



## Upcoming Events

Biomedical Fellowship Gathering  
Dessert & Appetizers  
May 21, 2011  
Speaker: Dr Jan Gebert  
"Doctor as Patient"  
See back panel for details

## 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 Graduates!

**Case Medical**  
Jacob McGrath  
Melvin Omodon  
Andrew Tran

**Case Dental**  
Joyce Bahng

**CCF**  
Nicholas Krebs

**NEUCOM**  
Alejandro Adorno  
Maya Alhajib  
Ryan Hartman  
Danielle King  
Laura Schnegg  
Dan Silvestri  
Mike Subichin  
John Woltman

**RESIDENTS**  
Sophia Chen, MD  
Kevin El-Hayek, MD  
Ruth Frain, MD

## **Mentors and Milestones—**

### A Personal View of the 2011 NEO-CMDA Annual Banquet & Commissioning Ceremony



A brisk wind swirls leaves past the car as my wife and I drive up the hill toward the banquet hall. As my hand reaches for the lobby door a last ray of sunlight bathes the gray hillside with a golden promise of warm days to come. I smile at any thought of springtime. This winter has been a particular challenge, even for those accustomed to snow.

We would attend a variety of graduation gatherings this spring. What sets this one apart?

The answer wasn't long in coming. Before we have taken ten steps into the hall we are surrounded by friends. These are very special colleagues to us. A single word of greeting from any one of them, just a knowing glance from them as they walk on the wards, can lift a work week out of the ordinary. And tonight, we are all in the same place.

Within the larger Northeast Ohio medical community there is a sustaining friendship of those who draw their professional identity from their life experience as Jesus followers. These clinicians, surgeons, nurses and dentists see their patients as sacred because they bear God's image.



*Dr Forrest Crocker with NEUCOM grads Alejandro Adorno, Ryan Hartman and Laura Schnegg*

They see the many tasks they perform in attending their patients as a calling more than a career.

To these clinicians, becoming trained and developing competence in medical care is a means of revealing to hurting people the character of God as a lover and healer. Now some of their own are graduating. It is a milestone for their students, residents and those newly entering practice. But what they are really celebrating is a very special relationship they have enjoyed with their professors and teachers.

These trainees have been apprenticed, living in a mentoring friendship with their teachers. They have been along as they touched and spoke reassurance to frightened patients. They have assisted them in surgery and helped them attend the poor in free clinic. In serving together something important has passed between them. It has become part of their own identity as doctors and dentists as well. The graduates are wearing roses on their lapels but something far more enduring within: the lessons of a lifetime.

We join our table mates for dinner and I recognize one of my own mentors, now a retired pediatrician and his wife. They have known me since my medical student and resident days, when I first joined this fellowship. When our discussion turns to the question of mentoring, Dr. Crocker offers advice. "Just be there for them." Without a word, I realized he has done just that--for me.

After dinner John Patrick MD, President of Augustine College, delivers a charge to us all, that we should love God with all of our minds, and walk among our patients and colleagues with humility. Everyone senses a renewed challenge. Now it is time to meet and commission the graduates.

One by one each graduate introduces themselves and tell us where they have trained, and where they are bound. They comprise 14 graduates from five different medical or dental schools and

*Dr John Patrick addresses attendees*



*Graduates stand holding a basin & towel as CMDA members lay hands on them and pray.*

residencies, and a sixth school in Pittsburg. With shining eyes they recognize those in their lives who have loved them, supported them on this journey. A spouse, a parent, a pastor, a teacher.

The graduates will receive a certificate in a few days: tonight they are given a basin and towel. It is a visual reminder of the service rendered to each of us by Jesus, meeting us at our deepest need. Mentors lay hands of blessing on the graduates and prayers are offered to commission them. The "Christian Physician's Oath" is read: a hymn is sung. The evening ends.

As I look around the hall I realize this is the unassuming start of a new generation of doctors, dentists, surgeons who serve others as an expression of their love for God. It is always this way with important beginnings: only a few know it has happened. But each graduate is packing one more thing in their travel gear going forward. They will carefully take the example and love imparted by those who have mentored them.

As we walked to our car, a local pastor calls out, "I never knew doctors had a fellowship like this! Isn't it wonderful?" I turned to my wife. "Yes, I said. It is marvelous in our eyes."

--Ron Jones MD

If you would like to learn more about requesting or becoming a mentor, please email: [ronjones1@me.com](mailto:ronjones1@me.com) Include the word "mentor" in the subject line.

**Financial Support**

If you would like to support us 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 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.

