



### National CMDA Membership

Are you interested in being a part of the largest national movement of Christian medical professionals?

If so, then you should consider joining the National CMDA! (Membership is free for students.)

As a member, you have access to an abundance of resources and training opportunities geared towards Christian medical professionals and students.

For more information, visit [www.CMDA.org](http://www.CMDA.org) and go to the "Membership" tab on the left side of the web page.

### **CONGRATULATIONS Upcoming 2012 Graduates!**

#### **Case Medical**

Alex Davis  
Julie Dixon  
Angela Lin  
James Luz  
Melissa Matosky  
Akshay Thomas  
Andrew Tran

#### **CCF**

Constance Mash  
Alexis Reedy

#### **NEOMED**

Brianne Bagwell  
Fredy El Sakr  
Stephanie Fabbro  
Tamara Halaweh  
Rebekka Hom  
Zach Jenkins  
Anne Matthew  
Naomi Tyree  
Julia Whetstone

#### **NEOMED - Pharmacy**

Jie Ren

#### **University Hospital Pediatric Developmental Fellow**

Kathy Steingass

## **Barb Okamoto: Leaving a Legacy**

By Mike Chen, MD

Saying "good bye" is never an easy thing to do. Especially when the person that we are saying goodbye to is a sister-in-Christ who has been a pillar of the Northeast Ohio Christian and Medical and Dental community since its beginnings. Yet, this is what we have the privilege of doing to one of the true champions of the faith, Dr. Barbara Okamoto, who recently retired from many years of serving the community as a general surgeon and has since moved to Denver to enjoy retirement. The apostle Paul says in **Romans 12:10**, "**Love one another with brotherly affection.**

**Outdo one another in showing honor.**" What a joy it is to honor and praise God for the life and ministry of Barb. Here are some quotes from people whose lives have been provoked by her example:

*"What has always inspired me about Barb is her commitment to the women she mentors. She not only stays in touch by phone and writing, she actually goes and visits those who are now surgery residents or in practice, and provides months of service to back up one (Dr. Cecilia Lo) who is the general surgeon at Kapsowar Hospital in Kenya. Her unflagging enthusiasm and energy are amazing. And her kindness to patients and their families is a great testimony of her love for Jesus Christ. Her support for our monthly Women In Medicine & Dentistry group, which she hosted for several years and then continued to co-facilitate with me, will leave a lasting legacy of physicians encouraged and motivated by Barb's friendship." - Leslie Walker, MD*



Dr. Barbara Okamoto with a House of Hope patient

❖  
*"I met Barb 10 years ago through CMDA's mentorship program, and I cannot express in a few words how much she has encouraged and supported me as a budding missionary surgeon. She has always amazed me with her desire to serve the Lord not only through a demanding career, but also through serving others with any little time she had outside of work. I am so grateful for her presence in my life."*

- Ceselia Lob, MD

❖  
*"I'm definitely one of her spiritual daughters. I remember asking Lloyd Runser the summer before I started grad school who would be a good mentor for me. After a little thought, he told me that there was someone perfect for me - her name was Barb. It took me a year to connect with her because I knew she was busy as a surgeon and already mentoring others. However, she met up with me and told me that she had room for me too. Little did I realize at that time how much*

cont'd on page 2

**Financial Support**

If you would like to support NEOCMDA financially (for student ministries, missions grants, annual banquet, or the general fund), please go to the "Support" tab on our website.

**Prayer Support**

Our prayer committee, led by our Chairperson, Laura Bobrowski, RN, would love to pray for any requests you might have. You can submit requests on our website under the "Support" tab.

**Mentorship Ministry**

This ministry is to function as a resource and liaison for both personal and spiritual mentorship for students and residents entering the healthcare profession. If you are interested in being a mentor or being paired with a mentor, please contact Dr. John Chae.

John Chae - [jchae@metrohealth.org](mailto:jchae@metrohealth.org)

**Missions Updates**

Want to know about trips CMDA members have recently taken? View our recent missions updates Under the events tab at: [www.neocmda.com](http://www.neocmda.com)



Considering a medical missions trip? Be sure to view the various medical missions opportunities available under the events tab of our website.

*I would need her. Without her, I wouldn't be where I am today. Barb definitely showed me some tough love and prayed me through some very challenging times as I was reeling from my father's death and trying to get through the MD/JD program at Case. She continues to check in on me and make sure I'm doing ok through the rough times of my OB/GYN residency. She's taught me so much about trusting in God and encouraged me to seek Him in all I do through her example, her words, and somehow seeing God's good work in me each step of the way. She's given so freely of herself to me and helped me to tangibly feel God's love. She inspires me." - Elizabeth Chung, MD*



One of the sayings that has been particularly meaningful to me was something that I read in John Piper's wonderful book, *Don't Waste Your Life*, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last." So many people will go through the journey of life and when their days are done, have nothing to show for their life's work besides some property or maybe family.

My heroes are people like Barb who count their lives as nothing but, like Paul, run the race that God has set before them. It is a little known fact, but it should be known that easily one quarter of the NEOCMDA's donations each year

have come from Barb, without any fanfare or show- just quiet humility and servant-hood. Her generosity with her time, love and resources are an example to myself and I believe for all of us.

Our lives are a vapor- a couple decades and then in God's grace we are gone to heavenly glory. What remains is our legacy. This believer hopes that the legacy he leaves behind will be half of what Barb has done in her life, all for the glory and renown of Jesus Christ. We miss her and wish her all the best in continuing her ministry in Colorado.

