

Department of Medicine

Fall 2020



BROWN
Alpert Medical School

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Chairman's Message



Louis Rice, M.D.

I have a confession to make - I do not like wearing a surgical mask on my face. Moreover, I do not like that virtually all interactions out of my home these days occur with other people wearing masks. The masks are uncomfortable for my nose, my ears; they sometimes make it less comfortable to breathe. Meetings with people I know and those that I do not know are more difficult since a myriad of clues about peoples' reactions are no longer available to me, making it more difficult for me to gauge their reactions to my comments or the nuance in theirs. Perhaps most important, the masks have kept me from getting to know our house staff better. I have had a practice since I arrived in Providence ten years ago of memorizing the faces, names and medical schools of all our incoming interns. This allowed me to greet them at our annual new intern reception knowing their name and medical school. I wanted our new colleagues to know that they are important. This year the Covid-19 pandemic precluded our ability to have the reception, and memorizing faces has been pointless in a world where everyone wears a mask! Consequently, I feel less connected to the house staff this year than in year's past. Since connection with our house staff is the most enjoyable part of my job, that is a problem!

OK - rant over. Now I'd like to spend the rest of this message emphasizing how important it is that we all wear masks and that we obey the rules of social distancing promoted by our Departments of Health. As physicians, we are all bound by the Hippocratic oath and its admonition *Primum non nocere* - First, do no harm. SARS-CoV2 is an aggressive, highly contagious virus. While its morbidity and mortality are greater among those who are advanced in age and who suffer from chronic illnesses, we now all know of younger people with Covid-19 who have had prolonged episodes on a ventilator or on dialysis, some of whom have succumbed to the disease. We also know that it is possible to transmit the virus when we are asymptomatic, and that the virus can become aerosolized and spread throughout rooms that are crowded and poorly ventilated. That means that those younger people with milder disease can silently spread infection to more vulnerable hosts. Finally, we know that economically and socially disadvantaged populations are at greater risk for contracting and having serious courses of this disease, yet another consequence of our society's social and health care disparities. Wearing masks protects the people we encounter, especially the people we care for in the hospital and in our offices. We must do everything in our power to avoid doing them harm.

We also have an obligation to protect ourselves. We work in hospitals that care for a large percentage of our state's residents. A Covid-19 outbreak among the medical staffs of our hospitals could be devastating to the supply of health care workers available to care for the sick, especially in a time of a Covid-19 surge in the population. The ability to protect ourselves was the

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subject of some important discussions last year, during a time when we faced the real possibility that we would run out of PPE, such as N95 masks and even routine surgical masks. Our Department of Health, our Infection Control experts and hospital administration had to make difficult decisions on how to best use what could become scarce resources, all while making an enormous effort to expand our inventory. I am proud to say that we work with people in all these capacities who made decisions based on the best evidence and upon solid recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Due to the creativity of the hospital purchasing division and the generosity of many, our N95 supply was never depleted and those involved in aerosolizing procedures had N95 masks and the appropriate face shields. While I have not seen any official numbers, we made it through the April surge with mercifully few health care workers infected with SARS-CoV2.

As we enter an Autumn where the possibility of a second surge looms, we have much more scientific knowledge about SARS-CoV2 and clinical experience with Covid-19. The importance of masks and social distancing is now clear beyond dispute. A recent study published in the journal *Clinical Infectious Diseases* [Bielecki, et al (2020) Social distancing alters the clinical course of COVID-19 in young adults: a comparative cohort study - PMID: 32594121] reported intriguing results regarding masks and social distancing. In this Swiss study, the investigators reported on an outbreak