**Stethoscopes, Scalpels, and Salvation—  
Students Retreat to Explore Their Spiritual Role in Healthcare**



The first annual Northeast Ohio CMDA Student Retreat was held on February 12-13th, at the Loyola Retreat House in Clinton, Ohio. Nearly 30 attendees, including students and faculty from Case Western, NEOUCOM, and the Cleveland Clinic, joined for a weekend of fellowship to learn more about integrating faith and medicine. The theme of the retreat was "Stethoscopes, Scalpels, and Salvation: Exploring Your Spiritual Role in Healthcare."

*"The retreat gave me a precious opportunity to speak with practicing physicians of faith. I had one of the most influential conversations of my entire life at the conference this year, without exaggeration. I know that God blessed our fellowship, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to attend!"*  
-Christen Cuevas

The retreat began early on a wintry Saturday morning. The Saturday events included three small-group discussion sessions spread throughout the day, each followed by a time of sharing among groups and praise and worship. In addition to the discussion sessions, there was time for fun get-to-

know-each-other games, outdoor exploration, as well as time for prayer, reflection, and continuing discussions. All activities, music, and small-group sessions were student-planned and student-led, with faculty present to provide valuable support and insight.

The discussion sessions centered on three main topics: God's identity, our personal identity in Christ, and discerning our calling. During the first session, students were challenged to assess their idea of God during a study of the many names of God. In another session, students and faculty were asked to chart a timeline of their relationship with Christ, which was meant to describe their closeness to Christ at different points in their life. In the last session, students explored ways in which faith can be practiced through medicine. This was a precious time during which students shared experiences with patients and learned how other students and faculty have grown in their faith, their ability to pray with patients, and their ability to be a witness to others in the medical field.

The conversation and personal stories that the topics elicited were insightful, thought provoking and encouraging. The retreat ended on Sunday morning,

with a time for prayer, meditation, and reflection on the weekend's events and discoveries.

*"In a profession in which it is very easy for the individual to become consumed by everyday worries and concerns, it was a time to remind ourselves that we have a community in Christ which is standing with us and that we are all supporting each other to live more fully for God's glory."*  
-Kathy Zhou

The student leaders give praise and glory to God for putting together such an amazing weekend of fellowship and learning. He truly worked through Alionye Usifoh, the head of the retreat planning committee, and Dr. Bill Stewart, the faculty sponsor, who both were pivotal in the success of the retreat.

The retreat would not have been possible without the gracious support provided by Northeast Ohio area physicians and dentists, who sponsored students to make the cost of the retreat more affordable. The students wish to thank all those who contributed to this wonderful experience.

--James Steward, Case Medical Student

**Eric Chen Joins the Staff of NEO-CMDA at NEOUCOM**



I'm a 2nd generation Taiwanese-American who has spent all his life in the Midwest and around academia. Born in Madison, WI in a university hospital, I have spent all of my life living within 15 minutes of major educational institutions (Univ. of Notre Dame-IN, Case Western Reserve Univ-OH, College of Wooster-OH, and Univ. of Akron-OH). My parents and older sister currently live in Taiwan while I hold down the fort for my family in downtown Akron, OH.

Upon graduating from a fringe inner city high school, I spent the next four years at Case Western Reserve University pursuing a Biomedical Engineering Degree on the way to medical school. After my first year in college, it was through the ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship that God confronted me with making Jesus Christ not just my Savior, but also my Lord. Just a few years later, I sensed the call to go into full-time ministry with InterVarsity, which has led me to the University of Akron, where I am now the full-time staff for the multi-ethnic undergraduate chapter on campus.

Since graduating, I've been pondering and dabbling in a variety of hobbies with what "discretionary" time I have. If you

look hard enough, you'll find me speeding through the Ohio Canal towpath on my bike, taking interesting photos of nature/people in Akron, or sitting in a coffee shop engrossed in a conversation or surfing internet websites.

I'm definitely looking forward to doing ministry within the medical education field. Not only will it be a new challenge, but I sense that I will have a great time in conversation and relationship with students on campus through discipleship and evangelism. What I'm looking most forward to is seeing how God is already at work at NEOUCOM and how God is prompting us to join with Him in his work of renewal and revival at NEOUCOM through the CMDA chapter.

