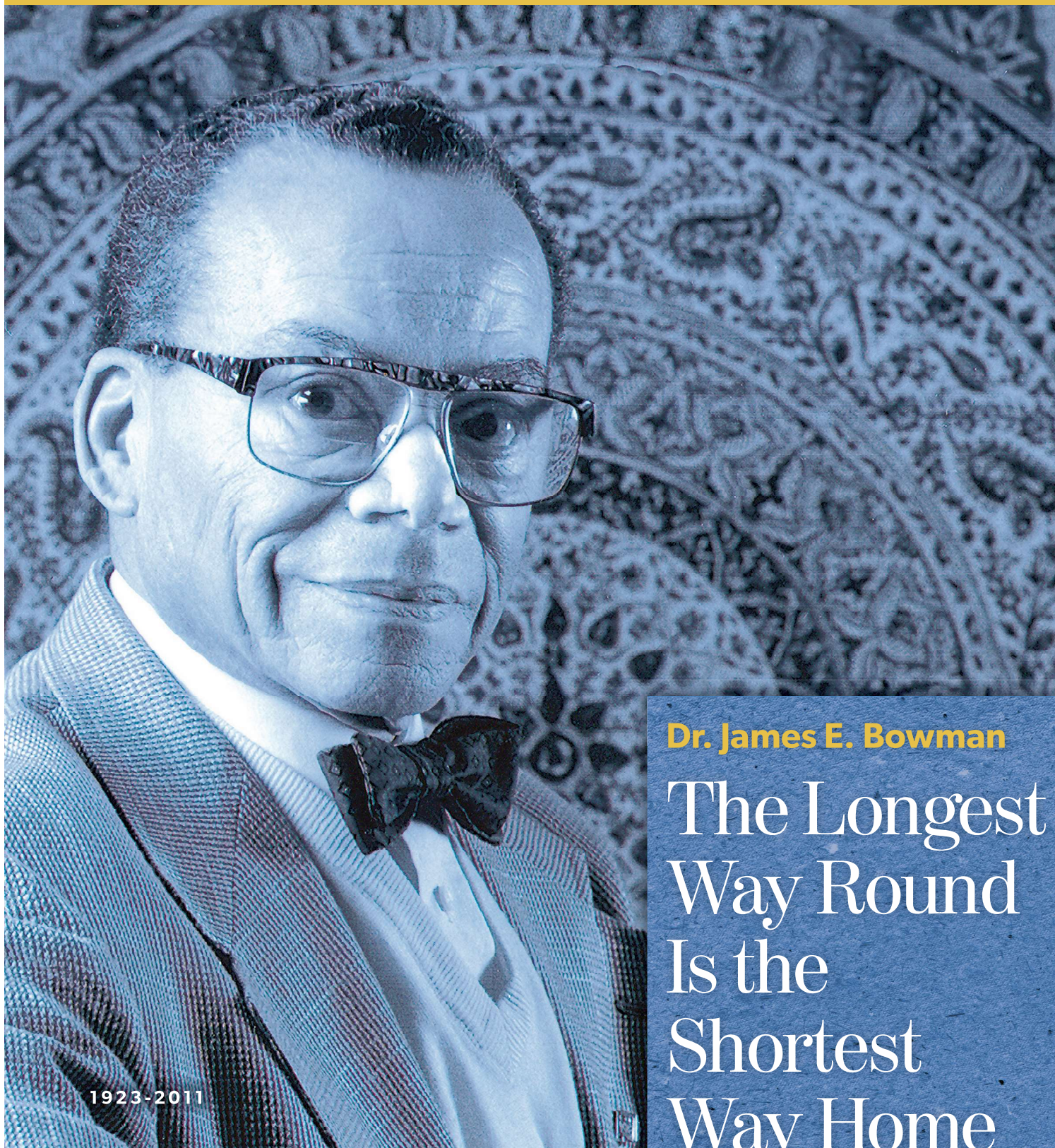


UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
MEDICINE *on the* **MIDWAY**

SUMMER 2012

Biological Sciences Division



Dr. James E. Bowman

The Longest
Way Round
Is the
Shortest
Way Home

1923-2011

Even in repose, James E. Bowman, MD (1923-2011), continues to mentor. Pioneering African American physician-scientist, highly respected bioethicist, devoted father and grandfather — Dr. Bowman was all these things. Mostly, though, he was a teacher. His full, rich life is an enduring lesson that all associated with the University of Chicago Medicine and Biological Sciences should study.

