I let out a wail I didn’t know I had in me.

I’ll never know what you wanted to say. But I hope it was that I made your ICU stay a little easier. I hope you remember the small moments we shared — our smiles and laughs.

I’m sorry we couldn’t get you home. I’m sorry I didn’t let you say what you needed. I’m sorry I wasn’t there.

But I will never forget you, James. I’m grateful I was part of your story — and that you were part of mine.

“She reminded me to live in the moment, to be grateful for every year of good health, and to not take life too seriously.”

“I’m grateful I was part of your story — and that you were part of mine.”



Rohan Tripathi and Kaitlynn Borik celebrating 2025 Match Day selections.

Match Day 2025

The SLU School of Medicine Class of 2025 celebrated the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Match Day this March at the Chase Park Plaza in the Central West End. The celebration marks the culmination of the students' hard work, dedication, and passion for their chosen careers in medicine.

Looking back, the class arrived on campus filled with enthusiasm and anticipation for the four years to come. Now, their tireless efforts have paid off — matching into residency programs for 19 different specialties across the United States.

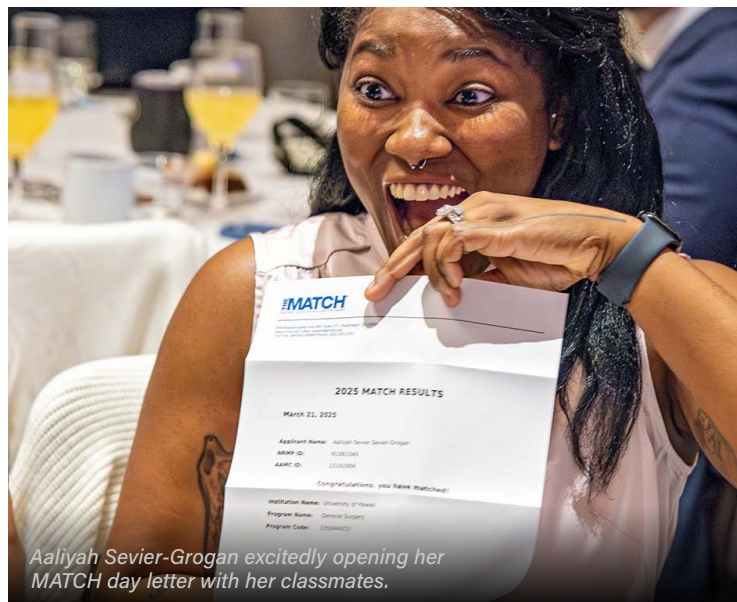
In addition, the SSM Health/SLU School of Medicine Graduate Medical Education program successfully matched all 144 of its GME positions in the NRMP Match. Twenty-three positions were filled by SLU School of Medicine students across multiple specialties, including internal medicine, anesthesiology, orthopaedic surgery, pediatrics, and more. This is a testament to the students' excellent experience at Saint Louis University and dedication to the St. Louis community.



See our Match Day stories unfold in our recap video.
slu.edu/medicine/medical-education/md/match-day.php



Manasa Handady, Emily Guagliardo, Shreya Thussu, Mayuri Jayaraman, Jissmaria Karickal, and Jasmine Thakkar gathering to celebrate one another's residency matches.



Aaliyah Sevier-Grogan excitedly opening her MATCH day letter with her classmates.



Megan Halloran celebrating her match in OB/GYN.

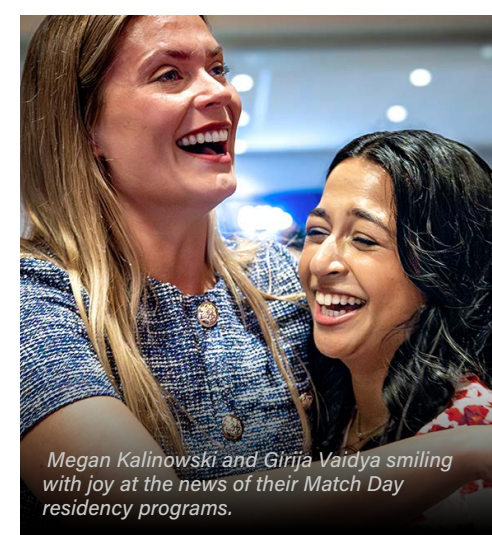
Women made up 52% of the SLU 2025 NRPM Match cohort, earning prestigious residency positions across the country. Four of these outstanding graduates share reflections of their time in medical school, meaningful patient connections, and future aspirations.



slu.edu/news/2025/march/2025-match-day-reflections.php



Olivia Spaedy embracing a family member after receiving her Match.



