Alvin Crawford, MD, Named Great Living Cincinnatian

In face of discrimination, choose to be ‘the best that I could be’

In 1961, 19-year-old Alvin Crawford was not the most popular guy on campus. To the contrary, it was a time of great racial tension in the United States, and by virtue of his being the first African-American to enroll in medical school at the University of Tennessee he says he could clear a cafeteria table just by setting his tray down.

Fast forward nearly five decades and the tables have turned, so to speak. Today it’s considered an honor and a privilege to be seated next to Alvin Crawford, MD, an internationally known pediatric spine surgeon and professor emeritus at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine who, on Thursday, Feb. 27, was inducted into the 2014 class of Great Living Cincinnatians, the highest honor bestowed by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber.

“You can’t let racism and discrimination determine your values, because when you do that then you are going to have a miserable life,” Crawford says of the social struggles he encountered during his early medical education and training, which took place during the height of the civil rights movement, a time when African-Americans were widely abused and shunned, even in academia.

“It was pretty isolating. Here I was being trained to treat all humans and I wasn’t really considered a full part of that humanity. But I could either marginalize myself as a victim or go on and be the best that I could be and that’s what I did,” he says of completing both his undergraduate degree (in music) and medical school.

Program Expands with New Primary Care Fellowship Starting in July

In July the first year of our new Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship begins. The program is accredited by the ACGME to recruit physicians from Emergency Medicine and Family Medicine for the one year program. Stephen Dailey, MD, is the program director and teaching faculty include Bart Branam, MD, Angelo Colosimo, MD, Jon Divine, MD, and Keith Kenter, MD.

The fellows will be involved in the direct care of over 500 athletes and in the care of athletes at the local area high schools we support. Our first two fellows are Abby DeBusk, MD, from the University of Kentucky Family Medicine Residency Program and John Childress, MD, from Aventura Medical Center, Miami, Florida where he is currently an Emergency Staff Physician.
Crawford Named Great Living Cincinnati

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training in an impressive six years.

After graduating in the top of his medical school class, Crawford then focused on honing his surgical skills by securing prestigious surgical residencies across the country, including Harvard University. He joined the staff at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in 1977 as the director of orthopaedic surgery and held the position for 29 years.

And the accolades have followed him ever since …

Crawford is the only surgeon to be named in the Top 10 Educators in the first 100 years at Cincinnati Children’s, has made the list of the country’s best doctors yearly since 2005, received the Daniel Drake Medal from the UC College of Medicine (its highest academic honor) in 2006, the Trumpet Award in 2009, the Diversity Award from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in 2007, and was bestowed the Laurel Wreath Award from Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity in 2013.

In addition to being the past president of the Scoliosis Research Society and the John Robert Gladden Orthopaedic Society, Crawford authored a teaching module that is widely used across the U.S. and other countries. He is the founding director of the Crawford Spine Center at Cincinnati Children’s and in 2004 was honored with the dedication of the Crawford Chair in Pediatric Orthopaedics and a subsequent chair in spine surgery. He is currently an attending physician with UC Health Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine.

As a clinician, he has performed over 27,000 procedures, many of which were directed toward scoliosis (an abnormal curvature of the spine). He became one of the nation’s foremost authorities on video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery using multiple small incisions to insert a telescopic mini-cam to release curved spines and insert rods to straighten them. He is considered a leading expert on the management of musculoskeletal problems in children complicated by neurofibromatosis (a genetic condition that can cause tumors).

Crawford’s charitable contributions to society extend to providing orthopaedic care to underserved children around the world, especially those with clubfoot, neurofibromatosis and severe spinal deformities. His teaching in the Third World has brought residents, fellows, attending surgeons and nurses to Cincinnati as fellows or observers to further their study of these musculoskeletal conditions.

The 2014 class of Great Living Cincinnatians also includes three other prominent figures: Otto Budig Jr., Francie Pepper and George Schaeffer Jr., joining 135 members named since 1967, the first of whom was Albert Sabin, MD, the medical researcher best known for having developed the first live, attenuated polio vaccine.

Written by Angela Koenig

Agabegi Named Finalist in Health Care Heroes

Steven Agabegi, MD, was selected as a finalist for the 2014 Health Care Heroes awards. The annual awards program, presented by the Cincinnati Business Courier, honors people who—through their in-depth research, management skills, innovative programs, patient care or service to the poor—have helped elevate the quality of health care in the community.

