

BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

ANNUAL REPORT



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MISSION STATEMENT

A photograph of two men in professional attire. The man on the left is wearing a grey blazer, a white shirt, and glasses. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue suit jacket, a white shirt, and a red patterned bow tie. They are both looking at a document held by the man on the right. The background is a blurred office setting with a window and some greenery.

To lead in the discovery of new scientific knowledge, advance medicine, educate the leaders of internal medicine, and provide high-quality compassionate care to our patients.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to present the 2024 Annual Report of the Department of Medicine of Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). I hope it will provide you with a glimpse of our dynamic and successful department. Many of our faculty have attained stature at the international level, and many more are developing pre-eminent careers as clinicians, investigators, and educators. Our faculty's contributions advance the missions of BCM and its affiliated teaching hospitals. We have an extraordinary group of internal medicine residents and several outstanding subspecialty fellowship training programs. Our faculty are united in their commitment and dedication to training the next generation of leaders in medicine. Looking ahead, we are hopeful about the future and confident in our ability to continue delivering value to our patients and other stakeholders.



Hashem B. El-Serag, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice President, Learning Health System
Chair, Margaret M. and Albert B. Alkek
Department of Medicine

SECTION CHIEFS

Our Section Chiefs are the driving force behind the Department of Medicine's clinical, research, educational, and operational excellence. Their leadership fosters strategic growth that allows the section to meet its goals while enhancing physician training and revolutionary, innovative research.



Cardiology

**CHRISTIE
BALLANTYNE, M.D.**



Cardiovascular Research

**CHRISTIE
BALLANTYNE, M.D.**



Endocrinology, Diabetes,
and Metabolism

MARK HERMAN, M.D.



Epidemiology and
Population Sciences

CHRIS AMOS, Ph.D.



Gastroenterology and
Hepatology

FASIHA KANWAL, M.D.



General Internal Medicine

JOEY FISHER, M.D.



Geriatrics and
Palliative Medicine

ELIZABETH KVALE, M.D.



Health Services Research

**LAURA PETERSEN, M.D.,
M.P.H.**



Hematology and
Oncology

LEO LUZNIK, M.D.



Immunology, Allergy,
and Rheumatology

**JAVINDER SINGH, M.D.,
M.P.H.**



Infectious Diseases

THOMAS GIORDANO, M.D.



Nephrology

**WOLFGANG WINKELMAYER,
M.D., M.P.H., SC.D.**



Pulmonary, Critical Care,
and Sleep Medicine

IVAN ROSAS, M.D.



Transition Medicine

CYNTHIA PEACOCK, M.D.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP



JOSEPH SAYEGH, M.B.A.
VICE CHAIR FOR FINANCE &
ADMINISTRATION



GRANT COFFMAN, M.B.A.
SENIOR ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR
FINANCE & STRATEGY



DENNIS PLEDGER, M.B.A.
SENIOR ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR
CLINICAL & EDUCATIONAL AFFAIRS



LESLIE WU, C.R.A.
SENIOR ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR
RESEARCH



Learning
Health System

VA

Ad
Veter

WEDNESDAY, M



CLINICAL

The Department of Medicine at BCM delivers exceptional clinical care across a wide spectrum of specialties and subspecialties. Our physicians and Advanced Practice Providers deliver personalized and compassionate care at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center (BSLMC), Baylor Medicine McNair Clinic, Ben Taub Hospital, Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC), Baylor Medicine Sugar Land, Baylor Medicine - The Woodlands, and Baylor Medicine at San Felipe. Our clinicians are at the forefront of medical advancements, regardless of whether they are managing common conditions, like diabetes and heart disease, or addressing complex challenges, such as cystic fibrosis, breast cancer, and AIDS. Integrating cutting-edge research into practice ensures the department enhances patient outcomes.

RESEARCH

The Department of Medicine at BCM is dedicated to advancing health through innovative, impactful research. We have brought in \$117 million in extramural funding from NIH, Department of Defense (DOD), and various foundations in the last year. Our faculty lead pioneering basic, clinical, and translational research programs recognized at both national and international levels. There are five NIH-sponsored T32 training awards and one training grant funded by the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) in the Department of Medicine. In September 2024, the department was awarded a \$39.9 million NIH **Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA)** UM1 grant (MPIs: Drs. Fasiha Kanwal and Christopher Amos) to support cutting-edge translational research over 7 years and a \$4.3 million CTSA K12 Program grant (MPI: Drs. Rolando Rumbaut), emphasizing career development of physician-scientists.

Department faculty play integral roles in leadership and collaboration across ten research-focused departments and centers at BCM, driving scientific discovery that transforms care. This year, we recruited **Dr. Jasvinder Singh** whose research focuses on outcomes of arthritis and musculoskeletal diseases and **Dr. Leo Luznik** whose research is in the area of allogeneic blood and marrow stem cell transplantation and immunotherapy of hematological malignancies.





EDUCATION

The Department of Medicine at BCM strives for excellence in medical education and preparing the next generation of physicians and leaders in internal medicine. Our Internal Medicine Residency Training Program, one of the largest and most comprehensive in the country, trains approximately 220 residents annually. Residents gain diverse experiences across all of Baylor's affiliate clinics, ensuring they are well-prepared for careers in primary care, subspecialty practice, or hospital medicine.

Our fellowship programs offer advanced training in various specialties, including Allergy and Immunology, Cardiovascular Disease, Interventional Cardiology, Preventive Cardiology, Critical Care Medicine, Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, Gastroenterology, Advanced Endoscopy, Geriatrics, Health Services Research, Hematology and Medical Oncology, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, Sleep Medicine, Primary Care, Transplant Hepatology, and Texas Heart Institute Fellowships.

Pictured above are this year's chief residents in Internal Medicine Residency: Drs. Faheem Bilal, David Crawford, Lydia Glick, Kevin Milligan, and Prisca Pungwe.

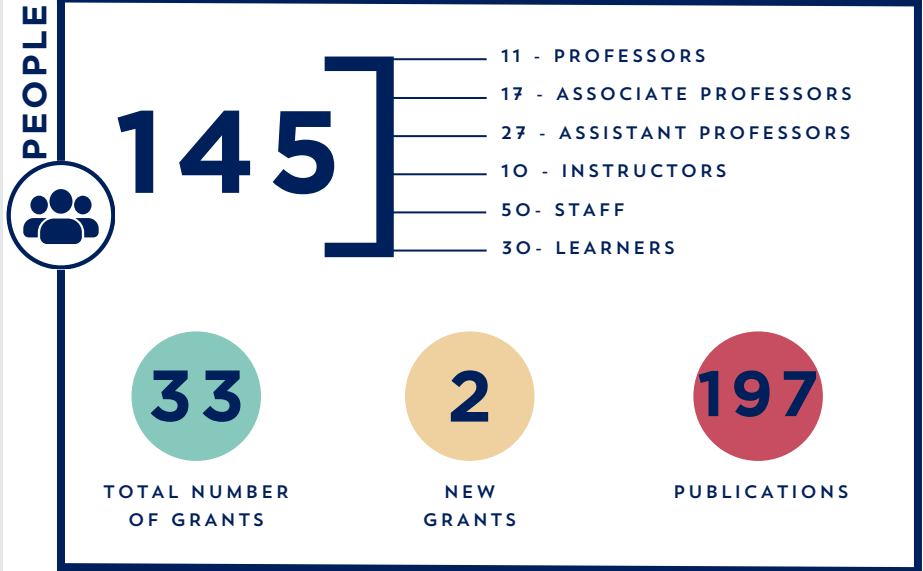
An anatomical model of a human lung, shown in a cross-section. The model is primarily purple with white branching structures representing bronchi and blood vessels. A central white tube, likely the trachea or a bronchus, is visible. The internal structure shows a network of red and blue vessels. The text 'SECTION UPDATES' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font. A white vertical line runs through the center of the image, and horizontal lines are at the top and bottom.

SECTION UPDATES

CARDIOLOGY



CHRISTIE BALLANTYNE, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section of Cardiology made major advances toward achieving comprehensive, state-of-the-art cardiovascular care, conducting cutting-edge clinical research, and training cardiology fellows. Faculty and trainees played important roles in local, national, and international meetings. Clinical accomplishments include increasing heart transplant volume at BSLMC, establishing a novel donor heart preservation program, and completing preclinical studies for the first-in-human implantation of the BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart.

MEDVAMC was the first VA in the nation to conduct a cardiac contractile modulation and MICRA leadless right atrial implantation. Ben Taub Hospital received Gold, Gold Plus, and Platinum Awards from the American Heart Association (AHA) and American College of Cardiology (ACC) for outstanding STEMI, NSTEMI, and heart failure care. Eleven faculty were named Texas Super Doctors. The section received \$1,132,392 in research funding. Faculty helped update AHA and ACC guidelines and were elected to leadership positions and editorial roles in scientific societies.



Drs. Ajith Nair and Paul Klotman



Fellow Welcome Party

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

BCM completed preclinical studies for the first-in-human implantation of the BiVACOR Total Artificial Heart. Dr. Arunima Misra received the AHA's Second Century Clinical Fellow Research Education Program Grant for Diversity in Cardiovascular Disease Research (CVD) and the VA COOP Study IMPACT grant. Dr. Tyler Moran was awarded an artificial intelligence (AI) grant. Dr. Michail Chelu is in the second year of his \$30.7 million PCORI grant for the Left vs. Left randomized controlled trial. Dr. Biykem Bozkurt received the Distinguished Leadership Award from the Heart Failure Society of America and the 2024 Bahr Award of Excellence from the ACC.

EDUCATION

The CVD Fellows were the national champions of the ACC Fellows In Training Jeopardy round in April 2024. The Journal Club established "Evenings with the Experts" to allow fellows to meet experts and gain knowledge and insight for their career paths. We implemented simulation training for both transthoracic and transesophageal echocardiography and used it to assess proficiency among first-year fellows. This year's Incoming Fellow Bootcamp included Drs. Jing Liu, Ali Denktas, Irakli Giorgberidze, Enrique Garcia-Sayan, and Arunima Misra.

The Houston EP Fellows Lecture Series was organized by Drs. Chelu, Schurmann, Vidal, and Dr. Mo Gad. Dr. JC Plana chaired the Expert Consensus for multi-imaging evaluation of cancer patients before, during, and after cancer therapy. Dr. Joanna Molina-Razavi, the President of the Texas Heart Institute Cardiac Society, held the Fifteenth Symposium. Dr. Mohammad Saeed directed the Ali Massumi Cardiac Arrhythmia Symposium.



Department faculty implants avier DR leadless pacemaker

CLINICAL

The Texas Heart Institute at BSLMC ranked #17 in the nation for cardiology and heart surgery by U.S. News & World Report. The Advanced Heart Failure team performed 41 heart transplants, increasing 24% from the prior year. They established "Donation after Circulatory Death" to expand the donor pool and implemented the Organ Care Heart System, which enabled the expansion of the donor radius. The Electrophysiology team introduced pulsed-field ablation. The Ben Taub Cardiology team received Gold, Gold Plus, and Platinum Awards from the AHA and ACC for outstanding STEMI, NSTEMI, and heart failure care. They established a leadless pacemaker program, began performing AFib ablations, and reduced ambulatory wait times from 400 days to 60 days. The wait for an outpatient echo was reduced from 60 to 14 days. They also doubled the number of structural procedures, catheterizations, and echocardiograms. The MEDVAMC Cardiology team pioneered several procedures, including the MICRA leadless right atrial implantation, cardiac contractile modulation, RESPICARDIA implantation, and extravascular and substernal ICD implantation. They were one of the first VA hospitals to use cryoballoon pulmonary vein isolation for paroxysmal atrial fibrillation and established a fully functional MitraClip program to treat mitral regurgitation percutaneously. They integrated advanced plaque modification therapies to treat coronary stenoses. Additionally, they implemented left ventricular global longitudinal strain in patients with left ventricular hypertrophy to identify cardiac amyloidosis and plan to continue a quality improvement project to implement work-up recommendations.

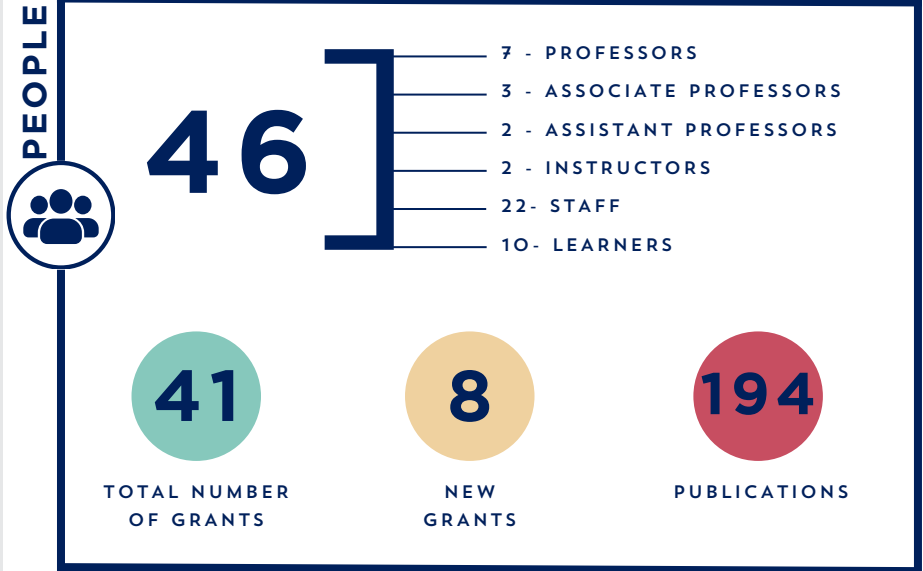


Drs. Enrique Garcia-Sayan and Raymond Stainbeck

CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH



CHRISTIE BALLANTYNE, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The section's faculty was ranked the #1 expert in LDL-C in the U.S. and #3 in the world by Expertscape. Preventive Cardiology fellow, Dr. Abdul Mannan Khan Minhas, was a finalist for the ACC 2024 Young Investigator Award. Dr. Christie Ballantyne was elected President of the National Lipid Association and recognized as one of the Best Doctors in America. Dr. Na Li was elected Chair of the Heart Rhythm Society Research Fellowship Committee.

Dr. Vijay Nambi was selected for the ACC Prevention Council and appointed to the board of the American Society for Preventive Cardiology. Dr. Layla Abushamat received a Houston-Nutrition Obesity Research Center Pilot and Feasibility Award. Dr. Marina Martinez-Vargas, was honored with a Carl Storm Fellowship Award. Drs. Na Li and Vijay Nambi were promoted to professor.



Drs. Vijay Nambi, Layla Abushamat, Abdul Mannan Khan Minhas, and Christie Ballantyne and Center for Cardiometabolic Disease Prevention staff



Drs. Karim Nassar (Houston Methodist), Roger Blumenthal (Johns Hopkins), Glenn Levine, and Mahboob Alam following grand rounds.

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

Last year, the Section of Cardiovascular Research has been highly productive in basic, translational, and clinical research. Section faculty authored 194 publications in peer-reviewed journals, including 50 articles in journals with impact factor > 10, including the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Nature Medicine*, *Cell*, *European Heart Journal*, *Circulation*, *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Nature Metabolism*, and *Diabetes Care*. They presented research results at national and international conferences, including the annual meetings of the ACC, American Diabetes Association, and AHA. Clinical trials of novel therapies conducted in the Section's Center for Cardiometabolic Disease Prevention were presented as late-breaking clinical trials with simultaneous publication in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Dr. Miguel A. Cruz was awarded a competitive renewal of the NHLBI postdoctoral T32, "Collaborative research training in thrombosis and inflammation," and a DOD grant; Dr. Na Li received an NHLBI R01 for her project "FKBP5 and cardiac arrhythmogenesis;" and Dr. Xinchun Pi renewed her NIDDK R01, "Metabolic crosstalk through vascular endothelium-secreted factors."



Drs. Ron Hoogeveen and Christie Ballantyne with Atherosclerosis Clinical Research Laboratory members

CLINICAL

The Lipid Metabolism and Atherosclerosis Clinic, led by Drs. Ron Hoogeveen and Christie Ballantyne, is the only clinic in the Houston area that offers comprehensive genetic testing, including polygenic risk scores for cardiometabolic disorders.

EDUCATION

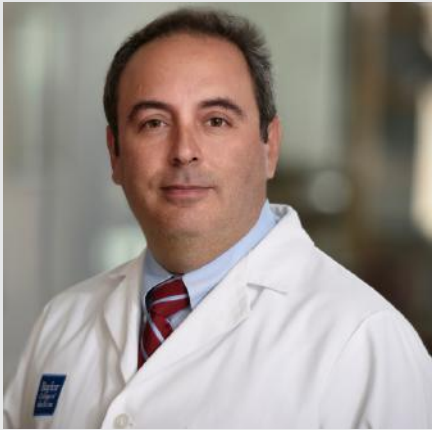
The Section's weekly conference series provided a venue for lectures on core topics, guest speakers, and journal club presentations on recent research. Trainees from the Texas Heart Institute Cardiology program and the Preventive Cardiology Fellowship program worked in the clinic and on research projects. Dr. Miguel A. Cruz was course director for "Immunology" (GS-IY-6301) in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Dr. Huaizhu Wu was the primary mentor for two postdoctoral fellows and two Summer Undergraduate Research Training program students. His postdoctoral fellow successfully competed for an American Diabetes Association fellowship for the project, "Role of monocytes in pancreatitis in hypertriglyceridemia and obesity."

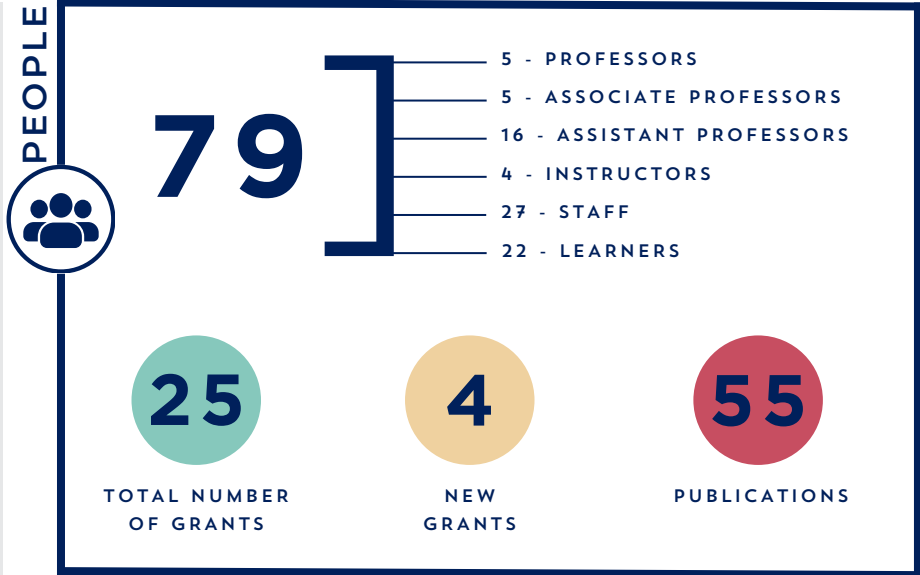


Drs. Huaizhu Wu and Christie Ballantyne with Dr. Wu Lab members

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES, AND METABOLISM



MARK HERMAN, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The BSLMC Endocrine Program was again ranked among the top 50 programs in the U.S. by U.S. News & World Report. In July, Dr. Mark Herman testified before the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee to discuss the economic impact of diabetes. Dr. Ruchi Gaba co-chaired the Annual Texas Endocrine Association Meeting and was elected to the Board of Directors. Dr. Madhuri Vasudevan was appointed as Vice Chair of the Diabetes State Network for the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists.

In January 2024, Dr. Mandeep Bajaj was named President of Medicine and Science for the American Diabetes Association (ADA). Dr. Bajaj also co-chaired the ADA Science and Health Care Executive Council and received the prestigious Banting Medal for Leadership and Service.

RESEARCH

The section had several notable research accomplishments. Dr. Sean Hartig was awarded a 4-year, \$2.5 million R01 from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) for his project titled "Molecular



SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

regulation of leptin bioavailability.” Dr. Udhaya Siva Kumar, a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Zheng Sun’s laboratory, was recognized in the Stanford/Elsevier Top 2% Scientist list. Dr. Rajagopal Sekhar’s articles reached over 1,150 citations, placing him in the top 5% for citations in the Doximity community. Dr. Dongyin Guan received three pilot grants and outstanding scores for an NIDDK R03 and NCI R01, a promising start for his research program. Dr. Qiancheng Zhao, a transplant from Yale University, was appointed as a McNair Scholar. He will enhance our expertise in neural control of obesity and metabolism.

