

**ROTARY CLUB
OF MIAMI**

*Thomas Brown
McClelland Trust*

ALUMNI NEWS

P.O. Box 43-1466 • Miami, Florida 33243 • Phone: (305) 443-5787
www.miamirotary.org • Email: MiamiRotaryTBMAlum@yahoo.com

June 2026

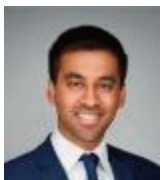
Rotary Club of Miami and FIU's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine 10th Annual TBM Pinning Ceremony

A yearly event that warms everyone's heart was held February 5th. Rotary and FIU have created a lovely annual Pinning Ceremony and reception in honor of FIU/TBM scholarship awardees. Rotarians, FIU staff, recipient's parents and family came to celebrate those awarded scholarships. FIU first time recipients in 2025-26 received their TBM Scholar pin (Rotarians love lapel pins) and a premium stethoscope. Multiple scholarship awardees were also acknowledged.



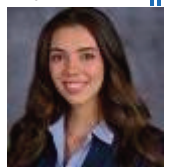
Medical School Dean **Juan Cendan** spoke about how much these scholarships and the Rotary Club of Miami partnership means to everyone. The program is always inspirational and heartwarming. Students are so appreciative and their parents always beam with pride.

All recipients of the scholarship receive the pins and stethoscope at the numerous schools they attend throughout the country. Miami has certainly many talented high school graduates, including you – our valued alumni, who are truly making an impact on our world. The Rotary Club of Miami looks forward to continuing to award medical school student scholarships. It is wonderful to see how the Thomas Brown McClelland's Trust continues to make a difference in the lives of so many. We always love to hear your personal stories, so if you would like to share how the scholarship affected your life and career, please send us an email. MiamiRotaryTBMAlum@yahoo.com.



Newsletter Informs and Reconnects

One of the original thoughts in creating the TBM Newsletter was to connect with our outstanding alumni and keep you informed of what the Trust and its recipients are doing. Another objective was to reconnect some of you who may have lost touch over the years with each other. **Shaunak Mishra**, a rising 4th year student at UM, noticed a high school friend, **Kristy Abood**, mentioned in a newsletter. They had not communicated in years. Kristy was doing a research year and Shaunak reached out. The connection has lasted and Kristy was even helpful with tips during Shaunak's own residency application process. So glad the newsletter brought friends back together.



TBM Interviews for 2026-27 Held This Past March

The Rotary Club of Miami members, friends and a former TBM recipient volunteered several Saturday's in March to interview medical students hoping to receive financial support through the TBM Trust. All those participating enjoyed our new interview location – Northern Trust Bank in Coral Gables. The venue and parking were easily accessible for all and the offices were lovely. Thank you to Northern Trust and our Northern Trust Rotary members, **Scott Richey**, **Amelia Bonilla** and **Angela Deggs** for their generosity in providing Rotary the opportunity to use the bank's offices.

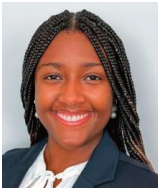
Thank you also to former TBM recipient and, now UM Pediatric ER Physician, **Marc Arel (UMiami '96)**. He joined us early on a Saturday morning, a day he was heading to work later on, to participate in the interview process. The giving of his valuable time and his continued financial commitment to the Trust are extremely special and greatly appreciated.

What's With our TBM Alumni??????



Dr. Lila Chertman (UMiami '12) is part of a unique father-daughter team of Endocrinologists with a family tradition of comprehensive and compassionate evidence-based care in Bay Harbor Islands, FL. She performs thyroid ultrasounds, fine needle aspirations, bone density examinations, and total body composition analysis. Patients have the opportunity to interact with a therapy dog in-training who visits a few times a month and also with medical students shadowing the doctor.

Frank Cortazar (UMiami '09) is the Director of the New York Nephrology Vasculitis and Glomerular Center, which he founded in 2019. As a clinical researcher, he conducts patient-oriented observational studies. He has also served as a principal investigator for multiple international randomized trials evaluating novel therapeutic agents for ANCA vasculitis and glomerular diseases.



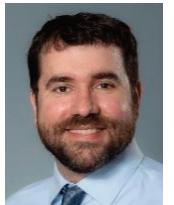
Marie Desir (UMiami '20) is a Psychiatrist with a private practice in Brookline, MA, seeing adults for evidenced-based medication management and therapy. She provides expertise in comprehensive psychiatric assessments and personalized care with the patient at the focus and treats a broad range of psychiatric conditions, including mood disorders, anxiety and OCD, trauma and PTSD, and sleep disorders to mention a few.

Diego Hernandez (Indiana '99) is a Vascular Surgeon, specializing in the treatment of vein conditions and peripheral arterial disease. His Bloomfield Hills office was the first Outpatient Based Lab established by a vascular surgeon in SE Michigan, with the purpose of providing unparalleled and comprehensive vascular care by offering diagnostic and treatment services in an office setting.



Stuart Kaplan (GWU '88) is Section Chief of Breast Imaging, at Mount Sinai medical center's Comprehensive Cancer Center on Miami Beach. He is a nationally recognized expert in breast imaging and is a fellow of both the American College of Radiology and the Society of Breast Imaging. He pioneered the use of ultrasound for screening in women with dense breast tissue, and authored one of the landmark studies on the subject.

John Olarte (Vanderbilt '00) is a General Psychiatrist with North Raleigh Psychiatry and is particularly interested in mood and anxiety disorders, especially Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder. He seeks to combine an evidence-based approach with the art of Medicine, using a collaborative approach of patient education and shared decision-making. He has a particular focus in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy and treats a wide range of psychiatric disorders using medication, psychotherapy, or a combination approach.



Dr. Elizabeth Vainder (UMiami '96) is a pediatrician and founder of DrVCares Pediatrics, a membership based, concierge style pediatrics practice with personalized care. DrVCares Pediatrics' mission is to revolutionize pediatric care by combining a personalized touch with cutting-edge technology. She realizes that telehealth thrives when patients have direct communication with a trusted doctor familiar with their child's medical history. Dr. Vainder also serves as a Doximity Digital Health Fellow, where she collaborates on technology solutions that improve physician efficiency and patient engagement.

Marilyn Zabelinski (UMiami '11) is a dermatologist at Dermatology and Laser of Alabama focusing on delivering natural-looking results and emphasizing a holistic approach to rejuvenation and preventing premature aging by combining cosmetic procedures with a personalized skincare routine. In addition to cosmetic dermatology, she practices general medical dermatology and prioritizes healthy skin and hair.



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THANK YOU!



Name: _____ Email: _____

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In a few words, please let us know what you've been doing:

If you have any suggestions, ideas, or thoughts on the newsletter, please contact TBM Alumni Coordinator and Newsletter Editor, Marcia Brod at: miamirotarytbtalum@yahoo.com We would love to hear from you!