

MICHAEL J. WOLK '60, MD,  
CONFERENCE ON  
MEDICAL EDUCATION

PRACTICING MEDICINE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

OCTOBER 28-29, 2022



COLGATE UNIVERSITY  
Hamilton, NY

Welcome to the 2022 Michael J. Wolk '60, MD, Conference on Medical Education. This year's program will provide information on U.S. and global health care experiences through keynote speakers and panelists from an array of health care professions and organizations. Presenters include alumni and friends of the Colgate community.

This conference is an exceptional platform to learn about the medical field, and it is co-sponsored by the Michael Wolk Heart Foundation and Colgate University's Robert H.N. Ho '56 Mind, Brain, and Behavior Initiative.

### **A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE 2022 CONFERENCE PRESENTERS:**

**Kenneth Belanger**, Russell Colgate Distinguished University Professor of Biology

**Heather Bernard**, DNP, Community Memorial Hospital

**Jeffrey Coakley**, MBA, President and CEO, Community Memorial Hospital

**Lauren Colquitt '16**, MS2, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

**Emily Damuth '04**, MD, Assistant Program Director, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

**Jennifer Dias '16**, MS3, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**Julie Dunckel**, PT, Community Memorial Hospital

**Garrett Esper '18**, MS4, SUNY Upstate Medical University

**Gerald D. Fischbach**, MD, Distinguished Scientist and Fellow, Simons Foundation

**Ruth L. Fischbach**, PhD, Professor of Bioethics, Columbia University

**Kristen Goodell**, MD, Associate Dean for Admissions, Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine

**Nicole Hawkins '14**, Occupational Therapist, New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center

**Scot Ioset**, DDS, Hamilton Dental

**Jake Kleinmahon '07**, MD, Medical Director, Pediatric Heart Transplant, Heart Failure and Ventricular Assist Device Programs, Ochsner Hospital for Children

**Adam Kurish '04**, MD, Primary Care Private Practice

**Edna K. Akoto Osei '05**, MD, FAAP, General Pediatrician, William F. Ryan Community Health Center

**Olivia Preston '19**, MS2, SUNY Upstate Medical University

**Oneida Shushe '19**, DS3, SUNY University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine

**Katherine Stebbins '17**, MD, PGY1, SUNY Upstate Medical University

**Mallory Wagner '15**, Pediatric Genetic Counselor, University of Michigan

**Zachary Walsh '18**, MS3, Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons

**Michael J. Wolk '60**, MD, Cardiologist and Clinical Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

All events take place in Persson Auditorium, 027 Persson Hall unless otherwise indicated.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

- 4–6 p.m.**                    **Registration**  
*Persson Auditorium Lobby, Persson Hall*
- 4:15–4:30 p.m.**           **Welcome**  
*Persson Auditorium, 027 Persson Hall*  
Lesleigh Cushing, PhD, Provost and Dean of the Faculty; Murray W. and Mildred K. Finard Professor in Jewish Studies; and Professor of Religion
- 4:30–5:20 p.m.**           **Keynote: Plasticity In the Aging Brain: Hope for Rejuvenation**  
Gerald Fischbach '60, MD, Distinguished Scientist and Fellow, Simons Foundation  
INTRODUCTION: Dr. Merrill Miller, University Physician
- 5:25–5:40 p.m.**           **Keynote: The Future of MBBI at Colgate**  
Kenneth Belanger, Russell Colgate Distinguished University Professor of Biology
- 5:45–6:20 p.m.**           **Keynote: The Crisis in American Health Care: Challenges and Opportunities**  
Michael J. Wolk '60, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College  
INTRODUCTION: Dr. Merrill Miller, University Physician
- 6:30–6:45 p.m.**           **Community Memorial Hospital: Challenges and Opportunities**  
Jeffrey Coakley, MBA, President and CEO, Community Memorial Hospital  
INTRODUCTION: Dr. Merrill Miller, University Physician
- 6:45–6:55 p.m.**           **Questions and Answers**  
MODERATOR: Dr. Merrill Miller, University Physician
- 7:15 p.m.**                    **Reception for Wolk Presenters and Panelists (hors d'oeuvres and beverages)**  
*Benton Hall*