Agabegi was nominated in the provider category. His nomination highlighted his work with a cervical injury patient. While at a graduation party, the young man dove into the shallow end of a residential pool, impacting C3 and C4. He arrived at the emergency department at UC Medical Center without movement in his arms or legs. Agabegi, who took the patient into surgery, was able to relocate and fuse the impacted spine. The patient faces rehabilitation but is walking and has restricted mobility in his arms. “It’s very rare for patients to have Nick’s degree of recovery,” says Agabegi, who noted that the outcome could have been so much worse.

Said Michael Archdeacon, MD, professor and chair, “I am very proud to have our department recognized by our community for the excellence that we all strive to achieve.”

Written by Angela Koenig

McCarthy Elected Vice President of POSNA

James McCarthy, MD, has been elected 2nd Vice President of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America (POSNA). His term began May 3, 2014 and runs until May 2015.

McCarthy is the director of pediatric orthopaedics and holds the Alvin Crawford Chair in Pediatric Orthopaedics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. Dr. McCarthy has extensive clinical experience in a broad range of pediatric orthopedic conditions. His primary clinical and research focus is on the treatment of complex limb deformity and deficiencies, spine deformities, such as scoliosis and pediatric and adolescent hip disorders.
Department Well Represented in Cincinnati Magazines’ ‘Top Docs’

Cincinnati Magazine’s 2014 “Top Doctors” survey includes the names of hundreds of College of Medicine faculty, graduates and past residents and fellows. The list was compiled from surveys the magazine sent to more than 5,000 physicians in an eight-county area surrounding Cincinnati. Doctors were asked whom they would turn to if “you, a family member or a friend needed medical attention.” The 832 doctors named to the list received at least five mentions. Following are the physicians from UC Orthopaedics recognized in the survey.

Archdeacon Participates in National Orthopaedic Advocacy Event

Michael Archdeacon, MD, professor and chair, recently participated in the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons legislative advocacy event Research Capital Hill Days. This event, promoting federal funding for musculoskeletal research, sent over 50 orthopaedic patients, surgeons, and researchers to meet with U.S. Senators and Representatives which included members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees.

In this annual event, physicians, researchers, and patients have the opportunity to meet with targeted Senators and Representatives to personally advocate for increased research funding for the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Innovations and improved treatments for musculoskeletal conditions require an investment in both basic science and clinical research.

On Thursday, April 3, advocacy teams urged Congress to appropriate $535.6 million in FY 2015 for NIAMS, maintaining the amount appropriated in the FY 2012 budget. FY 2013 and FY 2014 budgets were reduced due to the Budget Control Act, more commonly known as sequestration.
CCHMC Mission Trip to India

A medical team from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center traveled to Ahmedabad, India, in January 2014, to provide free surgical treatment to children with complex spine and upper extremity deformities. The trip was coordinate and organized by physicians from the Pediatric Orthopaedic Department at CCHMC in conjunction with the Polio Foundation, a non-profit charity hospital in Ahmedabad (www.poliofoundation.org).

Between January 19-25, six children with complex spine deformities (scoliosis/kyphosis) and 21 children with upper extremity deformities were operated upon. Each spine surgery lasted an average of 6 to 8 hours. Local orthopaedic surgeons and anesthesiologists from Ahmedabad assisted during these procedures.

The surgical team was headed by Alvin Crawford, MD, and included surgeons Shital Parikh, MD, Viral Jain, MD, Kevin Little, MD, Heather Harrison, MD, and Kim Bjorklund, MD, anesthesiologist Rajeev Subramanyam, MD, and Elizabeth Cudilo, MD and neuro-monitoring personnel Janice Mader. The surgical instruments and implants were donated by Depuy Spine, USA, and Medtronic, USA. The neuromonitoring equipment and supplies were donated by Evokes, Inc., a Cincinnati-based company. Bone graft products were donated by Allosource, a nonprofit bone allograft processing organization.

The trip prompted significant education and cultural exchanges and was viewed as a great success by both sides. We plan to continue building upon this relationship by similar annual mission trips, focusing on the areas of identified pediatric orthopaedic need in India. This is the second year for this effort.