of COVID-19 in one of two physically separated military barracks. They quickly instituted the recommended measures for control in both barracks, including appropriate distancing between beds, required masks if 2 meters distance could not be maintained and twice daily cleaning of the sanitary facilities, among others. The investigators continued to test soldiers after these measures, by PCR amplification of nasal swabs and by antibody testing. They concluded that while infections continued to occur after the measures were put into place, there were no symptomatic Covid-19 illnesses after that point, in stark contrast to infections prior to masks and social distancing. The authors proposed that these data suggest that protective measures not only reduced transmission of SARS-CoV2, but the infections that did result were far less likely to be symptomatic. This finding suggested the possibility that mask wearing and social distancing may have reduced the initial viral inoculum, or perhaps changed the initial route of infection. Either way, the data suggest that routine surgical masks are an important measure to try to decrease the severity of disease in the wearer of the mask. Historical data supporting the hypothesis that masks reduce inoculum and therefore severity of viral disease has recently been reviewed by Gandhi, et al (J. Gen. Intern. Med. DOI: 10.1007/s11606-020-06067-8).

A real-world comparison of the United States with Hong Kong is instructive. According to the Johns Hopkins Covid-19 monitoring site, as of October 5, 2020

there have been 5,124 reported cases of Covid-19 in Hong Kong and 105 deaths. In the U.S., by comparison, there have been more than 7.4 million cases and nearly 210,000 deaths. Only 0.007% of Hong Kong's population has been infected, compared with 2.2% of the U.S. population. On average, the density of population in Hong Kong is 17,500 per square mile. The average density of the U.S. population is 86/square mile. The incidence rate of infection in Hong Kong is 68.35/100,000 population. This compares with incidence rates in the U.S. of (per 100,000) 2388 (New York), 2108 (California), 3342 (Florida), Texas (2725), South Dakota (2760), Montana (1389) and Wyoming (1123). What could possibly account for such a discrepancy between these two areas?

It has been estimated that 97-99% of Hong Kong citizens have worn face masks since the start of the Covid-19 epidemic. In June, a Pew Research survey found that only 65% of Americans said that in the past month they wore a mask or face covering when in stores or other businesses. A repeat of that survey in August 2020 indicated that number had risen to 85%. Yet the outbreak continues to rage throughout our country.

What will it take to get us to 97%? Physicians, for our part, must continue to set an example, holding ourselves accountable but also advocating for this simple, inexpensive, proven and yes, somewhat inconvenient infection control measure, among others.

New Faculty in Division of Endocrinology

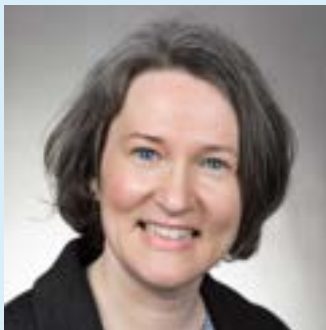
The Division of Endocrinology is pleased to welcome Russell Bratman, M.D.

Dr. Bratman received his M.D. degree at the University of Connecticut in 2015. After completing his residency in Internal Medicine in 2018 and Endocrinology Fellowship in 2020 from the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, he joined the faculty practice this fall.

Dr. Bratman will be seeing patients at Brown Medicine Physicians Building and the Adult Endocrinology Clinic on Chapman Street. His clinical interests span the spectrum of endocrine disorders and his academic interest is in medical education.



Faculty Honored by Rhode Island ACP



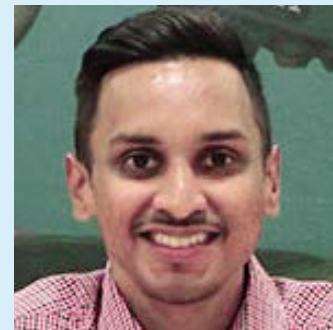
Kate Elizabeth Cahill, M.D. was named *Woman Physician of the Year* by the Rhode Island chapter of the American College of Physicians. This award honors an outstanding woman physician with a distinguished career in areas of exceptional patient care, medical education and/or research. Awardees are nominated by colleagues. Dr. Cahill's letters of support were outstanding and highlighted her dedication to students, her outstanding communication skills, and her moral and ethical approach to all that she does.



Yul D. Ejnes, M.D. received the *Irving Addison Beck Laureate Award* from the Rhode Island chapter of the American College of Physicians. The recipient epitomizes the attributes of the award's namesake, Dr. Irving Beck. The award is given in recognition of peer approval, excellence in the specialty of internal medicine, and for distinguished service to the Chapter and to the Rhode Island community.



