

MEDICINE MATTERS

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

MAY 2024



I hope everyone is doing great. This month's Medicine Matters is an excellent example of our amazing community in the Department of Medicine. Not only are we surrounded by world-class experts in all areas of medicine, but we also have a vibrant and engaged group that participates in serving our community and each other. I would encourage you to get involved in the

many outreach activities that UVA Health participates in and think about new endeavors that we may support. I am so very proud of our Department and its sense of community!

This month, we highlight the Division of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology and their world-class clinical care, education, and research. I am sure you will be impressed as you read about the Division. Congratulations to the faculty and staff of the Division for their many accomplishments.

Lastly, please get out and enjoy the fantastic weather our area offers in the spring.

With best wishes,

Mitchell H. Rosner, MD, MACP
Henry B. Mulholland Professor of Medicine
Chair, Department of Medicine

 **UVA Health** | DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MISSION
We are dedicated to preventing disease and treating illness, educating and inspiring future leaders in the field of internal medicine, and supporting innovative biomedical research.

VALUES
We strive for a sense of community, connection, and synergy among all faculty, staff, and trainees.

PLEDGE
We will conform to the highest ethical standards, uphold the values of our partner organizations, and give back to our community through public service.



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- [MINDFULNESS MATTERS](#) ▶
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UVA Health

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

DOM Financial Update

Department of Medicine Summary of Consolidated Financials FY21 as of March 2024

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	\$ Variance YTD
Work RVUs	901,795	947,912	46,117
Clinical Receipts (NPSR)	57,874,174	61,472,109	3,597,935
Total Revenues	162,483,435	171,823,504	9,340,069
Total Expenditures	161,270,344	171,996,590	(10,726,246)
Net Income	1,213,091	(173,086)	(1,386,177)

Summary Explanation of Variance:

For the fiscal year through March 2024, DOM reported a consolidated net gain of \$1.2M and an unfavorable variance to YTD net income budget of \$1.4M. Clinical receipts surpassed budget by \$3.6M primarily due to strong productivity, unbudgeted Community Oncology and APP charge volumes. Total revenues include \$1.3M Endowment revenue recorded for quarter four and \$1.8M clinical deficit coverage revenue accrual. Total revenue is missing \$1.4M in missing clinical agreements and revenue contingencies. Total expenditures variance is unfavorably impacted by \$5.4M increased spending related to grants and commitments, \$2.8M unbudgeted CommOnc Expenses, \$1.3M unbudgeted ICU Culpeper APPs and unbudgeted APPs night and weekend shifts and \$1.3M budgeted expenditure reduction contingencies.

Do You Have News You'd Like To Share on Medicine Matters?

Contact Kim Kelley-Wagner kak2cj@virginia.edu

434.328.0680

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Research in Motion

**Jie Sun, PhD, Professor,
Division of Infectious
Diseases & International
Health**

"What I really love is the translational work that we're doing and doing. The ability of our work can directly have impact to the public health and patient lives is essentially the driving force of my everyday activity."

WATCH VIDEO

**MINDFULNESS
MATTERS**
A Newsletter
from the UVA
Mindfulness
Center



**UVA Resources for
Team Members**

support for dealing
with crisis and how to
stay informed.

DOM UPDATES & NOTES



Sindhu Marampudi DO



Ghassan Ilaivy MD MPH



Grant GianGrasso

Awards and Achievements

Congratulations to **Dr. Sindhu Marampudi** (Division of Nephrology) who has been selected for the Women in Nephrology Fellow School for Leadership Education program.

Congratulations to **Dr. Ghassan Ilaivy** (Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health) a postdoctoral fellow, who was one of only two recipients nationwide awarded the prestigious Burroughs Wellcome Fund/American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) Postdoctoral Fellowship in Tropical Infectious Diseases. [Read more...](#)

Congratulations to **Grant GianGrasso** who works in the lab of Chelsea Marie Braun, on receiving a Rhodes Scholarship. GianGrasso, who graduated from the University of Virginia in three years in 2023 as a double major in human biology and French, is currently pursuing a master's degree in public health at UVA's School of Medicine. [Read more...](#)

In Memorial and Remembrance



With great sadness, we learned that Dr. Michael Scheld, Department of Medicine's Emeritus Professor of Medicine, has passed away. Dr. Scheld was a legendary department member and held numerous leadership positions during his tenure at UVA. He was known for his passion for education and clinical science and was a mentor for several generations of students, residents, and fellows. Dr. Amy Mathers has compiled the following obituary highlighting Dr. Scheld's career.

