

# department of Medicine Newsletter

Fall 2014 Volume 13 Issue 3

THE WARREN ALPERT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF BROWN UNIVERSITY



BROWN  
Alpert Medical School

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[www.brownmedicine.org](http://www.brownmedicine.org)

The Department of Medicine Newsletter is published 3 times per year. To submit an article or provide information contact Alex Mayer at 444-5127, e-mail to [amayer@Lifespan.org](mailto:amayer@Lifespan.org) or contact Dan Bryant at 444-6893, e-mail to [dbryant@Lifespan.org](mailto:dbryant@Lifespan.org).

## Chairman's Message

It is difficult to muse on traditional clinical and academic topics when there is a growing tragedy unfolding in West Africa. The human toll thus far in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea has been devastating, and it is quite likely it will take those countries years to recover socially and economically. The threat to the rest of the world is also significant, if not in total number of lives, in the social and fiscal chaos that could evolve for our health systems.

We in the State of Rhode Island are involved in and affected by this tragedy in different ways.

Dr. Timothy Flanigan, Professor of Medicine at Brown and a longtime member and former Chief

*Louis Rice, MD*

of the Brown Infectious Diseases Division, has been in Monrovia, Liberia for more than a month working with a Catholic Health care organization to try to re-open hospitals to care for the country's sick. He continues to write a compelling blog that I invite all of you to read ([timothyflaniganmd.com](http://timothyflaniganmd.com)). Adam Levine from Emergency Medicine has been working for the past month in Liberia at an Ebola Treatment Unit and has described his experience through a series of Audio Diary installments featured on NPR. We all wish them both every success in their endeavors and hope for their safe return. Ashoka Mukpo, the free-lance photographer working for NBC who came down with Ebola and is now recovering at the containment facility at the University of Nebraska, is the son of Mitchell Levy, Professor of Medicine at Brown and Chief of our Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Division. Our hearts go out to Mitchell and his wife Diana Mukpo as we pray for the speedy recovery of their son. Finally, Rhode Island is home to one of the largest populations of West Africans in the United States. Our thoughts are with them and their concern for the well-being of their family and friends back home.

In this country we have been spared major loss of life from Ebola, but concern is spreading with the report of a secondary case occurring in a nurse involved in the care of Thomas Duncan, the Liberian man who died of Ebola last week in a Dallas Hospital. It is not clear at this point how the exposure occurred, but the event has led to calls for more education and better personal protective equipment (PPE). On October 13, the New York Times quoted Roseann Demarco, executive director of National Nurses United, the country's largest union and professional association of nurses: "I'm angry about this. We want the first line of defense to be most prepared. Our hospitals are resisting us. The C.D.C. doesn't say that we need hazmat suits. If this doesn't change dramatically, we will picket every hospital in this country if we have to."

Concern for the safety of our patients and colleagues must be paramount in our minds and must always guide our practices. The best way to manifest that concern is to

*continued on page 2*

## Chairman's Message *continued*

determine where the problems lie and to correct those problems. At the present time, it is not clear where the break in protocol occurred in the Dallas hospital. If, as is quite possible, the break occurred while removing the protective equipment, then providing hazmat suits would not solve the problem. In fact it may worsen the problem by creating a greater sense of security, when in fact such security does not exist. As a carpenter I know would always say: "Measure twice, cut once". My version of that saying to trainees is: "No matter how acute the situation, there is always time to ask 'why?'"

I think my greatest concern with the increasingly emotional nature of the Ebola discussion is the fear that it could turn us against each other at precisely the time we need to be working together to limit the damage. I am reminded of a time in my training at Bellevue Hospital

in New York during the early years of the AIDS epidemic. Some surgeons would not operate on AIDS patients, neighborhoods rose up against planned facilities housing AIDS patients in their midst. Looking at these examples, it would be fair to say that it was not a time of great honor for either our profession or our society. But there were also many who stood differently, who continued to work for the benefit of these patients and insist that they deserved the best possible care, regardless of their background. There were also many who pushed the National Institutes of Health for more research dollars and the Food and Drug Administration for more reasonable licensing rules. Out of the darkness came the triumph that is HIV care today.