Dr. John Chae is a physical medicine and rehabilitation doctor who is the director of the stroke rehabilitation center at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland. He has been an active member of the NEOCMDA for many years and was one of the founding members of this chapter. Dr. Chae has a passion for the gospel and for discipleship. He also was elected to the prestigious Institute of Medicine in 2011, the only Cleveland physician to receive that honor last year. We'd like to invite you to join us Saturday, April 28 for our Annual Banquet where Dr. Chae will be our featured guest speaker for the evening.



**NEOMED Update**

CMDA at NEOMED has recently moved their weekly Tuesday night Bible study onto the NEOMED campus to grow visibility of the ministry on campus. The weekly Bible study meets at 7pm typically in one of the classrooms. Also, the student ministry at NEOMED is planning on bringing in a speaker in March and April/May to share about how faith intersects with their medical profession. The next speaker will be Dr. Richard Chaffee (Medical Director of Open M in Akron & cardiologist at Summa).

Please contact Travis Thompson ([tthompson@neomed.edu](mailto:tthompson@neomed.edu)) for more information and to be added to our weekly email list.

# An Evening with Friends from New Frontiers Health Force

By Doug Wenger, MD



On Friday, March 2, a small group braved rainy weather to enjoy the hospitality of Dr. Ron and Lyn Jones for fellowship and a presentation about the New Frontiers Health Force by Dr. Tanya Hawthorne, founder, and Linda Brown, administrator, of that ministry. Attendees included physicians, medical students, friends of the ministry, and spouses.

After a fellowship meal, Dr. Hawthorne provided a moving DVD presentation outlining the work of New Frontiers Health Force, which has sent 98 missionary teams to 37 countries since its founding in 1997. Currently the main focus of the NFHF has been the establishment of a Christ-centered medical clinic in rural Kenya. Dr. Hawthorne emphasized that every patient gets prayed for in the clinic and that sharing the gospel is a wonderful priority for them. Although sometimes being a solo practitioner without all the medical resources available to them in the city can be daunting, God has shown her a lot of grace in bringing other believers, both clinical and laypeople, around her. Another opportunity has emerged recently: girls who might not have been given the opportunity to attend school because of their status or poverty, have been instead sponsored by NFHF, to go to school in order

that they might be able to make a better life for themselves.

The NFHF staff provided everyone with insight into the calling on their lives into this work and it was an encouragement to all who were there. After a thoughtful question and answer time, there was time to lift up Dr. Tanya and Linda, as well as the rest of the NFHF in prayer. Some of these prayer requests involved safety for the workers and the ministry, for the facilities (a future inpatient ward) and for interest and support to grow that others may come to visit the clinic in Kenya.



Moved by the Spirit, many in the group were overjoyed to be able contribute financially to what God has been doing in the NFHF ministry. In the end, Dr. Hawthorne and Linda packed their things and prepared for a long drive back down south, encouraged and recharged to go back to Kenya.

***“It was so great for me to be able to spend time in the company of a group of Christian health care workers,” said Dr. Hawthorne, “I don’t get that opportunity often.”***

Those who are interested in learning more can check out the New Frontiers Health Ministry website: [www.newfrontiershf.com](http://www.newfrontiershf.com)



## Case Update

We had a restful and encouraging time of fellowship with the Case Western Reserve chapter of CMDA at a recent overnight retreat hosted by Dr. Fox. We had a good turnout of about 12, with a good mix of students and physicians and even a resident and a fellow. After a fun time of eating and talking, one of the students led us in some worship and prayer, and then we transitioned to a time of sharing. Initially the physicians did most of the talking, sharing things that they felt God has been teaching them recently and how the Lord has helped them through particularly difficult times. As the students began opening up and sharing as well, it was remarkably interesting to see that many of the struggles and fears that we’ve had as medical students have been shared by the physicians at some point in their careers, and it was very encouraging to hear about how God has indeed brought them through those struggles, making us confident that He will do the same for us. After this, we spent some more time in prayer, pairing off and praying for each other and continuing to encourage each other. I think that everyone felt blessed by the experience, and we would definitely like to do it again sometime in the future.

-Keith Cochran, Case Medical Student

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

**Matthew 11:28**

Christian Medical & Dental Associations  
Northeast Ohio  
2035 E. Swan Lake Circle  
Kent, OH 44240

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*“Motivating, educating, and equipping Northeast Ohio healthcare professionals to reach their patients, colleagues, and communities for Christ!”*

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For general inquiries or to update contact information, please contact:

Stacey Prestegaard,  
Administrative Assistant  
at [mail@neocmda.com](mailto:mail@neocmda.com)

Make sure to keep up-to-date on our NEOCMDA website:

[www.neocmda.com](http://www.neocmda.com)

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- MISSIONS TRIPS
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**Northeast Ohio  
Christian Medical & Dental Associations**

*cordially invites you and your guest(s) to our*

**Annual Banquet & Commissioning Celebration**

◆  
**HONORING THE CLASS OF 2012 NEOMED, CWRU, CCF**  
*and local area hospitals Medical and Dental School Graduates, Residents, and Fellows*  
Completing Training Programs  
◆

**Saturday · April 28, 2012 · 5:30 p.m.**

The Crowne Plaza Hotel • 5300 Rockside Road • Independence, Ohio



*The evening will include:*

**Speaker: Dr. John Chae**

*“The Kingdom Mindset  
and the Healthcare Professional”*

For more information please contact: Debbie Joyce • [nursedlj@aol.com](mailto:nursedlj@aol.com) • 216-464-3284 or [mail@neocmda.com](mailto:mail@neocmda.com)