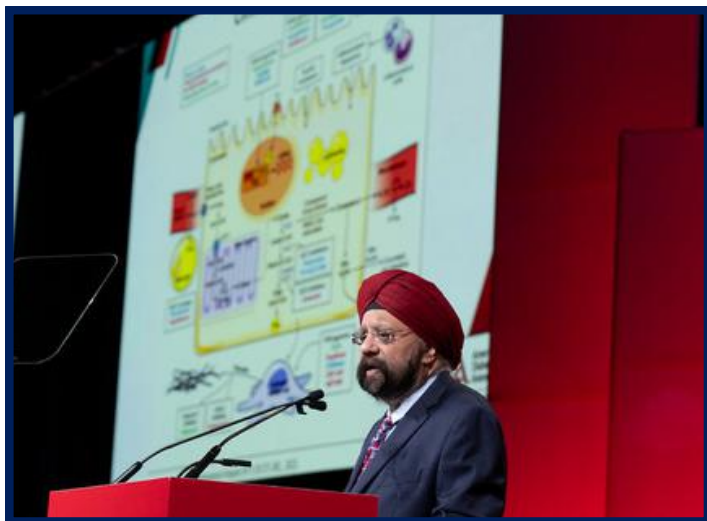
CLINICAL

We continue to cultivate sub-specialty centers of endocrine excellence. Dr. Sara Bedrose and the adrenal center are part of a retrospective multicenter study examining the Clinical and Radiological Characterization and Outcomes of Lipid-poor Adrenal Masses. The Baylor Medicine Endocrinology Practice earned the “Silver and Gold Achievement Awards” for Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, and Type 2 Diabetes management. Two new faculty members, Dr. Maleeha Zahid and Dr. Jordana Faruqi, joined the Baylor Medicine Endocrinology Clinic to enhance clinical expertise.

Drs. Nalini Ram, Ruchi Gaba, and Mandeep Bajaj were voted among Houstonia’s Top Doctors 2023. Dr. Ram was honored among America’s Best Physicians 2023, and Dr. Gaba received the 2024 Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care.

EDUCATION

The 2024 academic year was marked by notable achievements and milestones related to education. Dr. Mandeep Bajaj organized the 17th Annual Diabetes Symposium and chaired the annual Alan J. Garber Symposium on Advanced Diabetes Management for Endocrine Fellows. Dr. Bahar Force helped lead the Online Resources Workgroup within the Pituitary-Gonadal-Adrenal-Neuroendocrine Disease State Network of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinology. Dr. Ruchi Gaba was featured on KTEP 88.5 to discuss holiday food challenges. Drs. Ashok Balasubramanyam, Mandeep Bajaj, and Dennis Villareal were featured in local and national news, sharing their expertise on endocrinology and diabetes. Dr. Byran Jiang was honored with the Norton Rose Fulbright Award for Teaching and Evaluation and assumed the role of Director of Assessment for the BCM Foundational Sciences Medical School Curriculum, furthering the mission of educational excellence.



Dr. Mandeep Bajaj

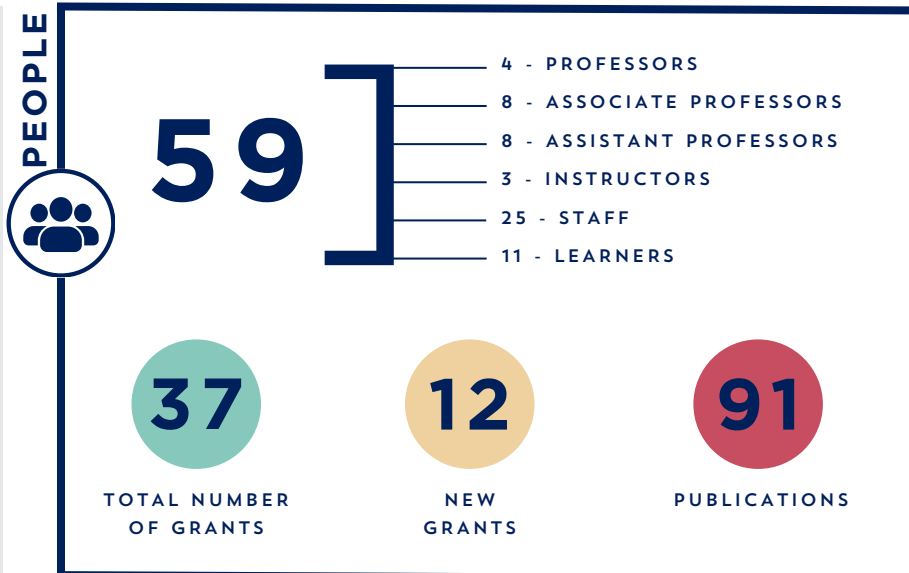


Clarissa Perez-Machado and Grant Coffman

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND POPULATION SCIENCES



CHRIS AMOS, Ph.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section of Epidemiology and Population Sciences promotes high-quality epidemiology and is a source of research, collaboration, instruction, and outreach. Researchers study the emergence of illnesses in communities, the factors that put people at risk for illness, the effects of policy changes, and how these variables may improve the community's health in the future. Genetics, nutrition, cancer, quantitative biology, and health psychology are a few of the fields within the the varied toolkit of methods used by our faculty.

These studies can inform policymakers and clinicians by addressing public and individual health. The section continues to excel, as evidenced by several well-deserved promotions, including Dr. Abiodun Oluyomi to Associate Professor, Dr. Xinfang Yu to Assistant Professor, and Drs. Itunu Sokale and Priya Shetty to Instructors.



Leslie Wu, Pandora Jubilee, and Joseph Sayegh



Dr. Amos

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

Dr. Hoda Badr was invited to give a symposium on dyadic processes in cancer treatment and rehabilitation at the Université libre de Bruxelles in Belgium, as part of their Interuniversity Certificate in psycho-oncology. She also gave a podium presentation at the Binaytara Foundation Conference for Cancer Health Disparities.

Dr. Chris Amos was a guest speaker at the International Lung Cancer Consortium in Lyon, France. He presented on genomic analyses of lung cancer susceptibility; integrative analysis of lung cancer risk and etiology; smoking, environmental, and genomic factors in lung cancer; and managing lung cancer risk.

Dr. Kristina Dahlstrom was featured in Arizona State University News for the article “ASU researchers working to develop biomarkers to screen for HPV-related cancer. Oropharyngeal cancer—a type of cancer that is difficult to diagnose, treat—is on the rise.”

Dr. Abiodun Oluyomi was featured in The Austin Chronicle for the article “Health Finally Gets a Seat at the COP28 Table.”

Dr. Kristina Whitworth was featured in The Dallas Morning News for the article “North Texans may be exposed to potential carcinogens while driving their cars, study finds.”

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Hoda Badr was elected as a Faculty Senate Member, making recommendations to the College administration on issues important to faculty.

Dr. Chris Amos was listed as a 2024 Top Scientist from Research.com. The Section Administrator, Pandora Jubilee, M.B.A., was awarded the Emerging Leader Award on October 12, 2023.

Dr. Charles Minard received the Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching & Evaluation.



GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY



FASIHA KANWAL, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Fasiha Kanwal was awarded a prestigious NIH Clinical and Translational Science Award UM1 grant totaling \$39.9 million over 7 years as a multiple PI with Dr. Bettina Beech from the University of Houston. Drs. Gagan Sood and Ayse Mindikoglu were promoted to professor and Dr. Robert Sealock to associate professor.

Drs. Rise Stribling, Clark Hair, and David Sheikh received the BCM Excellence in Patient Care award. Drs. Ayse Mindikoglu and Mimi Tan received the Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Awards.

Many faculty members were selected to serve on professional society committees. Dr. Ruben Hernaez will serve as the Post-Graduate Course Director for the American Gastroenterological Association meeting in 2025.

RESEARCH

The section remains a leader in gastrointestinal and liver disease research. Faculty members published more than 260 papers and obtained more than \$50 million in research funding. The section remains the clinical home for the NIH-funded Digestive Disease Center.



Drs. Wasif Abidi and Reena Choski



Drs. Clark Hair, Mimi Tan, Hashem El-Serag, and Rehman Sheikh

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Thirteen faculty members secured new grants, including several pilot grants, one career development award, one NIH K grant, two R grants, two U01s, one P30, and one UM1. Dr. David Graham received the 2024 American Gastroenterology Association William Beaumont Prize. Dr. John Vierling received the Lifetime Achievement and Recognition Award from the PBCers for his work in biliary cholangitis. Dr. Natalia Khalaf was selected for the 2024–2025 National Academy of Medicine Scholars in Diagnostic Excellence Program. Dr. Richa Shukla successfully competed for the IBD Qorus Health Equity Award from the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation.

CLINICAL

The faculty provided high-quality, compassionate healthcare at BSLMC, Ben Taub Hospital, and MEDVAMC. All pavillions incorporated computer-aided detection in the endoscopy units. Harris Health Ambulatory Endoscopy Center at Quentin Mease opened its doors to patients. This stand-alone facility provides state-of-the-art endoscopic care to thousands of patients in the Harris Health System. MEDVAMC launched a successful third-space endoscopy program, and the IMAGINE Research Program joined Baylor's Learning Health System.

Baylor Medicine Gastroenterology was as the first clinic to participate in the IMAGINE Research Program. This program aims to enroll more than 120,000 participants to expand our understanding of genetic influence on disease and advance personalized and precision medicine.

EDUCATION

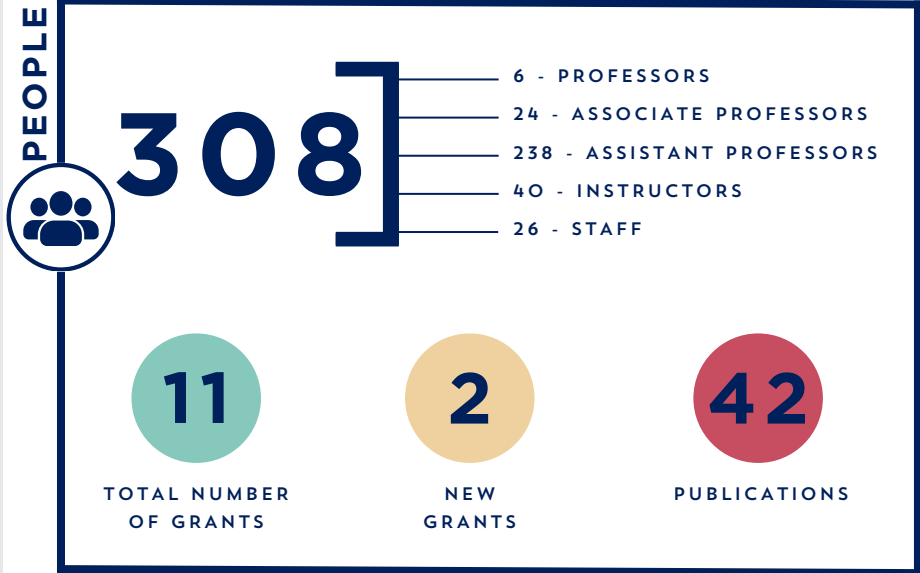
The section hosted its 23rd Annual GI and Hepatology Course for more than 150 participants. The outstanding talks were well received by attendees. The section also held the inaugural GI Fellows' Research Retreat where 18 faculty members showcased their research projects to GI fellows and detailed opportunities for involvement and mentorship. The meeting was an inspiring and enriching event that highlighted the section's research. The Texas Interventional Endoscopy Group hosted its annual First Year Fellows Course for 45 fellows and 18 faculty from all over the state. Various endoscopy techniques were taught using 12 endoscopy stations featuring different tools. Dr. Fasiha Kanwal co-directed the American Gastroenterology Association Women's Executive Leadership Collaboration Conference, which allows women in leadership across the gastroenterology and hepatology field to advance and support each other.



GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE



JOEY FISHER, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section of General Internal Medicine (GIM) has grown to a team of more than 300 faculty and staff serving nine clinical locations in Greater Houston. They are committed to innovation, exploration, and translation of scientific discovery into high-quality, patient-centered care as primary care clinicians and hospitalists.

Approximately 200 BCM medical students rotate through general medicine inpatient services, and all 200 internal medicine residents complete their ambulatory continuity clinic and inpatient ward experience under the guidance of GIM faculty. Members provide hours of service, including leadership roles as BCM faculty senators, committee chairs at affiliate institutions, President of the Southern Society of General Internal Medicine, and Chair of the Society of General Internal Medicine Clinic Directors Interest Group.



Dr. Rosenbaum's Retirement Celebration

EDUCATION

The section's faculty consistently earn top educator awards, including the 2024 John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award (Dr. Andrew Caruso), 2024 Graduating Class Outstanding Teacher Award (Dr. Stephanie Sherman), and multiple Norton Rose Fulbright Educator Awards (Drs. Glynda Raynaldo, Cory Ritter, and Doris Lin).

In the School of Medicine, Dr. Nadia Ismail, Vice Dean, and Dr. Cara Foldes, Assistant Dean of Foundational Sciences Curriculum, oversaw the development and implementation of a new 4-year curriculum for the BCM medical students in July 2023.

The section held the 2nd Annual Academic Regional GIM Conference that featured 20 poster presentations from BCM and institutions in Houston, Temple, and Galveston. Dr. Charlene Dewey, Assistant Dean for Educator Development and Director of the Center for Professional Health at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine was the David J. Hyman Lecturer, gave an outstanding presentation on "Recognizing and Reducing Burnout by Building Personal and Workplace Resilience."

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

The faculty collaborate on numerous scholarly activities, advancing knowledge in clinical care and quality improvement, education and curriculum development, and humanities and social determinants of health (e.g., environmental health, substance use, food insecurity, partner violence). Nationally, more than 20 faculty members presented at annual conferences of the Society of Hospital Medicine, the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM), Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine/Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine, and Association of American Medical Colleges Southern Group on Educational Affairs.

Drs. Olubunmi Oladunjoye and Isabel Valdez won first place at the 10th Annual BCM Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Conference for their project on “Increasing Colon Cancer Screening.” Dr. Catherine Daniel presented at SGIM on “Implementation of Structured Care Management—Clinician Rounds to Improve Hospital Throughput.” Drs. Zaven Sargsyan, Stephanie Sherman, and Holland Kaplan published “A Mini-Chalk Talk Workshop for Fourth Year Medical Students: Facilitating the Transition from Student to Resident Educator” in MedEdPORTAL.

Drs. Nadia Ismail and Cara Foldes co-authored “Twelve tips for using the Understanding by Design® curriculum planning framework” in Med Teach.

Faculty are co-investigators on grants targeting cancer survivorship, training on opiate use disorders, environment and maternal health, food insecurity and chronic kidney disease, and space medicine.

CLINICAL

The section played a key role in BCM’s mission of delivering high-quality, compassionate healthcare. The section expanded inpatient and outpatient services and added the highly-skilled San Felipe Clinic medical group to Baylor Medicine. Across the nine affiliate sites, the section has conducted more than 100,000 outpatient visits and 300,000 inpatient visits. The faculty achieved quality metrics across the sites and consistently attained top patient experience scores. They have been recognized as outstanding clinicians by Houstonia Magazine, Texas Monthly, and BCM through the Excellence in Patient Care Awards, PEAR Awards, Power of Professionalism Awards, and affiliate hospital awards. Dr. Shazia Sheikh exemplifies our faculty’s dedication to serving vulnerable patients through her leadership of Harris Health System’s “Hospital at Home” program. This initiative helps patients access care, reduces ED wait times, and increases bed capacity in a resource-limited, safety-net system. Drs. Priti Dangayach and Julian Swanson are leading clinical and educational efforts on patient experience. Harris Health highlighted their work in a YouTube training video, and they have co-authored two articles on how to teach skills to enhance patient experience. Dr. David Hilmers, former U.S. Marine Corps colonel, veteran of NASA’s space program, and Professor of Medicine was inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame at the Kennedy Space Center.

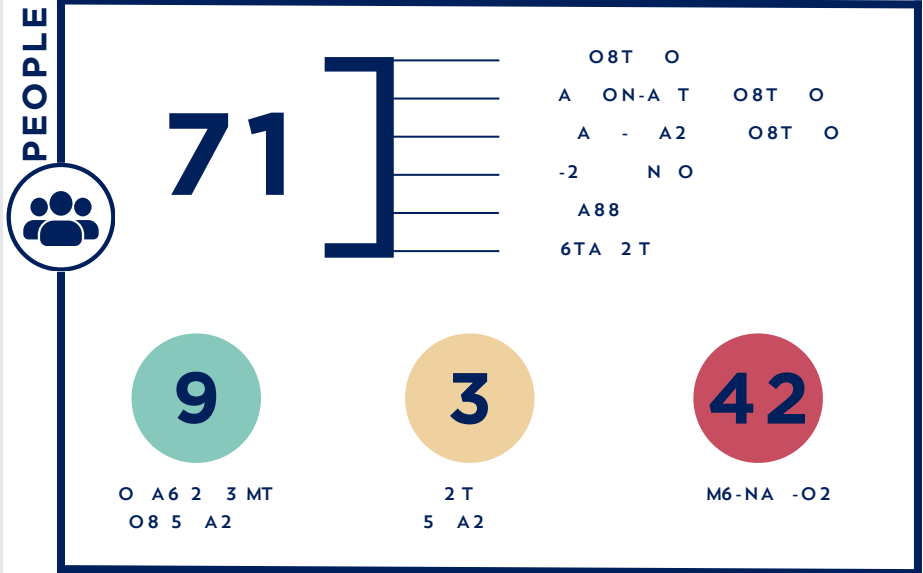


Drs. Marc Robinson, Nabil Ahmed, Narendra Cividgunta, Allison Heinen Taylor, Lindsey Gay, Ya Li, Shazia Sheikh

GERIATRICS AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE



ELIZABETH KVALE, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine continues to deliver high-quality care to older adults and patients living with serious illnesses across Houston. They provide comprehensive services at BSLMC, Harris Health, and MEDVAMC with a dedicated team of specialists in both geriatrics and palliative care. Over the past year, the section has grown our services and team. We have added new faculty to the Vallbona Health Center at Harris Health and inpatient palliative care teams at Ben Taub Hospital, BSLMC, and MEDVAMC as well as to the research division.

The section's mission remains steadfast: to advance the care of aging populations and those with serious illnesses through innovative, patient-centered approaches. This year, Dr. Leanne Jackson pioneered the "Last Writers" program, which pairs medical students with palliative care patients to help capture their life stories and create memoirs. This program fosters connections between students and patients, cultivating an understanding of the human side of medicine while creating a legacy for patients and families. Since launch, this program has recruited nine students, and twelve more will join next year.



Alison Dobecka and Dr. Elizabeth Kvale



American Heart Day

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

CLINICAL

The section's dedication to excellence is demonstrated by the accolades of two ambulatory clinics—Vallbona Health Center Geriatrics Clinic, led by Dr. Julia Reyser, and BSLMC's Senior Care Clinic, under the leadership of Dr. Susan Williams. Both clinics have been recognized as Age-Friendly Health Systems by the John A. Hartford Foundation as well as the Institute for Healthcare Improvement in partnership with the American Hospital Association and Catholic Health Association of the U.S. This designation reflects the section's commitment to delivering age-sensitive, high-quality care. Drs. Anita Major and Cristina Murdock led initiatives to improve ICU delirium screening and streamline outpatient geriatric care across multiple sites. Ten faculty members were honored as Top Docs in geriatrics and palliative care.

RESEARCH

The section is committed to advancing the science of geriatric and palliative medicine. For example, Dr. Eberechi Onyemkpa was awarded the prestigious Cambia Foundation Sojourns Scholar Award, and Dr. Astrid Grouls secured significant funding from the ALS Foundation to advance our understanding of fatigue in ALS patients.

Dr. Elizabeth Kvale is advancing survivorship care by presenting her work internationally. Dr. Mary Garcia is leading the PAUSE trial at MEDVAMC to improve surgical outcomes for veterans.

EDUCATION

The section's fellowship remains one of the U.S.'s largest geriatric fellowships. Fellows received awards at the Huffington Center for Aging Symposium and presented research at the American Geriatrics Society. Our partnerships with MD Anderson and Texas Children's have strengthened palliative care training with innovative programs. Under the direction of Dr. Ursula Braun at MEDVAMC, fellows receive hands-on training and mentorship on providing compassionate, evidence-based care to patients with serious illnesses. Dr. Katie Hicks, a palliative faculty member, has taken on the role of Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency, and she has developed a communication skills workshop for interns in the Ben Taub ICU. Dr. Robert Roush continues to inspire the next generation with the 35th Annual "Art of Presentation" program, a signature training program for the geriatrics fellows and PA residents.