Megan Kalinowski and Girija Vaidya smiling with joy at the news of their Match Day residency programs.



Jessica Liebich hugging her mother after opening her Match Day letter.

THE FUTURE

Past Alumni Merit Award Recipients

- TONIYA SINGH, M.D.
School of Medicine,
Class of 2000 and 2003
- RAYMOND G. SLAVIN, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1956
- THOMAS P. SHANER, M.D.
College of Arts and Sciences,
Class of 1968; School of Medicine,
Class of 1972
- JEROME V. DWYER, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1985
- BRUCE WOLFE, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1967
- WILLIAM S. SLY, M.D.*
School of Medicine, Class of 1957
- PETER J. DEMPSEY, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1966
- ROBERT J. STANLEY, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1958
- MICHAEL S. HUCKMAN, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1962
- JEFFREY M. LIPTON, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1975
- JOYCE E. DEVINE-WOOLSEY, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1955
- JAMES G. MIDDLETON, M.D.*
School of Medicine, Class of 1959
- ROLAND A. PATTILLO, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1959
- EDWARD A. CHOW, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1963
- EDWARD J. O'BRIEN JR., M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1967
- FREDERICK K. GOODWIN, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1963
- JOHN J. COLLINS JR., M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1957
- RICHARD J. KEMME, M.D.
School of Medicine, Class of 1956
- JONATHAN R. SPICEHANDLER, M.D.*
School of Medicine, Class of 1974

*Indicates a deceased alumnus/alumna

Willman Receives Alumni Merit Award

The Alumni Merit Awards honor graduates who exemplify SLU’s mission through professional, intellectual, and community endeavors. In 2025, the School of Medicine selected Susan Willman, M.D., (Med ’82), for the honor.

Willman is a longtime SLU School of Medicine community member and generous supporter. When she learned about the school’s initiatives to address student depression and anxiety, Willman was inspired to make a lead gift for the creation of WellSPACE, a holistic wellness center for students. Addressing the mental health needs of medical students resonated with her personal recovery from depression.

SLU’s commitment to supporting the mental health needs of medical students is consistent with the Jesuit values of holistic healing.

“While physical healing can restore normal function, it doesn’t always lead to emotional, spiritual, and social healing,” Willman said. “What SLU taught me was a holistic approach to medicine, which meant that healing the patient can be achieved even when there is no physical cure. SLU teaches healing as a mission focused on the whole patient.”

Willman credits SLU for shaping her approach to medicine, but she adds: “It’s just as important for students to learn how to care for themselves.”



“SLU teaches healing as a mission focused on the whole patient.”

— Susan Willman, M.D.

Much of Willman’s time is now spent supporting her daughter, who is also a School of Medicine alumna and a mother of two young children. She looks forward to staying involved with the school in the future.

“Saint Louis University has a strong personal history for me,” Willman said. “I recognize what a tremendous honor this award is and am very grateful.”

Medicine with a Mission: A Vision for Global Impact

For the past 18 years, Michael Brush, M.D., (Med ’00), has worked as a comprehensive ophthalmologist, specializing in cataract surgery, including 11 years as chief of ophthalmology at Kaiser Permanente of Washington. But his impact on the medical community extends far beyond clinical care.

In recent years, Brush has dedicated time to training junior faculty in surgical skills through the Cure Blindness Project, a global nonprofit organization working to end preventable blindness in underserved communities. Amid his travels, his mind regularly drifted back to Saint Louis University.

Years ago, his passion for medicine grew from lectures, clinical rotations, and connections with the SLU community. The University fostered Brush’s sense of curiosity and imparted the skills he continually uses to make a difference.

“Every day, I feel the gratification of restoring vision or saving a patient’s vision — I witness the happiness of my patients,” Brush said. “The next time we see them, they’re already talking about how much better they see. It’s a very satisfying side of medicine.”

Brush recognized that many students, like himself, arrive on campus with a commitment to service and bettering humankind. To support and inspire those who share his passion, he and his wife, A.J. Brush, Ph.D., established the Drs. Michael and A.J. Brush Endowed

Fund for Global Ophthalmology to expand access to hands-on clinical experiences and empower the next generation of compassionate physicians.

This spring, the fund supported its first participant, Koh Bagnon, M.D., chief resident of ophthalmology, who joined Brush on a mission trip to Ghana and received valuable training at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, Ghana, through the Cure Blindness Project.