In Dr. Flanigan's most recent blog post, he celebrates fresh data suggesting a

steep decline in new cases of suspected or confirmed Ebola in Lofa County, Liberia over the past month. The dramatic improvement is attributed primarily to successful education campaigns helping to overcome local traditions that were accelerating transmission and informing people about proper daily practices to avoid transmitting the disease. Hospital facilities were also dramatically expanded, but that is unlikely to have had an effect on the number of new cases. Let us hope that this is the first sign that the epidemic is being controlled at its source. Let us also follow their example if Ebola appears at our doorstep, using reason, scientific knowledge and compassion for the sick to guide our behavior, rather than fears and our emotions.

## Current Research at CVI

### **J.Dawn Abbott, MD**

**Regulate** (Regado Biosciences enrollment started 3/2014) A Randomized, Open-Label, Multi-Center, Active-Controlled, Parallel Group Study to Determine the Efficacy and Safety of the REG1 Anticoagulation System Compared to Bivalirudin in Patients Undergoing Percutaneous Coronary Intervention. *Role: P.I. Rhode Island Hospital*

**PORTRAIT** (St. Luke's Hospital/PCORI 3/1/2014-2/28/17) Patient-Centered Outcomes Related to Treatment Practices in Peripheral Arterial Disease: Investigating Trajectories (PORTRAIT Registry): Phase II. *Role: P.I. Rhode Island Hospital*

### **Peter A. Soukas, MD**

**NHLBI BEST-CLI trial.** This is a randomized trial of open surgical vs. endovascular therapy for patients with chronic limb ischemia. A Prospective, Multicenter, Single Blind, Randomized, Controlled Trial Comparing the Lutonix Drug Coated Balloon vs. Standard Balloon Angioplasty for Treatment of Below-the-Knee (BTK) Arteries. *Sponsor: Lutonix, Inc. site PI*

**The GORE SCAFFOLD Carotid Clinical Study:** GORE Carotid Stent Clinical Study for the Treatment of Carotid Artery Stenosis in Patients at Increased Risk for Adverse Events From Carotid Endarterectomy. *Sponsor: W. L. Gore*

**The DANCE-POP Trial:** Delivery of Dexamethasone to the Adventitia to Enhance Clinical Efficacy after POPliteal Artery Revascularization. *Sponsor: Mercator Medsystems, Inc. site PI* A Prospective, Multicenter, Single-Blind, Randomized, Controlled Trial Comparing the Lutonix® Drug Coated Balloon vs. Standard Balloon Angioplasty for Treatment of Femoropopliteal In-Stent Restenosis/ CL0018-01. *Sponsor: Lutonix*

**The PORTRAIT Registry, Patient-Centered Outcomes Related to Treatment Practices in Peripheral Arterial Disease- an International Trajectory.** *Sponsor: NIH, site PI*

## Recognition, Awards & Honors for CVI Faculty

**Brian Abbott, MD** serves on the Program Planning Committee for the American College of Cardiology Annual Scientific Session, San Diego 2015. He is also a committee member for the International Congress of Nuclear Cardiology Programme, Madrid 2015

**J. Dawn Abbott, MD** - Elite Reviewer for the Journal of the American College of Cardiology 2013

**Gaurav Choudhary, MD** was recently awarded a Brown Biomed Division DEANS Award grant, for his research with Edward Hawrot, PhD (Molecular Pharmacology, Physiology and Biotechnology) "Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptors in Right Ventricular Fibrosis"

**Michael Kim, MD** received the "Elite Reviewer Award" from the Journal of the American College of Cardiology at the Annual meeting of the Editorial board of JACC 2014