As you read this edition of *Medicine on the Midway*, I invite you to consider Dr. Bowman's example and the pride with which we attach the University of Chicago name to his legacy. So many

“I never met anyone with such boundless enthusiasm and deep-seated commitment. Yet he always seemed so modulated and paced.”

— Rosita Ragin, assistant dean for multicultural and student affairs, about James E. Bowman



Kenneth S. Polonsky, MD

The Richard T. Crane Distinguished Service Professor

Dean of the Biological Sciences Division
and the Pritzker School of Medicine

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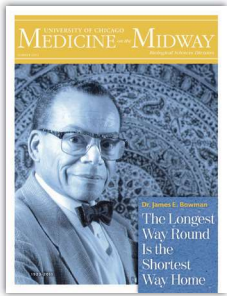
of our physicians and leaders can attest to his influence on their lives and careers that to name each would be difficult, if not impossible. But as we move through this period of change and growth on the medical campus, we are thankful for the steady hand he lent them and that they now lend us and our current class of students, residents and fellows. Knowingly or unknowingly, they benefit from Dr. Bowman's hard-won wisdom.

Former Pritzker student Bruce A. Beutler, MD'81, can teach us about mentoring, as well. In an article by Dirk Johnson, the 2011 recipient of the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his research on the immune system explains how ego can be the enemy of progress. “To work effectively, things have to be casual,” he says in reference to newly star-struck assistants. Beyond advice, Dr. Beutler offers some fond reminiscences of being born into a family of University of Chicago alumni, student life in windswept Hyde Park and the day the Nobel Committee called.

Also in this edition: a talk with genomics pioneer Yusuke Nakamura, MD, PhD, the newest member of the Center for Personalized Therapeutics, led by Mark Ratain, MD. A surprising study, led by Peggy Mason, PhD, on rats and empathy gives us much to ponder about the human condition, and research on lungfish and the origin of walking and on the nature of evolution after mass extinctions gives us a glimpse of just how we got here.

As this letter — a first for me in *Medicine on the Midway* — and the magazine's new look can attest, evolution is inevitable, even in Hyde Park. But given the solid guidance provided by professors and alumni like Dr. Bowman and Dr. Beutler, we progress eagerly and with confidence. Enjoy.

Cover Story



24 James E. Bowman, MD (1923-2011), has left an indelible mark on the University of Chicago — and far beyond. The African American physician-scientist was a trailblazer, a mentor and an inspiration to many. His life seemed to reflect the essence of the old proverb, “The longest way round is the shortest way home.”