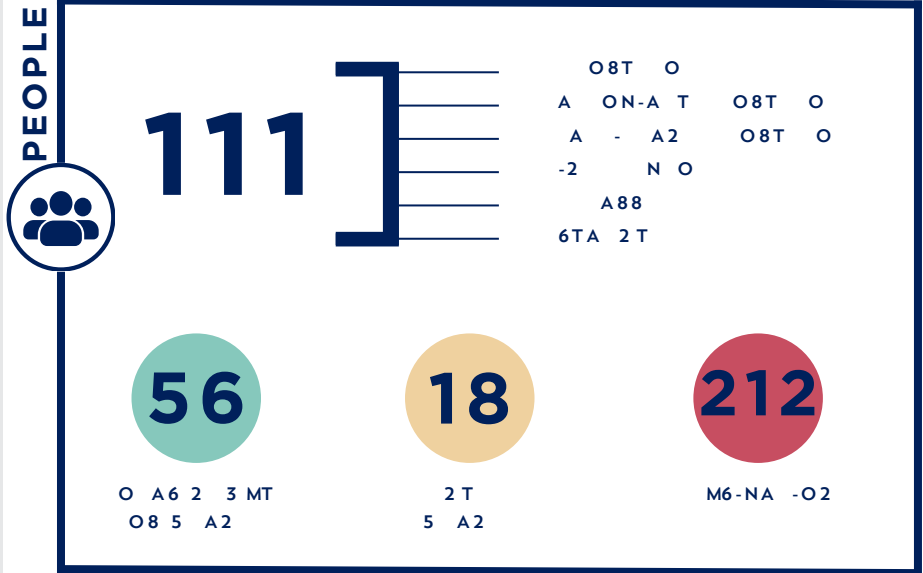
Dr. Laura Petersen and Dr. Elizabeth Kvale



HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH



**LAURA A. PETERSEN, M.D.,
M.P.H.
SECTION CHIEF**



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The mission of the Section of Health Services Research and the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness & Safety (IQuEst) is to improve health and well-being through innovations in health care delivery. IQuEst is organized into four programs: Implementation, Innovation & Evaluation; Behavioral Health; Health Policy, Quality & Informatics; and Clinical Effectiveness & Population Health. These programs are supported by the Administration & Operations Core, Education & Training Core, and Methodology & Analytics Core.

IQuEst's multidisciplinary community of scientists has 91 faculty and more than 150 staff. Each program provides outstanding leadership and scholarship to produce the best science in its field while collaborating effectively with the greater scientific community. To learn more about their high-impact work, please attend one of the Health Services Research Grand Rounds seminars.



Drs. Sylvia Hysong, Shannon Kenyon, and Laura Petersen



Drs. Chase Eck and Molly Horstman

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

HSR faculty received 18 individual and collaborative grants totaling more than \$10.5M in FY2024. Pls include Drs. Barbara Trautner and Larissa Grigoryan (AHRQ R01), Dr. Ashley Meyer and Andrea Bradford (NIH R01), Dr. Donna White (VA CSR&D I01), Drs. Javad Razjouyan and Drew Helmer (VA CSR&D I01), Dr. Darius Dawson (VA HSR CDA), Dr. Kathryn Kanzler (ADA; DoD Pilot), Dr. Hilary Touchett (VA RR&D CDA), Dr. Bhavika Kaul (BCM Chao Physician-Scientist Award), and Dr. Laura Petersen (COIN renewal, \$4.45M). Dr. Hardeep Singh was selected to join the National Quality Forum Advancing Measurement of Diagnostic Excellence Committee and was invited to serve on the WHO's Steering Committee for World Patient Safety Day 2024. He was awarded the Mark L. Graber Diagnostic Quality Award, a lifetime achievement award from the Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine. Dr. Kaul attended the 2024 National Academy of Medicine's invitation-only Emerging Leaders Forum as a National Academy of Medicine Scholar in Diagnostic Excellence for her work leveraging radionics and AI to optimize access to care for Veterans with pulmonary fibrosis. Dr. Darius Dawson was selected as an Anxiety & Depression Association of America 2024 Emerging Leader. This award honors early career professional members for outstanding service and commitment to advancing ADAA's mission.

Dr. Andrew Zimolzak was awarded Best Oral Abstract Presentation at the Society to Improve Diagnosis in iMedicine 2023 Conference for his presentation, "Machine Learning for Enhanced Electronic Trigger Detection of Diagnostic Errors."

EDUCATION

Categories of IQuEst Grand Round seminars are: Research in Progress, Job Talks, Visiting Professors, and Workshops. Professional development activities include training in crucial conversations and insights discovery. Insights discovery enhances self-awareness, improves the way the trainee works, and informs how they interact with others. Dr. Anita Chary is stepping into the BCM Medical Scientist Training Program Associate Director role. Dr. Kyler Godwin was promoted to Director of the Institute for Continuing Professional Development in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety at BCM. Dr. Jessica Davila has been named Deputy Director of the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research at BCM.

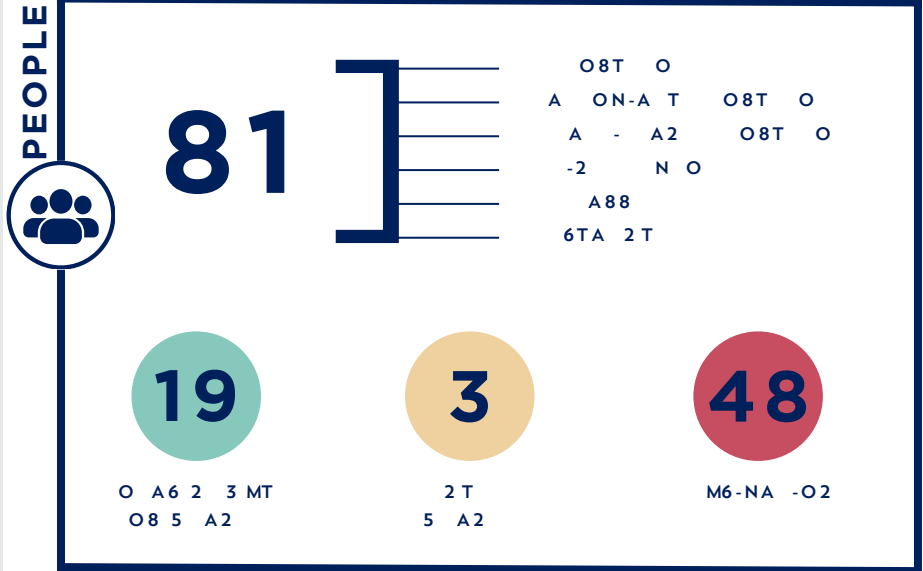
The following have received Norton Rose Fulbright Awards for their educational contributions: Dr. Jessica Davila—Educational Leadership and Educational Research, Dr. Molly Horstman—Educational Research, and Dr. Ashley Meyer—Educational Materials.



HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY



LEO LUZNIK, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section of Hematology and Oncology is a leader in academic research and teaching. It provides patient care at multiple facilities, ensuring comprehensive treatment for a wide range of hematologic and oncologic conditions. The faculty practice at the Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center, BSLMC, Ben Taub Hospital, Texas Children’s Hospital-Women’s Pavilion, MEDVAMC, and Houston Methodist Hospital. Despite undergoing a major restructuring, the section has prioritized strategic

planning, aligning clinical metrics with national benchmarks, and establishing robust clinical trial portfolios. The section promotes the advancement of innovative treatment protocols developed internally to enhance both patient outcomes and faculty academic productivity. A few highlights of the strategic plan are to establish true teams, remove silos, promote integration and cohesiveness across all practices, elevate excellence in teaching, and foster the career development of faculty and trainees.



Drs. Courtney Miller-Chism and Aparna Jotwani



Fellows Bootcamp

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

The section faculty conducted laboratory and clinical research with a focus on translational studies to understand hematologic and oncologic disorders. Faculty secured federal, foundation, and pharma funding, totaling \$5,064,423 this fiscal year. Two investigators received career development grants. The section published 48 publications contributing significantly to the field.

CLINICAL

The number of patients seen has increased across the different pavilions, particularly in the newly opened, state-of-the-art O'Quinn Medical Tower at BSLMC. One major accomplishment was the opening of the Phase 1 clinical trial program through the support of the Margaret Alkek Foundation for Experimental Therapeutics. This program will allow patients the opportunity to enroll in early-phase clinical trials targeting a wide range of malignancies. Patients will receive novel treatments at the BSLMC's O'Quinn Medical Tower. Many faculty have already initiated innovative Phase 1 trials through this program.

EDUCATION

The annual Comprehensive Board Review in Hematology and Medical Oncology, hosted by MD Anderson Cancer Center and BCM, took place in September. Dr. Martha Mims co-chaired this 6-day virtual event. Dr. Helen Heslop was awarded the American Society of Hematology Mentor Award at the 2023 annual meeting. Dr. Ang Li was awarded an American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Career Development Award. Dr. Salma Kaochar was awarded the 2024 American Association for Cancer Research Early Career Award, and Dr. Senthil Sukumar was selected to participate in the American Society of Hematology Clinical Research Training Institute. Drs. Tannaz Armaghany and . Sravanti Teegavarapu received the Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care Award. Drs. Courtney Miller-Chism and Sarvari Yellapragada received Best Subspecialty Clinic Teaching Awards from the Internal Medicine Residency. Drs. LaQuisa Hill and Yvonne Sada were promoted to Associate Professor, and Dr. Ben Musher was promoted to Professor. Dr. Miller-Chism started her three-year appointment on the ASCO Training Program Committee. Two fellows, Drs. Huili Zhu and Nataly Torrejon, were awarded ASCO Young Investigator Awards.



Dr. Leo Luznik



Members of the Section

IMMUNOLOGY, ALLERGY, AND RHEUMATOLOGY



JASVINDER SINGH, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

CLINICAL

The section's patient care has excelled with a score of 95 (in the 88th percentile) in FY24. The section has established a close working relationship with dermatology, resulting in all patch tests being completed at the McNair campus. Dr. Jena Nimri started a dedicated clinic for diagnostic and therapeutic musculoskeletal ultrasonography procedures. Dr. Sandeep Agarwal was the recipient of the Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care from BCM. Dr. Rashmi Maganti was named in Castle Connely Top Doctors 2024 and Houstonian Magazine Top Doctor.



Grant Coffman, Johnetta Williams, and Dr. Rashmi Maganti

RESEARCH

The section's faculty are pursuing cutting-edge research uncovering knowledge for the treatment of various rheumatic and allergic diseases. Dr. Grace Lo received the 2024 Award for Best Faculty Research Mentor. Drs. David Corry, Sandeep Agarwal, Tiphonie Vogel, and Sanjiv Sur are performing translational research in animal models investigating how rheumatic diseases are caused and progress, which could help discover better treatments for the management of people with rheumatic diseases.



Dr. Jasvinder Singh

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Drs. Kalpana Bhairavarasu and Jasvinder Singh are studying how common treatments for rheumatoid arthritis impact the outcomes that matter the most to the patient, including quality of life, pain, function, sleep, and work productivity.

EDUCATION

The BCM Allergy and Immunology Fellowship—Internal Medicine (IM) Track added a second fellowship spot, making the Texas Children’s Hospital-Baylor Allergy Fellowship one of the largest in the country. Despite the program being divided into two tracks (pediatrics and IM), the clinical curriculum is fully integrated, and IM-track fellows spend nearly 50% of their training at Texas Children’s. IM-track fellows receive comprehensive training in adult and pediatric patients and spend eight weeks per year taking care of rare primary immunodeficiency patients while rotating on the Texas Children’s immunology inpatient service. The pediatric- and IM-track fellows also receive comprehensive procedural training in skin testing, patch testing, allergen immunotherapy formulation, drug and food challenges, drug desensitization, and rhinoscopy.

The adult rheumatology fellowship continues its tradition of excellence in clinical education.

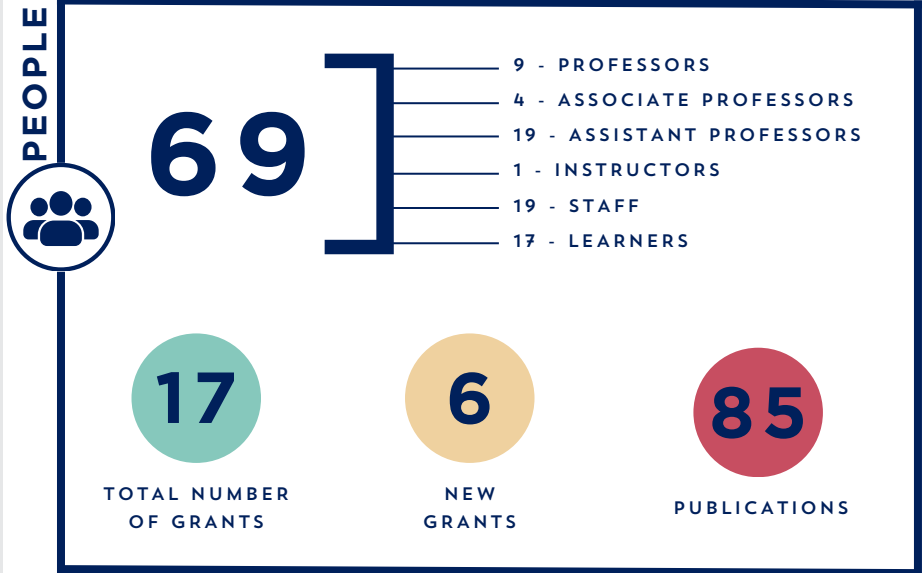
Fellows have a 100% first-time board pass rate, and 58% remain in academics for their first position after graduation. They provide outstanding clinical care in Harris Health System, MEDVAMC, and MD Anderson Cancer Center. In the past year, fellows have participated in clinical outcomes research focused on systemic lupus erythematosus and autoimmune sequelae of cancer immunotherapy, with multiple fellows including Drs. Savannah Bowman, MaryJo Maliekel, and Keshia Ferguson as co-authors on two manuscripts under review for publication. Dr. Ali El-Halwagi was selected to serve on the Fellows-in-Training subcommittee of the American College of Rheumatology and co-authored a scientific review on the genetics of scleroderma. The section’s fellows have also been engaged in quality improvement projects to optimize approaches to glucocorticoid-induced osteoporosis at MEDVAMC Rheumatology Clinics.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES



THOMAS GIORDANO, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

EDUCATION

The section's fellowship program unveiled a new track in Systems-Based Practice in Infectious Diseases led by Drs. Stacey Rose, Eva Amenta, and Zach Shepard. The other tracks are Infection Prevention, Antimicrobial Stewardship, Quality Improvement and Leadership, Tropical Medicine, and Global Health. The Tropical Medicine and Global Health track added a new elective in tropical medicine at an international site where the fellow will spend a month doing research in Peru. Drs. Eva Amenta and Ahmed Hamdi were selected as recipients of the 2024 Award for Best Subspecialty Teaching Faculty by the Internal Medicine residents. Drs. Shital Patel, Stacey Rose and Prathit Kulkarni received Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Awards. Dr. Richard Hamill was Course Chair and Moderator at the 2024 Pri-Med Southwest



Dr. Stacey Rose with conference colleagues

Primary Care Conference and Expo, and three section faculty presented. Drs. Shital Patel and Melanie Goebel continue to lead the BCM AIDS Education Training Center, which provides HIV education to clinicians across Texas. Drs. Alison Robins and Jose Serpa-Alvarez led a citywide Infectious Diseases Conference available to the public.

RESEARCH

The section had many research achievements. The Vaccine Research Center and the Texas Developmental Center for AIDS Research are both led by section faculty. Drs. Bich Dang, Thomas Giordano, and Indira Mysorekar were awarded new major grants from the NIH.



Dr. Indira Mysorekar and students from her laboratory

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Paul Nicholls was awarded a K08 to study interactions between bacteriophages and antibiotics. Dr. Robert Atmar received the Michael E. DeBakey Excellence in Research Award for his clinical research in vaccines. He also received the Leadership Group Award from the Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium. Drs. Eva Clark, Prathit Kulkarni, Indira Mysorekar, Daniel Musher, Maria Rodriguez-Barradas, and Jose Serpa had publications in high-impact journals, and Drs. Robert Atmar, Hana El Sahly, Prathit Kulkarni, Rizwan Sohail, and Barbara Trautner gave podium presentations at IDWeek 2023. Drs. Robert Atmar, Daniel Musher, and Maria Rodriguez were named 2024 Top Scientists by Research.com. Dr. Indira Mysorekar received the Association for Women in Science Outstanding Women in Science Award. The section's faculty served on NIH and AHRQ grant review panels and FDA advisory panels.

CLINICAL

Drs. Ahmed Hamdi and Yuriko Fukuta led the opening of a new Outpatient Infusion Center at BSLMC. Drs. Sarwat Khalil and Tyler Lambing integrated their clinics focused on infectious diseases associated with transplantation to the Transplant Center at BSLMC. The faculty contribute to national practice guidelines and infectious diseases organizations. Members are in the leadership of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and the Society for

Healthcare Epidemiology of America as well as serving on a panel writing the Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of Opportunistic Infections in Adults and Adolescents with HIV. Dr. Yuriko Fukuta received a BCM Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care and the Common Spirit Health Physician Enterprise Academic Excellence Award. Dr. Stacey Rose was named a 2024 Texas Super Doc by Texas Monthly. Drs. Robert Atmar, Galant Chan, Cezarina Mindru, Richard Hamill, Prathit Kulkarni, Bob Parkerson, Maria Rodriguez-Barradas, and Stacey Rose were named 2023 Houstonia Top Doctors.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Stacey Rose is an elected member of the Board of Directors for the Academy for Professionalism in Health Care. Dr. Indira Mysorekar was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society for Reproductive Immunology, and is also the President-elect and 2024 Meeting Co-Chair for the American Society for Reproductive Immunology. Dr. Prathit Kulkarni was awarded a BCM Alumni Association Young Alumnus Award. Dr. Alison Robins hosted the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America International Ambassadors program for a hospital tour at MEDVAMC during their Spring Conference. Drs. Kathy Breaux and Maria Rodriguez-Barradas received the Outstanding Physician-PA Partnership of the Year award from the Texas Academy of Physician Assistants.



Dr. Arnold Salazar and Grant Coffman

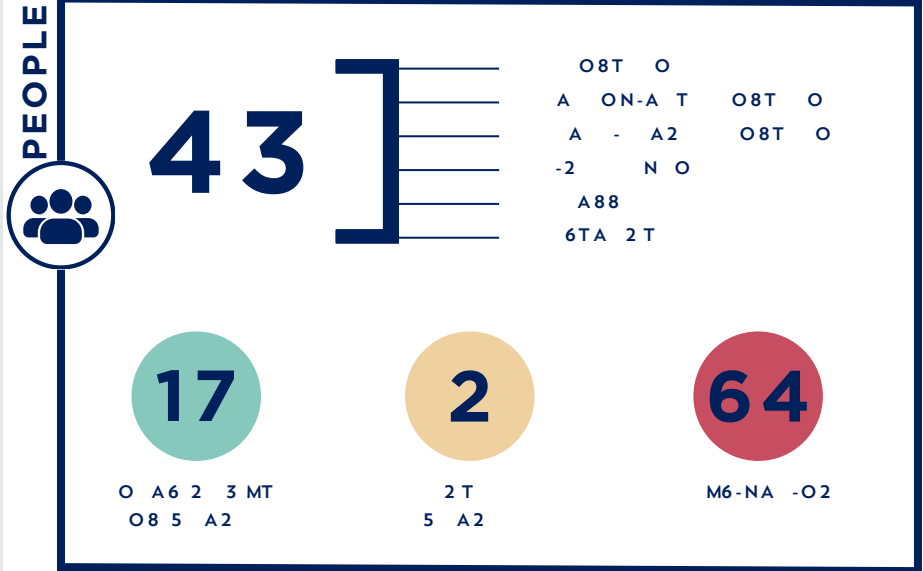


Drs. Zach Shepard, Jose Serpa-Alvarez, Thomas Giordano, Eva Amenta, and Bich Dang at ID Research Retreat.

NEPHROLOGY



WOLFGANG WINKELMAYER,
M.D., M.P.H., SC.D.
SECTION CHIEF



BY THE NUMBERS

CLINICAL

The section’s Baylor Medicine faculty grew to 8.4 full-time-equivalents and increased productivity by more than 7%. The section recruited the top fellow of the 2024 fellowship class, Dr. Sarwar Khan, to join the Baylor Medicine group in 2025. The faculty at Harris Health exceeded their productivity target by 18%. Dr. Kevin Erickson oversaw the move of Harris Health’s outpatient dialysis program from the Riverside Dialysis unit to a new, state-of-the-art facility at Quentin Mease Health Center. The section also recruited Dr. Hania Kassem, an expert in home dialysis. She began overseeing the peritoneal dialysis program at Harris Health and grew the

program by more than 200% in her first year. Dr. Jingyin (Jane) Yan was appointed Chair of the Credentialing Committee of BaylorMedCare. After seven years, Dr. Wolfgang Winkelmayr stepped down from co-chairing, Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes, the leading organization for providing clinical practice guideline in nephrology.

Several faculty received BCM Early Career Awards (Drs. Muhammed Ajmal, Michael Holliday, and Bryan Tucker) and Star Awards (Drs. Jose Perez, Sai Saridey, Jingyin Yan) for Excellence in Patient Care. Dr. Tucker was also a recipient of the Fellows’ 2024 Unsung Hero Award.