## **NEO-CMDA Member Highlights—Serving the Lord at Home and Abroad**

Dr Ron Snearly, a loved servant of the Lord passed away this past August. He served for over eight years in Chad, Africa as a missionary doctor under the auspices of Baptist Mid-Missions. Due to health issues he and his wife could no longer remain in Africa and after 8 years he made yearly month long trips there to render surgical care to patients. Each trip they would bring with them thousands of dollars worth of medical supplies which they painstakingly collected and packaged themselves in mountains of boxes.

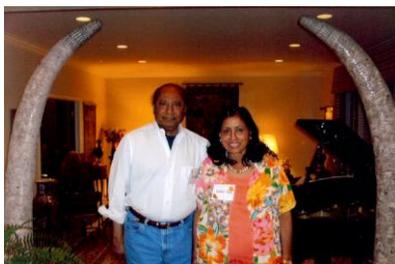
**Roland G. Snearly**



*September 22, 1934 – August 23, 2010*

Ron worked in the ER at Kaiser for a number of years. After retirement, he volunteered his services at Faith Wellness clinic despite his Parkinson's which

rendered him unable to ambulate without a walker. He was once robbed while serving there by a patient. Even that did not deter him. His upbeat, uncomplaining, CAN-DO attitude was remarkable even during his battle with Parkinson's and other illnesses. He is sorely missed by all who knew him and by those he served in the name of Christ.



Drs John and Grace Paul, orthopedic surgeon and pathologist respectively, have for years opened their lovely home and served a wonderful Indian dinner to NEO-CMDA members and guests gathered for a Biomedical Fellowship Dinner and featuring a missionary speaker. This past year the speaker was our own Dr. Keir Thelander and his wife Joanna who serve in Gabon, Africa. NEO-CMDA wishes to thank the Pauls for their gracious hospitality and encouragement to live out the Christian faith as medical professionals.



Two or Three times per year the NEO-CMDA seeks to gather medical professionals together for fellowship and encouragement to live out their faith within the medical community. This newsletter has highlighted some of these opportunities for you. It is our sincere desire that you might consider joining us for the upcoming Biomedical Dessert Fellowship hosted by Dr and Mrs Michael Joyce. The Joyce's have also been a blessing to the ministry of NEO CMDA by organizing our annual banquet and by opening their home for various CMDA functions.

This spring they, along with the NEO-CMDA invite you to join us to hear Dr. Jan Gebert tell her amazing story of healing as she, the doctor, became the patient. Please consider attending the Dessert Fellowship at the home of the Joyce's to hear this amazing story and to fellowship with area physicians and medical professionals. You will find details about this event on the back of this newsletter.



**Join us in providing a day of help and support for thousands of needy individuals in Lake County.**

We are in need of volunteer healthcare agencies and health professionals to assist us in providing essential health screenings and prevention services to those most at risk. We would like to provide vision, hearing, blood sugar, cholesterol, blood pressure, children's school physicals, and other health services.

At this year's celebration, every one of the estimated 8,000 guests who enter the fairgrounds will receive a free meal, 2 bags of groceries, and a place for their children to safely play for several hours. Many will receive a pair of shoes, medical screenings and care, job and family services counseling, back to school supplies, and a sense of value and self-worth. If there are any services or resources you or your agency could provide, I urge you to take the time to respond and participate in our event.

**When: Sunday, July 31, 2011, 9am-3pm**

**Where: Lake County Fairgrounds, Painsville, Ohio**

Please contact Anita at [aschlak1@hotmail.com](mailto:aschlak1@hotmail.com) if you are interested in helping out. Please include your name, email address and medical field specialty in your email.



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*"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:

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

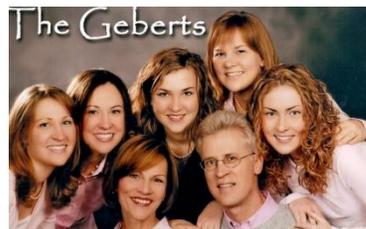
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- EVENTS
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## Biomedical Fellowship Event

Join us for Dessert & Appetizers  
Saturday ♦ May 21, 2011 ♦ 7:00PM

Speaker: Dr Jan Gebert



Dr. Gebert, a physician involved in missions, was life-flighted on a ventilator from Turkey to the USA with lobar pneumonia. She was not expected to live and spent months in the MICU. Come hear her remarkable story of survival and recovery by the grace of God.

Hosted by:

Dr & Mrs Michael Joyce, 3 Hunting Hollow Drive, Pepper Pike, OH

Please plan to bring either a dessert or an appetizer and RSVP to Debbie Joyce by phone 216.464.3284 or by email [nursedlj1950@aol.com](mailto:nursedlj1950@aol.com) before Wednesday May 18th