Mike Boninger confidently passes on the chair position to our successful and thriving department to Gwen Sowa.

The challenge of leadership is to be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly. —Jim Rohn

In addition to these attributes Mike possesses other traits that guide him. He is:

• Perceptive – he recognizes a person’s strong points and places them in a position that showcases their skills.
• Protective – he is always looking out for people just because it is the right thing to do.
• Prescient – he sees the big picture because he is predicting the consequences of his decisions.

Mike used all these attributes while leading the department as it grew in prestige. He selected the perfect candidate to succeed him and continue the legacy he started at University of Pittsburgh Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

His dedication to his career is second only to his devotion to Judy, his wife of 20+ years and their two bright and promising sons.

Some of his professional achievements are listed below:
- Distinguished Academician Award, Association of Academic Physiatrists 2016
- ACRM John Stanley Coulter Lecturer Award, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, 2015
- President of the Association of Academic Physiatrists, 2013
- Breakthrough Award for Brain Computer Interface Research Popular Mechanics, 2012
- Estin Comarr Award for Distinguished Clinical Service Academy of Spinal Cord Professionals, 2011
- College of Fellows, American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), 2003
- Young Academician Award, Association of Academic Physiatrists, 1998

--Betty Liu, MD
Director, Alumni Relations
What an exciting time to be in Pittsburgh!

You have all seen, and in many cases participated in, the amazing growth that our Department has experienced. In record time, we rose from a small division, to a research powerhouse, a top tier training environment, and a department with clinical excellence in a wide range of clinical services. We now have an opportunity to showcase our skills and contribute in meaningful ways across the institution, to improve the value of the care that we provide to patients, leveraging the unique skill set and strengths of the physiatrist. We have a real opportunity to be leaders in the changing landscape of healthcare, and the University of Pittsburgh and UPMC have invested in this opportunity and entrusted our Department in helping to lead this evolution. With our strong collaborations between the University, the Health Care System, and our own insurance division, we have the ability to pursue innovations that could only be imagined without these relationships.

We welcome you to come back and visit.

As alumni, we hope that you will take pride in what we have accomplished, and be excited by, and perhaps take part in, where we are going next.

Hope to see you soon!

Please join us on Saturday, October 22 at Muriel’s Jackson Square for cocktails at 7:00 at our annual Alumni and Friends Reception during the AAPMR meeting
Alumni, residents, and faculty in Boston in 2015

Something happening in San Diego? Houston? Jacksonville?
Want nearby alumni to know about it?
We are starting a new alumni email letter. One page of news in your box 3 or 4 times a year.

Send notices of events to Mary Synnott at synnottm@upmc.edu
The annual Wheelchair Wash & Repair, Fall Resident Retreat, Annual Prosthetics and Orthotics Conference, and sightseeing in Pittsburgh: just a few ways our residents and faculty are working to build a stronger department.
2016 GRADUATION

2016 Resident Graduates

2016 graduates: front row: Michael Kryger MD, Shanti Pinto MD, Mary Matsumoto MD
back row: Brady Wahlberg DO, David Itskevich DO, Shaun Darrah MD, Gerald Nora MD, Corey Hickey DO
not pictured: Herbie Yung

DESTINATIONS

RESIDENTS
Shaun Darrah, MD: Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of PM&R, University of Pittsburgh
Medical Director, PM&R at UPMC Passavant, Pittsburgh, PA
Excellence in Residency Award

Corey Hickey, DO: Medical Director, Trauma Rehabilitation at UPMC Hamot
Rehabilitation Program Director, Healthsouth Erie, Erie, PA

David Itskevich, DO: Pain Medicine Fellowship, UPMC Dept. of Anesthesia, Pittsburgh, PA

Michael Kryger, MD: Spinal Cord Injury Medicine Fellowship, UPMC Dept. of PM&R Pittsburgh, PA

Mary Matsumoto, MD: Amputation Rehabilitation Fellowship, VA Puget Sound Health Care System,
Seattle, WA

Gerald Nora, MD: Attending Physician, Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Institute of Columbia
St. Mary’s, Milwaukee, WI

Shanti Pinto, MD: Brain Injury Medicine Fellowship, UPMC Dept. of PM&R, Pittsburgh, PA