NKF Program Chairs, Dr. Sankar Navaneethan and Dr. Michelle Estrella (UCSF)



Section members volunteering at the BCM GRAB Pantry

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

RESEARCH

Dr. David Sheikh-Hamad was awarded a four-year competing renewal of his VA Merit grant, “Megalin and Transition for AKI to CKD.” Dr. Zhaoyong (Daniel) Hu received a fundable score on a competing renewal of his R01. Dr. Elizabeth Lorenz received a fundable score on her first-ever R01 application. Dr. Sandhya Thomas was promoted to Associate Professor on the research mission area track. Dr. Wolfgang Winkelmayr published on two Phase 2 trials in patients with kidney failure on hemodialysis of Factor XI inhibitors, one testing osocimab (*Nature Medicine*) and one testing fesomersen (*Kidney International*). Drs. Pascale Khairallah and Melandrea Worsley defended their master’s theses in the Clinical Scientist Training Program and graduated with a Master of Science degree from the BCM Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. Dr. Kevin Erickson was appointed an Associate Editor at the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* (impact factor: 8.5).

EDUCATION

The section’s Nephrology Fellowship Program, led by Drs. Maulin Shah (Program Director) and Sehrish Ali (Associate Program Director), continued to innovate by creating a second year experience consisting mostly of elective rotations that allow trainees to tailor their training toward their interests. Dr. Hania Kassem joined as a new Associate Program Director and re-engineered an elective dialysis rotation at Harris Health.

Dr. Kassem received the fellow’s Nephrology Faculty of the Year Award. The section filled seven fellowship positions for academic year 2025. Dr. L. Parker Gregg received a Norton Rose Fulbright Award in the Durable Educational Material category. Dr. Samaya Anumudu was appointed Vice Chair of the Education Committee of the Renal Physicians Association. Dr. Sankar Navaneethan served as the co-chair of the program committee for the 2024 Spring Clinical Meetings of the National Kidney Foundation in Long Beach, CA.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Medha Airy entered a video in the International Society of Nephrology 2024 Community Film Event competition, starring her patient, a renowned opera singer. Titled “The Rising Phoenix: Peritoneal Dialysis Keeping the Dreams Alive for Award-winning Baritone” was among six finalists selected to be presented at the World Congress of Nephrology in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



SCAN HERE TO WATCH

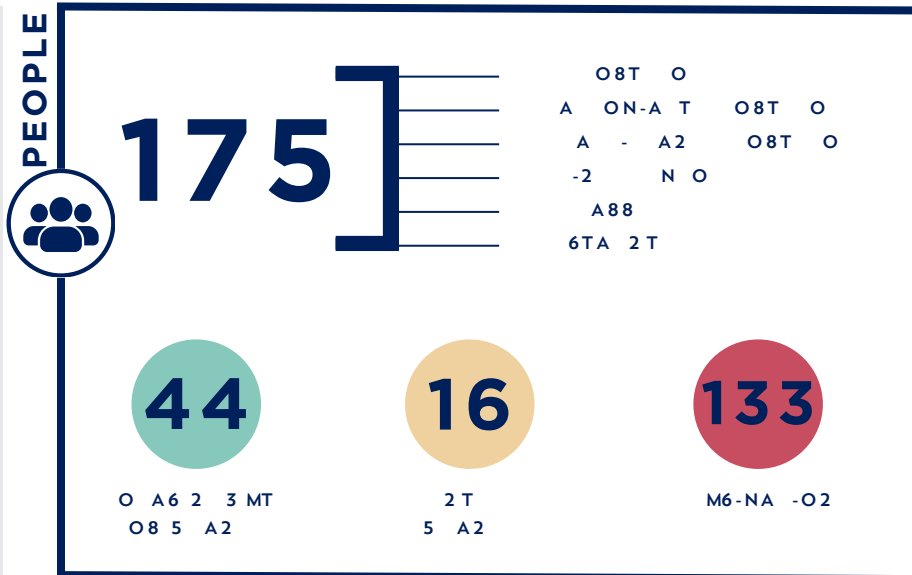
Dr. Haimanot (Monnie) Wasse, Chief of Nephrology at Rush University, was the inaugural visiting professor for the William E. Mitch, M.D., Endowed Fund. He educated the section about innovations in hemodialysis vascular access. The fund, which supports the research fellowship program, currently stands at ~\$150,000.



PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE, AND SLEEP MEDICINE



IVAN ROSAS, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



CLINICAL

This year has been transformative for the Baylor Medicine Pulmonary group. They had a 28% increase in patient encounters and 40% increases in overall productivity and patient access, partly due to four new faculty members. The section continues to expand ICU services across three pavilions, caring for some of the most complex patients in the country. The BSLMC cohort was ranked the second-highest in the U.S. for complexity, yet their quality metrics are consistently 50% above national benchmarks, reflecting dedication to delivering the highest level of critical care.

The recently established Center for Advanced Lung Disease and Transplantation at BSLMC treats patients with Interstitial Lung Disease, Pulmonary Hypertension, COPD, and other conditions. The center had 3,241 patient visits in FY24, up 23% from FY23. Baylor is now one of the ten largest lung transplant programs in the U.S., performing 103 lung transplants in FY24. Although the complexity of cases has increased, excellent outcomes and low median wait times have not changed.



Dr. Ivan Rosas



Dr. Hashem El-Serag and Dr. Sunjay Devarajan

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Interventional Pulmonary (IP) programs were established at Baylor Medicine and Ben Taub Hospital. They provide advanced diagnostic and therapeutic services following the model set by the expanding IP program at MEDVAMC. The MEDVAMC IP service performed 403 procedures, including bronchoscopy for lung nodule diagnosis and central airway obstruction, with the recent addition of the ION Robotic bronchoscopy system.

RESEARCH

Two NIH T32 training grants were awarded to pulmonary faculty. The first is a new grant focused on pulmonary diseases; the second is a renewal centering on inflammation in several organs. A combined seven training slots will be available for training the next generation of pulmonary scientists. Our faculty obtained federal, foundation, and pharma funding for original research and clinical trials. In total, \$10 million was awarded this academic year. Three investigators were awarded new R01 grants, one of which is a scientist transitioning to independence. Our faculty and fellows published 133 papers, making meaningful contributions to our field.

EDUCATION

A large percentage of pulmonary faculty members identify as educators, and they play a prominent role in leadership, curriculum development, and facilitating teaching activities for the BCM Medical School. Faculty members organize and teach within various interdisciplinary lecture series, such as the interdisciplinary pulmonary and critical care lecture series. They lead Board Review sessions, Journal Clubs, and interactive echocardiography lectures. Workshops on clinical skills inform learners' hands-on experiences. The section's faculty have educational leadership roles in the American Thoracic Society, European Respiratory Society, and Chest, supporting continued medical education in the U.S. and abroad. The pulmonary grand rounds series continues to be a highly attended meeting with internationally recognized speakers discussing a broad spectrum of diseases and cutting-edge treatments.

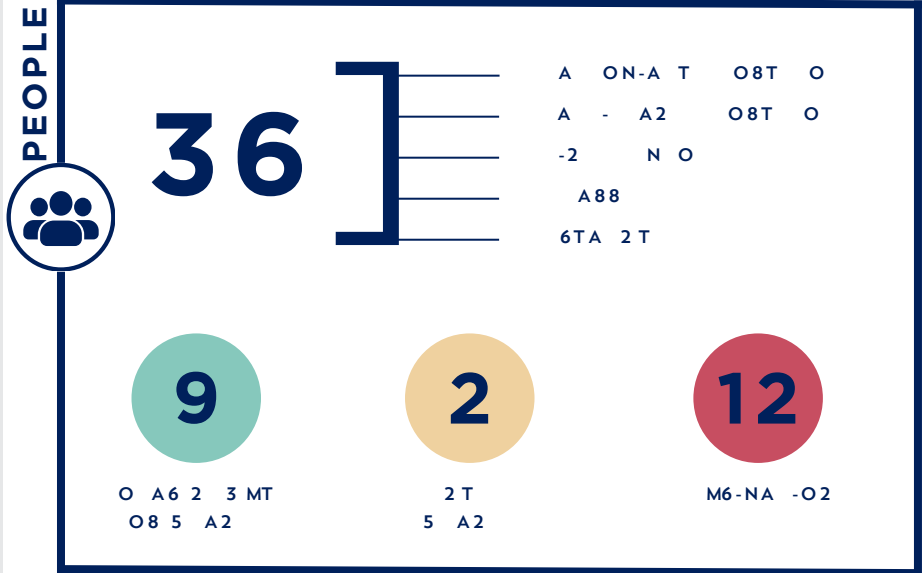


Drs. Alan Waich, Ramiro Fernandez II, Ivan Rosas, and Muhammad Siddique

TRANSITION MEDICINE



CYNTHIA PEACOCK, M.D.
SECTION CHIEF



EDUCATION

Transition Medicine is dedicated to advancing education and training, providing various training and internship programs for residents and medical, nursing, and social work students. These programs provide hands-on experience via direct clinical practice, exposing trainees to multidisciplinary care teams and involving them in special projects. Training focuses on developing skills in compassionate, patient-centered care and addressing the complexities of managing both the medical and psychosocial aspects of intellectual or developmental disability (IDD). Through real-world engagement and guidance from experienced

faculty, trainees enhance their clinical skills and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and rewards of working with the IDD population. The section launched a new educational lecture series, Project ECHO, dedicated to addressing the healthcare needs of patients with IDD. The series offers this medical knowledge to professionals, trainees, and learners within BCM and beyond. Given its success, the section secured additional funding from United Healthcare to continue Project ECHO for a second year.



Dr. Hashem El-Serag and Dr. John Berens



Section Nurses: Madison Whitehead, Payton Dugger, Annalyse Janak, and Christina Dunlap

SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

In its third year, the Adult Developmental Medicine Fellowship program, led by Dr. Jordan Kemere, graduated two fellows and is expanding by adding two additional fellows for the 2025 academic year.

Transition Medicine is committed to enhancing and expanding educational opportunities to prepare the next generation of healthcare professionals with the skills and knowledge required to deliver exceptional care for individuals with IDD.

RESEARCH

The section's research efforts have produced valuable educational programs and quality-of-life tools that improve patient outcomes. They address both the clinical and psychosocial aspects of IDD to enhance care and expand knowledge. The continued success and funding of the section's projects underscore the dedication to research excellence. This year, the team secured \$796K in external research funding.

CLINICAL

The section is proud to lead the way in providing primary care for adolescents and young adults with IDD and associated medical complexities during their transition from pediatric to adult healthcare. A dedicated multidisciplinary team delivers primary care at two locations: BSLMC at McNair and the Center for Pursuit (CFP).

The McNair and CFP clinical practices have seen a steady increase in clinic and patient volume.

- Total Clinical Visits: increased to 13,695 from 12,151 in the 2023 academic year.
- New Patient Visits: increased to 380 from 350 in the 2023 academic year.
- Revenue Growth: increased to \$809,391 from \$762,098 in the 2023 academic year.

This upward trend reflects the growing demand for healthcare services within the IDD patient population and demonstrates the section's ability to enhance services to meet the needs of a growing patient base.





FEATURED HIGHLIGHTS

FACULTY AWARDS CEREMONY

Congratulations to the following:

- Dr. Sandra Haudek – The Barbara and Corbin J. Robertson, Jr. Presidential Award for Excellence in Education
- Dr. Rise Stribling – Master Clinician Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Andrew Caruso - John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Award in Clinical Sciences
- Dr. Stephanie Sherman – Graduating Class Outstanding Teacher Award
- Dr. Jose Perez - Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Jingyin Yan - Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Ruchi Gaba - Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Clark Hair - Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Sandeep Agarwal - Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Guilherme Silva - Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Tannaz Armaghany – Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Muhammad Ajmal - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Sunjay Devarajan - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Michael Holliday - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Wallis Molchen - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Rehman Sheikh - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Purnima Sravanti Teegavarapu - Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Charles Minard - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. John Berens - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation



FACULTY AWARDS CEREMONY

- Dr. Glynda Raynaldo - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. Leanne Jackson - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. Jaime Jump - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. Prathit Kulkarni - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. Sandhya Thomas - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. Ayse Mindikoglu - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. Doris Lin - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation & Educational Research
- Dr. Cory Ritter - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. Ajith Nair - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. Bryan Jiang - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. Mimi Tan - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. Shital Patel - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Teaching and Evaluation
- Dr. Ashley Meyer - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Educational Materials
- Dr. Faith Fletcher - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Educational Materials
- Dr. L. Parker Gregg - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Educational Materials
- Dr. Jessica Davila - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Educational Leadership & Educational Research
- Dr. Stacey Rose - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Educational Leadership
- Dr. Molly Horstman - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Educational Research
- Dr. Terri Fletcher - Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award – Educational Research



2023 STAFF AWARDS CEREMONY

On October 12, 2023, the Department of Medicine Administration Team hosted the inaugural Department of Medicine Staff Awards Ceremony to recognize our incredible staff teammates. With more than 150 submissions, the following awardees were recognized:

Top Teammate Award

- Allison Dobecka
- Payton Dugger
- Clarissa Perez-Machado
- Tracey Rosen
- Arnold Salazar



Innovative Thinker Award

- Liza Azara
- Laura Bautista
- Megan Kelso
- Jessica Sawhill
- Joseph Sayegh



Outstanding Character Award

- Meaghan James
- Leslie Mendez
- Chandler Williams
- Johnetta Williams

Emerging Leader Award

- Emily Havens
- Pandora Jubilee
- Anuradha Sudhakaran



Chair's Award

- Mariana Charles
- Christina Velasquez
- Leslie Wu

WOMEN PHYSICIANS GROUP



The Department of Medicine proudly launched the Women Physicians Group this year. The group is dedicated to supporting women physicians, fostering community, and building meaningful connections. The inaugural social, hosted by Drs. Galant Chan, Allison Heinen, Hannah Ortiz, and Claire Scott (pictured above) on May 30 in the McNair lobby, featured “Get to Know You” bingo, refreshments, and networking.

On September 25, the group hosted its first workshop, “No One Promotes You Like You,” led by Dr. Jenny Christner, Senior Dean of the BCM School of Medicine. Attendees learned personal branding strategies to elevate their careers and leave a lasting impression.

The group ended 2024 with a holiday party, drawing over 30 attendees for an evening of camaraderie and cheer. If you are interested in joining this community, email womenphysiciansgroup@bcm.edu to be added to the mailing list and learn about future events.



VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION

Chair: Kyler Godwin, Ph.D.

The Vice Chair Group for Quality Improvement and Innovation (VCG QII) continued to improve healthcare through education, coaching, and scholarship. The VCG QII delivered the annual Quality Academy to clinical fellows. Beginning in September, 70 fellows across 11 clinical fellowships received just-in-time teaching and mentoring on a quality improvement project from VCG QII members. Fellows presented their work in posters and oral abstracts during Quality Academy Day. The projects were competitively judged, and winners were selected for presentation of oral abstracts.

The VCG QII awarded two healthcare improvement grants in FY24. Dr. Ang Li developed and piloted a clinical decision support tool for stratification of venous thromboembolism risk among cancer patients in Harris Health and conducted a provider education campaign. Dr. Olubunmi Oladunjoye and Isabel Valdez, PA-C, increased colorectal cancer screening from 66% in July 2023 to 75% in June 2024 at Baylor Medicine General Internal Medicine.

Members: Neeraj Agrawal, Mayar Al Mohajer, Mahboob Alam, Steve Antoine, Samaya Anumudu, Uma Ayyal, Jairo Barrantes Perez, Angela Catic, Kyler Godwin, Katy Hicks, Molly Horstman, Bryan Jiang, Aparna Jotwani, Kathryn Kemere, Shannon Kenyon, Scott Larson, Lee Lu, Nabil Mansour, Anjali Mehta, Laura Merino, Daniel Murphy, Yvonne Sada, Robert Sealock, Brian VanRemmen, Tina Huan Xu



VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR EDUCATION

Chair: Richard Hamill, M.D.

The Vice Chair Group for Education oversees all Department of Medicine teaching responsibilities at the undergraduate and graduate medical education levels. Last academic year, BCM introduced a new curriculum in the medical school created and directed in part by multiple faculty members. A new Practice of Medicine 3 course, designed to teach students important bedside skills before entering clinic, was created by Drs. Anita Kusnoor and Zaven Sargsyan and directed by Drs. Katie Daniel and Fabrizio Canepa. The Medicine Clerkship implemented a new suite of assessments that align with a competency-based medical education model; 10 department faculty members were appointed as Academy of Clinical Teachers & Assessors to facilitate student clinical assessments. They received College support for this effort.

In response to feedback from residents and working committees to improve the balance between education and patient care, they implemented a new structure for noon conferences. They (a) transitioned noontime educational conferences from virtual to interactive in-person sessions, (b) developed new creative formats for presenting material, (c) implemented a pager coverage system by alternating co-residents and interns, and (d) making attendance mandatory. The restructuring yielded greater engagement by resident learners and high attendance rates.

This year, the VCG added a new core faculty member, Dr. Claire Scott, as Director of Professionalism. Dr. Scott has been implementing the professionalism curriculum for residents and faculty, developing a structure for coaching and redress of professionalism concerns, and serving as a co-chair of the Resident Services Evaluation Committee. Additionally, a segment entitled Professionalism in Practice has been added as a recurring component of Grand Rounds.

The residency program's Resident & Service Evaluation Committee has provided guidance on professionalism and academic deficiencies for 20 years. This year, a similar committee, led by Dr. Hania Kassem, was established for the fellowship programs. Nine divisions in the department have representatives on this committee.



VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR HARRIS HEALTH & BEN TAUB

Chair: Hemant Roy, M.D.

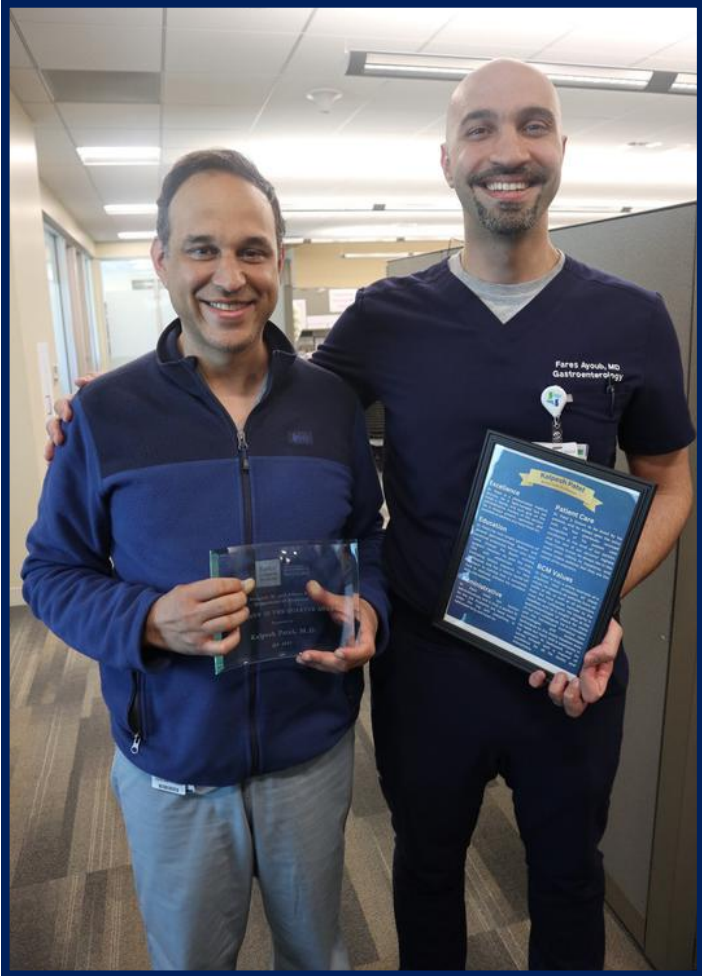
The Vice Chair Group for Harris Health has had a successful academic year. Cardiology expanded services with a robust electrophysiology practice supported by a new cath lab. Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine developed a multifaceted interventional pulmonary program. Gastroenterology is expanding at Quinten-Mease, and General Internal Medicine developed an efficient observation unit. Nephrology has dramatically expanded peritoneal dialysis services. Regarding quality, the department provided leadership to numerous committees, including medical executive, mortality, and utilization review. Academically, the second annual Ben Taub Hospital-BCM Research Day was a success with 80 posters. Internal Medicine trainees won several awards, including in translational research. Early-career faculty in oncology and gastroenterology have achieved ongoing research success, and Harris Health continues to be a preferred rotation for medical students. We implemented an evidence-based morbidity and mortality conference, which received outstanding reviews.



VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR FOR FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Chair: Ruchi Gaba, M.D.