Sharon Rounds, M.D. received the *Milton Hamolsky Lifetime Achievement Award* from the American College of Physicians Rhode Island chapter. The award is given in recognition of academic, clinical, research and administrative excellence to a physician who epitomizes the attributes of the award's namesake, Dr. Milton Hamolsky.



Sean Sanker, M.D., 2020 Graduate of the Medicine-Pediatrics Residency program, received the *Resident/Fellow Recognition Award for Leadership* from the ACP's Rhode Island chapter. The award recognizes a resident with qualities that exemplify the College's mission to "enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine."

Brown Medicine and Faculty Receive Providence Business News Awards



Congratulations to **Dr. Abbas Rupawala** of the **Division of Gastroenterology** and **Dr. Ross Hilliard**, of the **Division of General Internal Medicine**, for being named to the *Providence Business News* "40 Under Forty" list for 2020. PBN's "40 Under Forty" winners are chosen based on career success and community involvement. Everyone named is committed to making a difference locally, nationally, or internationally. A virtual award ceremony was hosted over the summer to recognize this year's recipients.

Providence Business News also announced its annual list of 66 honorees for its



"2020 Best Places to Work" program. Brown Medicine was ranked 5th on the list of Large Companies. Each of the companies recognized are judged based on human resources policies and confidential surveys of employees put together by Best Companies Group.

Brown Medicine is also among the companies being honored with PBN's "Business Excellence Award" this fall, in the category of Excellence as a Nonprofit – Large Company. This award program recognizes leadership and excellence at organizations in both the private and public sectors



Faculty Awards and Honors

Akwi W. Asombang, M.D., from the Division of Gastroenterology, has been invited to serve on the “World Endoscopy Organization Activities to Reach Africa (WEO-ARA) Project Ad-Hoc Committee.”

Gaurav Choudhary, M.D., of the Providence VA Medical Center, has been appointed as a member of the Nonprofit Program Oversight Board, Office of Research and Development, Veterans Health Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs and the Research Fellowship Awards Committee, American College of Cardiology. He is an Elected Member-Region 1, Field Research Advisory Committee of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Colleen Kelly, M.D., of the Women’s Medicine Collaborative, has been elected vice chair of the Basic and Clinical Intestinal Disorders Section of the American Gastroenterological Association Institute Council for two years, and will serve as Section Chair for the following two years. When her chair term ends, she will serve as chair of the BCID Nominating committee.

John Murphy, M.D. was honored with the 2020 Dennis W. Jahnigen Memorial Award by the American Geriatric Society. This award celebrates Murphy’s nearly four decades of dedication to advancing geriatrics and gerontology by working to embed geriatrics education in the fabric of medical curricula and clinical operations.

Samir Shah, M.D. (Gastroenterology) was selected to serve as president of the Digestive Disease National Coalition (DDNC). The DDNC is an advocacy organization comprising the major national voluntary and professional societies concerned with digestive diseases. He also serves as co-chair of the IBD-Circle, an online community sponsored by the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation and the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG). He is on the faculty of ACG’s IBD school and gave three lectures at the ACG Best Practices course in Las Vegas in January.

The Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) chapter at The Warren Alpert Medical School has received an “Outstanding” ranking based on the triennial GHHS Chapter Check-in submitted by GHHS Advisor **Fred Schiffman**, Medicine.

Kerns Returns to Brown As Faculty



The Division of Kidney Diseases and Hypertension is pleased to announce the return of **Dr. Eric Kerns**, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Clinician Educator track, to the Division and to the Department of Medicine at Brown. Dr. Kerns is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Williams College, where

he majored in anthropology and art, and an AOA graduate of the Boston University Medical School. He completed an internship and residency at the Beth Israel Deaconess program in Boston, and then completed a Nephrology fellowship at Oregon Health Sciences University. He was on the faculty in our Division from 2013 to 2018, then moved to the Lahey Clinic, but he missed the academic atmosphere, the warm camaraderie, and the commitment to social justice and to the abolition of health inequity that characterizes the Department of Medicine at Brown.

