

MENTORS  
HELPED  
LAUNCH HIS  
AWARD-  
WINNING  
CAREER.

NOW, IT'S  
HIS TURN.

***Alumnus Colin Pritchard's genetic research career and his gift to help future researchers.***

**C**olin Pritchard, PhD '05, MD '07, Res. '10, Fel. '11, was a second-year medical student when he discovered his lifelong passion: genomic research, or the study of the genome and how genes interact with each other and the environment.

Researchers, he learned, were using advanced DNA microarray technologies to develop diagnostic tests for genetic indicators of cancer risk in patients.

"I was drawn to the idea that we could test thousands of genes and gene fragments at once to profile cancers and apply that to clinical practice," Pritchard says.

*continued inside ...*



# WELCOME TO YOUR ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



## HELLO!

We're excited to share with you the first issue of our new, annual print newsletter, just

for University of Washington School of Medicine alumni.

In this publication, we highlight the achievements of your fellow alumni, give updates on the School and share the latest news from your classmates. Your engagement and support not only strengthens this incredible community, but helps to prepare tomorrow's healthcare providers for careers in medicine.

We all continue to face many professional and personal challenges. Yet I'm inspired by the stories I hear of the caring, excellence and resilience that each of you bring to your work every day. Across our region, the nation and the world, UW School of Medicine alumni are helping to make our communities healthier, and I am so honored to count you all as fellow alumni.

Let us know what you think of your new alumni newsletter! Please send your comments to [medalum@uw.edu](mailto:medalum@uw.edu).

Sincerely,

Scott Stuart, MD '01, Res. '04,  
Chief Res. '05  
President, UW School of Medicine  
Alumni Association

...continued from cover

Pritchard joined the lab of Nelson Fausto, MD, then the chair of UW Medicine's Department of Pathology. He also sought out mentors like Peter Nelson, MD, of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, who was applying microarray technologies to study the genetics of prostate cancers.

"It became increasingly clear that I wanted to pursue a laboratory medicine career focused on genetics in cancer," Pritchard says.

### A career of collaboration

As Pritchard began his UW Medicine residency in 2008, three major genetic discoveries were shaping cancer research.

First, mutations in the *KRAS* gene — which contributes to cancer growth by accelerating cell division — inhibited drug treatments in 50% of colon cancer cases.

Second, mutations in a gene called *EGFR* could predict how well drug treatments would work for certain types of lung cancer.

Third, mutations in the *BRAF* gene, common in melanoma and other cancers, could determine a patient's responsiveness to treatment.

These discoveries created an urgent need for tests to identify patients with these mutations. Knowing a patient's predisposition to cancer would help physicians quickly treat early-stage cancer or even prevent the disease.

Pritchard and his mentors were instrumental in developing diagnostic tests for each of these three genes. Based on the BROCA cancer risk gene panel developed

by Mary-Claire King, PhD, and Tom Walsh, PhD, Pritchard's team created the ColoSeq™ Tumor Panel test to detect genetic risk factors in colon cancer. They also launched the UW-OncoPlex™ Tumor Test, which assesses over 350 genes and their mutations for cancerous tissue.

Today, Pritchard co-directs the UW Medicine Genetics and Solid Tumors Laboratory and is the head of precision diagnostics at the Brotman Baty Institute.

Looking back, he realized that mentorship and collaborations helped launch his career. Pritchard wanted to make similar opportunities possible for other students.

### The future of precision medicine

In 2021, Pritchard received Scientific American's Catalyst for Precision Medicine Award. To pay it forward, he donated the \$50,000 prize to UW Medicine students in the Medical Scientist Training Program who are pursuing molecular cancer diagnostics research.

"I have been so lucky to benefit from the people at UW Medicine and its partners," Pritchard says. "By welcoming more students, I hope to mentor them and contribute to fostering new cancer research leaders."

Pritchard and his team look forward to the future of genetics and oncology research.

"We are only scratching the surface of what's possible for precision medicine and cancer research," Pritchard says.

Read more about Dr. Pritchard's work in genomic medicine at [uwmedalumni.org/pritchard](http://uwmedalumni.org/pritchard)

# PRIORITIZING NATIVE HEALTH



For many American Indians and Alaska Natives, it's difficult to find a doctor who understands their culture or background, in part because there are few Native physicians. They also face profound health inequities and systemic barriers to accessing care.

The UW School of Medicine is working to reduce these barriers by training physicians for careers in American Indian and Alaska Native health through the Indian Health Pathway curriculum.