The Vice Chair Group for Faculty Development focused on several initiatives. The Wellness Initiative Supporting Health Mini-Grants program aimed to enhance well-being among faculty and staff at BCM. In academic year 23/24, it received 38 applications and funded 18 projects, each receiving \$500 to promote activities, such as fitness, team building, and networking. The VCG encouraged and supported peer mentoring by facilitating self-organized groups within and across sections. BCM activities were shared and celebrated via the Good News Monday email. The Wednesday Wellness Blast provided monthly infographics highlighting wellness activities. The Colleague of the Quarter award recognized outstanding staff and faculty members through nominations and acknowledgments. To support professional growth, we provided monthly seminars covering various topics.



VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR CLINICAL AFFAIRS

Chair: Mandeep Bajaj, M.D.

The Vice Chair Group for Clinical Affairs initiated several programs to improve patient care. The group initiated multidisciplinary programs within Baylor Medicine, including one on Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD) and an ADA-funded diabetes prevention program for patients with prediabetes. These programs involved collaborations across General Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, and Endocrinology to improve the diagnosis and management of patients with MASLD prediabetes and diabetes using electronic health records. E-consults were initiated in Baylor Medicine Endocrinology and IAR clinics to foster collaborative patient care.

Patient access and services were improved by consolidating the financial verification process between BSLMC and BCM to reduce late cancellations of procedures. The VCG collaborated with Patient Access Services to streamline patient intake and increase access to Baylor Medicine clinics and expanded clinical services in the Woodlands and Sugarland areas. The VCG provided support to department faculty for developing applications for the early-career and mid-career awards for excellence in patient care, and several department faculty were recognized with these awards in 2023-2024. The Baylor Medicine clinics received recognition from the American Heart Association for improvements in treating hypertension, type 2 diabetes, and high cholesterol.

Members: Dr. Mandeep Bajaj, Dr. Lee Lu, Dr. Prasad Manian, Dr. Derek Meeks, Dr. Kalpesh Patel, and Dennis Pledger



VICE CHAIR GROUP FOR RESEARCH

Chair: Rolando Rumbaut, M.D., Ph.D.

The Vice Chair Group for Research in the Department of Medicine focused on: 1) enhancing the pipeline of physician-scientists, 2) supporting the career development of Ph.D. faculty, 3) increasing the amount and diversity of research funding, 4) hosting department-wide research events, 5) enhancing internal grant reviews for early-career faculty and those at risk of lapse, and 6) promoting collaborative research.

One highlight was the second annual Nancy Chang, Ph.D. Research Symposium hosted by the VCG in March. The theme was “Cultivating Biomedical Leaders Through Innovative Research.” The event was attended by 130 individuals including, Dr. Nancy Chang (Adjunct Professor at BCM, President of the Tang Family Foundation, and guest of honor), Dr. Paul Klotman (President, CEO, and Executive Dean of BCM), Dr. Hashem El-Serag (Vice President, Learning Health System), and numerous distinguished leaders. The event included 10 oral presentations, 34 poster presentations, and a special “meet the founder” luncheon for trainees. The presentations were well-attended and fostered collaborative research among faculty.

The VCG members participated in several programs specific to developing physician-scientists. They helped recruit two stellar resident physicians into the department’s physician-scientist training program, the Medical Resident Investigator Track. They also selected an outstanding early-career faculty member for the third cycle of the physician-scientist faculty development award. The VCG members participated in initiatives aimed at increasing the amount of research funding in the Department of Medicine by supporting the scientific editing of grant proposals for early-career faculty members and developing an incentive program for department faculty members to prepare large grant applications (i.e., NIH program project grants or similar large-scale applications).



VICE CHAIR GROUP OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

Chair: Biykem Bozkurt, M.D., M.P.H.

The MEDVAMC medical service continue to be recognized as one of the best care models. Last year, it expanded access to more than 130,000 veterans at the Houston campus, Women Veterans Program, and community-based clinics. MEDVAMC had more than 2 million outpatient visits last year. The specialty programs continue to lead in comprehensive and complex care while managing high volumes. Highlights include a successful cardiac transplantation VAD program, a growing structural heart interventional program, and the highest number of cardiac catheterizations in the VA system. MEDVAMC is noted for its bundle pacing, cardiac contractile modulation, wireless pacemaker implantation, telehealth cardiac rehabilitation, lung cancer screening, interventional pulmonary, rapidly growing kidney transplant program, quality improvement initiatives, and national leadership in genetics. It has one of the largest VA continuous venovenous hemodialysis programs. MEDVAMC is a leader in patient safety. MEDVAMC faculty participate in the leadership of national gastroenterology, hepatology, and infectious disease professional organizations and in academic roles, including teaching the hospitalist program. MEDVAMC faculty are recognized for excellence in research, education, and academics at BCM and the national level.



MEDVAMC Primary Care Providers

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our faculty members continue to excel as leaders in their fields, earning accolades and advancing innovation in healthcare. Our faculty published research, secured competitive grants, and delivered keynote presentations at international conferences.



Click the link below to see what incredible things our faculty have done during FY24.

- [Cardiology](#)
- [Cardiovascular Research](#)
- [Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism](#)
- [Epidemiology and Population Sciences](#)
- [Gastroenterology and Hepatology](#)
- [General Internal Medicine](#)
- [Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine](#)
- [Health Services Research](#)
- [Hematology and Oncology](#)
- [Immunology, Allergy, and Rheumatology](#)
- [Infectious Diseases](#)
- [Nephrology](#)
- [Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine](#)
- [Transition Medicine](#)



FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CARDIOLOGY

Hamid Afshar, M.D.

First VA hospital nationwide and first hospital in Houston to implant a AVEIR leadless atrial pacemaker, first VA hospital to implant a Integra-D combined CCM-defibrillator device to treat heart failure, first VA hospital to implant the Barostim CVRX device for treatment of heart failure, Associate Program Director of the BSLMC Electrophysiology Fellowship

Mahboob Alam, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I.

Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine; Voting Member, Membership and Credentialing Committee, Society of Cardiac Angiography and Intervention; Voting Member, NCDR PINNACLE and Diabetes Collaborative Registry R&P, American College of Cardiology and NCDR

Basant Arya, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.S.E.

Book chapter in print, *Clinical Echocardiography Review: A Self-Assessment Tool*, third edition, Chapter 25, "Durable and Temporary Left Ventricular Mechanical Circulatory Support Devices and Orthotopic Heart Transplantation"; Moderator, American Society of Echocardiography, Scientific Session, Portland, OR; Faculty Panelist, American Society of Echocardiography, Scientific Session, Portland OR

Yochai Birnbaum, M.D. F.A.H.A., F.A.C.C.

Editor-in-Chief, *Cardiovascular Drugs Therapy*; Associate Editor, *Cardiovascular Diabetology*; Section Editor, *J. Electrocardiology*

Biykem Bozkurt, M.D.

Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® Fellow Designation; Those Who Light the New Century Award, Turkish Bahcesehir University; Clarivate World's Highly Cited Researchers (top 1% Web of Science); Houston's 50 Most Influential Women of 2023; Houston Woman Magazine; Distinguished Leadership Award, The Heart Failure Society of America; 2024 Bahr Award of Excellence, American College of Cardiology; Chair, American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Joint Committee on Performance Measures; Editor-in-Chief, *JACC: Heart Failure*; Appointment, Senior Dean of Faculty, BCM

Andrew Civitello, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Chair, Common Spirit Health National Advanced Heart Failure and Mechanical Circulatory Support Clinical Council; Member, Heart Failure Society of America Advocacy Committee; Medical Director, BSLMC Heart Transplant Program; Program Director, BCM Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant Cardiology Fellowship

Ali Emin Denktas, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.S.C.A.I.

Chair of Federal Section, American College of Cardiology; Scientific Sessions Program Committee Member, American College of Cardiology; Field Advisory Committee Member, Veterans Administration; Federal Representative for the Board of Governors, American College of Cardiology; International Committee Member, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions

Jose G. Diez, M.D.

Recipient, 2024 Award for Best Subspecialty Teaching Faculty, BSLMC; Publication, "The high stakes of performing Transcatheter aortic valve replacement in the patient at low surgical risk", *American Journal of Cardiology*; Presenter, Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions 2024; Presenter, 15th Heart Failure Symposium, Semmelweiss University, Budapest, Hungary

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Savitri Fedson, M.D., M.A.

Chair, International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation, Ethics Committee

Enrique Garcia-Sayan, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.S.E.

Co-Chair, American Society of Echocardiography Advocacy Committee; Editorial Board member, *Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography*; Steering Committee member, the American Society of Echocardiography Interventional Echocardiography Council

Irakli Giorgberidze, M.D.

First VA hospital nationwide and first hospital in Houston to implant AVEIR leadless atrial pacemaker; first VA hospital nationwide to perform pulsed field ablation-pulmonary vein isolation; first VA hospital nationwide to perform substernal extracardiac implantable cardioverter-defibrillator implantation

Waleed Kayani, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Recipient, Gold, Gold Plus, and Platinum Awards from American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology for outstanding STEMI, NSTEMI, and Heart Failure Care; co-authored 12 publications

Srikanth Koneru, M.D., F.R.A.C.P., F.A.C.C., F.A.S.E., F.S.C.M.R.

Member, American Society of Echocardiography Committee

Glenn N. Levine, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.H.A.

Vice-Chair, American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology Performance Measures on Chronic Coronary Disease; Chair, Publication of AHA Scientific Statement on Left Ventricular Thrombus; expansion of the MEDVAMC Cardiology Section; Member, Medicine Faculty Appointment and Promotions Committee

Ronald Maag, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Medical Director, Baylor Heart Clinic; Medical Director, Baylor Heart Clinic Echocardiography Lab; Medical Director, Baylor Heart Clinic Nuclear Cardiology Lab

Tyler Moran, M.D., Ph.D.

Recipient, 2024 Artificial Intelligence Request for Application, BCM

Ajith Nair, M.D.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright, Teaching and Evaluation Faculty Award; Robert J Hall Teaching Award, The Texas Heart Institute; Associate Director, MS2 Cardiology Program, BCM; selected participant, Emerging Faculty Advanced Educator, Concepts, American College of Cardiology; Super Doctors List, Texas Monthly

Mourad Senussi, M.D., M.S.

Critical Care Medicine Attending of the Year; Golden Apple Educator of the Year, Department of Anesthesiology

Guilherme V. Silva, M.D.

Star Faculty for Excellence in Patient Care, BCM; Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine

Raymond F. Stainback, M.D., F.A.S.E., F.A.C.C.

Chair, Oversight Committee, American Society of Echocardiography; Chair, Publication Committee, American Society of Echocardiography; Course Director, 14th Annual Houston Echo Review Boot Camp for 2024 Echo Board; Fellowship (2023–24 cohort) Leadership and Society Initiative, Graham School, University of Chicago; Chief, Non-Invasive Cardiology BSLMC; The Texas Heart Institute, completed final year in service

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Neil Strickman, M.D.

2,900th transcatheter aortic valve replacement performed at BSLMC, First Evolut FX + performed in Houston Texas for transcatheter aortic valve replacement; 2,400th carotid stent performed at BSLMC

John M. Suffredini, D.O.

Recipient, Excellence in Teaching Award, Interventional Cardiology

Rashed Tabbaa, M.D.

Created database for patients with Spontaneous Coronary Artery Dissection, Ben Taub Hospital; established "New Patients Initiative", Ben Taub Cardiology Clinic

Lola Xie, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Invited Speaker, Perioperative Mechanical Circulatory Support Symposium, Houston, TX; invited speaker, Cardio World 2024, Prague, Czechia; BCM site PI, ACACIA-HCM trial

CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH

Layla Abushamat, M.D., M.P.H.

Recipient, Houston Nutrition Obesity Research Center Pilot and Feasibility Award; Early Career Representative, American Diabetes Association Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Interest Group

Christie Ballantyne, M.D.

Five articles published in *New England Journal of Medicine* (including late-breaking clinical trials with simultaneous publication); President, National Lipid Association; Top 1% of cited researchers, Clarivate; #1 expert in LDL-C in the U.S. and #3 in the world, Expertscape; Recipient, Best Doctors in America, Texas Monthly Super Doctors

Miguel A. Cruz, Ph.D.

Recipient, DoD grant; Director, Immunology Course, BCM Graduate School of Biological Sciences; MPI, NHLBI T32 training grant, Collaborative Research Training in Thrombosis and Inflammation

Na Li, Ph.D.

Recipient, NHLBI R01, "FKBP5 and cardiac arrhythmogenesis"; Standing Member, NIH Integrative Myocardial Physiology/Pathophysiology A; Chair, Heart Rhythm Society Research Fellowship Committee; promotion to Tenured Professor, BCM

Marina Martinez-Vargas, Ph.D.

Recipient, Carl Storm Underrepresented Minority Fellowship Award; Member, Hemostasis and Thrombosis Research Society; Member, Foundation for Women & Girls with Blood Disorders; Member, Medically Speaking Toastmasters Club

Vijay Nambi, M.D.

Board member, American Society of Preventative Cardiology; Prevention council, American College of Cardiology

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Xinchun Pi, Ph.D.

Recipient, R01 Renewal, “Metabolic crosstalk through vascular endothelium-secreted factors”, 4 years, \$1,860,000

Huaizhu Wu, M.D.

Recipient, American Diabetes Association Grant, “Role of monocytes in pancreatitis in hypertriglyceridemia and obesity”, 3 years, \$216,072

Liang Xie, Ph.D.

Vice General Secretary, Academy of Cardiovascular Research Excellence

ENDOCRINOLOGY, DIABETES, AND METABOLISM

Mandeep Bajaj, M.B.B.S.

Recipient, Banting Medal for Leadership and Service, American Diabetes Association; President (Medicine and Science), American Diabetes Association; Co-Chair, Science and Health Care Executive Council, American Diabetes Association

Sara Bedrose, M.D.

Recipient, Department of Medicine 0.05 FTE for Scholarly Time Grant, “Clinical and Radiological Characterization and Outcomes of Lipid-poor Adrenal Masses—A Multi-center Retrospective Study”; selected for Rapid-Fire presentation and Presidential Poster Competition at ENDO 2024, “Clinical and Radiological Characterization and Outcomes of Lipid-poor Adrenal Masses—A Multi-center Retrospective Study”; abstract accepted as oral presentation for Society of Academic CME 2024 March Meeting, “Developing a Template for Longitudinal System-Integrated CME Applications Using Traditional and Novel Tools to Improve Care Across Multiple Settings—An In-Progress Report”; Invited Reviewer, Nature Communications, “Camrelizumab plus apatinib for previously treated advanced adrenocortical carcinoma: A single-arm, open-label, phase 2 trial”; Invited presenter, Wayne State University

Jordana Faruqi, M.D., M.P.H.

Certificate of Added Qualification in Healthcare Improvement

Bahar Force, M.D.

Leader, Online resources workgroup, Pituitary-Gonadal-Adrenal-Neuroendocrine Disease State Network, American Association of Clinical Endocrinology

Ruchi Gaba, M.D.

Recipient, Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care, BCM; Completion of inaugural 4-month training for Healthcare Leaders Program; Co-Chair and Board of Directors member, Texas Endocrine Association Meeting

Dongyin Guan, Ph.D.

Recipient, grants from NASA, Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center, and Houston Nutrition and Obesity Research; Recipient, R03, NIDDK

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sean Hartig, Ph.D.

Chair, Professional Development Workshops at Endocrine Society Annual Meeting 2024; Recipient, NIDDK R01, "Molecular regulation of leptin bioavailability"; Standing Member, Cell Signaling and Molecular Endocrinology Study Section, NIH CSR; Editorial Board member, *Molecular Metabolism*

Mark A. Herman, M.D.

Associate Editor, *Diabetes*; Standing Member, NIH Pathophysiology of Obesity and Metabolic Disease Study Section; Session Chair, 84th American Diabetes Association Scientific Sessions; Keynote speaker, 20th Harold Hamm Diabetes Center Research Symposium; Invited speaker, US Congress Joint Economic Committee, "The Economic Impact of Diabetes"

Brian Jiang, M.D.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Award for Teaching and Evaluation, BCM; Director of Assessment, Foundational Sciences Medical School Curriculum, BCM; Associate Program Director, Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism Fellowship Program, BCM; Award for Best Poster, Quality Academy Day 2024, BCM

Gloria Li, M.D.

First author, "Risk Factors, Incidence, and Outcomes Associated with Clinically Significant Airway Ischemia", *Transplant International*; promoted to Medical Director of Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine, BCM; part of the lung transplant team that transplanted program's record-breaking 100+ transplants in FY24

Nalini Ram, M.D.

Invited speaker, PRIME-MED Southwest Conference: Curbside consults: Top questions from the PCP on Osteoporosis and PCOS, Houston, TX; Invited speaker, Texas Endocrinology Association Conference: Case-based management of Primary Hyperparathyroidism in pregnancy, Austin, TX; Invited member, American Board of Internal Medicine Endocrinology Board Standard Setting Panel, Endocrinology, Diabetes, & Metabolism Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment, Philadelphia, PA; Recipient, America's Best Physicians 2023; Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine

Rajagopal V. Sekhar, M.D.

PI, R01, "Glutathione in Mild Cognitive Impairment", BCM; MPI, R01 Grant, "Glutathione, Brain metabolism and Inflammation in Alzheimer's disease", BCM

Dennis T. Villareal, M.D.

PI, NIH, "Does Lifestyle Intervention in Obese Older Adults Improve Bone Quality?", 8 years, \$2,439,619; PI, VA Merit Grant, "Lifestyle Intervention plus Metformin to treat Frailty in Older Veterans with Obesity", 5 years, \$1,197,250; Associate editor, *Journal of Nutrition in Geriatrics and Gerontology* and *Journal of Nutrition in Health and Aging*

Maleeha Zahid, M.D.

Obesity Medicine Certification, American Board of Obesity Medicine; Endocrinology Certification, American Board of Internal Medicine; Course Developer, American Association of Clinical Endocrinology Certificate, Fundamentals of Diabetes Technology; Member, Certificate Program Subcommittee, American Association of Clinical Endocrinology; Journal Reviewer, *Endocrine Practice*, *Frontiers in Endocrinology*; Congress Reviewer, American Thyroid Association Annual Congress, American Association of Clinical Endocrinology Middle East, & North Africa Annual Conference

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Qiancheng Zhao, Ph.D.

McNair Scholar, McNair Medical Institute at BCM

Wenjun Zhou, Ph.D.

Co-author, "Multi-omics delineate growth factor network underlying exercise effects in an Alzheimer's mouse model", bioRxiv; first author, "Nuclear receptor corepressors in autism and intellectual disability, in preparation; first author, "Circadian rhythm regulates the progress of Alzheimer's Disease", in preparation; first author, "Circadian rhythm is a component regulating valence preference of memory"

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND POPULATION SCIENCES

Christopher Amos, Ph.D.

PI, CTSA UM1, "Translational Across the Spectrum: From Precision Health to Population Health", 7 years, \$39,000,000; Lecturer, Susan SWERLING, "Integrating genetics information for precision prevention of lung cancer", Harvard University; Presenter, Anne Wojcicki Foundation Study of Lung Cancer in Non-Smokers, "Polygenic Risk Score analysis of lung cancer risk for multiethnic populations", Cambridge, England

Jinyoung Byun, Ph.D.

PI, NIH R03, "Heterogeneous Genetic Architecture in Lung Cancer Risk"

Chao Cheng, Ph.D.

Recipient, CPRIT, "Clonal Hematopoiesis for Improving Lung Cancer Risk Assessment"

Yanhong Liu, Ph.D.

Contact PI, NCI R01, "Intratumoral microbiota and immune predictors of response to immunotherapy in lung cancer", BCM; PI, NCI R03, "Identifying germline pathogenic variants in familial lung cancer among African Americans", BCM

Charles Minard, Ph.D.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching an Evaluation, BCM; Quality of Care Research Award, "ALS-related fatigue: Mechanisms and Interventions", ALS Association (PI: Sharp); Faculty Senator, ICTR, BCM; 22 coauthored publications in peer-reviewed journals

Abiodun Oluyomi, Ph.D.

Recipient, Emerging Leader Recognition, Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center, BCM; Executive Committee Member, NIEHS Disaster Research Response Environmental Health Sciences Network; Recipient, NIH, "Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity Consortium Development Project"

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Priya B. Shetty, Ph.D., M.S.

Speaker, National "Seminars for Postdocs Advancing Inclusion" Competitive Speaker Series, BCM; Poster Presenter, 16th AACR Conference on The Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved, "Leveraging genomic diversity identifies additional germline risk loci in SMAD6 for Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis"; selected for interview for the BCM Breast SPORE Career Enhancement Program, BCM; Poster Presenter, 65th American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting, "Identification of Germline, Ancestry-Specific Variants for Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis in Hispanic Patients"

Aaron P. Thrift, Ph.D.

Recipient, NCI R01 "Genetic Epidemiology of Hepatocellular Carcinoma in African Americans"

Kristina Walker Whitworth, Ph.D.

Recipient, NIH, "Exploring Pathways through which Structural Racism Impacts Children's Environmental Health"

GASTROENTEROLOGY AND HEPATOLOGY

Wasif Abidi, M.D., Ph.D.

