Each September, the American Medical Association’s Women Physicians Section celebrates Women in Medicine Month. In its 25th year, the theme “Promoting Healthy Living for Physicians and Patients” focuses on the influence of women physicians and advocating for women’s health issues. Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) is participating by featuring medical professionals throughout the month.

Growing up surrounded by family members who worked in the medical profession as either nurses or physicians, Barbara Cingel, M.D., internal medicine, Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, set the foundation for her to discover a passion for the medical field. A combination of factors, from accompanying her mother to work at the hospital where she was a surgical nurse to working as a nurses’ aide and studying medical sciences, allowed her to determine that she would follow in her family’s footsteps.

“I loved the science of the human body from childhood, and was fascinated by illness,” says Cingel. “All of these experiences in patient care, alongside studying medical sciences, led to my decision to pursue medicine. I simply wanted to dedicate my career to preventing and curing disease.”

Upon hearing about the innovative and cutting edge approach that the founding deans had planned for medical education, Cingel became an instructor with the charter class at OUWB. As a result, Cingel explains that the rewards of being an instructor have fueled her medical career that began in 1995 following her residency at Beaumont Hospital.

“I was excited about being part of something new for Beaumont and for the community, and for the opportunity to go back to the basics of medical training and nurture budding physicians,” says Cingel. “Being involved with OUWB students has completely refreshed my career, and my outlook on the medical profession.”

Cingel attended the charter class commencement ceremony in May where she felt immense joy and pride as she watched the first OUWB graduates receive their diplomas. “I truly believe this class will make the world a better place,” she says.
**Spotlight on Sarah Lerchenfeldt, Department of Biomedical Sciences**

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Sarah Lerchenfeldt chose a career in health care to make a positive impact on patients and their families. Her passion for making a difference in their lives, both directly and indirectly, led her to a career that began as a clinical pharmacy specialist at Karmanos Cancer Center, where she worked closely with the stem cell transplant team to optimize patient care.

Lerchenfeldt says that while she enjoyed this job, she decided to pursue her true passion for teaching where she could lecture and facilitate classes in pharmacotherapy problem solving. To achieve this goal, she became an adjunct professor for the College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at Wayne State University.

“I have always strived for intellectual stimulation and was honored when I was given the opportunity to help educate the next generation of doctors,” says Lerchenfeldt, who applied to OUWB because it was a strong, academic program that would constantly challenge her and serve as the foundation for the rest of her career.

As an OUWB faculty member, she uses her experiences in the clinical setting to help medical students apply pharmacological principles to real-life situations, as well as connect the gap between health and chemical sciences. It didn’t take long for Lerchenfeldt to become impressed by the medical students she teaches. She has seen their determination to succeed and praises them for their dedication and compassion. She recognizes that the medical students at OUWB are truly on a path to becoming dedicated and compassionate physicians.

“I have not only been impressed by their commitment to medicine, but also by their desire to go above and beyond in serving the community,” says Lerchenfeldt. “Despite the challenges and stress of medical school, I have seen several students work selflessly to improve the lives of others.”

Now in her second year, Lerchenfeldt is more than pleased about sharing her knowledge, skills, experiences and values to prepare the students for finding their true passion in the medical field.

**Find out more about Sarah Lerchenfeldt.**
Spotlight on Tracey Taylor, Department of Biomedical Sciences

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A love for learning about all of the different things that bacteria and viruses do to cause human infections led Tracey Taylor, Ph.D., to pursue a medical profession. Her office is a testament to this interest as her bookshelves are full of stuffed animals representing various germs and bacteria. These props help her communicate the coursework to OUWB medical students.

Her goal is to help her students succeed in all things related to microbiology. At OUWB, Taylor says she feels equipped to do that.

“There are so many more great faculty and staff to meet and collaborate with, the resources and the hospital are outstanding,” says Taylor. “I also appreciate the smaller class size (I’m used to 270 students in a class) so that I can get to know the students better and help them succeed.”

She also finds the students to be very engaged and interested in many topics and is impressed by their varied backgrounds and outside interests.

“In addition to OUWB, I was excited about Oakland University as it is a great university with dozens of great programs,” says Taylor. Taylor spent 8 years as a faculty member at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences before joining OUWB for the 2014-2015 school year.

Find out more about Tracey Taylor.
Spotlight on Amy DeBaets, Department of Biomedical Sciences

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When Amy DeBaets, Ph.D., was a young girl, she developed an interest for the humanities and social science side of medicine. Originally, she became interested in bioethics by studying the politics of justice in organ donation and then learned that there was a growing field dedicated to studying those kinds of questions.

“When I had an opportunity to teach in a medical school while I was a graduate student, I fell in love with it and made it my goal to work in this kind of environment,” says DeBaets, who was an assistant professor in the department of Bioethics at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences until she joined OUWB in August 2015.

It was the innovative learning environment and the opportunity to be involved with training physicians, who have both technical excellence and a strong humanistic orientation to caregiving that brought her to OUWB.

Additionally, DeBaets says she enjoys teaching OUWB medical students. She finds their maturity and well-rounded attitudes impressive.

“The students at OUWB bring a wide variety of life experiences to the learning community and work well together for the health of their patients,” says DeBaets. “I’m very excited to be part of this community.”

Find out more about Amy DeBaets.