# Graduate Medical Education – Rhode Island Hospital – The Miriam Hospital – VAMC 2014 Internal Medicine Residency Match

## PGY-1 Categorical Internal Medicine 2014-2017

**Matthew Austin, MD**  
SUNY Buffalo

**John Bonnewell, MD**  
University of Louisville

**Jeremiah Choy, MD**  
Alpert Medical School

**Lindsey Cilia, MD**  
Albany Medical College

**Charis Gn, MD**  
Temple University

**Sehrish Jamot, MD**  
UMDNJ-R W Johnson

**Alisha Lakhani, MD**  
Alpert Medical School

**Raymond Lee, MD**  
University of Massachusetts

**Stephanie Leung, MD**  
SUNY Stony Brook

**Carlos Miranda, MD**  
New York University

**Victor Orellana, MD**  
Geisel School of Medicine

**Matthew Probert, MD**  
University of Massachusetts

**Vikram Raghunathan, MD**  
Tufts University

**Andrew Rogers, MD**  
University of Cincinnati

**Ralph Rogers, MD**  
Alpert Medical School

**Katherine Scovner, MD**  
University of Vermont

**Nadia Shaikh, MD**  
University of Massachusetts

**Rory Shallis, MD**  
UMDNJ-R W Johnson

**Mae Shen, MD**  
Alpert Medical School

**Malorie Simons, MD**  
Albany Medical College

**Todd Teigeler, MD**  
Virginia Commonwealth University

**Christopher Tuohy, MD**  
Pennsylvania State University

**Scott Vasher, MD**  
New York University

**Jonathan Wang, MD**  
Jefferson Medical College

**Jonathan Winkler, MD**  
University of Connecticut

**Matthew Wofford, MD**  
Univ. of N Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Carolyn Wu, MD**  
University of Pennsylvania

**Jennifer Zuar, MD**  
Tufts University

## PGY 1 General Internal Medicine/Primary Care 2014-2017

**Seth Clark, MD**  
University of Texas at Galveston

**Jeffrey Cumplido, MD**  
Tufts University

**Rimsky Denis, MD**  
University of Miami

**Heather Ferri, DO**  
Univ. of NE College of Osteo Med

**Meghan Geary, MD**  
Albany Medical College

**Nora Hutchinson, MD**  
McGill University

**Ainsley Jones, MD**  
Tufts University

**Rachel Pyngolil, MD**  
University of South Florida

**Alisha Stephens, MD**  
University of Connecticut

**Christiana Zhang, MD**  
Georgetown University

## PGY-1 Preliminary Internal Medicine 2014-2015

**David Amadu, MD**  
New York Medical College

**Neishay Ayub, MD**  
Alpert Medical School

**Alina Bayer, MD**  
UMDNJ-R W Johnson

**Jane Caty, MD**  
SUNY Buffalo

**Katarina Dakay, DO**  
Touro Un Col of Osteo Med, Henderson

**Jimmy Hu, MD**  
Albert Einstein College

**Jeremy Kulacz, MD**  
Southern Illinois University

**Melissa McEnery-Stonelake, MD**  
University of Massachusetts

**Cameron Miller-Patterson, MD**  
SUNY Stony Brook

**Joshua Stone, MD**  
Pennsylvania State

**Cynthia Twu, MD**  
Albany Medical College

## PGY 1 Medicine/Pediatrics 2014-2018

**Lynae Conyers, MD**  
University of Michigan

**John Molina, MD**  
Alpert Medical School

**Alexander Raines, MD**  
University of N Carolina

**Christopher Terry, MD**  
Jefferson Medical College

## Department of Medicine Physicians Honored among Top 40 under 40

**Dr. Adam Harris (Division of Gastroenterology), Dr Nadia Mujahid (Division of Geriatrics) and Dr. Sarita Warriar (Division of General Internal Medicine) were among the honorees at this year's Providence Business News 2014 40 Under Forty competition.** They were honored at the 10th Anniversary celebration of the awards program on Thursday, July 24, at Salve Regina University's Ochre Court in Newport.

The men and women of the 2014 class were selected from more than 100 applicants, and were profiled in a special section of the Providence Business News this past summer.

The 40 Under Forty winners were selected based on career success and community involvement. All are young professionals who have committed to making a difference on a local, national or international scale.

## Cardiovascular Institute Welcomes New Faculty

**Siddique Abbasi, MD** joins us after completing a T32 Fellowship in Non-invasive cardiovascular imaging and a research fellowship in cardiac MRI, both at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He

completed his clinical cardiology fellowship at the University of Illinois with an internship and residency at the University of Washington in Seattle. Dr. Abbasi is a graduate of Saint Louis University School of Medicine. Siddique and his wife have a one-year old daughter. Dr. Abbasi is primarily located at the Veterans Administrative Medical Center in Providence while supporting clinical call and noninvasive lab coverage at Rhode Island Hospital.