Crawford Honored by POSNA, Scoliosis Research Society

Alvin Crawford, MD, a professor emeritus in the UC Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, is internationally known for his contributions to pediatric orthopaedic patient care and clinical research, his commitment to the education of orthopaedic surgery residents and fellows, and for his excellence in leadership in the pediatric and global orthopaedic community. In addition to his “Great Living Cincinnatian” honor in 2014 (see front page story), he has received recognition from professional organizations as well.

Distinguished POSNA Achievement Award

Alvin Crawford, MD, has been named the 2014 recipient of the Pediatric Orthopaedic Society of North America’s (POSNA) Distinguished Achievement Award.

The award represents the society’s highest honor and was given to Crawford at the annual meeting in Hollywood, California, on May 1.

Scoliosis Research Society Lifetime Award

Alvin Crawford, MD, has been selected to receive the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Scoliosis Research Society (SRS). The Lifetime Achievement Awards are presented to senior members of the SRS with a distinguished history of dedicated service and commitment to the SRS and the field of spinal deformity research and care.

The award will be presented during the annual meeting of the SRS in September, 2014.

Distinguished POSNA Achievement Award

David S. Bradford, MD, of the University of California, San Francisco, will also be recognized with a 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award.
Keith Kenter, MD, was a keynote speaker at Fairview Current Concepts in Sports Medicine 2014, held April 4–5 in Edina, Minnesota.

Bart Branam, MD, received his CAQ in Sports Medicine and was recently named Medical Director for Orthopaedic Surgery at UC Health West Chester Hospital.

Jon Divine, MD, will be promoted to full Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery as this cycle completes.

Angelo Colosimo, MD, will be promoted to Associate Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery as this cycle completes.

Joel Sogger, MD, will be promoted to Associate Professor in Orthopaedic Surgery as this cycle completes.

Adam Burzynski, MD, and Justin West, MD received the William F. Enneking Musculoskeletal Pathology Seminar award.

Keith Kenter, MD, received an adjunct appointment in Biomedical Engineering at UC.

Namdar Kazemi, MD, is scheduled to receive the Resident Leadership Forum award in Montreal on June 17-18, 2014. The combined meeting of the AOA and the COA is being held June 18-21.

Kim Weingartner-Reising was elected to serve as Member-at-Large for ACROS.

Charles Mehlman, DO, MPH, gave a keynote presentation at the Pediatric Trauma Summit 2013, held in November in St. Paul, Minnesota. The program was organized by the University of Minnesota.

Welcome to the 2014-15 Residents
The department welcomes the new class of residents to the program. We are pleased to have them join us.

International Items

Charles Mehlman, DO, MPH, was a keynote presenter at the British Society for Children’s Orthopaedic Surgery (BSCOS) meeting in Aberdeen, UK. “Controversies In Children’s Orthopaedics” was the topic for the March 2014 meeting.

Also attending was Deborah Eastwood, MB, FRCS, who served in 2012-13 as the first female president of the European Pediatric Orthopaedic Society.

Below, Mehlman is seen with Eastwood at the meeting.

Alvin Crawford, MD, was reported on in Angiellioforos, a newspaper based in Thessaloniki, Greece, the country’s second largest city. The article, from April 18, 2014, covered the case of a 13-year-old Greek boy with neuroinomatosis, which, according to the article, was described as ‘one of the most serious cases of the disease ever recorded.’ Local physicians performed spinal surgery which improved the patient’s mobility and condition. Crawford was also present at the surgery. Crawford’s participation in this case was aided by the fact that he was in northwest Greece at the University of Ioannina giving a lecture on the same topic.
Fracture Care in Community Practice Setting Key in 12th Annual CME Course

On May 29-31, 2014, the 12th annual “Trauma 101 Fracture Care” conference took place at the Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza Hotel. Michael Archdeacon, MD, MSE, was course director. This two and a half day CME event, sponsored by UC and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, is designed to present advanced instruction for the management of orthopaedic fractures and injuries from initial evaluation and surgical technique through convalescence and rehabilitation, with an emphasis on fracture care in the community practice setting. The course included a program for orthopaedic PAs and NPs.

Keynote speaker J. Tracy Watson, MD, of St. Louis University, lectured on “Treatment of Femoral Shaft Fractures….Where Are We Now?”.