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

- 7:45 a.m.–3 p.m.**           **Registration**  
*Golden Auditorium Lobby, Little Hall*
- 7:30–8:25 a.m.**           **Breakfast**  
*Second-Floor Lobby, Little Hall*
- 8:30–9:30 a.m.**           **Panel of Physicians From Various Specialties**  
*Golden Auditorium, 105 Little Hall*  
Emily Damuth '04, MD, Critical Care Medicine and Emergency Medicine  
Jake Kleinmahon '07, MD, Pediatric Cardiology, Pediatric Heart Transplant Medicine  
Adam Kurish '04, MD, Internal Medicine and Pediatric Medicine  
Edna Akoto Osei '05, MD, Pediatric Medicine  
MODERATOR: Julie Chanatry, PhD, Chair, Health Sciences Advising Committee

- 9:45–10:30 a.m.**      **Presentation: Bearing Witness to Suffering: How the Coronavirus Pandemic is Transforming Critical Care Medicine**  
Emily Damuth '04, MD  
INTRODUCTION: Kenneth Belanger
- 10:30–11 a.m.**      **Presentation: Informed Consent — Its History and Its Importance Now More Than Ever**  
Ruth Fischbach, PhD, Professor of Bioethics, Columbia University  
INTRODUCTION: Kenneth Belanger
- 11–11:15 a.m.**      **Questions and Answers**
- 11:15 a.m.–12 p.m.**      **Panel of Health Care Professions**  
Heather Bernard, DNP, RN, CIC, FAPIC, Vice President of Nursing and Clinical Services, Community Memorial Hospital  
Julie Dunckel, Physical Therapist, Director of Rehabilitation Services, Community Memorial Hospital  
Nicole Hawkins '14, MS, Occupational Therapist  
Scot Ioset, DDS, Hamilton Dental  
Mallory Wagner '15, MS, Genetic Counselor  
MODERATOR: James Reed, Assistant Director of Career Development, Health and Wellness Career Advisor, Colgate University Career Services
- 12:15–1:30 p.m.**      **Lunch: Small-Group Discussions With Physicians and Other Health Care Professionals**  
*Second-Floor Lobby, Little Hall*
- 1:45–2:45 p.m.**      **Presentation**  
Kristen Goodell, MD, Associate Dean of Admissions and Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine  
MODERATOR: Julie Chanatry, PhD, Chair, Health Sciences Advising Committee
- 2:50–3:55 p.m.**      **A Day In the Life of Medical Students and Residents**  
Lauren Colquitt '16, MS2  
Jennifer Dias '16, MS3  
Garrett Esper '18, MS4  
Olivia Preston '19, MS2  
Oneida Shushe '19, DS3  
Katherine Stebbins '17, MD, PGY1 OB/GYN  
Zachary Walsh '18, MS3  
MODERATOR: Julie Chanatry, PhD, Chair, Health Sciences Advising Committee
- 3:55 p.m.**      **Summary and Adjourn**  
Michael J. Wolke '60, MD

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

## **Kenneth Belanger, PhD**

Dr. Belanger is the Russell Colgate Distinguished University Professor in the Colgate University Department of Biology, where he teaches courses in molecular, cellular, and developmental biology. His research focuses on environmental factors influencing the gut microbiome, including how mild traumatic brain injury alters the gut and how gut microbes may impact recovery from brain trauma. Belanger earned his BA from Luther College in 1990 and a PhD from Duke University in 1996.

## **Heather Bernard, DNP, RN, CIC, FAPIC**

Dr. Bernard provides mentorship and guidance to nursing leaders and assigned patient care departments. She is responsible for enhancing clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction and improving quality and patient safety. Bernard brings a strong background in managing and preventing infectious diseases, previously serving as a regional infection control specialist in New York with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Foundation. Leading the regional epidemiology program response to COVID-19 across the state, she was recognized for her mitigation work with a significant outbreak in a hospital.

Prior to her time with the CDC, Bernard worked in the Mohawk Valley Health Systems Network as the director of infection prevention. Bernard worked with evidence-based programs to address infection prevention and collaborated with multidisciplinary teams to improve quality measures including falls, pressure ulcers, bedside rounding, and health care-associated infections. A longtime Hamilton resident, Bernard has returned to where she started her career in nursing 25 years ago to serve as Community Memorial's vice president of nursing and clinical services.

## **Jeffrey Coakley, MBA**

Coakley holds a bachelor's degree from Oswego State University and earned his MBA from Le Moyne College. He also completed the Academy for Healthcare Leadership Advancement certificate program, offered by the Healthcare Association of New York State and Cornell University, and was named a rural health care worker of the year in 2013 by the New York State Association for Rural Health. Coakley is responsible for the overall leadership of Community Memorial Hospital and all aspects of the strategic, operational, and financial performance. He is also responsible for clinical quality. Coakley came to Community Memorial Hospital from Oswego Health, where he had been for 23 years, most recently serving as chief operating officer.