**George Charlton, MD** is originally from Maryland and received his B.S. in Cellular Biology and Molecular Genetics at the University of Maryland-College Park. He then earned his M.D. at the University of Pittsburgh followed by Internal

Medicine residency at the University of Virginia. After residency and before coming to Brown, he was an attending hospitalist at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Virginia. He graduated from the Brown general cardiology fellowship in 2013 and elected to continue his Brown training in the Preventive Cardiology Fellowship at the VAMC Providence. George joined the CVI in July 2014 to help build a new practice at Newport Hospital. He is involved in clinical research and continues to teach echocardiography to fellows in the Miriam Hospital echo lab. George and his wife went to high school together and have been married since 2002. They have a 6-year-old son, Oliver, who loves hockey and welcomed their second son, Cooper, this July.

**Dr. Carl Levick** joins the Cardiovascular Institute after founding a multi-physician cardiology practice in New Hampshire followed by a separate practice venture in Bermuda where he most recently served as

director of cardiology at King Edward VII Memorial Hospital. He was a Fellow in Cardiology at the Vancouver General Hospital and is a graduate of the internal medicine & residency at The Miriam Hospital. Dr. Levick attended the University of Massachusetts Medical School. Prior academic appointments were held at both Dartmouth and Harvard Medical Schools. Hobbies include hiking, camping, sailing, skiing, and road bicycling. Dr. Levick's primary practice location is at Newport Hospital.

**Dr. Joseph B. Weiss** graduated summa cum laude from Yale in 1975. He obtained his MD-PhD at New York University School of Medicine, completed residency in Internal Medicine at Columbia-Presbyterian medical

center and fellowship in Cardiovascular Medicine at UCSF. He also completed post-doctoral training in developmental genetics at Stanford where, studying transcriptional targets of the homeodomain protein Tinman in *Drosophila*, he discovered a signaling molecule Jelly belly (Jeb) that is the ligand for Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase, a receptor tyrosine kinase. He worked at Oregon Health & Science University in Portland for the past 12 years where he was an Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine. In addition to general adult cardiology Dr. Weiss specializes in the care of adults with congenital heart disease. About 7 years ago he was "born again" as a long distance runner and has qualified for and completed the Boston Marathon for the last 6 years. He enjoys back-country, telemark skiing and fly fishing for recreation. His wife, Georgette Pan, is an attorney and fierce squash player. They have two daughters, Isabel and Maya. Dr. Weiss will be practicing primarily at Newport Hospital and establishing a clinic devoted to Cardiovascular Genetics.

## Updates from The Division of Hospital Medicine TMH

NEW HIRES:

**Sarah Freeman, MD**

**Erin McKnight, MD**

**Deepa Nankani, MD.**

**Jennifer O'Brien, MD**

**Ali Shueib, MD**

## Recognition and Leadership Roles for Hospitalists

**Brad Collins, MD**, has been elected as a Fellow of the Society of Hospital Medicine.

**Arkadiy Finn, MD**, has been appointed as the Educational Coordinator for TMH Division of Hospital Medicine in addition to his current role as chair the division's Educational committee.

**Christina Beyer, MD**, has been appointed as the Patient Experience Coordinator of the TMH Division of Hospital Medicine.

**Kwame Dapaah-Afriyie, MD**, has been appointed as a member of Society of Hospital Medicine – HMG Standards of Excellence – North-East group

**Beth Gentilesco** was given the Reisman Family Teaching Award

## Conference Room Dedicated In Recognition of Stuart Schwartz

On April 24, 2014 the Schwartz Conference Room in the basement of Jane Brown was dedicated in recognition of Dr Stuart T. Schwartz of the Division of Rheumatology for the compassionate care that he provides. Educational material and the plaque of recognition were the generous gifts of Wini and Robert Galkin.

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# The Thirteenth Annual Alpert Medical School Department of Medicine Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching

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**Gerardo Carino, MD**

Assistant Professor of Medicine (Clinical)

**Bradley Collins, MD**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Shiavax Cowasji, MD**

Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Melissa Gaitanis, MD**

Assistant Professor Medicine (Clinical)

**Suzanne McLaughlin, MD**

Assistant Professor Medicine

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

**Stuart Schwartz, MD**

Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

**Samir Shah, MD**

Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine

**Sarita Warriar, MD**

Assistant Professor  
of Medicine

The Beckwith Family Research and Education Fund has been established at Brown Medical School through generous gifts to endowment from the Beckwith Family Foundation.