Dr. Kerns will care for patients and teach residents and fellows on the wards of Rhode Island and the Miriam Hospitals and the Providence VA Hospital and will have an outpatient practice in clinical nephrology at the Brown Medicine Patient Center. His main clinical and research interest is in methods and complications of peritoneal dialysis. He has also had a long clinical and research interest in Mesoamerican nephropathy; this is a recently reported syndrome characterized by progressive and irreversible kidney disease, seen primarily in otherwise healthy impoverished male farmworkers in the countries of Central America. Potentially linked to abusive work conditions and volume depletion in high heat environments, Mesoamerican nephropathy may be one of the first chronic diseases potentially caused by climate change.

Faculty Honored with Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching

The Beckwith Family Research and Education Fund has been established at The Alpert Medical School through generous gifts to the endowment from the Beck with 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. This year's recipients were honored in a virtual ceremony that featured guest lecturer Yul Ejnes, M.D.

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.

Stephanie Catanese, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine,
Clinician Educator

Cheston Cunha, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Katherine Faricy-Anderson, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Joseph Garland, M.D.

Associate Professor of Medicine,
Clinician Educator

Erica Hardy, M.D.

Assistant Professor Medicine,
Clinician Educator
Assistant Professor of Obstetrics/
Gynecology, Clinician Educator

Shafiq Mamdani, M.D.

Clinical Assistant Professor
of Medicine, Clinical Educator

CVI Faculty News and Updates

J.Dawn Abbott, M.D., FACC, FSCAI

will serve as Program Director & Atherectomy Track Co-Director for the Women as One CLIMB Program from September 2020 – February 2021, as well as a member of the Annual Scientific Session/World Congress of Cardiology Program Committee – 2020, and a member of the Finance Committee for the Society of Coronary Angiography and Interventions 2020. She is also serving as chair of the Women in Innovations Committee for the Society of Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions

Karen Aspry, M.D. with Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute is president-elect of the Northeast Lipid Association Chapter.

Herbert Aronow, M.D., of the Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute, is president-elect, Society for Vascular Medicine 2020 and chair of the Society of Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions Fall Fellows Course.

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The Department of Medicine Newsletter is published three times per year.

New Fellows Join Addiction Medicine Program

The David C. Lewis Fellowship in Addiction Medicine, housed within the Division of General Internal Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital, was founded in 2015 and received ACGME accreditation in 2018. As the only fellowship program that trains physicians in the treatment of substance use disorders in Rhode Island, the fellowship is providing training that is much needed in our state and beyond. The fellowship operates under the leadership of Director Laura Levine, M.D. and Director of Research Susan E. Ramsey, PhD. Beverly Mason is the Fellowship Coordinator.



Cecilia Fix, M.D.

received her medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and completed Internal Medicine Residency

training at Columbia University Medical Center. Prior to joining the fellowship program, Dr. Fix was an attending physician at the Cooper Medical School of Rowan University's Early Intervention Program, a Ryan White funded clinic, where she managed HIV and provided primary care. She was also a core faculty member for Foundations of Medical Practice.



Wei Sum Li, M.D.

received her medical degree from the University of Massachusetts Medical School and completed Internal Medicine Residency

at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, where she also served as a Chief Medical Resident. During medical school, Wei Sum served as a member of the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) Opioid Conscious Curriculum Advisory Committee to develop the Opioid Safe Prescribing and Training Immersion (OSTI) Program, an interprofessional experiential learning program for nursing and medical students regarding safe opioid prescribing practices.

Meet the Internal Medicine Chief Residents



Rachel Darling, M.D.

Hometown: Westford, MA

Undergrad: Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC

Medical School: University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA

Why I came to Brown: Before I even started the interview trail, I knew Brown would be at the top of the list because of how much I love Rhode Island. Living in Providence allows you to have the culture, nightlife, restaurants of a big city, but in Rhode Island you can escape to the outdoors so easily. For someone like me who loves to hike, ski, kayak, ride bikes, be at the beach, I couldn't imagine a better place to live. When I got the chance to come to Brown for my interview and meet the amazing, approachable, down-to-earth yet brilliant faculty and residents I knew that Brown was my first choice. Once I saw that this was a place where I could grow into a skilled physician while being surrounded by colleagues I could call my friends, my decision to come to Brown was very easy.