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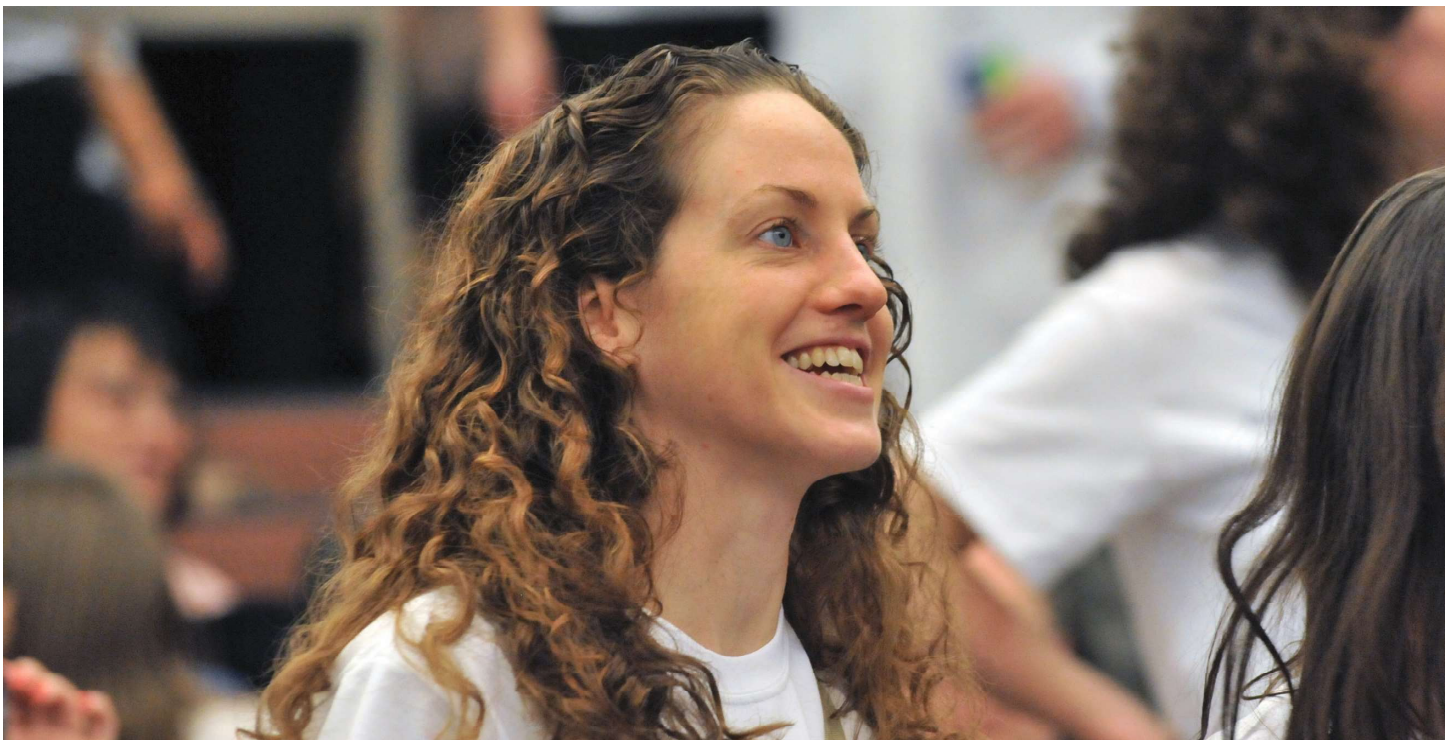


PHOTO BY BRUCE POWELL

Colleen Denny, MD'12, hadn't planned on becoming a physician, but her time at the National Institutes of Health as a bioethics fellow led her on a path to the Pritzker School of Medicine.

The road to becoming an MD

Colleen Denny, MD'12, reflects on the juxtaposition of clinical medicine and public health

BY DARCY LEWIS

As far as Colleen Denny, MD'12, is concerned, Match Day at the Pritzker School of Medicine is just right, in a Goldilocks, whew-what-a-relief kind of way.

"I've heard some medical schools just have students come pick up their envelopes any time after noon on Match Day and that doesn't seem festive," she said. "I've also heard of schools that have each student read their match out loud as they open the envelope, which seems really stressful.

"We get a nice balance between these two extremes," said Denny, who matched at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), in obstetrics-gynecology.

Many of Denny's classmates probably dreamed of this moment for as long as they could remember, but her path to medicine was a bit less straightforward.

"Medical school wasn't even on my

radar," she said. "I thought the main reason to get an MD would be if I wanted a career as a primary care clinician, which I didn't."

Instead, the Duke University alumna, who graduated in 2005 with a psychology degree and a neuroscience emphasis, worked as a National Institutes of Health bioethics fellow for three years after college. "We served as the ethics consult service for all of NIH — any researcher can get a same-day consult, since we were always on call," she said. "The work was unbelievably fun and rewarding. I met so many MDs there doing public health advocacy that I began to see that medical school could be a helpful step for a variety of career paths."

At the NIH, Denny worked closely with Ezekiel Emanuel, MD, PhD, a bioethicist, breast oncologist and former member of the Obama administration. Emanuel, whose brother is Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, now is the Diane and Robert

Levy University Professor at the University of Pennsylvania.

Denny, who co-authored several papers with the bioethicist, explains how Emanuel became her role model. "I think about Zeke's career a lot, and how he worked as a clinician before using that clinical experience as he tried to fix the entire U.S. health-care system," she said. "When you practice first, you bring the voice of experience to your later public health work."

Ob-gyn was a natural fit for Denny. "Medically, I enjoy the huge variety of conditions, from complicated pregnancies to infertility to cancers, but what I really love is talking to women and helping them through whatever hard choices they may face," she said. "And medicine is a great way in which to be actively involved in those choices and understand them from an epidemiological perspective as well."