The endowment Fund is used to support the education and research mission of the Department of Medicine, with an emphasis on the education and training of medical residents.

Each year the Fund supports the presentation of the Annual Brown Medical School Department of Medicine Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching. This award is to recognize superb teaching by its faculty. The recipients are nominated and chosen by students, residents, physicians, program and course directors in the Brown Medical School Department of Medicine. Each winner is presented with a plaque and a cash prize.

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## Meet the Internal Medicine Chief Residents

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**Caitlin Dugdale, MD**

*Hometown:*

Indianapolis, IN

*Undergrad:*

Indiana University -  
Bloomington

*Medical School:*

Indiana University  
School of Medicine

*Why I came to Brown:*

I was first drawn to Brown by its global health programs. As a medical student on an away elective in Kenya, I worked with several residents and faculty from Brown. They were dedicated teachers and superb clinicians, which was particularly impressive to me in that low resource setting. Upon returning to the States, I did a visiting sub-internship at the Miriam Hospital, and felt at home in the hard-working, but laid-back atmosphere of the program. All of the faculty were on a first-name basis, the program directors were endlessly supportive, and the residents were

genuinely happy. Coming here just felt right... and remains one of the best decisions I've ever made!

*Professional Interest:* Global health systems development, infectious diseases

*Fun fact most people don't know about me is:*

Huge fan of all things Joss Whedon

*Email:* cdugdale@lifespan.org

**Megha Garg, MD, MPH**

*Hometown:*

Tampa, Florida

*Undergrad:*

University of Miami

*Medical School:*

University of Miami  
(with a detour for MPH  
at Harvard School of  
Public Health)

*Why I came to Brown:* That gut feeling of "this is the right place for me." I connected with the residents and program faculty on my interview day and appreciated the opportunities for

personal development in the General Internal Medicine residency. I discovered Providence is a wonderful, walkable city and that Rhode Island is the Ocean State (important to this Florida beach-goer!).

*Professional Interest:* academic internal medicine, physician advocacy in residency, health policy.

*Fun fact most people don't know about me is:*

I can't swim! One can still do a lot on the water without this ability, surprisingly. I am actively learning how to swim though...

*Email:* MGarg@lifespan.org

**Ross Hilliard, MD**

*Hometown:*

Oak Ridge, TN

*Undergrad:*

Rhodes College,  
Memphis, TN

*Medical School:*

University of South

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## Internal Medicine Chief Residents *continued*

Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia, SC  
*Why I came to Brown:* Reasons 1, 2, 3 and beyond are the phenomenal General Internal Medicine (GIM) residency program. My preparation for primary care here was second to none. Also, the fantastic people in our department, everyone from the interns, residents and program coordinators to the attendings, program directors, and our department chair. It really is a family, and a great place to learn the practice of medicine  
*Professional Interest:* Patient Safety and Healthcare Quality Improvement, particularly at the overlap of these topics with medical informatics. This has been especially interesting during our hospital system's transition to the EPIC medical record that will take place this academic year. Also working to introduce students in the health professions to QI.

*Fun fact most people don't know about me is:* I grew up doing a lot of musical and technical theatre, but sadly don't have the time for it now  
*Email:* rhilliard@lifespan.org

### **Elizabeth Ko, MD**

*Hometown:*  
Diamond Bar,  
California  
*Undergrad:*  
University of Los  
Angeles, California  
*Medical School:*  
University of Miami  
Miller School of  
Medicine

*Why I came to Brown:* The visceral instinct!  
The camaraderie among residents and faculty

is unsurpassed. Also, Providence is a charming city with a rich art culture and culinary scene.

*Professional Interest:* primary care, preventive medicine, lifestyle interventions

*Fun fact most people don't know about me is:* My cousins and I are named alphabetically, from A through G, oldest to youngest.

*Email:* eko@lifespan.org

### **Parag Parikh, MD**

*Hometown:*  
Kingston, NY  
*Undergrad:*  
New York University  
*Medical School:*  
SUNY Upstate,  
Syracuse, NY  
*Why I came to Brown:*  
The people. My wife  
and I couples matched

to residency together. We were in awe at the sense of community between the residents, faculty, and program directors both within Internal Medicine and as an institution as a whole. We visited a lot of different places on the interview trail, but the residents at Brown had unrivaled and genuine caring, respect, and collaboration with one another.