"We can augment the number of Indigenous physicians who are caring for these

communities and non-Native allies who are destined to work in Indian Country," says Jason Deen, MD, FAAP (Blackfeet), director of the Indian Health Pathway.

Students in the Indian Health Pathway study the history of Native medical developments, systemic inequities in healthcare and providing culturally humble care in reservation-based practices. They engage in community service, work on an American Indian or Alaska Native research project and complete clerkships on traditional Indian medicine and Indian health, which often influences their careers.

Nationwide, only a few of these programs exist. The strength of the Pathway program, and the number of Native faculty, is the primary reason many Native students choose the UW School of Medicine.



Anna May, a fourth-year medical student (Laguna Pueblo and Navajo) from Maple Valley,

Washington, grew up without knowledge of her language or traditions because of historical trauma. She wasn't always sure where she fit in, but she knew she wanted to be a doctor and help Native communities.

"The Indian Health Pathway is an opportunity for me to continue my learning in Indian health and in how to best serve my relatives. I've learned how care differs for Native people and the considerations you need to have when caring for this population," says May.

Deen hopes the Indian Health Pathway can serve as a model for other medical schools to help address the need for more Native primary care providers, researchers and leadership across Indian Country.

Read more about the Pathway at [give.uwmedicine.org/ihp](https://give.uwmedicine.org/ihp)

# CREATING A LASTING LEGACY

Our alumni have impacted medicine in many ways — from breakthroughs in research and care to training the next generation of physicians. Another way alumni are creating a lasting legacy is through a planned gift to the UW School of Medicine.

Take James Monahan, MD '58, who wanted to pay forward an extraordinary gift. During a post-high school trip to South America, he became friends with a fellow traveler, who made him a generous offer.

"She knew of my interest in medicine, and she said, 'Jim, if you can make it into medical school, I'll pay for it,'" says Monahan. "It really opened up my career. I don't know whether I could have done it without that financial help."

He'd never forgotten this generosity, and he wanted to help future medical students with their education. So he made a bequest in his will establishing a scholarship fund in her honor.

"It was very easy to set up in my will," says Monahan. "She helped

me so greatly, and I have set up a scholarship account on her behalf to thank her."

Richard Baerg, MD '65, benefited from scholarships during medical school and likewise wanted to pay it forward. He decided to support the Class of 1965 Endowed Scholarship Fund through an existing IRA.

The process was simple and convenient, says Baerg, and making a gift with an IRA can have tax benefits for donors. "Giving through your IRA is a great way to do charitable gifts," he says. "It's unbelievably easy."

If you'd like to explore building your legacy through a planned gift, visit [give.uwmedicine.org/legacy](https://give.uwmedicine.org/legacy), or contact Mary Susan Wilson, senior director for planned giving, at [mwilson@uw.edu](mailto:mwilson@uw.edu) or 206.221.6172.



Your UW School of Medicine  
**ONLINE REUNION WEEKEND**  
Friday, June 3–Saturday, June 4, 2022  
[uwsomreunion.org](https://uwsomreunion.org)

Celebrating the classes of 1952 (E-48) · 1957 (E-53) · 1962 (E-58) · 1967 (E-63) · 1972 (E-68) · 1977 (E-73) · 1982 (E-78) · 1987 (E-83) · 1992 (E-88) · 1997 (E-93) · 2002 (E-98) · 2007 (E-03) · 2012 (E-08) · 2017 (E-13) and the 50-Year Association

# Class Notes

Where UW School of Medicine alumni share stories and accomplishments.  
Submit a note at [uwmedalumni.org/classnotes](http://uwmedalumni.org/classnotes) or [medalum@uw.edu](mailto:medalum@uw.edu).

## MD

**Manus C. Kraff, MD '57**, writes, "I retired on September 30, 2021, 60 years after finishing residency (6/31/1961). I am in good health — work out daily, read a book a week and I'm interested in working in the longevity clinic. I have five children, 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Life is great. UW started it all for me. I was still visiting Seattle yearly until COVID-19 — looking to return this year!"

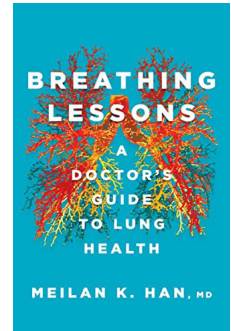
**Henry Kleinberg, MD '58**, writes, "I retired from Kaiser in 2019 after 62 years as an interventional radiologist. Four children and five grandchildren. Sold Primordial Sloop after 31 years of racing on San Francisco Bay."

