

Inauguration of the

**Giles G. Bole, M.D., and Dorothy Mulkey, M.D.,
Research Professorship in Rheumatology**

in the University of Michigan Medical School

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

D. Dan and Betty Kahn Auditorium

A. Alfred Taubman Biomedical Science Research Building
Michigan Medicine

PROGRAM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Carol R. Bradford, M.D.

Executive Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, U-M Medical School
Chief Academic Officer, Michigan Medicine
Professor of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery

REMARKS

John M. Carethers, M.D.

C. Richard Boland Distinguished University Professor of Internal Medicine

and Human Genetics

John G. Searle Professor of Internal Medicine

Chair, Department of Internal Medicine

Raymond L. Yung, M.B., Ch.B.

Jeffrey B. Halter, M.D., Collegiate Professor of Geriatric Medicine

Director, Geriatrics Center and Institute of Gerontology

Chief, Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine

Interim Chief, Division of Rheumatology

David Fox, M.D.

Frederick G.L. Huetwell and William D. Robinson, M.D., Professor of Rheumatology

Professor of Internal Medicine

INAUGURATION

J. Michelle Kahlenberg, M.D.

Giles G. Bole, M.D., and Dorothy Mulkey, M.D., Research Professor of Rheumatology

CLOSING REMARKS

Carol R. Bradford, M.D.



Giles G. Bole, M.D.

Often when we develop a passion for something — a hobby, a cause, a career — it is in part because of our experience with someone who has encouraged us and added valuable dimension to our pursuit. And in 1972, it was Giles Bole, M.D., who championed an early career rheumatology fellow, Dorothy Mulkey, M.D., and was the catalyst for her future in health care.

Dr. Bole, who retired as dean of the University of Michigan Medical School in 1996, after serving as a regarded faculty member and in administrative roles throughout his 37-year tenure, was more than a brilliant educator and clinician; for Dr. Mulkey, he was her mentor and advocate. Under his skilled guidance, Dr. Mulkey was among the first women to train in rheumatology at the University of Michigan. Her experience opened the door to a successful career as assistant dean at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and a flourishing 30-year private practice.

Inspired by the foundation that grounded her during her studies with Dr. Bole, Dr. Mulkey was moved to honor his legacy more than 40 years later with an endowed estate gift to the Division of Rheumatology. Dr. Mulkey's bequest now lives with generous alumni contributions made in memory of Dr. Bole to establish a fund that recognizes the impact of his leadership and vision, as well as the commitment that Dr. Mulkey — and students who came after her — had to build upon his legacy. Because of the participation, interest, and resources of past rheumatology fellows, this new open channel to education will live on for years to come.

The Giles G. Bole, M.D., and Dorothy Mulkey, M.D., Research Professorship in Rheumatology creates an opportunity for the Department of Internal Medicine to attract and retain world class talent, like J. Michelle Kahlenberg, M.D., Ph.D., who preserve U-M's mission by embarking upon pioneering research and the training of future generations. And, it exemplifies the influence that vested faculty have on the careers of up-and-coming physicians.

"The impact of Dr. Bole's commitment to recognizing and fostering eager fellows is exemplified through a gift like Dr. Mulkey's," says Raymond Yung, M.B., Ch.B., interim chief of the Division of Rheumatology. "And, it is only fitting that Dr. Kahlenberg — a woman with vast accomplishments and a desire to make a difference through science and medicine — is the first recipient of a professorship that the first woman fellow in our program helped to create."

Dr. Bole received his M.D. in 1953 from the University of Michigan. He joined the faculty in 1959 and served as the director of the Rackham Arthritis Research Unit; chief of the Division of Rheumatology; associate dean for clinical affairs; and senior associate dean and executive associate dean of the school. Dr. Bole was appointed as the interim dean of the Medical School in 1990 and dean in 1991. Under his tenure, the Medical School experienced improvement and growth through new curriculum, reduced class size, and cultural diversity. Dr. Bole became dean emeritus in 1996 and passed away in 2011 at age 83.