Brady Wahlberg, DO: Sports & Spine Fellowship, OSS Health, York, PA

Herbie Yung, MD: Pain Medicine Fellowship, UCLA-WLA VA, Los Angeles, CA

FELLOWS
Robert Engelen, DO: Adjunct Professor, University of Utah
Sports/Spine Physician, Physicians Group of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT

Mariam Keramti, DO: Outpatient Neurology Physiatrist, Sinai Hospital, Baltimore, MD

Mary Beth Miller-Phillips, MD: Brain Injury Medicine Faculty, Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation,
Dallas, TX

Erin Murdock, MD: Associate Physician, Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine, Cleveland Clinic,
Cleveland, OH
2016 GRADUATION AWARDS

TEACHING AWARDS

PMR residents awarded Gary Galang (‘04) the “2016 Excellence in Teaching Award”

Gary Galang served as chief resident before graduating from this program in 2004. He is active in teaching and volunteerism in community events such as the Pittsburgh Marathon.

PROGRAM AWARDS

Mike Boninger presented Shaun Darrah (‘16) with the “Excellence in Residency Award.”

Eric Helm (‘12) presented Matthew Drakeley (‘18) with the “PM&R Faculty Rising Star Award.”

SUBSPECIALTY AWARDS

Cara Camiolo Reddy (‘06, ‘07) awarded Michael Kryger (‘16) the award for “Administrative Excellence”

Adam Lewno (‘18) receives the “Excellence in Brain Injury Medicine” award from Cara Camiolo Reddy (‘05)

Jose Ramirez Del-Toro (‘07), recognized Tracy Knippel (‘17) for “Excellence in MSK/Sports Medicine”

David Itskevich (‘16) received the “Excellence in Pain Medicine” from Eric Helm (‘12)

Mary Matsomoto (‘16) awarded “Excellence in Prosthetics & Orthotics” by Mary Anne Miknevich

Herbie Yung (‘16) received the “Excellence in Residency Mentorship Award.” Herbie Yung served as the education chief of the program.
NEW FELLOWS AND RESIDENTS

FELLOWS

Michael Kryger, MD  
Spinal Cord Injury Medicine Fellow

Shanti Pinto, MD  
Brain Injury Medicine Fellow

Joshua Rothenberg, DO  
Sports Medicine Fellow

PGY-2

Alexander D’Angelo, MD  
St. Louis University School of Medicine

Brittni Micham, MD  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Alyssa Neph, MD  
Wayne State University School of Medicine

Michael O’Connell, DO  
Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine

PGY-1

Allison Schroeder, MD  
The Ohio State University College of Medicine

Rohit Navlani, DO  
Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine

Preston Warren, MD  
University of South Alabama

Alexander Lloyd, MD  
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Juliet Schultz, MD  
University of Toledo College of Medicine
Natasa Miljkovic, MD, PhD, a 2014 graduate of this residency program, has returned after serving as medical director of Acute Care Rehabilitation at Vanderbilt University Medical Center for two years.

Dr. Miljkovic is an assistant professor and the medical director for rehab services in transitional care units at UPMC.

“Being away from our department helped me realize how great it is and how much I missed working with all my colleagues from Pittsburgh. I am also very happy to raise my daughter here close to family. Its good to be back home.”

Shaun Darrah, MD, a 2016 graduate of the program accepted a clinical assistant professor position and the rehab medical director position at UPMC Passavant.

Dr. Darrah worked as an undergraduate research assistant to Dr. Amy Wagner and continued as such through medical school at the University of Pittsburgh.

“I chose to stay here because I have been involved with the department throughout undergraduate, medical school, and residency and I envisioned myself fitting in well here. I feel that it is one of the most dynamic PMR departments in the country and a great place to start and develop my career.”

Moving to Salt Lake City, Utah

“There are no words to describe how grateful I am to the department for the opportunities I have been given over the last 13 years as a resident, fellow and faculty member. I will certainly be a very proud Pitt alum and look forward to hearing of all of your future successes!”

Cara Camiolo Reddy, MD is an alumni of both the residency program (’06) and the brain injury medicine fellowship (’07). She is joining Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City, assuming leadership of their rehabilitation service line.