Professional Interest: Pulmonary-Critical Care Medicine, End of life Care for Advanced Pulmonary Disease, Medical Education

Fun fact most people don't know

about me: In residency, I discovered a love of home renovation. My husband and I have redone our house from top to bottom by ourselves so I now consider myself an amateur plumber and electrician.



Aditya Eturi, M.D.

Hometown: Hackettstown, NJ (home of M&M Mars!)

Undergrad: University of Rochester, Rochester, NY

Medical School: Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Scranton, PA

Why I came to Brown: I was really struck by how fun and friendly residents were around each other, how they interacted with the PDs and how they supported each other. I was so glad to find that first impression to be overwhelmingly true. My co-residents became my family, the PDs and faculty are so invested in us and so approachable. Ultimately, I've found this to be the main reason I've been able to thrive and grow as a physician. I've legitimately been happy to go to work because it's a chance to hang out with my friends and while things can get stressful clinically – I know I have the support to work through everything with people I trust. Brown has been such a special place to train, where I've met some of my best friends who are now family.

Professional Interest: Medical Education, flipped-classroom curricula, clinical decision making in early learners, heme/onc

Fun fact most people don't know

about me: I was born in Switzerland and I write poetry from time to time



Robert Matera, M.D.

Hometown: Trumbull, CT

Undergrad: Tufts University, Medford, MA

Medical School: Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA

Why I came to Brown: I came to Brown for the people. The Brown community is a unique group of caring physicians that are equally dedicated to excellent patient and resident learning. On my interview day, I remember having the distinct and recurring feeling that I was “with my people” and this held true throughout my time in residency. This is a place where people do great things but are humble and don't take themselves too seriously. It's not uncommon to for a department chair or international expert to know you by name or even buy your coffee in cafeteria. At Brown, I felt it was easy to succeed because I was constantly surrounded by people I wanted to become.

Professional Interest: Hematology and Oncology, Malignant Hematology, Medical Education

Fun fact most people don't know

about me: Despite a pretty crippling fear of heights, I was a competitive diver in college.



Sarah Rhoads, M.D.

Hometown: Bethesda, M.D.

Undergrad: University of Richmond, VA

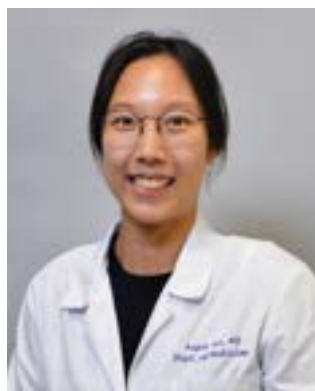
Medical School: Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, RI

Why I came to Brown: I went to Brown for medical school, and originally thought I was going to go somewhere new for Med-Peds training. After interviewing all over the country, I realized that Brown has an amazing combination of robust training, supportive faculty, openness to new ideas from residents, diverse patient populations, and people I just really liked. After that, it was an easy choice! I have loved living in Providence and think it's an awesome place for training – it's affordable (especially for New England), there's great food, nearby beaches and plenty of things to do. It's also easy to travel to/from and it's an easy place to live, so you can really enjoy time off. Since match day, my time at Brown has only solidified that I made the right choice in staying. I was able to take classes at the School of Public Health, develop my research interests, engage with strong mentors, and make incredible friendships. Plus, I met my husband at intern orientation and we adopted a puppy during second year from one of the Med-Peds clinic managers – this past year, Medicine PD Dom Tamaro officiated our pandemic wedding on the Providence Pedestrian Bridge!

Professional Interest: Pulmonary & Critical Care, Cystic Fibrosis, End of Life, Medical Education, Physician Wellness & Advocacy

Fun fact most people don't know

about me: I once bought a horse for a dollar – since then, I've gotten 3 pets for free (2 dogs and a cat) and have high hopes of owning a menagerie one day



Angie Seo, M.D.