*Professional Interest:* General cardiology, clinical education

*Fun fact most people don't know about me is:* I worked as a bartender in New York City  
*Email:* pparikh@lifespan.org

## MHRI Internal Medicine Residency Program celebrates ABIM Board Passage

The Internal Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island is pleased to announce that their graduating Class of 2014 recently achieved 100% ABIM board pass rate. This is the program's seventh consecutive class to achieve this distinction. Only 2-3% of Internal Medicine residency programs in the nation can claim 100% ABIM board pass rate for multiple, consecutive years. "This superb distinction is a testament to the ongoing hard work and dedication of our residents and faculty," said Program Director, Eleanor Summerhill MD. "We are proud of each and every one of our residents."

## Appointments & Promotions

### Faculty Appointments Feb 1, 2014 – August 31, 2014

#### BUTLER HOSPITAL

*General Internal Medicine*  
**John Vitelli, MD**  
Clinical Assistant Professor

#### MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

*General Internal Medicine*  
**Purva Agarwal, MD**  
Assistant Professor (Clinical)

**Dino Messina, MD**  
Assistant Professor (Clinical)

#### THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL

*Hematology/Oncology*  
**Priscilla Merriam, MD**  
Assistant Professor (Clinical)

*General Internal Medicine*  
**Hafiz Imran, MD**  
Instructor (Clinical)

**Pranav Oza, MD**  
Instructor (Clinical)

## Housestaff honored with 2014 Haffenreffer Family Excellence Awards

On May 29, 2014, **Megha Garg, MD** (General Internal Medicine residency graduate and current chief resident) and **Margret Chang, MD** (Medicine/Pediatrics 2014 graduate) were among the recipients of the 2014 Haffenreffer Family House Staff Excellence Award. The Haffenreffer Family has generously funded this award program that recognizes residents, chief residents and fellows for outstanding performance since 1946. The annual award program includes a formal ceremony and a reception honoring the awardees. The keynote address, "Patients, Education And Life: Lessons From The Past And Thoughts For The Future" was delivered by Allan Tunkel, MD, PhD, MACP, Associate Dean for Medical Education at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

*Full list of Awardees:*

**Peter Chai, MD**  
Emergency Medicine

**Megha Garg, MD**  
General Internal Medicine

**Sean Monaghan, MD**  
Surgery

**Margret Chang, MD**  
Medicine/Pediatrics

**Kachiu Lee, MD**  
Dermatology

*continued on back*

## Memorial Welcomes Intern Class

### 2014-2015 Interns

#### Ahman Abdin, MD

*Medical School:* Jordan University of Science and Technology

#### Mohammed Aboelsoud, MD

*Medical School:* Faculty of Medicine, Mansoura University

#### Farhan Ashraf, MD

*Medical School:* Allama Iqbal Medical College, Pakistan

#### Mohamad Firas Barbour, MD

*Medical School:* Kalamoon University, Syria

#### Jaleh Fallah, MD

*Medical School:* Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Iran

#### Fatima Hamid, MD

*Medical School:* Allama Iqbal Medical College, Pakistan

#### Saira Imran, MD

*Medical School:* Fatima Jinnah Medical College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan

#### Akiko Minami, MD

*Medical School:* Kyoto University, Japan

#### Somwail Rasla, MD

*Medical School:* Alexandria University Medical School, Egypt

#### Diana Silva Cantillo, MD

*Medical School:* Universidad Nacional de Colombia

*Internal Medicine Residency Completed:* Hospital Militar Central-Universidad Militar Nueva Granada, Bogota, Colombia

## Memorial Welcomes New Chief Resident

**Abdullah Quddus, MD** was born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania and grew up in Lahore, Pakistan. He graduated from Allama Iqbal Medical College in Pakistan 2008 with Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degreed. Prior to entering the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island, Dr. Quddus was a research fellow at the Joslin Diabetes Center of Harvard University, and in the cardiology division of Massachusetts General Hospital/ Harvard Medical School where he studied the role of anti-arrhythmics for atrial fibrillation in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy patients. In 2011, Dr.