“It’s about leaving a legacy,” Brush said. “Long after I’m retired and gone, it will still be there to help the next generation.”



Michael Brush, M.D., (Med ’00), scrubbing in alongside his colleague before eye surgery.

“Every day, I feel the gratification of restoring vision or saving a patient’s vision — I witness the happiness of my patients.”

— Michael Brush, M.D.

White Coat Society

The following White Coat Society donors contributed \$2,500 or greater from July 1, 2024 to May 30, 2025. Donations made after this date that are not reflected here are appreciated. For a full list of donors to SLU, please visit giving.slu.edu/honorroll.

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Gorgia Basinski (Nurs ’60)

Christopher (Med ’04) & Beth Bauer

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Frederick (Med ’84) & Pamela-Marie Dore

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Gerald Maguire (Med ’91)

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William Pinsky (Med ’73)

Thomas & Anne (Med ’85) Pittman

Raphael Pollock (Med ’77)

Elaine Pritchard (Med ’82) & Timothy Mahood (A&S ’78, Med ’82)

David (Grad DCHS ’97, ’99) & Andrea Rahija

Matthew (A&S ’77, Med ’82) & Suzanne Riffle

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Kimberly Schiel

Timothy (Med ’02) & Julie (DCHS ’97) Schloss

Jerome (Med ’55) & Elaine Schmidt

James (Med ’85) & Diane Schneider

Eugene* (CSB ’57) & Elaine Schorb

Walter (Med ’85) & Cathy Schroeder

Erin (Med ’01) & Martin* (Med ’01) Schutte

Lester (Med ’57) & Suzanne Schwaegler

John (Med ’69) & Marguerite Scullin

James Sear (Med ’83)

Roberta Secrest (Med ’88)

Angela Sharkey (Med ’86) & Gerard Lauber (Grad E&PS ’85)

Toniya & Inderjit Singh

Dwayne Smith (Med ’79)

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Anne Stewart (Med ’80) & Eldon Trame (Med ’78)

Jay Tureen (Med ’78)

Kirubahara Vaheesan

Mary (E&PS ’71) & Thomas (A&S ’71, Med ’75) Veesser

Karen Hoelzer (Med ’80)

Thomas Vimont (Med ’72)

Andrea Pezzella (Med ’96) & Vincent Vismara (A&S ’93, Med ’97)

Carole Vogler

Abdul Waheed

Peggy (Nurs ’62) & Daniel (Med ’62) Waligora

Jan Garavaglia (A&S ’78, Med ’82) & Mark Wallace (Med ’81)

Bruce & Jean Webber

Andrew (Med ’96) & Adrienne (Law ’96) West

Jule Wetherbee Nelson (Med ’80) & Michael Nelson (A&S ’76, Med ’80)

James & Dana Whalen

Andrew White

John (Med ’60) & Nona White

Richard Whitney (Med ’74)

Deborah (Med ’99) & Jason (Med ’99) Wilbur

Susan Willman (A&S ’78, Med ’82) & Patrick O’Brien

Bruce Wolfe (Med ’67)

Rosemary Yanik

Diana Tsai (Med ’99) & David Yeh (Med ’99)

Alexander Yeh (Med ’98)

Chi Young (Med ’07)

Peter Yu (Med ’63)

Mary Ann Zehnder (Nurs ’68)

* denotes the individual is deceased

In Memoriam

In remembrance of our colleagues who have passed away. The following notices of deaths were received from November 20, 2024 to May 21, 2025.

- Dr. Francis Meier, *Class of 1947*
- Dr. Hugh Mestres, *Class of 1954*
- Dr. Charles Peterson, *Class of 1956*
- Dr. Peter Duhamel, *Class of 1956*
- Dr. James Merk, *Class of 1956*
- Dr. Joe Belew, *Class of 1957*
- Dr. Paul Hein, *Class of 1958*
- Dr. Roy Nomura, *Class of 1959*
- Dr. Robert Brangle, *Class of 1959*
- Dr. Patricia Monteleone, *Class of 1961*
- Dr. Thomas Eggleston, *Class of 1961*
- Dr. Donald Jerome, *Class of 1961*
- Dr. Charles Miceli, *Class of 1974*
- Dr. Alfred Shaplin, *Class of 1976*
- Dr. Gedas Grinis, *Class of 1983*
- Dr. T Vollmar, *Class of 1984*
- Dr. Shawn Statzer, *Class of 1998*

Patricia L. Monteleone, M.D. 1935-2025

Patricia L. Monteleone, M.D., dean emerita of the SLU School of Medicine, passed away on May 4, 2025. She began her studies at SLU in 1953 as an undergraduate and went on to complete her medical degree in pediatrics, specializing in medical genetics, in 1961.