Hometown: Paramus, NJ

Undergrad: Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA

Medical School: Boston University School of Medicine, Boston, MA

Why I came to Brown: I sensed a camaraderie among residents and program leadership on interview day. They all seemed to be happy to be on this journey together, both inside and outside of work. I was also drawn to the medical education and global health opportunities offered by the program. I felt like I would be well-supported through my personal and professional growth.

After three years of residency, I can say that my experience at Brown exceeded my expectations overall – I have constantly been challenged and inspired by residents and faculty who go above and beyond to learn, teach, and advocate for our patients! I look forward to spending another year with the Brown IM family as a chief resident.

Professional Interest: Clinician educator in Cardiology – possibly with a focus in heart failure, geriatric cardiology, palliative care, and health disparities

Fun fact most people don't know

about me: I have played the piano, trumpet, violin, tenor saxophone, and euphonium in various middle school and high school bands. I also learned how to play the flute at one point, but never mastered the basic chords on a guitar.



Miriam Hospital Division of Hospital Medicine News

Drs **Jennifer O'Brien**, **Anneliese Beaubrun**, **Fatma Hammad** and **Karl Herman** have elected as Fellows of the American College of Physicians

Dr. Brad Collins has been elected as a Senior Fellow of the Society of Hospital Medicine.

Dr. Arkadiy Finn has been appointed the Associate director of the Division of Hospital Medicine at Miriam Hospital (TMH). Dr. Finn who is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Alpert Medical School of Brown University, has been a member of the division for about 10 years. He presently also serves at the Clerkship director at TMH.

Dr. Jill O'Brien was appointed to the new system role of Senior Medical Director of Utilization Management for Lifespan on August 30, 2020. Dr. O'Brien will work as part of the physician/nurse dyad with Lauren Pond, RN System Director of Utilization Management, to provide oversight and strategic direction to utilization management functions to improve delivery of efficient, high-value care for our patients. For the last 10 years, Dr. O'Brien has worked as a Hospitalist for The Miriam Hospital and served as the Medical Director for Case Management.

New Hires in the Division of General Internal Medicine



Dr. Xiaolei Chen completed her Fellowship in Obstetric and Consultative Medicine at Women & Infants Hospital/Brown University. Dr. Chen graduated cum laude from Tulane University. She completed her Residency in the Primary Care Track at Temple University. Dr. Chen will be working at the Brown Medicine Academic Practice. She will also be precepting residents

in the Center for Primary Care and serve as an inpatient Teaching Faculty Member.



Dr. Rebecca Cangemi completed her Categorical Residency Training here at Brown where she was an outstanding resident. Dr. Cangemi completed her undergraduate work at The University of Scranton in Pennsylvania. She went on to Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine in Scranton, PA, where she graduated AOA. In her new role, Dr. Cangemi

will serve as an inpatient Teaching Attending and will be precepting the residents at the Center for Primary Care.



Dr. Kyla Dewar comes to Brown from Illinois where she worked with HSHS Medical Group Family and Internal Medicine. While there, she led the development of a Skilled Nursing Program, enhancing the care provided to assisted living and memory care patients. Dr. Dewar received her undergraduate degree from McGill University. She received her medical degree from Saba University

School of Medicine in the Netherlands Antilles. She completed her residency and Chief Residency at St. Mary's Health Center Internal Medicine Residency Program, St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Dewar will be working at the Brown Medicine Academic Practice. She will also be precepting residents in the Center for Primary Care and serve as an inpatient Teaching Faculty Member. In her free time, Dr. Dewar enjoys hiking and traveling.

News from the Cardiovascular Institute — New hires at the CVI



Tasnim Imran, M.D. Is a board-certified cardiologist with focus on prevention and imaging at the Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute and at the VA Medical Center. She earned her medical degree at University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Florida, followed by a Master of Public Health degree in clinical effectiveness from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston. She completed an internal medicine residency at Rutgers, New Jersey Medical School, followed by a preventive cardiology fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital and VA Boston Healthcare System/Harvard Medical School, and a Cardiovascular Medicine fellowship at Boston Medical Center/Boston University School of Medicine.



