



**ROTARY CLUB  
OF MIAMI**

*Thomas Brown  
McClelland Trust*

# ALUMNI NEWS

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June 2019

## Another Interview Year in the Books!

Interviews for the 2019-20 scholarship year have taken place. Three Saturdays in March were devoted to meeting with 61 aspiring physicians. Rotary Club of Miami members, friends and former scholarship recipients sat down with applicants at the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's office and listened to their past experiences, current activities and future dreams. It is estimated that almost \$200,000 will be available for scholarship distribution this year. These interview days are always uplifting for all!

This year we were thrilled to have three physicians join in on interview panels. Our "regulars", **Doctors Tesha Monteith** and **Marc Arel**, were joined this year by **Dr. Vania Fernandez**, an Anesthesiologist in Miami. Dr. Fernandez (left) and Dr. Monteith are both pictured here with cheerful faces early on a Saturday morning. The interview process also brought Dr. Fernandez to a small reunion of her own with former High School classmate and past Rotary Club of Miami President **Oliver Ruiz**. They enjoyed catching up after the interviews were completed.



## Recognition Events Held

**FIU** On February 22, 2019, student scholarship recipients were acknowledged and received their TBM pins at a ceremony on the FIU campus. Twenty-seven scholarships were awarded last year to students attending the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. We are proud of each and every one of them.



**U** In another wonderful event, the Rotary Club of Miami and the Thomas Brown McClelland Scholarship Trust were invited to attend the University of Miami Medical Education Donors & Scholars Luncheon. It was held on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at the Coral Gables Country Club. Representatives on behalf of the Club were **Norman Kassoff**, **Marcia Brod**, **Bunny Uriarte** and **Arlene Terrinoni**. **Dr. Alex Mechaber**, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education (and TBM alum) kicked off the program. The almost 40 years of TBM scholarships to UM students was acknowledged by the Dean and Chief Academic Officer of the Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine, **Dr. Henri R. Ford**.

## Michael Shapiro, M.D. – A Special Contributor

As those of you who have received scholarships from the TBM Trust know, the Trust is distributed without stipulations on paying back any or all of the award. Mr. McClelland wanted to help students with their education and hoped that they would repay their debt back in service to the community. Since we began reconnecting with our alumni, many have chosen to make contributions back to the Trust as well – to the tune of almost \$84,000.



**Mike Shapiro** has gone above and beyond. He is a Pulmonary Disease and Critical Care physician in Indianapolis, IN and has become the first alum to completely repay the scholarship funds he received in 1984. We contacted Dr. Shapiro and he shared that "Paying back my scholarship was never the idea. I was trying to pay it forward to those in need. I'm not much at self-promotion but will say the scholarship I received as a medical student came at a time of particular need that helped me focus on my studies at the time. When I reconnected with TBM a few years ago, I saw it as an opportunity to pay forward and help current students focus on their education while not worrying as much about their financial situation."

The Rotary Club of Miami and Thomas Brown McClelland Trust family sincerely thank Dr. Shapiro and our many other donors for their generosity to helping others.

# What's Up Docs ????

**Blake Fortes ('18)** has matched into ophthalmology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

**Cesar Garcia-Canet ('15)** is entering his third and final year in a Pediatrics residency at Mercer University School of Medicine and will be applying to Pediatric Critical Care Medicine fellowship this fall.

**Carolina Chiou ('17)** has graduated Harvard Medical School and will be doing an Ophthalmology residency at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear.

**Andres Gonzalez ('14)** is completing his ophthalmology residency at the University of Florida and will be starting a retina fellowship at the University of Southern California in July!

**Michelle Kraslow ('17)** shared that she wears her TBM pin on her ID lanyard every day and has been asked numerous times about it. She is always happy to explain about the pin and share how grateful she is to be a TBM scholarship recipient. She is currently at the University of Maryland Medical Center for her internal medicine residency.



← **Colette Williams-Major ('92)** is a graduate of the University of South Florida School of Medicine and a Board Certified clinical director of anesthesiology in suburban Chicago. She also spends time volunteering at the Teen Bridge Center, which provides teens a place to find hope, purpose and direction.

**Roxana Navarro ('18)** is currently finishing up 3rd year and has just received her fourth year schedule. She is very excited to move onto the next step in her career and participate in electives geared toward specialties that interest her.

**Anlys Olivera ('19)** will be graduating this semester and starting residency in July at NYU in the combined neurology and psychiatry program.

**Julio Ozores ('83)** is the senior psychiatrist at the University of California San Francisco Student Health Center. He also teaches classes on the topics of evolutionary psychiatry and animal behavior.

**Dayron Rodriguez ('09)** completed a clinical and research fellowship in Sexual Medicine, Andrology and Urologic Prosthetic Surgery at the Boston University School of Medicine in 2018. He is currently a clinical and research fellow in Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery, Neuro-Urology and Voiding Dysfunction at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and expects to graduate in July 2020. Once he completes his fellowship, he hopes to bring his training and skills back home to South Florida. →



**Rebecca Toonkel ('01)** is currently the Assistant Dean for Curriculum, Clinical Education, and Advising Medical Director at the FIU Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. She received her medical degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed residency training in internal medicine at Columbia University of New York in 2007. →



← **Mindy Wang ('17)** is currently completing her preliminary year in Internal Medicine at University of Florida and will start Diagnostic Radiology residency at University of Texas at Houston this July.

**Marilyn Zabelinski, ('11)** is a Board Certified Dermatologist at Riverchase Dermatology. She received her medical degree at the University of Miami, completed an internship year in Internal Medicine at Jackson Memorial Hospital and continued pursuing her Dermatology training at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Zabelinski specializes in medical and pediatric dermatology, surgical treatment of skin cancer, laser, botulinum toxin, and hyaluronic acid fillers. →



## Networking Opportunity via the Newsletter

You might remember a news item in a recent edition of the newsletter that shared alum **Nicholas Smith's** efforts to return to South Florida and pursue his career in urology. Well, alum **David Meinbach's** office reached out to the editor of the newsletter and the connection was made.....follow up revealed that Nicholas selected another opportunity to continue his education, but who knows what the future will bring. Looking for a job or looking for staff – keep us posted and perhaps we can help you connect with your TBM family.



Please use the enclosed envelope and consider making a tax deductible contribution today:

**"T.B. McClelland Scholarship Fund"**  
P.O. Box 43-1466, Miami, FL 33243



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**In a few words – let us know what you've been doing:** \_\_\_\_\_

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