**Anthony L. Komaroff, MD '67**, is still a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. He ended his practice of general internal medicine six years ago and now spends all of his time on research: NIH-funded studies of myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome, and the similar illness ("long COVID-19") seen following COVID-19, as well as illnesses linked to human herpesvirus-6. He has also organized a program to mentor middle school and high school students interested in careers in healthcare.

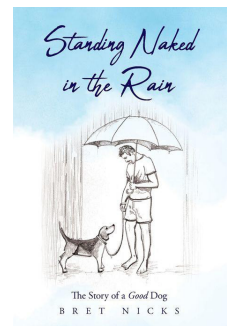


*Henry Kleinberg, MD '58*

**Jonathan K. Porter, MD '82**, writes, "Four years ago, I took a new position as founding medical director of the Comprehensive Pain Program at the University of Vermont Medical Center. Individuals experiencing chronic pain attend weekly 90-minute group sessions framed around acceptance and commitment therapy and medical group visits framed around cornerstones of mindfulness, spirituality, self-compassion, connection and community. During the 16-week program, participants have access to integrative therapies including acupuncture, craniosacral therapy, massage, reiki, psychologically informed physical therapy, nutrition and culinary medicine, EMDR and hypnotherapy. Pre/post outcomes including comfort, quality of life and system utilization/financial costs to date are very positive."



*MeiLan K. Han, MD '99*



*Bret A. Nicks, MD '01*

**MeiLan K. Han, MD '99**, is a professor of pulmonary medicine at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. She does research with, and is a spokesperson for, the American Lung Association. In 2021, Dr. Han published a book on lung health, *Breathing Lessons: A Doctor's Guide to Lung Health*.

**Bret A. Nicks, MD '01**, writes, "Happy 2022! I just published a book — *Standing Naked in the Rain* — and it is now available online. It's about Toby, a beloved Labrador-hound mix, and the laughter, tears and lessons that come from each exciting

adventure on his life's journey. These short stories pay tribute to the unconditional love and unmatched loyalty of our four-legged family members, reminding us that treasured gifts aren't always wrapped in a box, and sometimes an old dog can still teach us a few new tricks. Some levity to start out the new year is just what the doctor ordered."

**Preetkamal N. Singh Cheema, MD '11, PhD**, writes, "Keeping it local at University of Washington Valley Medical Center, recently appointed as medical director of Valley Women's Healthcare OB-GYN!"

#### **MSTP (MD/PhD)**

**Joseph T. Ho, MD '06, PhD '04**, writes, "I retired from clinical neurosurgery, including medical directorship roles. Now enjoying family time, teaching part-time and volunteering at a free clinic, doing medicine the way we all wanted by just taking care of patients without worrying about billing and only documenting what is clinically necessary. Also, pursuing an MBA and considering

working in industry or becoming a 'suit' for a change of pace to see if it is any fun."

#### **PhD**

**Howard A. Young, PhD '74**, received the inaugural Mentoring Award from the International Cytokine & Interferon Society for his many years of promoting and supporting research in cytokines and interferons throughout the biomedical research community.

#### **MEDEX**

**Elizabeth M. Lykins, PA-C (Seattle Class 28)**, writes, "The past couple of years have been challenging for all of us, but these challenges have given me the unique opportunity to reflect on my life and who I really want to be. I have chosen to share my expertise in a broader scope than that of being a medical provider in urgent care in central California. While I continue to practice medicine, I have authored a mindfulness-based book of meditations, titled Reflections on Transcendence, featuring the fine art paintings of the late Steven D.

Lyons. I am also the publisher of a mindfulness-based, quarterly digital magazine, Magnificent Metamorphosis Magazine. My mission with these publications has been to offer simple tools that empower others to come to the realization that happiness comes from within and is not dependent on life circumstances. This endeavor has certainly changed the way I view difficult circumstances. Living life one moment at a time has become my best teacher."

#### **Res./Fel.**

**Robert A. Gutman, MD, Res. '66 (internal medicine), Chief Res. '69**, and **Laura E. Gutman, MD, MS '68 (epidemiology), Res. '69 (pediatrics)**, write, "Laurie and I met on the first day of internship in the laundry while on 'the tour.' She trained in pediatrics and infectious disease and I in internal medicine and nephrology. We recall with love such people as Wedgewood, Dorfman, Scribner. We came to Duke in 1971 and are now retired, healthy and living in Durham. It has been a really good life, and we attribute much of it to UW. We have been highly regarded as good teachers."