Yash Patel, M.D. Is a board-certified cardiologist with expertise in multimodality imaging at the Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute. He earned his medical degree at C.U. Shah Medical College, Saurashtra University, Gujarat, India, followed by a Master of Public Health degree (epidemiology) at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis. He completed an internal medicine residency at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan, followed by a fellowship in preventive cardiology at Brigham & Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School and Boston VA Healthcare System in Boston, MA. He continued his training in clinical cardiology at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai St. Luke's/Mount Sinai West in New York City, and completed an advanced imaging fellowship with level III training in echocardiography, cardiac MRI and cardiac CT at Morristown Medical Center, Morristown, New Jersey.



Daniel Philbin, M.D. Is the Director of Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology at the Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute. He is a board-certified cardiologist with expertise in complex ablations, device implants including Watchman. He graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Yale University and went on to earn his Doctor of Medicine from Yale University School of Medicine, where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He also completed his internship, residency and fellowships in Cardiovascular Medicine and Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology at Yale University.



Faculty and Residents Honored with Excellence in Teaching Award

The Dean's Excellence in Teaching Awards are awarded each June to recognize the dedicated Warren Alpert Medical School faculty and residents who are exceptional teachers and mentors

Eirini Apostolidou, M.D., M.S.	Eric John Gartman, M.D.
Debasree Banerjee, M.D., M.S.	Humera Khurshid, M.D.
George Bayliss, M.A., M.D.	Jasmin Lebastchi, M.D.
Harikrasha Bhatt, M.D.	Taro Minami, M.D.
Cheston Cunha, M.D.	Srilakshmi Mitta, M.D.
Kwame Dapaah-Afriyie, M.D.	Christopher Mullin, M.D., MHS
Andre DeSouza, M.D.	Lisa Noyes-Duguay, M.D.
Joseph Diaz, M.D., MPH	Kittichai Promrat, M.D.
Pamela Egan, M.D.	Katherine Richman, M.D., MSW
Amanda Fernandes, MBBS	Jael Rodriguez, M.D.
Sean Fine, M.D., M.S.	Fred Schiffman, M.D.
Melissa Gaitanis, M.D.	Ankur Shah, M.D.
Joseph M. Garland, M.D.	Douglas Shemin, M.D.
Jeanette Giedrimas (Smith), M.D.	Victor Shin, M.D.
Colin Harrington, M.D.	Peter Soukas, M.D.
Susie Hu, M.D.	Jensy Stafford, M.D.
Sadia Iftikhar, M.D.	Rahul Vanjani, M.D., MSc
Matthew Isaac	Sarita S. Warrier, M.D.
Quesenberry, M.D.	Edward Wittels, M.D.
	Joe Wyllie, D.O.

Resident Honorees

Maen Assali, M.D. - Internal Medicine (Kent)
 Chelsea Boyd, M.D. - Medicine-Pediatrics (Lifespan)
 Kenzie Daniels, M.D. - Medicine-Pediatrics (Lifespan)
 Mengyang Di, M.D. - Internal Medicine (Lifespan)
 Robert Matera, M.D. - Internal Medicine (Lifespan)
 Amy Mathew, M.D. - Internal Medicine (Lifespan)
 Breton Roussel, M.D. - Internal Medicine (Lifespan)
 Firrah Saeed, M.D. - Internal Medicine (Lifespan)

Awards and Research in the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine

Sevdenur Cizginer, M.D., MPH was named the 2020 Charles C. J. Carpenter Outstanding Physician of the Year by The Miriam Hospital Medical Staff Association. She was honored at their annual meeting on June 25, 2020. She is an Assistant Professor of Medicine, Clinician Educator at the Alpert Medical School and Clinical Assistant Professor of Health Services, Policy & Practice at the School of Public Health.