Recipient, Early Career Faculty for Excellence in Patient Care Award, BCM

Sharmila Anandasabapathy, M.D., A.G.A.F.

Co-PI, U54 Point of Care Technology Research Network; Recipient, R01 Grant, "Anal Neoplasia Early Detection and Management"; partnered with Dassault Systems and Tata Consulting Services for the development of Virtual Twins

Andrea Bradford, Ph.D.

PI, R01 Grant, "Evaluation of Calibrate Dx: A Resource to Improve Diagnostic Decisions", Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; First author, "Diagnostic error in mental health: A review", *BMJ Quality & Safety*; Board of Directors member (Nominations and Elections Chair), the Society for Health Psychology; Presenter, "Best of the Best" Oral Abstract Symposium, Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine Annual Conference, "Implementation of Measure Dx to accelerate diagnostic safety learning and improvement"

Charles Cho, M.D.

Recipient, NIH Mentored Research Scientist Development Award; Recipient, Texas Medical Center Digestive Disease Center Pilot Feasibility Awards, Texas Medical Center

Hashem B. El-Serag, M.D., M.P.H.

Recipient, William Beaumont Prize in Gastroenterology, American Gastroenterological Association; Lifetime Achievement Award, Arab American Community & Cultural Center; Co-PI, NIH U01, "Risk Stratification for an Early Detection of Liver Cancer"; Co-PI, Helis Foundation Grant, "Identification of an Epigenetic Risk Network for Hepatocellular Carcinoma"; PI, NIDDK P30 Texas Medical Center Digestive Disease Center

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Avegail G. Flores, M.D.

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Site Visit for Transplant Hepatology Fellowship found no Citations; Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine; Lecturer, MS2 GI Course on Chronic Liver Diseases 1-2

Clark Hair, M.D.

Recipient, Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care, BCM

Ruben Hernaez, M.D., M.P.H., Ph.D.

Nominating Committee Steering Member, American Gastroenterological Association; Council Liver Biliary Nominating Member, American Gastroenterological Association; Post-Graduate Course Director, American Gastroenterological Association and American Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Meeting

Jason K. Hou, M.D., M.S., F.A.C.G., A.G.A.F., F.C.C.F.

Co-PI, VA HSRD, "A learning health system approach to using Artificial Intelligence Enabled Decision Support for medication optimization in Veteran Care: An Immunosuppressants use case", MEDVAMC; PI, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, "Treat-to-Target Medication Switch Preferences for IBD Patients in Clinical Remission"

Salmaan Azam Jawaid, M.D.

Recipient, Texas Society for Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Research Grant; Recipient, Industry Research Grant, Creo Medical; Program Director, Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship; Associate Program Director, General Gastroenterology Fellowship

Fasiha Kanwal, M.D., M.S.H.S.

PI, CTSA UM1, "Translational Across the Spectrum: From Precision Health to Population Health", 7 years, \$39,000,000; Recipient, Nancy Chang, Ph.D. Endowed Professorship II; Co-Chair, NCI Translational Liver Cancer Consortium; PI/MPI on eight federal and state grants; 42 manuscripts including first-author papers in *JAMA Internal Medicine* and *New England Journal of Medicine*; selected for the Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Fellowship for Women in Academic Medicine, BCM; Recipient, VA HSR&D Merit Review Grant, "Integrating Veteran-Centered Care for Advanced Liver Disease (I-VCALD)", 4 years, \$1,500,000

Natalia Khalaf, M.D., M.P.H.

Recipient, Diagnostic Excellence Award, The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, "Clinical Quality Measures to Improve the Diagnosis for Gastrointestinal Cancers"; selected for 2024 Class of the National Academy of Medicine Scholars in Diagnostic Excellence program; Co-organizer and moderator, BCM GI Fellows Research Retreat; first author, "The Impact of Race on Pancreatic Cancer Treatment and Survival in the Nationwide Veterans Affairs Healthcare System"; first author, "Emergency Presentations Predict Worse Outcomes Among Patients with Pancreatic Cancer"

Scott Larson, M.D.

Vice President, Texas Gulf Coast Gastroenterological Society; Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education Fellowship Site Director, MEDVAMC; author, "Dysphagia in a 75-Year-Old Male", *Gastroenterology*, MEDVAMC; Recipient, Presidential Poster Award, "Gastric Biopsy: Deleterious Effects of a Central Needle Within Endoscopy Forceps", American College of Gastroenterology; Recipient, Colorectal Cancer Screening Award, American College of Gastroenterology; Recipient (Honorable Mention), 2024 SCOPY Award, American College of Gastroenterology

Howard Lee, M.D.

Chair, LGBTQ Task Force, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases; Fellow, American Society of Transplant (AST); Member-at-large, liver and intestinal community of practice, AST; Chair, social media committee, liver and intestinal community, AST; Member, Diversity Committee, AST

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Jason Mills, Ph.D., M.D.

Recipient, NIDDK R01 Grant, “Mechanisms of chief cell dedifferentiation”, BCM, 5 years, \$3,117,314; Session Chair, Organizing Committee, Fusion Conference, BCM; Mentor, NIDDK K01 Grant for Charles Cho, BCM; Mentor, NIDDK K08 Grant for Ramon Jin, BCM

Ayse Leyla Mindikoglu, M.D., M.P.H.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching and Evaluation, BCM; Recipient, US National Academy of Medicine the Healthy Longevity Global Competition Catalyst Award, “Dawn-to-dusk Dry Fasting for Rapid Reversal of Aging”

Kalpesh Patel, M.D.

Recipient, Press Ganey Patient Quality Review Award; Recipient, Department of Medicine Physician of the Quarter, BCM; successful renewal of Boston Scientific Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship training grant

Kavish Patidar, D.O.

Recipient, Pilot Grant Texas Medical Center Digestive Disease Center, MEDVAMC; Recipient, John A. Hartford Foundation supported Diagnostic Excellence—Age-Friendly Health Systems Seed Grant, MEDVAMC

Deepika Satish, M.D.

Member, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Advanced Endoscopy Committee

Robert Jay Sealock, M.D.

Promoted to Associate Professor; Service Chief of Gastroenterology, Ben Taub Hospital; completed American College of Healthcare Executives Physician Leadership Development Institute Program

Rehman Sheikh, M.D.

Recipient, Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, BCM; Recipient, Service Excellence Award, St. Luke's Sugar Land Administration; Section Editor, Large Intestine, *Current Gastroenterology Reports*

Richa Shukla, M.D.

Recipient, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation/Pfizer IBD Qorus Health Equity Award, 2 years, \$125,000; promoted to Associate Professor, BCM; Committee Member, American Gastroenterological Association Education and Training Committee

Wasseem Skef, M.D.

Presidential Poster, American College of Gastroenterology; Reviewer of the Month, *VideoGIE*

Jared Sninsky, M.D., M.S.C.R.

Recipient, American Gastroenterological Association-Pfizer Pilot Research Award in Inflammatory Bowel Disease, American Gastroenterological Association; Recipient, Pilot Feasibility Grant, Texas Medical Center Digestive Diseases Center; Recipient, Department of Medicine Physician-Scientist Faculty Development Award, BCM

Rise Stribling, M.D.

Master Clinician, BCM; Presenter, American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases Transplant Hepatology Board Review Course, “Long term Immunosuppression in Liver Transplantation”

Milena Gould Suarez, M.D., F.A.C.G.

Medical Advisory Board Member, Colon Cancer Coalition

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fred Sutton, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.G.

Recipient, 2024 Graduating Fellows' Master Teaching Award; Co-Chair, Admissions Committee, BCM

Mimi Tan, M.D.

PI, NIH, "Development and Validation of an Automated Algorithm for Real-time Detection of Neoplasia in Barrett's Esophagus using a Low-cost, Portable Microendoscope"; Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Award in Teaching and Evaluation, BCM

John Moore Vierling, M.D.

Recipient, Distinguished Alumnus Award, University of Rochester School of Medicine; Recipient, Lifetime Achievement and Recognition Award, Primary Biliary Cholangitis; Co-Director, BCM Dassault Systems Center; Member, NIDDK Data Safety Monitoring Board for Drug-Induced Liver Injury Network; Chair, Fractyl Data Safety Monitoring Board for Duodenal Mucosal Remodeling for Diabetes Mellitus

Theresa Nguyen Wenker, M.D., M.P.H.

First author, "The Predictive Performance of Contemporary Guideline Recommendations for Helicobacter pylori Testing in a United States Population", *Clinical Gastroenterology and Hepatology*; author, "An Electronic Health Record Model for Predicting Risk of Hepatic Fibrosis in Primary Care Patients", *Digestive Diseases and Sciences*; author, "The Impact of Race on Pancreatic Cancer Treatment and Survival in the Nationwide Veterans Affairs Healthcare System", *Pancreas*; "A commentary on: Risk of esophageal adenocarcinoma after Helicobacter pylori eradication treatment in a population-based multinational cohort study", PracticeUpdate website

Richard Wilcox, Ph.D.

Host, 13th International Conference on Neural Tube Defects in Vancouver, British Columbia

GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

Nyssa Adams, M.D., Ph.D.

Recipient, Best Continuity Teaching Faculty, Smith Clinic, BCM

Anoop Agrawal, M.D.

Author, "Twelve tips on creating and using custom GPTs to enhance health professions education", *Medical Teacher*; author, "Humanism Rounds: A Multifaceted "Back to Bedside" Initiative to Improve Meaning at Work for Internal Medicine Residents", *Medical Science Educator*; author, "Levels and drivers of burnout during the COVID-19 pandemic among a diverse group of resident physicians", *Postgraduate Medicine*

Neeraj Agrawal, M.D.

Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology physician, BCM; Fellow, Center for Collaborative and Interactive Technologies, BCM

Nabid Ahmed, M.D.

Recipient, Hospitalist of the Year, Ben Taub Hospital, BCM

Salman Ahmed, M.D., M.P.H.

Assistant Director, Society of General Internal Medicine Faculty Journal Club; poster accepted to University of Minnesota Learning Health Systems Conference

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Hiba Ali, M.D.

Best Inpatient Wards Teaching Faculty, BSLMC

Cory Ritter Bielke, M.D.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching and Education, BCM; Recipient, VA Hospitalist of the Year

Andrew Caruso, M.D.

Recipient, 2024 John P McGovern Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Clinical Years, BCM; Top Doctor in Internal Medicine, Houstonia Magazine

Sophia Chang, M.D.

Recipient, Hospitalist of the Year at St. Luke's Sugar Land Hospital, BCM

Narendra Civunigunta, M.D.

Recipient, Best Hospitalist, BSLMC; Coding & Billing Advisor of BCM Hospitalist Group, BCM

Valerie Danesh, Ph.D.

Recipient, NIA, "Driving rehabilitation and innovation for evaluating risk in post-intensive care unit survivors"; first author, "Driving decisions after critical illness", *International Journal of Nursing Studies*

Priti Dangayach, M.D.

Finalist, poster presentation, "An Interactive Case-Based Patient Experience Workshop for Internal Medicine Residents", 2023 Showcase of Educational Scholarship; "An Interactive Case-Based Patient Experience Workshop for Internal Medicine Residents", first author, "Southern Group on Educational Affairs Conference; Optimizing Patient Experience to Improve Physician Survey Scores", *Southern Medical Journal*; Recipient, Department of Medicine WISH Grant, "Prescriptions and Palates: Book Club & Dinner with Dr. Nuila"

Fabrizio Canepa Escaro, M.D.

Co-Director, POM-3, a new course for 2nd-year medical students; nominated as Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology Faculty

Joslyn (Joey) Fisher, M.D., M.P.H.

Recipient, two Professional Educator Appreciation & Recognition (PEAR) Awards, BCM; Recipient, Texas Monthly Super Doctors; Recognition for Service as Director of the Section of General Internal Medicine Regularly Scheduled Series, Office of Continuing Professional Development, BCM; Co-Director, Department of Medicine Advanced Faculty Leadership Series

Julie Gonzalez, M.D.

Recipient, Best Continuity Teaching Faculty, MLK Clinic, BCM

David C. Hilmers, M.D., E.E., M.P.H., M.S.E.E.

Hall of Fame Inductee, U.S. Astronaut; Chief Medical Officer, Hepatitis B Free; author, "The Value of a Spaceflight Clinical Decision Support System for Earth-Independent Medical Operations", *NPJ Microgravity*; author, "A new hepatitis B elimination strategy for remote populations is needed", *The Lancet Regional Health –Western Pacific*; author, "Selecting Medical Conditions Relevant to Exploration Spaceflight to Create the IMPACT 1.0 Medical Condition List", *Aerospace Medicine and Human Performance*

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Holland Kaplan, M.D.

Chair, Ben Taub Ethics Committee; first author, "Voices Behind Bars: Ethical, Legal, and Practical Considerations for Surrogates Who Are Incarcerated", *Annals of Internal Medicine*

Colleen Keough, M.D., M.P.H.

Recipient, Pediatric Hospital Medicine Fellow Teacher of the Year, Texas Children's Hospital; Collaborator, InSight Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral for Treatment project (implementation grant), Texas Targeted Opioid Response; Chapter Author, *50 Studies Every Global Health Provider Should Know*

Lubna U. Khawaja, M.D., F.H.M.

President, Southern Society of General Internal Medicine; Member, Board of Regional Leaders, Society of General Internal Medicine; Co-Chair, Ethics Committee, Society of General Internal Medicine; Forum Associate Editor, Society of General Internal Medicine's monthly newsletter; President, Houston Chapter, Society of Hospital Medicine; Academy of Clinical Teaching and Assessment Faculty; Member, Planning Committee, National Society of General Internal Medicine Meeting 2025

Sung In Kim-Vences, M.D., M.P.H.

Recipient, Social Justice Award, BCM; Recipient, Wellness Initiative Supporting Health Grant: Prescriptions and Palates, BCM; Recipient, Wellness Initiative Supporting Health Grant: Creating a Better Community for Doc-Parents, BCM; Secretary, American Public Health Association

Kristen Lavere, M.D.

Recipient, Best Continuity Teaching Faculty at Smith Clinic, BCM

Sabina Lee, M.D.

Medical Volunteer Director, Chalco Girls' Town in Mexico Annual Trip; Medical Volunteer Director, Dodoma, Tanzania, Boys' and Girls' Towns Medical Exams, World Village for Children Organization

Ya Li, M.D.

Recipient, Hospitalist of the Year, BSLMC; Member, Society of General Internal Medicine Geriatrics Commission; Member, Society of General Internal Medicine Clinical Practice Committee

Jonathan Lim, M.D.

Graduate Medical Education Section Chair, American Association of Medical Colleges Southern Group on Educational Affairs; Nominee, Top "What Works" Paper Session, "A novel case-based ethics morning report for teaching resident clinical ethics", International Conference on Residency Education; Finalist, Faculty/Staff poster, "A Comprehensive, Multifaceted Quality Improvement Approach to Improving Resident Evaluation Completion Rates", BCM Annual Showcase of Educational Scholarship; Finalist, Faculty/Staff poster, "A novel case-based ethics morning report for teaching residents' clinical ethics" BCM Annual Showcase of Educational Scholarship; Awardee, best poster for Innovations in Medical Education, Section of General Internal Medicine Academic Day, BCM

Doris Lin, M.D., M.S.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching and Evaluation, BCM; Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in Educational Research, BCM; Faculty Inductee, 2024 Texas Beta Chapter Alpha Omega Alpha, BCM; Finalist Poster, "Impact of a Facilitated Peer Mentoring Program with a Dedicated Curriculum to Foster Career Advancement of Academic Hospitalists," Academy of Distinguished Educators Educational Showcase, BCM

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Lee Lu, M.D.

Chief Editor, *Leading an Academic Medical Practice* 2nd edition, Society of General Internal Medicine

Maria Maldonado, M.D.

Recipient, Best Inpatient Wards Teaching Faculty, MEDVAMC; Recipient, Medical Education Innovation Award, BCM Annual Showcase of Educational Scholarship

Thaddaeus May, M.D.

First author, "The neglect of kwashiorkor", *Lancet*

Derek Meeks, M.D., M.S.

Promoted to Medical Director of San Felipe General Internal Medicine; joined Learning Health System Accelerator

Achilia Morrow, M.D., M.P.H.

Recipient, Barry Goodfriend Outpatient Healer of the Year Award (Smith Clinic); Recipient, Society of General Internal Medicine Award

Daniel Murphy, M.D., M.B.A.

First author, "An electronic trigger to detect telemedicine-related diagnostic errors", *Journal Telemedicine and Telecare*

Matthew Novakovic, M.D.

Last author, "Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and Lupus Nephritis Presenting as Severe Constitutional Symptoms", *Cureus*

Ricardo Nuila, M.D.

Chair, National Book Foundation Science and Literature Award Committee; Recipient, Physician in Academia Award, Hispanic American Medical Association of Houston; Keynote Address, Health Humanities Consortium National Conference; Selected Best Books of 2023 by Amazon, Washington Post, Kirkus Review; *The People's Hospital: Hope and Peril in American Medicine*

Olubunmi Oladunjoye, M.D., M.P.H., D.A.B.O.M.

Recipient, Barry Goodfriend Outpatient Healer of the Year Award, BCM; Recipient, DOM Wish Grant, BCM; Recipient, FY24 Healthcare Innovations Grant, BCM; Recipient, Health Equity Achieved through Lifestyle Medicine Initiative Scholarship, American College of Lifestyle Medicine; Fellow, NHLBI Obesity Health Disparities Programs for Inclusion and Diversity Among Individuals Engaged in Health-Related Research Program

Vishal Patel, M.D.

Recipient, Section of General Internal Medicine Joseph R Guitreau Consummate Physician Award, BCM

Wendy Podany, M.D.

Recipient, Barry Goodfriend Outpatient Healer of the Year Award, BCM

Vani Potluri, M.D., D.A.B.O.M.

Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine; Certified, Diplomate of American College of Obesity Medicine

Glynda Raynaldo, M.D.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Teaching and Evaluation Faculty Award

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Alec Rezigh, M.D.

Recipient, Best Inpatient Wards Attending at Ben Taub, BCM; Recipient, Professional Educator Appreciation & Recognition Award; BCM

Steve Rosenbaum, M.D.

Recipient, Section of General Internal Medicine Lifetime Achievement Award, BCM

Zaven Sargsyan, M.D.

Implemented clinical skills and clinical reasoning components of the new MS-1 curriculum

Stephanie V. Sherman, M.D.

Recipient, Class of 2024 Teaching Award, BCM; Invited Plenary Speaker, Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine National Conference, Cleveland, OH; Invited Case Discussant, New England Journal of Medicine Clinicopathologic Conference, Boston, MA; Editor, *New England Journal of Medicine Images in Clinical Medicine*

Michael Siegelman, M.D.

Recipient, Section of General Internal Medicine Lifetime Achievement Award, BCM

Julian Swanson, M.D.

Physician of the Quarter, Ben Taub General Hospital, BCM; Medical Student Clerkship Site Director, Pediatric Hospital Medicine, TCH; author, "Optimizing Patient Experience to Improve Physician Survey Scores", *Southern Medical Journal*

Isabel Valdez, PA-C

First Place Poster, "Improving Colorectal Screening Rates Among Persons Aged 45 To 64 Years Old In A Primary Care Clinic: A Multimodal Approach", 10th Annual Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Conference; Presenter, American Academy of Physician Associates, Houston, TX; Chair, CME and Education for the Texas Academy of Physician Assistants

Hayley E. Walker, M.D.

Co-author, "Inpatient Transition from Methadone to Buprenorphine-Naloxone Using a Microdosing Strategy in a Postoperative Cancer Patient: A Case Report", *Journal of Palliative Medicine*; Co-leader, APEX course session on family meetings and end-of-life

Armin D. Weinberg, Ph.D.

Guest Associate Editor, *Frontiers in Public Health: Radiation in Health*; Editor, *Dialogues Across Health, Science, Humanities, and Archives*; personal essay published in *Character Matter: Life Lessons from George H.W. Bush*; elected to the Board of Houston Hillel

Risheng Xu, D.O.

Presenter, Society of Hospital Medicine Annual Conference, "Finding Frost in Houston", "The Weakness of Rashly Prescribing of Medications"; Recipient, Most Optimistic Physician Award, Baylor St. Luke's Vintage Hospital 2nd Annual Doctor's Day Oscar Awards; Recipient, Best Oral Presentation Award, BCM 2nd Annual Section of General Internal Medicine Academic Conference; passed American Board of Internal Medicine 10-year Recertification

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GERIATRICS AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE

Charu Agrawal, M.D.

Medical Director of Palliative Care, BSLMC; Core Faculty and Wellness Chair, Hematology and Oncology Fellowship; Recipient, WISH Grant, BCM; Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine

Angela Catic, M.D., M.Ed.

