

MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY CONNECTION

NEWS FROM THE
MIDWESTERN
UNIVERSITY
BODY DONATION
PROGRAM

WINTER 2017

Welcome to our inaugural edition of the Midwestern University Community Connection newsletter. As a participant in our Body Donation Program, you are an important part of our University community. We'd like to keep you informed periodically about the many activities going on within our campus that not only enhance the development of our nation's future healthcare workforce, but also advance the care of humans, animals, and our environment. We hope you will be impressed with the quality of our educational and research programs and our students' willingness to contribute their skills to the betterment of the greater community.



Linda M. Walters, Ph.D.
Director, Anatomical Laboratories

INSIDE

Midwestern University Embraces *One Health* Philosophy

Midwestern University has a long-standing commitment to inter-professional health education, offering experiences for students from different programs to learn and practice together.

The University's *One Health Initiative* recognizes the connection between human, animal, and environmental health, and promotes collaboration between faculty and students in our colleges



of osteopathic medicine, dental medicine, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, health sciences, and optometry. This initiative aims to unite the efforts of physicians, veterinarians, and

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MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY
BODY DONATION PROGRAM
Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

Midwestern University Embraces *One Health Philosophy Continued*

research scientists to gain insights into the complex interrelationships between global biodiversity, sustainability, and public health. Some examples of *One Health* curriculum topics for students in all disciplines include insect, plant, and environmental causes of various diseases, and the development of new pharmaceutical therapies for both animals and humans that may come from plants, animals, and sea life. Students also learn about the proper disposal of medications and personal care items to prevent toxicity

to humans, animals, and the environment. Midwestern University embraces the *One Health* philosophy to inspire students, faculty, and staff to work collaboratively on understanding the interconnection between animal, human, and environmental health. This, in turn, will positively impact the patients we serve now and throughout the future as our graduates enter their healthcare professions.

To learn more, visit http://www.midwestern.edu/about/one_health_initiative.html.

UMOM Honors Midwestern University as Five Star Corporate Partner

Midwestern University was recognized by UMOM New Day Centers, Arizona's largest homeless shelter, as its 2016 Five Star Corporate Partner at its 7th Annual "Buckles and Bangles" fundraiser. The University and UMOM have worked closely for many years to benefit the shelter's homeless families. Midwestern students, faculty, and staff routinely volunteer at UMOM facilities through our Health Outreach through Medicine and Education (H.O.M.E.) program by donating their time



and expertise to provide health screenings and educational materials for the shelter's residents. The University also provides in-kind donations, sponsors UMOM events, and has co-written grants for UMOM clients to receive healthcare at Midwestern University clinics.

Kathleen H. Goepfinger, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Midwestern University, accepted the award on the University's behalf. "I am so proud of the dedicated and hard-working team of students, faculty, and staff at Midwestern University," Dr. Goepfinger

said. "Our partnership with UMOM New Day Centers is an important relationship that is in keeping with our culture of serving others, especially the underserved.



Midwestern students are always encouraged to embrace community service as part of their rigorous training and education to become future healthcare professionals. Our H.O.M.E. program allows us to give back to the community and support an important initiative to benefit our state's homeless population."

Founded in 1964, UMOM New Day Centers is located in Phoenix, Arizona and is the largest shelter for homeless families in the state. UMOM provides a continuum of care from emergency shelter to transitional housing and finally, permanent, affordable housing for over 170 homeless families. Families at UMOM have the opportunity to gain the skills, medical care, quality child care, and education they need to rebuild their lives and succeed when they leave.

Visit <http://youtu.be/1QSKB1OFOtU> to view a short video on how Midwestern University supports UMOM.



Hands-on High School Programs Encourage Future Healthcare Professionals

Each year, Midwestern University provides three free events to encourage high school students to explore the various careers in healthcare professions. This year, on February 7, students had the opportunity to participate in the Arizona Regional Brain Bee competition to test their



knowledge against other state-wide high school students on topics such as: What determines intelligence? How do male and female brains differ? Why do we need sleep? The winner of the Arizona Regional Brain Bee receives a \$2,000 scholarship toward any Midwestern University program, plus reimbursement of up to \$1,000 to attend the National Brain Bee. On February 28, the Health Sciences Career Day will provide an educational opportunity for high school teachers and their students to spend the day on campus to learn about a variety of health-related careers. The intensive Health Careers Institute, held July 13-22, provides high school students with an even more in-depth opportunity to examine healthcare professions. In addition to learning through our campus facilities, students visit a local hospital and practice a mock EMS drill with the fire department. Midwestern University is proud to sponsor these events to encourage young students to consider careers in the health sciences.

Dental Students and Faculty Serve Many Communities

In addition to their work in the Midwestern University Dental Institute, faculty and students from the College of Dental Medicine–Arizona (CDMA) were once again busy in the community in 2016. On Saturday, December 3, in partnership with Aspen Dental's MouthMobile, seven Midwestern faculty practitioners and 28 third- and fourth-year dental students spent the day in Surprise, Arizona providing more than \$23,000 in free dental screenings and routine cleanings for 29 veterans in need of care. The event was held in conjunction with the U.S. Veterans Initiative (USVETS), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that serves veterans across the Valley of the Sun.

CDMA faculty and students also provided free dental services on three different week-long mission trips to the Kingdom of Tonga this year. Each week's trip consisted of 16 volunteer students and four or five clinical faculty members, who each pay their own way to help the underserved of this small island kingdom in the South Pacific. A free clinic has



been established in Tonga and is home to the Midwestern team. During the week each student group is there, they treat on average 300 patients who could not afford any type of care if it were not for this free clinic. In addition to both simple and complicated dental procedures, the team also provides toothbrushes, toothpaste, and patient education on oral health. All supplies are donated by generous individuals and companies.

Nanomedicine Center of Excellence: Advancing Healthcare for People and Animals

The Nanomedicine Center of Excellence in Translational Cancer Research was established in 2016 by the College of Pharmacy-Glendale at Midwestern University with a vision to build a growing institutional research investment on the broad and extensive experience of a multidisciplinary team of well-established investigators in nanoscience and nanomaterials. The research center's purposes are to:

- advance the knowledge and application of the next generation of personalized and targeted cancer medicines, with the resultant research benefiting both human and animal patients;
- enhance scholarly activity and research to support the education of future healthcare team professionals;
- solidify productive collaboration of interdisciplinary teams of faculty;
- provide focus for the coordination of Midwestern University research and training programs; and
- establish collaborative partnerships with regional pharmaceutical industry leaders.



Tamer Elbayoumi, M.Sc., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, serves as the research center's Co-Director of Research and Development. As Dr. Elbayoumi explains the concept of nanomedicine, "Nanomedicine in general refers to the medical application of nanomaterials and biological devices. Our research center focuses on the development and evaluation of novel nanomaterials for biomedical research and applications, as well as creating advanced therapies and drug delivery systems that can specifically treat only diseased tissues and organs, even at the cellular and subcellular levels. These targeted treatments can reduce side effects and dramatically improve patient outcomes and quality of life."

We hope you have enjoyed seeing just a few of the ways that Midwestern University enriches the communities we serve. Thank you for participating in our Body Donation Program, which supports our students in the detailed study of human structure (anatomy) through the ability to study the whole human body. The integral knowledge provided by this opportunity is foundational for the education of our nation's future healthcare professionals.

We recognize the thoughtful consideration that goes into the decision to donate to our program and wish to acknowledge and express our gratitude to those individuals who generously choose to invest in the future of healthcare by making this donation. To learn more, visit www.midwestern.edu/bodydonation.