## **Lauren Colquitt '16**

Colquitt is a second-year medical student at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where she serves on the executive board of the Building Lasting Anatomical Skills Together program. She is also a community service chair of the medical school's chapter of the Student National Medical Association. After graduating from Colgate in 2016, Colquitt was a lab manager in a taste genetics lab at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia. Before starting medical school, Colquitt earned a master's in physiology at Georgetown University. Outside of participating in various school initiatives, she spends time drawing anatomical structures and playing soccer, volleyball, and kickball with classmates.

## **Emily Damuth '04, MD**

Dr. Damuth received her medical degree from the University of Michigan and trained in emergency medicine at Duke University Medical Center before completing a fellowship in critical care medicine at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, N.J. She is an assistant professor of medicine and emergency medicine and splits her clinical time between the emergency

department and the intensive care unit. Damuth is an assistant program director for the critical care medicine fellowship and a career adviser at Cooper Medical School of Rowan University. She is passionate about medical education and received the Golden Apple Teaching Award in 2019 and the Diane Barton Caring Award in 2020; in 2022, she was named the Critical Care Teaching Faculty of the Year and was inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society as a faculty member. While at Colgate, she was a co-captain of the women's basketball team.

### **Jennifer Dias '16**

Dias is a third-year MD candidate at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. She leads efforts to implement anti-racist initiatives, cultivate community, and conduct clinical research in high-risk, underserved groups. She recently dedicated a research gap year to design, implement, and manage a Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation-funded project, Anti-Racist Transformation in Med Ed, to address racism in medical education. This year, she also was a research trainee in endocrinology at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, working with women with recent pregnancy complications. Dias has shared her work with *Good Morning America*, the National Academy of Science, and *Color Code* podcast. At Colgate, Dias was on the varsity track and field team. Between college and medical school, she was a research assistant at Brigham and Women's Hospital, developing web-based interventions for women with a history of preeclampsia and gestational diabetes. She enjoys singing and boxing in her free time.

### **Julie Dunckel, PT**

Dunckel graduated from Ithaca College in 1987 with a degree in physical therapy. She spent her final year training at Montefiore Medical Center and Hospital for Special Surgery and then began her career as an acute care therapist at Saint Joseph's Medical Center in Yonkers, N.Y. From there, Dunckel worked her way closer to family working at Corning Hospital and Founders Pavilion. She and her spouse eventually settled in the Hamilton area. She became a part of the Community Memorial Hospital family in 1994. Dunckel considers it a privilege to provide physical therapy services to the members of the community in a high-quality facility and is proud to lead a staff that is focused on providing the best possible evidence-based care.

### **Garrett Esper '18**

Esper is in his fourth year of medical school at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, N.Y. He is applying for a residency position in orthopedic surgery. Esper recently completed a research year in the orthopedic department trauma division at New York University Langone Health in New York City. Esper grew up in Albany, N.Y., before attending Colgate University where he graduated with a biochemistry degree and spent four years as a member of the Division 1 men's soccer program. Since graduation, Esper has turned his athletic interests into Ironman triathlons and other endurance events.

### **Gerald D. Fischbach, MD**

Dr. Fischbach joined the Simons Foundation in 2006 to oversee the Simons Foundation Autism Research Initiative. He was the foundation's first chief scientist and fellow and currently holds the title of distinguished scientist and fellow. Formerly dean of the faculties of health sciences at Columbia University, he was the director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health from 1998 to 2001. Fischbach received his medical degree in 1965 from Cornell University Medical College and interned at the University of Washington Hospital in Seattle. He began his research career at the National Institutes of Health (1966–73) and served on the faculty of Harvard Medical School, first as associate professor of pharmacology from 1973 to 1978 and then as a professor until 1981. From 1981 to 1990, Fischbach was the Edison Professor of Neurobiology and head of the department of anatomy and neurobiology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. In 1990, he returned to Harvard Medical School, where he was the Nathan Marsh Pusey Professor of Neurobiology and chairman of the neurobiology departments of Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital until 1998.

Throughout his career, Fischbach has studied the formation and maintenance of synapses, the contacts between nerve cells and their targets through which information is transferred in the nervous system. He pioneered the use of nerve cell cultures to study the electrophysiology, morphology, and biochemistry of developing nerve-muscle and interneuronal synapses. His current research is focused on roles that neurotrophic factors play in neural precursor fate, synapse formation, and neuronal survival. Fischbach is a past president of the Society of Neuroscience and serves on several medical and scientific advisory boards. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Institute of Medicine. He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a former nonresident fellow of the Salk Institute.