Quddus entered the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island. His interest in clinical research drew him to work with Charles Eaton MD under the auspices of the Women's Health Initiative where he studied the association of artificially-sweetened beverages and diabetes, and epidemiology of preserved and reduced ejection fraction incident heart failure. Dr. Quddus has presented at several national meetings including annual ACC, AHA, AHA EpiNAM, CHEST, NKF, and the national ACP. Currently, Dr. Quddus is involved in outcomes research with Andrew Eisenhauer MD at the Division of Interventional Cardiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital/ Harvard Medical School in Boston with a special interest in analyzing the utility of coronary angiograms on outcomes of transcatheter aortic valve replacements (TAVR). Dr. Quddus is fluent in English, Urdu, Punjabi, and Hindi. He is an avid soccer fan and actively follows Arsenal F.C in the English Premier League.

## New Hires and Research Activity from the Division of Hematology-Oncology

The Division of Hematology /Oncology continues to be very active clinically with increasing numbers of patients, increasing activity at the East Greenwich site and beginning activity in Newport.

**Mary Lopresti, DO** has joined the Division. She received her Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine in Biddeford, Maine. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Hematology/ Oncology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts. Her clinical and research interests include breast & GYN cancers.

**Dr Elizabeth Horn** is a new Research Fellow on our T32 Training Grant, and Dr Sicheng Wen continues in this role as well.

We have had a visiting scholar, **Andrea Carpanetto**, just complete a very productive six month stay on our Fellowship Exchange Program with the University of Torino. We have also had a successful year with our NIH Common Fund grant, having had our milestones approved.

The Cellular Immune Therapy Protocol for Refractory Hematologic Malignancies under Dr John Reagan has now admitted 5 patients and with a 6th patient we will be going back to the FDA to expand this research.

The Division has an upcoming symposium, Novel Stem Cells & Vesicles October 29-31 at The Renaissance Hotel in Providence. We are also cooperating with the University of Torino in planning the Frontiers in Regenerative Medicine Symposium February 18-20, 2015 in Torino, Italy.

Dr Peter Quesenberry has stepped aside as the Director of the Division, and is now the Director of Hematology/Oncology Research. Dr Louis Rice is the interim Director of the Division during the search for a new Director, with Drs Angela Caliendo, Anthony Mega and James Butera functioning as Associate Directors.

Office of the Chairman of Medicine  
Rhode Island Hospital  
593 Eddy Street  
Providence, RI 02903

## Appointments & Promotions *continued*

### RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL

#### *Cardiology*

**Joseph Farina, MD**

Clinical Assistant Professor

**Binu Philips, MD**

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

**Elena Salmoirago-Blotcher**

Assistant Professor (Research)

**Joseph Wyllie, MD**

Clinical Assistant Professor

#### *General Internal Medicine*

**Anna Acidera, MD**

Clinical Instructor

**Stephanie Cardarella, MD**

Clinical Instructor

**Melinda Hooton, MD**

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

**Subhankar Maitra, MD**

Clinical Instructor

**Carolynn Joy Nassar, MD**

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

**Tae Woo Park, MD**

Assistant Professor

**Jinen Thakkar, MD**

Clinical Instructor

**Erwin Velasquez-Kho, MD**

Clinical Instructor

#### *Infectious Diseases*

**Cheston Cunha, MD**

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

#### *Kidney Disease and Hypertension*

**Eric Kerns, MD**

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

#### *Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep*

**Michael Blundin, MD**

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

### PROVIDENCE VAMC

#### *Cardiology*

**Siddique Abassi, MD**

Assistant Professor

#### *General Internal Medicine*

**Thomas Reznik, MD**

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

### Senior Faculty Promotions

Feb 1, 2014 – August 31, 2014

### THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL

#### *Gastroenterology*

**Samir Shah, MD**

Clinical Professor

#### *General Internal Medicine*

**Bethany Gentilesco, MD**

Associate Professor (Clinical)

### RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL

#### *Cardiology*

**Bum Rak Choi, PhD**

Associate Professor (Research)

#### *Gastroenterology*

**Shuping Tong, MD, PhD**

Professor (Research)

#### *Kidney Disease and Hypertension*

**Shougang Zhuang, MD, PhD**

Professor (Research)

### PROVIDENCE VAMC

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