**Carlos A. Gutierrez, MD, Res. '80 (pediatrics)**, writes, "From the time I was exposed to a true free-standing children's hospital in my third year of medical school, and subsequently completing my three-year pediatrics residency at Seattle Children's Hospital, I knew that my goal as a pediatrician would be to lead the effort to build my community of El Paso, Texas, its first free-standing, not-for-profit children's hospital. I began my fight in 1980 (I

## **ALUMNI-DESIGNED EHR APP IMPROVES PATIENT CARE**

**Erik Van Eaton, MD '01, Fel. '05, Res. '08, Fel. '09**, has designed CORES Notify, a platform that aims to improve patient care through electronic health record (EHR) workflows. Developed through the UW spinout company TransformativeMed Inc., with help from many residency and fellowship alumni who helped hone and test the tool over the years, the CORES app synchronizes information from mobile to desktop, giving clinical teams rapid access to real-time, specialty-specific data. The tool also helps to streamline patient handoffs and discharge planning.



Elizabeth M. Lykins, PA-C (Seattle Class 28)

was 30 years old at the time). Our own El Paso Children's Hospital eventually opened its doors on February 14, 2012. We celebrated 10 years as a free-standing children's hospital in our community in February 2022. I take immense pride every time I walk into our beautiful hospital, knowing that I was a major force in helping to make this wonderful dream a reality. Seattle Children's Hospital is a major reason that our hospital became a reality. It was at this amazing facility that I picked up many of the ideas that we set in place in establishing our hospital. Their training and support gave me the fight and energy to pursue my dream for 32 years of my life. Finally, it was the tremendous experience and training at Seattle Children's that allowed me to be known in our community as the 'Father of the El Paso Children's Hospital.' Thank you to the University of Washington School



Robert A. Gutman, MD, Res. '66 (internal medicine), Chief Res. '69, and Laura E. Gutman, MD, MS '68 (epidemiology), Res. '69 (pediatrics)

of Medicine, and thank you to Seattle Children's Hospital for allowing me to train and learn at your excellent medical center."

**PT/OT**

**Troy C. Shelton, BS '96 (occupational therapy)**, writes, "My occupational therapy practice has spanned worldwide in the past year, and I have incorporated a more holistic approach to occupational therapy and hand therapy. I have added functional medicine and energy medicine and was featured on BlogTalkRadio out



Troy C. Shelton, BS '96 (occupational therapy)

of New York. I was also nominated occupational therapist of the year for 2022 by the International Association of Top Professionals and will be honored at the Bellagio Hotel in December. The picture is of my family."

**STAY CONNECTED**

Every month we share an email that features news about alumni, the UW School of Medicine and healthcare. Make sure we have your email so you never miss out.

[uwmedalumni.org/connect](http://uwmedalumni.org/connect)



# THE HEART OF A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Cecelia Villa's family taught her the importance of education — and giving back.

Current medical student Cecelia Villa was the first in her family to go to medical school, but she grew up with role models who taught her the importance of education, and giving back, early on.

“My mom always had us volunteering,” says Villa. “We’re supposed to be in the community helping each other.”

Through these lessons, Villa found her calling in medicine. She had a community of support

in the UW School of Medicine’s WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana and Idaho) program in Spokane.

With an emphasis on inclusion and addressing community care gaps, the WWAMI program attracts diverse applicants — and the generosity of scholarship donors is critical in helping these students achieve their dreams.

“I’ve relied very heavily on scholarships my whole education. If I didn’t, I couldn’t go to school,” Villa says.

Villa says scholarships help eliminate stereotypes about who can practice medicine. “It brings equity by helping people like me realize we have the potential and can do things that we couldn’t normally afford.”

Soon, Villa will be ready to apply the lessons learned in school and life as she cares for our community.

Read more about Cecelia at [give.uwmedicine.org/villa](https://give.uwmedicine.org/villa)

## SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

You know firsthand the importance of an excellent education for future physicians — to them and to the communities they will serve. Yet there are so many young people like Cecelia who have the potential to become medical leaders, but find medical school financially out of reach. With your gift to MD scholarships, you can help future healthcare leaders *and* their communities.



**MAKE A GIFT**  
by scanning this QR code  
or give online at:

[give.uwmedicine.org/  
alumni2022](https://give.uwmedicine.org/alumni2022)