Monteleone dedicated over 45 years to SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital and served SLU for decades in academic medicine. A pioneer and role model for women in the medical field, she held numerous leadership roles, including vice president for Medical Affairs at Cardinal Glennon, interim chair of the Department of Pediatrics, associate dean for Graduate Medical Education and Veterans Affairs, and ultimately, the first female dean of the School of Medicine.

She served as dean for 14 years until her retirement in 2008. During her tenure, she oversaw a restructuring of the school’s curriculum, a threefold increase in extramural research funding, the creation of SLUCare, and the construction of Doisy Research Center.

William S. Sly, M.D. 1932-2025

William S. Sly, M.D., professor emeritus of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, a pioneering physician-scientist in medical genetics and biochemistry, died Saturday, May 31, 2025. He earned his SLU undergraduate degree in 1953 and his medical degree from the School of Medicine in 1957. He continued his training in internal medicine at Washington University in St. Louis and worked in research with the National Institutes of Health.



After 20 years leading the division of medical genetics at Wash U, Sly returned to SLU in 1984 as the Alice A. Doisy Professor and Chairman of the Edward A. Doisy Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He chaired the department for 26 years until his retirement in 2014.

Sly was renowned for identifying mucopolysaccharidosis VII, now known as Sly Syndrome, and for advancing enzyme replacement therapies for lysosomal storage diseases. He also gained attention for his work in a forensic case, where a woman was accused of poisoning her son. Sly and the late James Shoemaker, M.D., conducted their own tests to prove the presence of a genetic disease, leading to the woman’s innocence.

His mentorship and leadership left a lasting legacy at SLU, and Sly was honored through the establishment of the William S. Sly Centennial Chair in 2021.

Read more about his life, scientific accomplishments, and legacy.
slu.edu/news/2025/june/william-sly-obituary.php

GET ENGAGED

With SLU School of Medicine

SLU School of Medicine Reunion

Attention alumni from the classes with graduation years ending in 5 or 0, 2025 is your reunion year!

Join us October 16-18, 2025, at Saint Louis University School of Medicine to connect with your fellow classmates. A block of rooms has been reserved at The Royal Sonesta Chase Park Plaza.



For more information and to become involved with your class’s planning committee, please visit slu.edu/medreunion.



Dean Christine Jacobs, M.D., pictured alongside medical school graduates at the 2024 Med Reunion weekend.

Gwendolyn Ruth Peiper Endowment for Music In Medicine Piano Concert

Join us for the Music in Medicine Piano Concert on October 16, 2025, from 6-8 p.m. in the School of Medicine Learning Resource Center, Pitlyk Auditorium. Please register at engage.slu.edu/register/musicinmed25.

Continuing Medical Education Opportunities

Saint Louis University School of Medicine’s Continuing Medical Education (CME) program delivers high-quality, evidence-based education to enhance patient care within participants’ practice areas.

Stay informed about upcoming courses, on-demand content, and the Regularly Scheduled Series (RSS) calendar at slu.cloud-cme.com.

Starting in July 2025, the RSS calendar will highlight which Grand Rounds are open to alumni — watch for this new feature!

Stay Connected

We are interested in our graduates' news and accomplishments, both personal and professional. We encourage you to update your contact information so we may keep you informed about reunions, events in your area, and news from SLU School of Medicine. You can update your information online at engage.slu.edu/register/stayconnected or email som-deansoffice@health.slu.edu

Opportunities to Engage with Our Students

Saint Louis University School of Medicine students are often interested in opportunities to meet with alumni. From mentoring to networking, we would like to hear how you are available to connect with students. Please complete our brief survey by scanning the QR code to the right.



How can we better serve you?
Contact christine.winter.1@health.slu.edu with your comments and recommendations.



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Please consider a gift to support the School of Medicine and these **important initiatives**:

A gift to the School of Medicine Annual Fund allows us to designate funds as needed, ensuring key priorities receive the funding to succeed.

A gift to the White Coat Scholarship Fund will help lower the cost barriers for our students who rely on scholarships to achieve their dream of a SLU School of Medicine education.

A gift to the Health Sciences Building Fund will help transform the medical school, providing an excellent learning environment that attracts, engages, and challenges learners.



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