Course faculty consisted of Bart Branam, MD, Angelo Colosimo, MD, Keith Kenter, MD, Toan Le, MD, Micah Sinclair, MD, Christopher Utz, MD and John Wyrick, MD, all from the University of Cincinnati, along with Cory Collinge, MD, of Fort Worth, TX; David Fuller, MD, Camden, NJ; Thomas Gill, MD, Boston, MA; Kyle Jeray, MD, Greenville, SC; Bradley Nelson, MD, Minneapolis, MN; George Russell, MD, Jackson, MS; and Marcus Sciadini, MD, Baltimore, MD.

The ACCME-accredited course had approximately 100 attendees this year.
Alumni Updates

Greiwe Editing Book; Selected as Innovator Finalist

Mike Greiwe, MD (’09), is currently editing an Orthopaedic book on Shoulder and Elbow Trauma, which will be published by Woodhead Publishing Company. Drs. John Wyrick, Keith Kenter and Michael Archdeacon are also contributing authors. The book should be out in early 2015.

Dr. Greiwe was selected as a Finalist for the Cincinnati Business Courier’s “2014 Health Care Heroes” Innovator Award for his work in research and advanced surgical techniques.

Russell Provides Residents with Education

George Russell, MD (’97), came to the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2000 after serving as assistant professor of orthopedic trauma and physician assistant studies at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. He currently serves as medical director for the orthopedics service, professor and chairman. His areas of expertise include traumatology, pelvic/acetabular surgery, and surgery of malunions and nonunions.

He has authored or co-authored many published articles and presents both nationally and internationally on his specialty of orthopedic trauma. He also has served as president of the Mississippi Orthopaedic Society. While at UMMC, he has focused his research interests on obesity and its impact on orthopedics.

He also completed his Executive MBA from Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University in December, 2012.

Following Dr. Peter Stern’s example, Russell leads an educational component series every Tuesday morning at 5:30 a.m. He values the importance of education and instills this mentality into his residents.

Owens Founds Group for Orthopaedic Charity Work in His Local Oregon Community

Rich Owens, MD (’09), is a foot and ankle specialist in Medford, Oregon, with Southern Oregon Orthopedics, the largest orthopaedic surgery group in the region.

He is also a founder of Medford Hearts to Soles, the local chapter of Our Hearts to Your Soles. This organization seeks to serve those less fortunate across America, including door laborers to diabetics and the elderly; almost 150 new pairs of shoes were provided to community members.

In November 2012, Medford Hearts to Soles, in conjunction with the international organization Soles 4 Souls and the Medford Gospel Mission, held its inaugural event, serving over 120 individuals in need of foot care and shoes. This past November, the organization repeated the medical assistance event at the Gospel Mission, helping individuals from working mothers and homeless day laborers to diabetics and the elderly; almost 150 new pairs of shoes were provided to community members. Interviewed by the Medford Mail Tribune for an article on his charity work, Owens said, “We just feel really blessed to be able to be here and help fill such an important need.”

Khera Honored in Phoenix Health System

Oner Khera, MD (’10) received honors from John C. Lincoln Health Network (Phoenix, Arizona) in its annual physician recognition program held in April 2014. The annual program spotlights a wider variety of contributions, accomplishments and service by members of the medical staffs at Lincoln network hospitals and medical practices. Khera, an orthopedic and spine surgeon at John C. Lincoln Deer Valley Hospital, received the 2014 Rising Physician Award.

Eligibility for all these awards is based on service to the John C. Lincoln Hospitals and community; excellence in leadership, ethics and individual achievement; and excellence in patient care, customer service and patient satisfaction. “His patients always give him very good reviews and feel great about their plan of care because he takes the time to explain it to them and to receive their input as well,” said his nominator. “He is a great listener, not only to the patients, but also to the nurses. He’s never too hard to reach when the nurses may need something for his patients.”

Deer Valley Hospital is a 204-bed, not-for-profit community hospital serving the north Phoenix metropolitan area as well as communities further north along Interstate 17.

Snapshot from the ‘Our Hearts to Your Soles’ November, 2013, event.

ALUMNI: We want to hear from you.

Send updates, honors, photos and news to shelley.hess@uc.edu.
The University of Cincinnati Department of Orthopaedic Surgery provides this news and updates for its alumni, current members and supporters. For information, contact Shelley Hess at shelley.hess@uc.edu.