### **Ruth L. Fischbach, PhD**

Dr. Fischbach is a professor of bioethics in the departments of psychiatry and sociomedical sciences at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. She is a co-founder and director of the center for bioethics at Columbia. Prior to joining the faculty at Columbia, Fischbach served as senior adviser for biomedical ethics at the National Institutes of Health. She received an award of merit for her efforts in establishing the Tuskegee Center for Bioethics. Fischbach has also served as a professor at Harvard Medical School in the department of social medicine and the division of medical ethics. She directed the ethics program, founded the humanities in medicine program, and served as an assistant dean at Washington University School of Medicine. Fischbach's research interests and publications have focused on end-of-life decisions and the experiences of research participants, particularly related to privacy and informed consent.

### **Kristen Goodell, MD**

Dr. Goodell is an associate dean for admissions and an assistant professor of family medicine at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, where she is an academy medical educator, coaching, advising, and teaching clinical skills. Goodell received her bachelor's degree from Colby College and her medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (now called Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons). She completed a residency in family medicine and a master teacher fellowship at Tufts University School of Medicine. She was a family physician at Winchester Physician Associates and a school physician for the city of Medford, Mass., from 2007 to 2017. Goodell is interested in leadership development and in growing a diverse and effective physician workforce. She has served in national leadership positions including co-chair of the leadership development task force of the Council on Academic Family Medicine, treasurer of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and chair of the National Council on Graduate Medical Education. She is a member of the MCAT validation committee of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

### **Nicole Hawkins '14, OT**

Hawkins is an occupational therapist at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. She works in an acute care setting, specializing in neurology, neurosurgery, organ transplant, and facial nerve impairments. She is pursuing her PhD in bio-behavioral sciences at Columbia University. Her research focuses on novel rehabilitation interventions for children with cerebral palsy.

### **Scot Ioset, DDS**

Dr. Ioset attended Alma College in Michigan and has a BS in biology. He graduated from the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 1984. He entered the U.S. Army following graduation from dental school and graduated from his first general dentistry residency at Fort Carson, Colo., in 1985. While serving in Germany, Ioset was the project officer and officer in charge of the building and operation of Giebelstadt dental clinic. Following that, he was a resident in the two-year comprehensive dentistry residency at Fort Knox, Ky. He earned board certifications from the Federal Services Board and the American Board of General Dentistry.

After 11 years in the Army, he moved with his family to Hamilton. In Hamilton, loset has been involved in the Colgate professional shadow program since 2000 and has mentored dozens of Colgate students who have gone on to dental schools in Texas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, New York, Michigan, Connecticut, Hong Kong, and more.

### **Jake Kleinmahon '07, MD**

Dr. Kleinmahon graduated in 2007 from Colgate, where he was a Spanish literature major and a student coordinator for Southern Madison County Volunteer Ambulance Corps. He went to medical school at Tulane University School of Medicine, where he also completed his residency in pediatrics. He continued his training at Children's Colorado, completing fellowships in pediatric cardiology and pediatric heart transplant and advanced heart failure. In 2018, he joined the faculty at Ochsner Hospital for Children in New Orleans, where he serves as the medical director of pediatric heart transplant, heart failure, and ventricular assist device programs. He has been one of the lead physicians in the Gulf South in the treatment of children with severe manifestations of COVID-19.

Kleinmahon is active in the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation and the Pediatric Heart Transplant Society and works to improve health care disparities among different racial groups in pediatric heart transplant recipients. He is the principal investigator of the Pediatric Heart Transplant Study and Advanced Cardiac Therapies Improving Outcomes Network (ACTION) study at Ochsner. His interests include taking care of children with cardiomyopathies, myocarditis, connective tissue disorders, heart transplant, pulmonary hypertension, and congenital heart disease. He lives in New Orleans with his husband and two young children, Isabel and Connor.

### **Adam Kurish '04, MD**

Dr. Kurish earned his medical degree from St. George's University in 2008. Moving to Greenville, N.C., he completed an internal medicine/pediatrics residency at Vidant Medical Center in 2012. After becoming board-certified in both specialties, he started his own primary care practice in Portsmouth, N.H. His practice cares for patients of all ages in the office, hospitals, nursing homes, and patient homes. In his spare time, he enjoys Ultimate Frisbee, learning new skills, teaching the next generation of medical providers, and traveling with his wife.

