

Department of Biomedical Sciences Newsletter

Congratulations to **Dr. Kyle Scully** on his promotion to Associate Professor.

Congratulations to **Dr. Kin Ly** on being selected as CAIEP's inaugural "Distinction in Interprofessional Faculty Leader".

Congratulations to **Dr. Tyler Redway** on a successful start to his Anatomy Outreach for Research and Teaching Advancement (AORTA) Program (more details on this program can be found within the newsletter).

Dr. Geoffrey McCullen visited Panama to conduct a medical mission (picture below of Dr. McCullen and his medical students on the trip – more within the newsletter).



Faculty meeting dates:

- July 24, 2024; 1-2 pm
- August 28, 2024; 1-2 pm
- September 25, 2024; 1-2 pm

Feel free to send any agenda items for discussion at our faculty meeting to Angela Morse.

2024 UNE COM Seminars:

All seminars hosted by the department will be posted on our seminar link on our site: <https://sites.une.edu/biomedicalsciences/seminar-series/>

Shared Governance Meetings:

UFA

Wednesday, July 17
via Zoom, 12-2pm

Wednesday, August 21
via Zoom, 12-2pm

Wednesday, September 18
via Zoom, 12-2pm

COMFA

Wednesday, July 24
12-1pm

Thursday, August 15
12-1pm

Wednesday, September 25
12-1pm

NOTE: Publication costs for papers which have COM students as authors are eligible to be considered for up to \$250/student by the [SGA's educational enhancement fund](#) (link enabled). These requests are vetted by the finance committee of the SGA and processed by RSAS.

[Faculty / Student / Staff Highlights:](#)

More on Dr. Tyler Redway's Anatomy Outreach for Research and Teaching Advancement (AORTA) Program:

The Anatomy Outreach for Research and Teaching Advancement (AORTA) Program is an anatomy-focused educational outreach opportunity hosted by the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine for the New England region. This program, designed for high school students and others interested in healthcare and STEM fields, offers content that is directly applicable to everyday life. Participants engage in a 2-hour hands-on lab experience with human anatomic materials (e.g., heart and lungs), where they explore major body systems, pathology, and medical imaging. The sessions, conducted by volunteer osteopathic medical students and the AORTA program director, Dr. Tyler Redway, are a unique opportunity to learn more about anatomy outside of the textbook, medical education, and osteopathic medicine. During the pilot program, which took place from February to May 2024, **11 high school anatomy & physiology classrooms** and **281 students** visited the anatomy labs. A teacher provided positive feedback, saying, "My students were actively engaged and raved about the program after they left - I heard from parents who told me how much their child loved it. That's all I need!" *The AORTA program aims to expand its offerings in the coming years and initiate research activities to better understand the impact of programs like this on students' academic and professional careers.*

More on Dr. Geoffrey McCullen's medical mission trip to Panama:

UNECOM in conjunction with the Global Health Club sent two groups to travel for a week to remote villages near the Atlantic coast of Panama and conduct medical clinic missions through Floating Doctors. UNECOM faculty medical providers included Drs. Bill Burge (first week), Rita Kamra, and Geoff McCullen (second week).

The second week group was a total community immersion experience with 9 UNECOM students traveling to the most remote location served by Floating Doctors, La Sabana. To get there required a plane to Panama City, then Bocas del Toro; a boat to Isla de Cristobal and the Floating Doctors base camp; a 1-hour boat; a 3-hour bus; and a 4-hour hike.

La Sabana is a Ngabe village of 200 indigenous people with no electricity or running water. They stayed in hammocks for three nights and saw 138 patients over two clinic days, including pregnant mothers, children and families who had walked long distances to arrive at the clinic. They evaluated and treated patients with a variety of medical problems including parasite and infectious diseases not commonly seen in the US.

Having the experience of living and working in a remote rainforest village is unforgettable. It challenged them to be uncomfortable, work together, and find solutions with the resources available. They learned that they could succeed together.

Below are some pictures of their trip (courtesy of Dr. McCullen).

The long hike to La Sabana...



The village in La Sabana where the clinic was...



The clinic in action....



Where they slept in the village....



Playing cards with the village children...



Cooling off after a hard day's work...



The return to Bocas del Toro after a shower and clean clothes...



Dr. McCullen noted that it was a fantastic learning experience and they are very grateful that UNE COM supported this one-of-a-kind learning experience.

[New Peer-Reviewed Publications \(from PubMed \(links enabled below\)\)](#)

[Brains, Bots, and Beyond: Exploring AI's Impact on Medical Education.](#)

McKell D, **Rowe R**, Bahner I, Belovich AN, Bonaminio G, Brenneman A, S Brooks W, Chinn C, El-Sawi N, Habal S, Haight M, Haudek SB, Hernandez M, Ikonne U, Porter R, Taylor TAH, Thesen T.

Med Sci Educ. 2024 Feb 13;34(2):505-509.

doi: 10.1007/s40670-024-01997-y.

[One World, One Health: Tackling the Global Health Crisis.](#)

Haight M, Ausel E, Bahner I, Belovich AN, Brenneman A, Brooks WS, Ely S, Garwood S, Habal S, Hernandez M, Ikonne U, McKell D, Porter R, **Rowe R**, Taylor TAH, Thesen T.

Med Sci Educ. 2024 Apr 11;34(3):717-721.

doi: 10.1007/s40670-024-02038-4.

[Electrophysiological phenotyping of left ventricular noncompaction cardiomyopathy in pediatric populations: A systematic review.](#)

Fitzsimons LA, Kneeland-Barber DM, Hannigan GC, Karpe DA, Wu L, Colon M, Randall J, **Tucker KL**.

Physiol Rep. 2024 May;12(9):e16029.
doi: 10.14814/phy2.16029.

[Inhibiting spinal cord-specific hsp90 isoforms reveals a novel strategy to improve the therapeutic index of opioid treatment.](#)

Duron DI, Tanguturi P, Campbell CS, Chou K, Bejarano P, Gabriel KA, Bowden JL, Mishra S, Brackett C, Barlow D, **Houseknecht KL**, Blagg BSJ, Streicher JM.

Sci Rep. 2024 Jun 26;14(1):14715.
doi: 10.1038/s41598-024-65637-6.

Regional/National/International Presentations

American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics Meeting (Las Vegas, NV, April 18-20th) Presentation:

Orthobiologic Injection Therapy: An Internet Analysis of New England Clinics and Available Patient Information for Decision Making

Author(s):

Gerran Salto (OMS-II), Gabriel DeOliveira (OMS-II) and **Geoffrey McCullen, MD**

Association of Extremity Nerve Surgeons Meeting (UNE)

Mark Schuenke, PhD co-led the Advanced Skills Course in June as a part of the Association of Extremity Nerve Surgeons meeting

New Funding

Dr. Russ Ferland received a 4-year NIH R16 award (R16NS140309) titled "The Role of the Ventromedial Nucleus of the Hypothalamus in Epileptogenesis."

Other News

Mark Scheunke, PhD was a guest on the "Pod of Inquiry" podcast discussing Radiculopathy versus Peripheral Nerve Entrapment. Season 4, Episode 13. May 2024. Run time: 1 hr, 12 min.