Completed Foundations in Health Profession Education Certificate, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; Moderator, "Stories of Patient Priorities Care: How Learning to Act on What Matters Changes Healthcare", American Geriatrics Society Annual Meeting; Book chapter, "Teaching communication and goals of care in geriatrics", *Medical Education in Geriatrics: Strategies for teaching the care of older adults*, Springer Medical Education in Geriatrics, Springer

Astrid Grouls, M.D.

Co-Investigator, Quality-of-Care Grant, "Fatigue in ALS", ALS Association, 2 years, \$300,000

Kristina Little, M.D.

Program Director, Geriatric Medicine Fellowship, BCM; Site PI, "Detection of Elder Abuse Through Emergency Care Technicians for Revision for Primary Care Clinicians", National Institute on Aging; Member, Home Based Primary Care Special Interest Group, American Geriatrics Society; Participant, Department of Medicine Leadership Course, BCM

Syed Ahsan Rizvi, M.B.B.S., F.A.C.P.

Best Inpatient Subspecialty Teaching Faculty, BSLMC; Director, Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine; Presenter, Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, "Delirium: Assessment and Management"

HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH

Sarah Ahmed, M.B.B.S., M.P.H., Ph.D.

Co-Investigator, "Constructing a Clinical Gulf War Illness (GWI) Case Definition Using Natural Language Processing and Advanced Machine Learning Algorithms"

Amber B. Amspoker, Ph.D.

Director, South Central Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center Implementation, Design, and Analysis Support team

Jane Anderson, Ph.D., R.N., A.P.R.N., F.N.P., F.A.A.N.P.

Co-PI, "Implementation of Telerehabilitation for Stroke Patients in Texas: IT'S TIME Project", Texas Department of State Health Services, 1 year, \$450; Podium Presentation, "Door-to-Needle Time in Veterans Treated for Stroke in the Veterans Health Administration National Telestroke Program", International Stroke Conference, Phoenix, Arizona; author, "Door-to-Needle Time Trends after Transition to Tenecteplase: A Multicenter Texas Stroke Registry", *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases*; author, "A qualitative study of barriers and facilitators to using tenecteplase to treat acute ischemic stroke", *Journal of Stroke and Cerebrovascular Diseases*; Clinical Lead for Quality and Education, VA National Neurology Program Office

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kelley Arredondo, Ph.D.

Assistant Director, Center for Professionalism, BCM, Houston, TX; Recipient, Outstanding Faculty Educator, IQuEST; (PI), Recruiting and Retaining Rural Registered Nurses, VA Office of Rural Health

Anita Chary, M.D.

Recipient, Pilot Grant, Emergency Medicine Foundation, Geriatric Emergency care Applied Research Network 2.0-Advancing Dementia Care; Executive Committee Member, Academy for Geriatric Emergency Medicine, Society for Academic Emergency Medicine; Research Committee Co-Chair, Academy for Diversity and Inclusion in Emergency Medicine, Society for Academic Emergency Medicine

Israel C. Christie, Ph.D.

Associate Director for Data, Data and Biorepository Commons Core, VA Military Exposure Research Program

Jeffrey Cully, Ph.D.

Recipient, VA General Don Wagner Award, VA Health Systems Research Center of Innovation, Houston, Texas

Jessica Davila, Ph.D.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Award in Educational Research, BCM; Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Award in Educational Leadership, BCM; Finalist, Clark Service Award, BCM; Elected Member, National Epic Cosmos Data Governance Workgroup, Epic Corporation; Co-PI, Grant “Developing Safety Metrics for Safer EHR Transitions”, Department of Veterans Affairs

Darius B. Dawson, Ph.D.

Recipient, VA Health Systems Research & Development Career Development Award, IQuEST, MEDVAMC; Selected Fellow, NHLBI-PRIDE Research in Implementation Science for Equity; Recipient, Emerging Leader Award, Anxiety and Depression Association of America; Invited Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Mood and Anxiety Disorders*

Lilian Dindo, Ph.D.

PI, “Engaging out-of-care distressed rural Veterans and their partners in outreach and an ACT-based intervention”, Office of Rural Health; Senior Author, “Demystifying the virtualization process: A call for standard reporting of virtual adaptations to evidence-based psychotherapies, using the FRAME model”, *Translational Behavioral Medicine*; Invited Speaker, “Building relationships with vitality and engagement”, Oceanside Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program, VA San Diego Healthcare System, CA; Editorial Board, *Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science* and *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*

Chase S. Eck, Ph.D.

1st Place Poster Award, 2024 VA Research Week Symposium; PI, “Modeling the association between specialty care staffing and Veteran access to care and utilization of Community Care services”, VA Office of Nursing Services and Specialty Care Program Office

Kyler M. Godwin, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Assistant Dean, Quality Improvement and Implementation; launched inaugural BCM Learning Health System Accelerator and appointed as director; Director, BCM Institute for Continuing Professional Development in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety; Co-PI, “Testing the Effectiveness of NAFLD Clinical Care Pathway in VA Primary Care”, VA IIR, \$1,200,000 direct funding

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Trenton M. Haltom, Ph.D.

Recipient, Outstanding Faculty Educator, IQuEST; Recipient, Department of Medicine WISH Grant, “The Passive Benefits of Puzzles: A Wellness Event and Enduring Activity”, BCM; Member, Psychology & Sexuality Editorial Board; Editorial Board Member, *The Sociological Quarterly*; promoted to Assistant Professor, Section of Health Services Research, BCM

Drew A. Helmer, M.D., M.S.

Member, Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Illnesses; PI, VA Military Exposure Research Program Data and Biorepository Commons Core; PI, Airborne Hazards and Burn Pits Center of Excellence IQuEST Military Exposures Surveillance Collaboration; Co-Chair, Genomics of Gulf War Illness (VA Cooperative Studies Program 2006/Million Veteran Program 029); Project lead, PACT Act Evaluations Monitoring Integrated Project Team Support Team

Vivian Ho, Ph.D.

Section 11 Chair, National Academy of Medicine; fifth most-read publication, *Health Affairs*; Presenter and Panelist, Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Regional Conference, “Data is Wealth: Transparency in Healthcare” and “Health is Wealth”, BCM; Meeting, U.S. Senate Finance Committee to discuss Non-Profit Hospital definitions

Julianna Hogan, Ph.D.

PI, Portfolio Project, Office of Rural Health – Salt Lake City; PI, Portfolio Project, Office of Rural Health – Iowa City; Co-Investigator, Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health Research Program Clinical Trial Award, Department of Defense

Molly Horstman, M.D., M.S.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Award for Educational Research, BCM; Associate Editor, *Journal of Hospital Medicine*

Sylvia J. Hysong, Ph.D.

PI, Estimating Workforce Needs for VA Emergency Departments, VHA Office of Nursing Services; PI, Evaluation of the REBOOT 72/80 Alternative Work Schedules Initiative, VA QUERI; Academic Editor, *PLOS One*; Honored Listee, Marquis Who’s Who; Invited member, Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society

Nipa Kamdar, Ph.D., R.N., FNP-BC

Workgroup Lead, Social Determinants and Care Coordination, VHA State of The Art on Nursing Research and Practice; Career Development Award Grant, VHA, successfully completed Year 2

Kathryn Kanzler, Psy.D., A.B.B.P.

Recipient, Supporting Access for Latinx Underserved in Diabetes Management (SALUD-M): An Equity-Driven Randomized Controlled Trial of Acceptance Based Coping Skills for Latinx Military Patients with T2DM, American Diabetes Association; Recipient, Supporting Acceptance for Living with Unwanted Thoughts and Experiences in Chronic Pain (SALUTE-CP) for Veterans, FY24 MEDVAMC Seed and Bridge Award Program; First Author, “Increasing access to Behavioral Healthcare: Examples of Task-shifting in two U.S. Government Healthcare Systems”, *Families, Systems & Health*; Recipient, Community Engagement Hero Award—Outstanding Researcher, Institute for Integration of Medicine & Science, UT Health San Antonio; Recipient, Wingspread Honoree, Collaborative Family Healthcare Association

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Bhavika Kaul, M.D., M.A.S.

Oscar Auerbach Scholar, War Related Illness and Injury Study Center, Department of Veterans Affairs; National Academy of Medicine Scholar in Diagnostic Excellence; Recipient, Chao Physician Scientist Development Award; Member, American Thoracic Society Interstitial Lung Abnormalities Guideline Committee; Recipient, Outstanding Teaching Faculty, Critical Care Fellowship, BCM

Jan Lindsay, Ph.D.

Recipient, Personalized Implementation of Video Telehealth for Rural Veterans: PIVOT-R, VA Office of Rural Health; Recipient, VA Video Connect to Improve Access to Multi-disciplinary Specialty Care, HSR&D; Recipient, Implementation of Virtual Mental Health Care for Rural Native Veterans, VA Office of Rural Health; Recipient, Developing e-Triggers to Detect Telemedicine Related Diagnostic Safety Events, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; Recipient, Digital Mental Health Clinics for Rural Capacity Building, VA Office of Rural Health

Ashley ND Meyer, Ph.D.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in Educational Materials, BCM; PI, AHRQ R01, "Evaluation of Calibrate Dx: A Resource to Improve Diagnostic Decisions in the Hospital Setting"; highlighted as a featured article, "Diagnostic error in mental health: A review." *BMJ Quality & Safety*; "Medical home implementation and follow-up of cancer-related abnormal test results in the Veterans Health Administration", *JAMA Network Open*

Patrick O'Mahen, Ph.D.

First author, "Medicaid Expansion's Final Frontier: Breaking State-Level Partisan Opposition", *JAMA*; First, author, "Discrepancies in Estimating Excess Death by Political Party Affiliation During the COVID-19 Pandemic", *JAMA Internal Medicine*; Presenter, "Comparing Data from Multiple Health Systems to Estimate Disease Burden for VA-Medicaid Dual Enrollees", VA Health Economics Resource Center Health Economics Seminar; Invited speaker, "Using Medicaid Data in VA Research", VIREC Data, Miniseries Cyber Seminar Lecture; Presenter, "Considering potential success of incremental vs. comprehensive reforms: path dependency, support coalitions and the development of American public health policy", VA Quality Scholars Lecture/TWIC

Laura Petersen, M.D., M.P.H.

Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety (IQuEst), VA HSR COIN Program (renewed for 5 years); Invited Panelist and Speaker, "Aligning Nursing Workforce Research with Operational Needs.," Academy Health Annual Research Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland; Panel Moderator for Keynote Address by Dr. Peter Hotez, "The Political Academic," BCM Health Policy Day; Last author, "Medicaid expansion's final frontier: breaking state-level partisan opposition", *JAMA*; Member, BCM Learning Health System Planning Committee

Shubhada Sansgiry, Ph.D.

Co-investigator, "Direct to consumer marketing to engage Veterans in evidence-based psychotherapies for PTSD", VA HSR&D IIR; Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Pharmaceutical Analytics and Insights*

Hardeep Singh, M.D., M.P.H.

Invited Expert, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Technical Expert Panel for Patient Safety Structural Measure; Recipient, Mark L. Graber Diagnostic Quality Award, Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine; Invited Participant, Plenary Session at Sixth Global Ministerial Summit on Patient Safety in Santiago, Chile; Recipient, HHS Green Champions Award

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Richard L. Street, Jr., B.A.

Named Fellow, International Communication Association; last author, “Delivering effective messages in the patient-clinician encounter”, *JAMA*

Ynhi Thomas, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc.

Recipient, Chao Physician Scientist Award, \$100,000; Elected Vice President, Corporate Development for the Academy for Women in Academic Emergency Medicine; Recipient, Power of Professionalism Award, BCM; Elected Co-Chair, University of Alabama Catherine J. Randall Premier Award Board of Directors

Hilary Touchett Ph.D., R.N., C.R.R.N., C.B.I.S.

PI, CDA-1, “Exploring Virtual Reality Mindfulness Training for Veterans with SCI and Chronic Pain”, VA ORD Rehabilitation Research and Development, 1 year, \$358,079; Site PI, sub-award, SBIR Phase II, “An Immersive Virtual Reality Platform for Remote Physical Therapy and Monitoring”, National Science Foundation, 1 year, \$113,419; Editorial Board Member, *Rehabilitation Nursing Journal*; President, Southeast Texas Chapter of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses

Barbara Trautner, M.D., Ph.D.

Secured FDA IND approval for a phase 1 trial of bacteriophage bladder inoculations in neurogenic bladders of persons with spinal cord injury; PI, R01, “A Randomized Controlled Trial of a Diagnostic Stewardship Intervention to Reduce Inappropriate Antibiotic Use for Urinary Tract Infections in Primary Care”, AHRQ; Renewed VA Network of Dedicated Enrollment Sites center funding, 5 years, \$2.7 million

Donna L. White, Ph.D.

PI, “Neurological Diseases Among 1990-1991 Gulf War and Era Veterans in a Large National Cohort: Onset, Patterns of Occurrence and Association with Deployment Characteristics”, VA CSR&D Merit Review

Xian Yu, Ph.D.

Member, The Leadership Advisory Council, IQuEst; Member, VINCI Corporate Data Warehouse Group, Methodology and Statistics Core, IQuEst

Andrew Zimolzak, M.D., M.M.Sc.

Co-Investigator, “Enhancing VA Implementation and Dissemination of Electronic Health Record Modernization through a National Collaborative Effort”, VA HSR&D; Best Oral Presentation, “Machine Learning for Enhanced Electronic Trigger Detection of Diagnostic Errors”, Society to Improve Diagnosis in Medicine

HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Akiva Diamond, M.D.

Recipient, Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials: Career Development Award, 2 years, \$240,000

Ang Li, M.D., M.S.

Recipient, American Society of Hematology Scholar Award; Recipient, American Society of Clinical Oncology Career Development Award; Senior Author, publication in *American Journal of Hematology*; Invited Speaker, 12th International Conference on Thrombosis and Hemostasis Issues in Cancer; Invited Speaker, University of Washington Hematology Grand Round, Seattle, Washington

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Senthil Sukumar, M.D., M.S.

Recipient, Robert A. Winn Diversity in Clinical Trials Career Development Award, BCM; Recipient, Foundation for Women & Girls with Blood Disorders: Promoting Excellence in Women's Health: Optimal Management of Women and Girls with Blood Disorders Research Award, BCM

IMMUNOLOGY, ALLERGY, AND RHEUMATOLOGY

Koa Hosoki, M.D.

Poster presentation, Nancy Chang, Ph.D. Research Symposium, "NEIL2 inhibits Th2 and Th17 differentiation and allergic airway inflammation"; Oral presentation, Immunology Lab Meeting by Dr. David Corry, "NEIL2 inhibits Th2 differentiation and allergic airway inflammation"

Grace H. Lo, M.D., M.Sc.

Recipient, Best Faculty Research Mentor Award, BCM, Internal Medicine; first author, "Bicycling over a Lifetime Is Associated with Less Symptomatic Knee Osteoarthritis: Data from the Osteoarthritis Initiative", *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*; first author, "Strength Training Is Associated With Less Knee Osteoarthritis: Data From the Osteoarthritis Initiative", *Arthritis & Rheumatology*; Participant, American College of Rheumatology Osteoarthritis Guideline Team Member; Abstract Selection Co-Chair, Imaging Section, American College of Rheumatology Convergence 2024

Rashmi Maganti, M.D.

Top Doctor, Castle Connely; Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine

Jena Nimri, M.D.

Certification Board, Adult Rheumatology; Ultrasound School of North American Rheumatologists Certification

Sanjiv Sur, M.D.

Established daily referral link between Allergy and Dermatology, resulting in all patch tests being sent to UT Houston coming to BCM McNair; Established close frequent referral link between Allergy and ENT

Tiphonie Phillips Vogel, M.D., Ph.D.

Recipient, Pediatric Visiting Professorship Award, Rheumatology Research Foundation; Co-PI, Global Team Science Award, "The Genetic and Immunological Determinants of Childhood Lupus Nephritis", Lupus Research Alliance; PI, Broad Agency Announcement, "SAF-VAC: Serial Assessment Following Vaccination After MIS-C", Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Eva Amenta, M.D.

Voted Best Subspecialty Faculty Teaching at MEDVAMC by BCM Internal Medicine Residents; obtained Seed Grant through the VA; Poster presenter, ID Week and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America; Oral Presentation, Texas Antimicrobial Resistance conference; Medical Student VA Course Director, Inpatient Service

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Robert L. Atmar, M.D.

Recipient, Michael E. DeBakey Award for Outstanding Research; Recipient, Leadership Group Award, Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium; Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine; North American Editor, *Journal of Infection*; Editorial Advisory Board, *Journal of Infectious Diseases*

Eva Clark, M.D., Ph.D.

First author, "Chronic Chagas Disease in the US", *JAMA*; "Chagas disease in immunocompromised patients", *Clinical Microbiology Reviews*; first author, "Adaptation of Chagas Disease Screening Recommendations for a Community of At-risk HIV in the United States", *Clinical Infectious Diseases*

Bich Dang, M.D.

Recipient, R01, "Engaging communities to develop and evaluate communication strategies for HIV vaccine and prevention uptake among Black women in the Southern US"

Yuriko Fukuta, M.D., Ph.D.

Completed Certificate of Added Qualification in Healthcare Improvement Program, Center for Collaborative and Interactive Technologies and QI Jump Start; Co-Medical Director, Outpatient Infusion Center, BSLMC McNair Campus, BCM; Recipient, "Good offloading devices may help our diabetic foot patient outcomes and may reduce the total patient care costs"; author, "Dynamics of inflammatory responses after SARS-CoV-2 infection by vaccination status in the USA: a prospective cohort study", *The Lancet Microbe*; Presenter, "Wound Management for Prolonged Mpox Skin Lesions in a Patient with Advanced HIV/AIDS", Symposium on Advanced Wound Care, Las Vegas, Nevada

Thomas P. Giordano, M.D., M.P.H.

PI, R01, "Wastewater sampling: A new tool to accelerate ending the HIV epidemic"; Invited Speaker and Panelist, "Engaging and Re-Engaging in HIV Care: Strategies for Success," Continuum 2024: Nineteenth International Conference on HIV Treatment and Prevention Adherence, Fajardo, Puerto Rico; Invited Speaker, "Ending the HIV Epidemic in Texas: Setting the Stage", 80th Presidential Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) Full Council Meeting, UT Health Houston School of Public Health, Houston, Texas

Melanie Goebel, M.D.

First author, "The New Era of Long-Acting Antiretroviral Therapy: When and Why to Make the Switch", *Current HIV/AIDS Reports*

Richard J. Hamill, M.D.

Visiting Professor, Grand Rounds, University of Texas Medical Branch, "CoVID-19 and Cardiovascular Medicine"; Editorial Board, *Journal of Infection*; Co-Director, Pri-Med Southwest Conference, Houston, Texas; last author, "Ibrutinib-associated cutaneous mucormycosis due to *Apophysomyces* species: report of a case and review of the literature", *Therapeutic Advances in Infectious Diseases*

Prathit A. Kulkarni, M.D.

Recipient, Young Alumnus Award, BCM; Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching and Evaluation, BCM; Top-five finalist, David M. Worthen Rising Star Award for Excellence in Health Professions Education, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Academic Affiliations; Recipient, Certificate of Recognition from the Division of Continuing Professional Development, BCM

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mayar Al Mohajer, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H.

Reelected Treasurer, Certification Board of Infectious Control and Epidemiology; Elected Fellow, Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology; Chair, Mentorship Program for the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America; Member, Infectious Disease Society of America Antimicrobial Stewardship Centers for Excellence Subcommittee and Infectious Disease Society of America National Healthcare Safety Network data workgroup; Recipient, Infectious Disease Society of America Center of Excellence in Antimicrobial Stewardship Re-designation, BSLMC

Daniel M. Musher, M.D.

Recognized as Top Scientist in Research.com

Indira Mysorekar, Ph.D.

President-elect, 2024 Meeting Co-Chair, American Society for Reproductive Immunology; Recipient, NIH R13, BCM; Recipient, American Society for Reproductive Immunology Distinguished Service Award, BCM; Recipient, Association for Women in Science Outstanding Women in Science Award, BCM; Recipient, NIAID R01, "Mechanisms of tunneling nanotube formation by ZIKV NS1 in viral host interactions at the maternal-fetal interface", BCM, 5 years, \$3,706,722; last author, "D-Mannose reduces cellular senescence and NLRP3/GasderminD/IL-1 β -driven pyroptotic uroepithelial cell shedding in the murine bladder", *Developmental Cell*

Paul Nicholls, M.D., Ph.D.

Recipient, NIH K08 Career Development Award

Shital M. Patel, M.D., M.Sc.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching and Evaluation, BCM; Site PI, "Regional AIDS Education and Training Center", HRSA; Site PI, R01, "Evaluating the efficacy of the Positive Peers Mobile App", NIH; Co-Investigator, R01, "ADELANTE: A Randomized Controlled Trial of an Intervention to Improve Engagement in Care for Latinos Living with HIV", NIH; Site PI, Midwest Integration of the National HIV Curriculum, HRSA

Alison Robins, M.D.