### **Edna K. Akoto Osei '05, MD**

Dr. Akoto Osei is a general pediatrician at Briggs Family Pediatrics, a small private practice in the Bronx, N.Y., serving primarily migrant, low socioeconomic, and Spanish-speaking populations. She was born and raised in Kumasi, Ghana, emigrated to the United States at age 11, and attended junior high and high school in the Bronx. After her collegiate years at Colgate, Akoto Osei completed a post-baccalaureate program at City College of New York, CUNY. She graduated from medical school at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Akoto Osei subsequently trained as a pediatric resident at New York-Presbyterian/Columbia University Irving Medical Center. She then worked for more than three years as a general pediatrician at a community health center on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

### **Olivia Preston '19**

While at Colgate, Preston was a leader of the North Broad Street Tutoring group and attended the study group to the National Institutes of Health during her senior year. She took two gap years to work in a radiation biology lab at the National Institutes of Health and volunteer with mentoring programs in the greater Washington, D.C., metro area. She is in her second year of medical school at SUNY Upstate Medical University and is considering pursuing surgery or OB-GYN.

### **Oneida Shushe '19**

Shushe is a third-year dental student at the State University of New York's University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine. She graduated from Colgate with a degree in molecular biology and



took a gap year in Kosovo with Davis Projects for Peace. Later, she worked at the Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health. At University at Buffalo, Shushe serves as outreach coordinator for the school's local outreach and community assistance club. This past summer, she researched Sjogren's syndrome, an autoimmune condition that causes dry eyes, dry mouth, and other symptoms. Upon graduating from dental school in 2024, she plans to do a year of general practice residency before gaining employment as a general dentist in a large group practice. Shushe plans to continue giving back to the community.

### **Katherine Stebbins '17, MD**

Dr. Stebbins graduated *magna cum laude* with a BA in molecular biology. She was a member and captain of Colgate's volleyball team. She attended McGovern Medical School in her home state at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, with a focus on medical humanities. She is a member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, which recognizes students, residents, and faculty who are exemplars of compassionate patient care. Stebbins currently resides in Syracuse, N.Y., where she is completing her obstetrics and gynecology residency training at SUNY Upstate Medical University.

### **Mallory Wagner '15, MA**

Wagner received her master's in genetic counseling from Wayne State University in Detroit in 2017. She provided genetic counseling services in the prenatal, cardiac, and cancer space for two years at Beaumont Health before moving to the University of Michigan hospital system, where she is now a pediatric genetic counselor helping children with neuromuscular disorders.

### **Zachary Walsh '18**

Walsh is a third-year MD-PhD candidate at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons. He is currently pursuing his PhD in a cancer immunotherapy lab, where he is using single-cell sequencing and CRISPR technologies to study mechanisms by which targeted radiation and immunotherapy can synergize for cancer treatment. Clinically, he is interested in oncology and surgery. At Colgate, he majored in biochemistry; was a Benton Scholar and an EMT at Southern Madison County Volunteer Ambulance Corps; did cancer biology research; and participated in the Bethesda research study group at the National Institutes of Health.

### **Michael J. Wolk '60, MD**

Dr. Wolk is a cardiovascular specialist practicing in the HeartHealth program of the Dalio Institute of Cardiovascular Imaging at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center; a professor of clinical medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine; and an attending physician at New York-Presbyterian. Wolk also serves on the Executive Committee of the Dean's Council for Weill Cornell Medicine. He is a past president and trustee emeritus of the American College of Cardiology. He presides over the eponymous Michael Wolk Heart Foundation, which to date has raised more than \$8 million to provide leadership opportunities and seed money for promising young cardiologists starting investigative careers.

Wolk graduated from Colgate University, where he was an All-American swimmer and received the President's Cup as an outstanding graduating senior. He is a trustee emeritus of Colgate, which awarded him an honorary degree in 2004. He received his medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Colgate University | 13 Oak Drive | Hamilton, NY 13346

**Health Sciences Advising Office**

Phone: 315.228.7340

Julie Chanatry, [jchanatry@colgate.edu](mailto:jchanatry@colgate.edu)

Susan Marks, [smarks@colgate.edu](mailto:smarks@colgate.edu)

[colgate.edu/healthsciencesadvising](http://colgate.edu/healthsciencesadvising)

**Career Services**

Phone: 315.228.7380

[ccs@colgate.edu](mailto:ccs@colgate.edu)

[colgate.edu/careerservices](http://colgate.edu/careerservices)