Lydia Vognar, M.D. received a Geriatric Academic Career Award from Health Resources and Services Administration for "Introducing an Age Friendly 4Ms curriculum Using the Hospital at Home Care Model." The GACA program supports the career development of individual junior faculty in geriatrics at accredited schools of allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, nursing, social work, psychology, dentistry, pharmacy, or allied health as academic geriatrics specialists. It provides clinical training in geriatrics, including the training of interprofessional teams of health care professionals.

Stefan Gravenstein, M.D. has been awarded three NIH grant supplements (one with David Canaday on their combined influenza and immunity grant in nursing home residents; two with Vincent Mor on Alzheimers in long-term care), two VA awards with James Rudolph, and PI on grants with industry for post-exposure prophylaxis. Also, won one award relating to cardio-protection by pneumococcal vaccination.

James Rudolph, M.D. has received funding for 2 COVID related grants (VA and NIA) and 1 Pilot studies section through VA



Grants Awarded

Curt Beckwith and **Amy Nunn**, co-investigators, (Infectious Diseases), received \$1,520,691 for the renewal of the Lifespan/Brown Criminal Justice Research Program on Substance Use and HIV from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA).

Philip Chan, (Infectious Diseases), received \$612,780 for "Brief Acceptance-based Retention Intervention for Newly Diagnosed HIV Patients" from the National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH).

Bum-Rak Choi, Cardiology, received \$240,000 for "Novel Mechanisms of Regulation of SK Channels: Implications for Cardiac Arrhythmia." The grant is a subaward via Ohio State University through the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute (NHLBI).

Erika D'Agata, (Infectious Diseases), received \$2,220,926 for "Optimizing Antimicrobial Use in Maintenance Dialysis Units (OPTIMUS)" from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Sebhat Erqou, (Cardiovascular Institute) received CFAR Developmental Award: Epigenic Markers of Aging in HIV Associated Cardiac Dysfunction, grant period 1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020, and VISA 1 Career Development Award: Improving Quality of Cardiovascular Care in Veterans Living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus Infection, grant period 10/1/20- 9/30/22.

Joseph Garland, (Infectious Diseases), received \$120,910 for "Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Part C EIS COVID19 Response" from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Meghan Geary (General Internal Medicine) received \$12,500 from the Department of Medicine Chair's Research program for "Training LIC faculty to foster learning in clinic (LIC2)" Department of Medicine Chair's Research Program.

Stefan Gravenstein, (Gerontology), received \$543,864 for "Pneumococcal Vaccination Status and Incident Cardiovascular Disease in U.S. Nursing Homes: Epidemiologic Study and Health Professional Survey" from Pfizer, Inc

Elizabeth Harrington, associate dean for graduate and postdoctoral studies, Katherine M Sharkey, assistant dean for women in medicine, and Allan Tunkel, senior associate dean for medical education, received a grant of \$358,670 from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) for "Alpert Medical School Summer Research Program."

Euy-Myoung Jeong, (Hematology/Oncology), received \$25,000 for "SOX17/Runx1 axis regulates endothelial progenitor cell fate in pulmonary hypertension" from the Rhode Island Foundation.

Jennifer Jeremiah (General Internal Medicine) and co-investigators Kate Cahill and Jessica Murphy received a Department of Medicine Chair's Research and Education Grant, for "Can a brief rater training improve the quality of direct observation and diminish rater error"

Elena Salmoirago-Blotcher, (Centers for Behavioral Medicine), received \$2,850,434 for "Heterogeneity and Predictors of Stress Reactivity in Takotsubo Syndrome" from NHLBI.

Katherine Sharkey, (Pulmonary), RIH, received \$5,107,700 for "Personalized Integrated Chronotherapy for Perinatal Depression," an RO1 award from NIMH.

Dominick Tammaro (General Internal Medicine) received \$20,000 from Lifespan Risk Services for "Internal Medicine Residency Bedside Acute Assessment and Procedure Training at Lifespan Simulation Center". He also received \$12,500 from Brown Physicians Faculty Development for "Development of a Curriculum in Point-of-Care Ultrasound.

Jun Tao, (Infectious Diseases), received \$54,750 for "Using Big Data to Determine Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Uptake and Persistence in Southern New England." The grant is a subaward through Advance-CTR at Brown University.



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