Co-Director, Infectious Diseases Citywide Conference Series, CME Course; received IRB approval and started enrollment for a shared IRB study with UT Health titled "Characterizing Vancomycin-Resistant *C. Difficile* Strains at Two Geographically Distinct Locations"

Stacey R. Rose, M.D., F.A.C.P., F.I.D.S.A.

Invited Board Member, Professional Development Committee, Infectious Diseases Society of America; Elected Board Member, Academy for Professionalism in Health Care; Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Award in Educational Leadership, BCM; first author, "Addressing unprofessional behaviors in the clinical learning environment: lessons from a multi-year virtual, intergenerational, interdisciplinary workshop", *Medical Education Online*; Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine

Zachary L. Shepard, M.D.

Recipient, Faculty of the Year Award, BCM Infectious Disease Fellowship

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NEPHROLOGY

Samaya Anumudu, M.D.

Vice Chair Education Committee, Renal Physicians Association; Vice Chair Faculty Affairs and Benefits, BCM Senate

Kevin Erickson, M.D., M.S.

Associate Editor, *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*; served on the NIH "Pilot Interventions to Integrate Social Care and Medical Care to Improve Equity" and "Technologies/Innovations for Improving Minority Health and Eliminating Health Disparities" Study Sections; published two manuscripts funded by an NIH RO1 grant entitled, "The Use of Telemedicine by US Nephrologists for In-Center Hemodialysis Care During the Pandemic: An Analysis of National Medicare Claims" and "Patient Perspectives on Using Telemedicine During In-Center Hemodialysis: A Qualitative Study"; Invited lecturer, "Economic Considerations of Individualizing Hemodialysis", Albert Einstein/Montefiore School of Medicine, Bronx, New York; Invited Lecturer, "Economic Considerations of Individualizing Hemodialysis", American Society of Nephrology, National Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Invited Lecturer, "50 Years of a National Program for the Treatment of Kidney Failure", Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, New York

L. Parker Gregg, M.D., M.S.C.S.

Editorial Fellow, *Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*; Recipient, Department of Medicine Colleague of the Quarter Award, BCM; Recipient, Distinguished Educator Award, Section of Nephrology, BCM; Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award in Educational Materials, BCM; Course Director, Seminars in Evidence-Based Nephrology, BCM

Michael W. Holliday, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., F.A.S.N.

Recipient, Unsung Hero Award, BCM Nephrology Fellowship; Recipient, Early Career Award for Excellence in Patient Care, BCM; Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine

Hania Kassem, M.D., F.A.S.N., F.N.K.F.

Recipient, Nephrology Faculty of the Year Award; Member, National Kidney Foundation Speaker Bureau; Member, American Board of Internal Medicine Nephrology Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment Standard Setting Panel; Member, ABIM Nephrology certification and MOC fairness review panel; Member, American Society of Nephrology Transforming Dialysis Access Together Education Workgroup

Elizabeth C. Lorenz, M.D.

Co-Investigator, "Enabling Access to Prehab for Kidney Transplant Candidates Who Are Frail"; Digital Health Workshop - Precise Advanced Technologies and Health Systems for Underserved Populations, National Science Foundation; PI, NIDDK K23 Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award, "Improving Frailty and Long-Term Outcomes After Kidney Transplantation"

Sankar Navaneethan, M.D., M.S., M.P.H.

Co-Chair, Program Committee, National Kidney Foundation Annual Spring Clinical Meeting, Long Beach, California; Co-Chair, National Kidney Foundation Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative Commentary on Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes Chronic Kidney Disease Guidelines; Workgroup Member, American Society of Nephrology Guidance Statement on Obesity and Kidney Disease; Member, National VA/DoD Chronic Kidney Disease Guidelines Writing Workgroup; Associate Editor, *American Journal of Kidney Diseases*

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Jose J. Perez, M.D., F.A.S.N.

Recipient, Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care, BCM; Recipient, Center for Professionalism “Power of Professionalism” Award

Sai Kaumudi Saridey, M.B.B.S.

Recipient, Star Award for Excellence in Patient Care, BCM

Maulin Shah, M.D., F.A.S.N.

Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine; Recipient, Texas Doctors Rising Stars

David Sheikh-Hamad, M.D.

Renewed VA Merit Award; Site PI on multi-institution PCORI grant submission

Bryan M. Tucker, D.O., M.S., F.A.S.N.

Recipient, Early Career Faculty for Excellence in Patient Care, BCM; Recipient, Unsung Hero Award, BCM; Recipient, Professional Educator Appreciation and Recognition Award (2); Hyponatremia, Nephrology Self-Assessment Publication

Carl P. Walther, M.D., M.S., F.A.S.N.

Chair, Hypertension and Cardiovascular Disease Abstract Category, American Society of Nephrology-Kidney Week 2024; Member, American Heart Association Kidney in Heart Disease Scientific Committee; Invited Speaker, “Beyond Diuretics—Invasive Therapies for Volume Removal in Advanced Heart Failure”, National Kidney Foundation 2024 Spring Clinical Meetings, Long Beach, California

Wolfgang C. Winkelmayer, M.D., M.P.H., Sc.D.

Completed seventh year as Co-Chair of the leading guideline body in kidney health, Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes; initiated deserved promotions of eight faculty members in the Section; Primary Mentor and Thesis Committee Chair of Drs. Melandrea Worsley and Pascale Khairallah who completed their Master of Science degree programs in the Clinical Scientist Training Program; published in *Nature Medicine* and *Kidney International* the results of two large, placebo-controlled phase 2b trials of novel factor XI inhibitors, fesomersen, and osocimab, in patients with kidney failure on hemodialysis; Visiting Professorship, Department of Medicine, University of California San Diego

Jingyin Yan, M.D., Ph.D., F.A.S.N.

Recipient, Star Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care, BCM; “Best of Tough Beans”, Department of Internal Medicine, Section of Nephrology, The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas; Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine; PI, clinical trial, A Phase 3, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled Trial to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of Sibeprenlimab

PULMONARY, CRITICAL CARE, AND SLEEP MEDICINE

Fatima I. Adhi, M.D.

Member, Curriculum Renewal Working Group, School of Medicine, BCM; At-Large Faculty Member, Committee on Student Competency Attainment, BCM; Core Faculty, Critical Care Medicine Fellowship Program, BCM; Invited Moderator, Advances in Critical Care conference, BCM; Invited Reviewer, European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Global Conference

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Muhammad Adrish, M.D., M.B.A.

Recipient, Distinguished CHEST Educator Award, American College of Chest Physicians; Associate Editor, *BMJ Open Respiratory Research*; Chair, Airway Disease Network, American College of CHEST Physicians; Chair, Airway Diseases Curriculum, CHEST 2024 Annual Congress; Panelist, American College of CHEST Physicians Guidelines, "Biologics in Severe Asthma"; Vice Chair, Council of Networks, American College of Chest Physicians

Philip Alapat, M.D.

Promoted to Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, BCM

Uma S. Ayyala, M.D.

Completed American Association of Medical Colleges Graduate Medical Education Leadership Development Certificate Program; Promoted Associate Professor; Recipient, Academy of Distinguished Educator Grant for Faculty Development Project, "Empowering Faculty Through Targeted Medical Education Professional Development"

Venkata DP Bandi, M.D., M.S.

Received approval and deployed ION Robotic Bronchoscopy System for diagnosis of peripheral lung nodules

Tara Lynn Barto, M.D., M.S.C.R.

Director, Maconda Brown O'Connor Adult Cystic Fibrosis Center; Recipient, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Cystic Fibrosis Adult Care Center Award; Member, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, National Protocol Review Committee

Aladin Boriek, Ph.D.

Recipient, NIH training grant; last author, "Mechanosensitive NF- κ B and ANKRD1 are Aberrantly Activated in the mdm Mouse", *Journal of Muscle Research and Cell Motility*; last author, "Exploring fibroblast interactions on nanocrystalline surfaces in physiological environments through a phenomenological lens", *Artificial Cells, Nanomedicine, and Biotechnology*; Renewal, service on the Baylor IRB-5 committee

William Brasher, M.D.

Founder and Co-Director, Pulmonary Hypertension Clinic, Ben Taub Hospital, Harris Health; Textbook chapter, "Pulmonary Lymphoproliferative Disorders", *The Thorax*. Springer, Cham

Stephen Bujarski, M.D.

Site Director, Lung Cancer Screening Program at MEDVAMC

Sergio E. Trevino Castillo, M.D., M.B.A.

BSLMC Internal Medicine Core Clerkship Site Director

Lindsay J. Celada, Ph.D.

Second year of funding, Ann Theodore Foundation for sarcoidosis research awarded upon completion of Specific Aim 1

Prangthip Charoenpong, M.D., M.P.H.

Recipient, Scholarly Time Initiative Award, "Impact of Telomere Length on Outcomes in the Lung Transplant Population", BCM Learning Health System

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LeQuan Dang, M.D.

Recipient, Sleep Medicine Faculty of the Year Award, BCM; Promoted to Assistant Professor; Presenter, South Central Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center National Community-Based Outpatient Clinic Mental Health Grand Rounds, MEDVAMC

Sunjay R. Devarajan, M.D.

Recipient, Early Career Award, BCM; Recipient, BCM Professional Educator Appreciation and Recognition Award; Director, BCM ICU Clerkship; first author, “Outcomes in Black People with Cystic Fibrosis: A Registry Analysis”, *Annals of American Thoracic Society*; last author, “Impact of Pseudomonas aeruginosa on resource utilization and costs in patients with exacerbated non-cystic fibrosis bronchiectasis”, *Journal of Medical Economics*

Puneet S. Garcha, M.D., M.B.A.

Author, “Risk Factors, Incidence, and Outcomes Associated With Clinically Significant Airway Ischemia”, *Transplant International*; Invited Speaker, Medical Directors Forum, American Society of Transplantation, “Evolving Therapies/Induction for Renal Protection”, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; BSLMC Lung Transplant Program, 103 lung transplants in FY2024—first time in the history of the program that more than 100 transplants were performed; BCM Lung Transplant Fellowship established in 2024

Elizabeth Guy, M.D.

Promotion to Associate Professor; voted Teaching Attending by Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Fellowship for 23–24 academic year

Nicola Hanania, M.D.

Recipient, 2024 Distinguished CHEST Educator Award, American College of Chest Physicians; Inducted Faculty, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society; elected to the Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honor Society; listed as one of the Top Scientists by Research.com

Chao He, M.D., Ph.D.

Chair, Early Career Council, Southern Society of Clinical Investigation; Best Poster Award, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation Summit 2023; Co-investigator, R01, “Novel strategies to mitigate cardiac damage and dysfunction following invasive pneumococcal disease”

Amy Heibel, M.D.

Representative, Pulmonary and Critical Care Faculty Ethics Committee; Physician Chair Representative, Restraint Committee, Ben Taub Hospital; Physician Chair representative, Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections Committee, Ben Taub Hospital; Critical Care fellowship Site Director; Pulmonary & Critical Care Fellowship Site Director

Timothy Hotze, M.D.

Recipient, Most Outstanding Faculty Member, BSLMC for Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship; Appointed Associate Program Director Critical Care Fellowship; Selected as Core Faculty for Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship; Member, Alpha Omega Alpha Faculty Selection Committee

Christopher Howard, M.D., F.C.C.P.

PI, PREVENT Trial, Pivotal Evaluation of Abdominal Functional Electrical Stimulation for Weaning from Mechanical Ventilation; PI, PUERTA Trial (Phase 2A ARDS Treatment ALT-100 mAb); Course Director, BCM Advances in Critical Care Symposium

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Christina Kao, M.D., Ph.D.

Associate Chief of Staff, Analytics and Clinical Improvement, MEDVAMC; Chair, American Thoracic Society Student Scholars Program

Donald R. Lazarus, M.D., F.A.C.P., D.A.A.B.I.P.

Program Leader, launched the Robotic Assisted Bronchoscopy Program, MEDVAMC; Associate Course Director, Southwest Regional Incoming Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellows Procedure Course and Boot Camp; Top Doctor, Houstonia Magazine

Thomas Lettich, D.O.

Recipient, Faculty of the Year—Critical Care Medicine, BSLMC

Babith Mankidy, M.D., F.C.C.P., D.A.A.B.I.P.

Director of Interventional Pulmonary, Ben Taub Hospital; Awarded Diplomate, American Board of Bronchology and interventional Pulmonary

Mauro Mendez, M.D.

Lecturer, 2nd Annual Symposium on Modern Management of Metabolic Syndrome and Obesity, "Sleep Disorders in Metabolic Syndrome and Obesity"

Dipaben Modi, M.D.

Author, "Electrical Stimulation to Regain Lower-Extremity Muscle Perfusion and Endurance in Patients with Post-Acute Sequelae of SARS CoV-2: A Randomized Control Trial", *Physiological Reports*; Joined AI and Machine Learning, UT Austin

Christopher K. Morgan, M.D.

Recipient, Advancing Clinical Excellence Grant, BCM; Nominee and Attendee, Internal Medicine Leadership Course; Assistant Program Director, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Fellowship; Invited Lecturer, Advances in Critical Care Conference

Dharani Narendra, M.D.

Recipient, Distinguished CHEST Educator award, American College of Chest Physicians; Recipient, Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching at Ben Taub Hospital, Critical Care Medicine graduating fellows, BCM; Recipient, Medical Staff Core Values Award for Medical Intensive Care Unit, Harris Health System; Chair, Bronchiectasis section, American College of Chest Physician; Elected committee member, Educator development subcommittee, American College of Chest Physician

Elaine Palacios, M.D.

Instructor, Mock Code Blues, Ben Taub Emergency Response Committee; Author, Ben Taub Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Inclement Weather Policy

Lavannya M. Pandit, M.D., M.S.

Recipient, R01, "The pathophysiology of vascular remodeling in pulmonary hypertension", NIH, NHLBI, 4 years, \$3.8 million; last author, "Pulmonary Hypertension and Hyperglycemia-Not a Sweet Combination", *Diagnostics*

Purvesh Patel, M.D.

Passed critical care echocardiography board exam

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Jairo Barrantes Perez, M.D.

Elected Chair, TCH Community Engagement & Health Equity; Pediatric Prepared Emergency Care Chair, BSLMC; Ambulatory Pulmonary Specialty Education Coordinator; Recipient, ACE Grant for Quality Improvement, BSLMC; Member, Vice Chair Group for Quality and Innovation, Department of Medicine

Francesca Polverino, M.D., Ph.D.

Recipient, NHLBI R01; Recipient, Industry Grant; Recipient, Alpha 1 Foundation Grant; Recipient, grant as a mentor from the American Lung Association

Katherine Richards, M.D.

Recipient, 2nd place poster at Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Conference, BCM

Ivan O. Rosas, M.D.

Recipient, NHLBI Pulmonary T32 Training Grant; Lecturer, The Alkek Lectureship, BCM; Visiting Professor, Brigham and Women's Hospital; Scientific Advisory Committee Member and Study Section Chair, American Lung Association

Joselyn Joanna Rojas-Quintero

Recipient, "Protective effects of metformin against methylation of AT2 cells in emphysema", American Thoracic Association; Recipient, Early Career Investigator Grant, "Protective effects of metformin against AT2 cell dysmetabolism in COPD", American Lung Association; first author, "Spatial Transcriptomics Resolve an Emphysema-Specific Lymphoid Follicle B Cell Signature in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease", *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*; author, "Lung Tissue Multi-Layer Network Analysis Uncovers the Molecular Heterogeneity of COPD", *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*; author, "CC16 drives VLA-2-dependent SPLUNC1 expression", *Frontiers in Immunology*

Rolando E. Rumbaut, M.D., Ph.D.

Contact PI, NHLBI T32 competitive renewal, "Collaborative Research Training in Thrombosis and Inflammation", BCM; PI, Senior Clinician Scientist Investigator Award, 4-year extension of VA Merit Review Award, "Mechanisms of microvascular thrombosis in inflammation", MEDVAMC; Chair, Department of Medicine Vice Chair Group for Research, BCM; Director, Medical Resident Investigator Track, BCM

Javeryah Safi, M.D.

Elected Board Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, American Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology; Director, Lung Cancer Screening Program, Dan L. Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center

Pralay Sarkar, M.D., F.C.C.P., F.R.C.P. (Edin)

Promoted to Associate Professor; Corresponding Author, book chapter, *Critical Care Echocardiography: A Self-Assessment Book*, "States of Shock", Springer; Member, "Ultrasound domain task force", CHEST

Justin M. Segraves, M.D.

Poster, "Healthcare Disparities In Clinical Outcomes After Lung Transplantation", American Thoracic Society 2024; poster, "Deep Vein Thrombosis after Lung Transplantation: A Contemporary Evaluation of Risk Factors" American Association of Thoracic Surgery 2024; poster, "Airway stenosis leading to redo lung transplantation —A viable treatment option", CHEST, 2024; Presenter, 9th Annual O.H. Bud Frazier Transplant Roundup, "Indications for Lung Transplant", BCM; Completed the BCM Basic Educators Certificate Course

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Amir Sharafkhaneh, M.D., Ph.D.

Chairperson, VA/DOD Guideline Committee for Asthma 2024; Chairperson, VA/DOD Guideline Committee for Obstructive Sleep Apnea/Insomnia 2024; Co-Chair, World Sleep Society Artificial Intelligence interest Group; Editor of Book on Narcolepsy; Associate Editor, *Journal Respiratory Medicine*

Supriya Singh, M.D.

Abstract, "Dual Neurostimulator Therapy for CSA and OSA in an Elderly Gentleman with Native Pacemaker", Case Report *Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine*; Abstract, "Combination Therapy: Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation and Oral Appliance Therapy", American Academy of Sleep Medicine; Abstract, "Novel Device to Simulate Hypoglossal Nerve Stimulation Response to Predict Surgical Success", American Academy of Sleep Medicine; Case report, "Unveiling the upper airway: DISE unmasking the anatomical causes of airway obstruction in sleep apnea", American Thoracic Conference American Thoracic Society; Outcome data in telehealth: CHEST 2023

Muhammad K. Hayat Syed, M.D., F.C.C.P.

Director Interstitial Lung Disease Baylor Clinic, Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation; Chair, CHEST Guideline Committee for post lung transplant venous thromboembolism prophylaxis; Fellow, American College of Chest Physicians; Scientific Program Committee Member, CHEST 2024 Conference; Chair, Non-Respiratory Critical Care Network, CHEST

Konstantin Tsoyi, Ph.D.

PI, NHLBI R01, "Macropinocytosis and Pulmonary fibrosis"; last author, "PIK-III exerts anti-fibrotic effects in activated fibroblasts by regulating p38 activation", *PLoS One*

Helina Wakwaya, M.D.

Core Faculty, Pulmonary and Critical Care fellowship

Annise Wilson, M.D.

AMA Health Systems Science Scholar Program; Participant, Palatucci Advocacy Leadership Forum, American Academy of Neurology; Presenter, "Gender Equity in Academic Medicine", Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology

Tianshi David Wu, M.D., M.H.S.

Invited member, American Thoracic Society workshop on metabolic disease and the lung

TRANSITION MEDICINE

John Berens, M.D.

Recipient, Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award, Teaching and Evaluation, BCM; Member, Professional Advisory Board, Parents and Researchers Interested in Smith-Magenis Syndrome; Co-Investigator, HRSA grant, "Longitudinal Education to Increase Quality Primary Care Delivery in Individuals with IDD"; Member, American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Medicine Pediatrics Executive Committee

Ambrielle Davis, FNP-C

Poster Presenter, "Cross-Sectional Study: Factors Associated with having a Medicaid Waiver at Transfer to Adult Care for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities"; author, "Race/Ethnicity Disparities in COVID-19 Worry for Caregivers of Adults with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities", *American Journal on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities*; Case Presenter, ECHO lecture series, Transition Medicine Clinic

FACULTY ACCOLADES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Ellen Fremion, M.D.

Executive Committee Member and Education chair-elect for 2025, American Academy of Pediatrics Council for Children with Disabilities; Board Member and Co-chair, Transition and Adult Care Subcommittee, Spina Bifida Association; Planning Committee, 25th Annual Chronic Illness and Disability Conference: Transition from Pediatric to Adult-Based Care; first author, "Health Care Transition Quadruple Aim Outcomes for IDD: Scoping Review", *Health Care Transitions Journal*

Samuel Garcia, L.C.S.W., L.C.D.C.

Nominee, Practicum Instructor of the Year Award 2024, University of Houston Graduate School of Social Work; Senator, Department of Medicine, BCM; Recipient, WISH Grant, BCM

Cynthia Peacock, M.D.

Editor, *Care of Adults with Chronic Childhood Conditions*, second edition, Springer

Vrunda Vithalani, M.D.

HRSA Grant for education of individuals with IDD



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Department of Medicine would like to thank our department administration team, section chiefs, administrators, and staff, for their collective efforts in helping complete this Annual Report.

The report was prepared by:
Chandler Williams
Ashley Cox
Editing:
Kat Sippell, Ph.D.



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