



2022 Trailblazers

By Wesley Wilson



Wilson

The Trailblazer Award for Excellence in Medical Student Education recognizes our faculty's time and effort to educate future physicians. Nominated by their peers, recipients of the award are recognized as effective teachers who engage, inspire and mentor learners, demonstrate teaching innovations in curriculum design and serve as a catalyst for enhancing teaching and learning.

This academic year, the School of Medicine honors 25 faculty, including the Trailblazer of the Year, who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence and innovation in undergraduate medical education.

In addition, the award committee awards one Trailblazer Teaching Award recipient the Trailblazer of the Year award. The committee members are pleased to announce that this year, Dr. Osman Athar, an assistant

professor of psychiatry at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, has been selected as the School of Medicine's Trailblazer of the Year.

Dr. Athar received his medical degree from the McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas Health Science Center. He then had residency training in Psychiatry at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, where he was Chief Resident. Following residency, he completed a fellowship in consultation-liaison psychiatry at Louisiana State University/Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Since joining the faculty, Dr. Athar has assumed increasing responsibilities for training medical students, including serving as course director

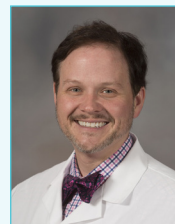
for Medical Neuroscience and Behavior III. As course director, he has demonstrated his passion for academic medicine through thoughtful and intentional innovations to improve the overall educational experience of third-year medical schools.

2022 Trailblazer Award Recipients

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Osman Athar, MD | Jarrett Morgan, MD |
| Elena Dent, PhD | Vinayak Nahar, MD, PhD |
| Michael Hall, MD | Allen Richert, MD |
| Clark Henegan, MD | Stan Smith, PhD |
| Zeb Henson, MD | Jose "Pepe" Subauste, MD |
| Bryan Hierlmeier, MD | Emily Tarver, MD |
| Nick Hoda, MD | Jenner Tiscareno, MD |
| Candace Howard-Claudio, MD, PhD | Marc Walker, MD |
| Brett Jeter, MD | Brandon Weatherly, MD |
| Daniel Kennedy, MD | Lyssa Weatherly, MD |
| Jessie Lavender, MD | Charletta Wright, MD |
| Lance Majors, MD | Kathy Yee, PhD |
| Chawla LaToya Mason, MD | |

The School of Medicine Takes Our SEAtS

By Dr. David Norris



Norris

In an effort to use technology to ease the administrative burden on faculty and staff, improve tracking of student performance and engagement, and provide early warning for learners having difficulties, the School of Medicine is excited to implement the SEAtS software for the foundational sciences program. This software uses course schedules to take attendance using student cell phones or tablets and beacons installed in the lecture halls. With a

quick click of a button, students can document their presence. In other rooms on campus, faculty and course administrators can use QR codes or turn their own cellular phones into beacons to accomplish the same tasks. Management of the schedule in SEAtS will automatically update Canvas calendars as well.

SEAtS can also track student activity in Canvas and notify the academic counselor if there is a sudden drop in engagement, allowing for early detection and intervention for problems such as physical and mental health challenges. Finally, the software allows for easy documentation of student concerns, separate from MedHub. This could range from simple documentation that a student was late one day to documentation of more serious intervention meetings. This information will be available to the dean's office if needed, but will not form part of the MSCPE (e.g., the Dean's Letter) unless a pattern emerges or other actions are taken by the Medical Student Honor Council, Dean's Council, or Promotions Committee. Faculty will finally have a place to log concerns without worrying that being late one day will have a negative effect on the student's future prospects.

The full potential of the software will be phased in during the 2022-23 academic year. Clinical clerkships who wish to utilize the software will have the option to implement it as well.

School of Medicine Mission Statement

The University of Mississippi School of Medicine is committed to training skilled and compassionate physicians to provide high quality and equitable health care particularly to the state's residents, including diverse and underserved populations. The school prepares learners to provide excellent care through programs of innovative education, state-of-the-art research and comprehensive clinical practice.

Culinary Medicine Program



Jacobs

The UMMC Culinary Medicine Program (CMP) provides evidence-based nutrition education to teach students about the relationships between diet and disease for the treatment and management of both chronic and acute conditions. CMP classes are currently taught using pop-up stations

in the Student Union, but plans are underway to expand and enhance the program with the inclusion of a state-of-the-art Teaching Kitchen.

Thanks to funding from the Bower Foundation, plans are currently underway to renovate space in the UMMC Student Union. The Teaching Kitchen team has met regularly with a contract architectural firm to design the space, and received feedback and

guidance from national consultants on best practices. The new space will accommodate up to 25 students per session and offer a combination of didactics and hands-on classes. The Teaching Kitchen will be an integral component to the SOM longitudinal nutrition curriculum and provide a unique learning opportunity to increase students' understanding of how diet may both contribute to and be used to address disease. The program's overall goal is to improve health outcomes and dietary behaviors of patients and practitioners alike across Mississippi. Construction on the Teaching Kitchen is scheduled to begin in Fall 2022.



Symposium on Rural Medical Education

The University of Mississippi School of Medicine is hosting a statewide rural medicine education symposium. The theme for this symposium is 'The Good, The Bad, and The Difficult in Rural Medical Education.' Physician educators contribute to improving the health of the public by delivering care to patients and developing excellent and comprehensive educational programs along the continuum of medical education, including for students, residents, fellows, and other physicians. You may register using the Symposium Registration Link.

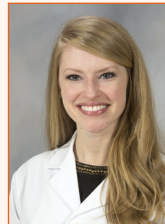
Currently, these best practices are developed and discussed separately. Through this symposium, we will gather those best practices by delivering a comprehensive forum for discussion.

Educators and trainees of rural medicine will be able to:

1. Evaluate facets of the continuum of rural medical education.
2. Incorporate new tools in the educational process.
3. Integrate existing best practices and data to apply to the continued enhancement and development of rural educational programs.
4. Develop a framework for the growth and evolution of the state's rural medical education process.



Faculty Development Session



Weatherly

The 2022 SOM Faculty Development Series begins in March with its first session, Effective Feedback. Dr. Lyssa Weatherly will present at noon on March 7, virtually. The link will be shared via the SOM listserv. Here is a brief description of the session:

Feedback on performance is necessary for learning to occur. Still, medical students consistently report that they do not receive enough feedback in a timely manner to have time to learn and demonstrate improvement. Faculty often may feel uncomfortable offering feedback that could be viewed as critical, may lack the skills to provide high-quality, useable feedback, or may feel that

they do not have the necessary time. This session focuses on evidence-based strategies for the provision of high-quality, accurate, and actionable feedback to learners in a busy environment.



Clinical Vignette Writing Circle Paused

The Office of Medical Education has paused the Clinical Vignette Writing Circle (CVWC) and canceled all planned sessions through June. This pause will be used to restructure the CVWC to meet faculty needs while considering faculty constraints. Your feedback is needed to ensure that this effort is effective. Send your suggestions on how to facilitate faculty development in writing clinical vignettes especially in assessments used in the preclinical curriculum to [Dr. Lecretia A. Buckley](#).