Dr. Mulkey received her M.D. from the University of Michigan. She was a protégé of Dr. Bole while he was chief of rheumatology. Dr. Mulkey served as an assistant dean of the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, and subsequently ran a private practice in Flint, Michigan, for nearly 30 years. She retired in 2006 and passed away in 2014 at age 78.

This professorship honors Dr. Bole's and Dr. Mulkey's devotion to patient care and the education of trainees. They shared expertise in rheumatology and careers in medical leadership.



J. Michelle Kahlenberg, M.D.

J. Michelle Kahlenberg was born and raised on her family's farm in Pemberville, Ohio. The oldest of five children, she was the valedictorian of her Eastwood High School Class. She completed her undergraduate studies at Denison University — a small liberal arts college in Granville, Ohio — where she majored in biology; she graduated summa cum laude and as class valedictorian in 1998. She attended Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine where she earned her M.D. and Ph.D. in molecular mechanisms of disease. Following her graduate studies, she trained in internal medicine at University Hospitals of Cleveland and then pursued a fellowship in rheumatology at the University of Michigan.

“After doing my Ph.D. in inflammatory mechanisms, I realized that a lot of the science I had been working on could be applied in rheumatic diseases, a field where treatments were limited,” says Dr. Kahlenberg. “Even today, there are many unanswered questions regarding the science behind the diseases and how to best care for our patients.”

During her fellowship, she worked with Mariana Kaplan, M.D., former professor of internal medicine in the Division of Rheumatology at U-M, to define the role of the inflammasome in vascular damage and neutrophil-mediated inflammation in patients with systemic lupus.

“Working with Dr. Kaplan is what initially steered me toward lupus research,” she says. “However, caring for the patients in clinic and seeing how much they struggle with sub-par medications and side effects from treatments is what motivates me to stay in the lupus research field.”

She joined the University of Michigan faculty in 2011, was appointed assistant professor in 2012, and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2018. She has been running her own laboratory and

participating as an active member of the Immunology Training Program since 2013.

An important aspect of her career has been training future immunologists and physician scientists.

“Mentoring the next generation is one of the most satisfying aspects of my job,” says Dr. Kahlenberg. “There is a great need to grow translational and physician scientists as they are the intermediaries between the clinic and the research. When you find a person that has the right combination of interest and drive, they have to be nurtured and protected to allow the proper skillsets to grow.”

Dr. Kahlenberg was an integral part of the establishment of a national mentorship program for academic rheumatologists through the American College of Rheumatology’s Early Career Investigator subcommittee.

The Kahlenberg Laboratory is focused on understanding systemic lupus erythematosus, a devastating autoimmune disease that results in inflammation in many organs including the skin and kidney. Recent developments from her team have identified interferon kappa as an important and dysregulated cytokine that leads to a propensity for skin inflammation in lupus patients. Since 2013, Dr. Kahlenberg’s work has continuously been recognized by the National Institutes of Health. In addition, in collaboration with Johann E. Gudjonsson, M.D., Ph.D., Arthur C. Curtis Professor of Skin Molecular Immunology, she is the first recipient of the Taubman Institute Innovation Program Grant which will support research into developing immunophenotyped personalized medicine for lupus and psoriasis patients. Her work has received institutional accolades and national recognition from the American Society for Clinical Investigation, the Lupus Foundation of America, and the U.S. government through the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

In her spare time, she enjoys organic gardening and working on the family farm, EMMA Acres, run by her husband, Mark, and spending time with her husband and children, Adyn and Emerson.

“My husband and I wanted to live in an area with opportunities for grass-fed meat farming and stellar biomedical research,” Dr. Kahlenberg says. “The University of Michigan and Ann Arbor were at the top of the list!”

On being the inaugural holder of the Giles G. Bole, M.D., and Dorothy Mulkey, M.D., Research Professorship in Rheumatology, her vision for her legacy is clear: “I envision this professorship as one that stands for integrating patient data with basic science bench work to push the field of rheumatology forward and allow for personalized medicine and better patient care in the very near future.”

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