William Michael Scheld, known as Mike, passed away at 76 in Charlottesville, Virginia, on April 21st, 2024, due to pneumonia complications. A dedicated physician and esteemed academic, he leaves a legacy of compassion and excellence. Beginning his journey in Connecticut, he nurtured a love for science and medicine from a young age. After completing his education at Cornell University, he came to the University of Virginia for Residency and Infectious Diseases training in 1974 before joining the faculty. He had a distinguished 40-year career at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, where he served as the Bayer-Gerald L. Mandell Professor of Infectious Diseases and Neurosurgery until his retirement in 2019. He made significant contributions to the field of infectious diseases, exemplifying academia with a true devotion to education, research, and clinical care.

He contributed more than 300 peer-reviewed publications to the literature; edited more than fifteen books, including *Infections of the Central Nervous System*, a gold standard in the field; and served on the editorial boards of several journals. As an investigator, Dr. Scheld advanced our understanding of meningitis, endocarditis, and sepsis pathophysiology. He was President of the Infectious Diseases Society of America in 2003 and a founding member of the Academic Alliance for AIDS Care and Prevention in Africa. He served as the director of the Pfizer Initiative in International Health. He was a sought-after educator of medicine by students and physician trainees and garnered many teaching awards. However, what he loved most was being a good physician to a patient in need. Beyond his professional achievements, Mike was a devoted husband and father. He found solace in music, nature, photography, and cherished moments spent with loved ones. His family will deeply miss him, including his wife Susan (Suss), daughter Sarah, and sister Kathy. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to a charity of choice in Mike's honor. No funeral service is planned for the immediate future, but we will share details if they are available.

For those wanting to send condolences to Dr. Scheld's family, please send these to Suss Scheld at 2075 Earlysville Road, Earlysville, Virginia 22936

In Media

Experts Share Tips as Spring Allergy Season Looms (WUSA)

WUSA spoke with assistant professor of allergy and immunology, Dr. Jeffrey Wilson, about how people can find relief as we get into the spring season. He said seeing an allergist for an allergy shot could be a game changer.

WATCH



Thurl Harris, PhD, Awarded \$2.3 Million to Study Why Post-Meal Metabolism Differs in Lean Versus Obese Individuals

Thurl Harris, PhD, an associate professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Department of Medicine Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, was awarded a \$2.3 million NIH grant for a project titled “Adenosine Receptors and Metabolic Homeostasis.”

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UVA Researchers Create New AI Tool to Help Heart Failure Patients

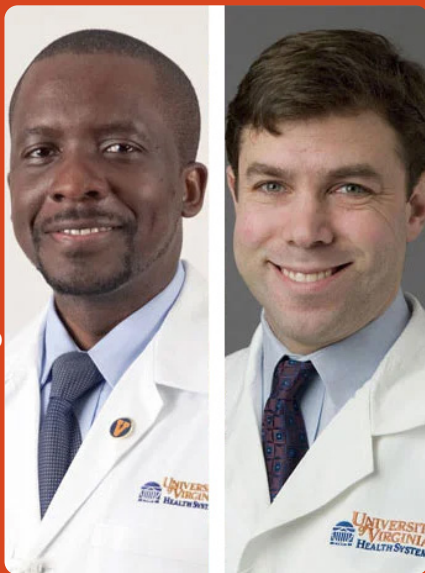
UVA researchers have developed a powerful new risk assessment tool for predicting outcomes in heart failure patients. The researchers have made the tool publicly available for free to clinicians.

Department scientists Sula Mazimba and Kenneth Bilchick work on the project.

Dr. Bilchick said, “The collaborative research environment at the University of Virginia made this work possible by bringing together experts in heart failure, computer science, data science, and statistics.”

READ MORE

WATCH 29NEWS VIDEO



Understanding ‘Y’: Chromosome Discovery Advances Fight Against Heart Failure in Men



University of Virginia School of Medicine researchers have discovered a gene on the Y chromosome that contributes to the greater incidence of heart failure in men. Y chromosome loss in men occurs progressively throughout life and can be detected in approximately 40% of 70-year-old men. UVA’s Kenneth Walsh, PhD, discovered in 2022 that this loss can contribute to heart muscle scarring and lead to deadly heart failure.

READ MORE

WATCH NEWS10 VIDEO

In Media

Experts Weigh in on Avian Influenza Status (29News)



Avian influenza has been in the United States for years and has seen little activity until recently.

“We’ve been getting reports about different mammal populations being infected from those wild birds,” Doctor Patrick Jackson with the University of Virginia Health Infectious Disease said, “Those birds have also caused an influenza outbreak among domestic chickens here, and just recently, there was a case of transmissions from a bird to a cow, and then to a human in Texas, and that individual had mild disease.”

[READ MORE](#)

UVA Health Continues to Urged Vaccinations (CBS19)



Even though the winter season, when illnesses can spread more easily, has come to an end, the University of Virginia Health System continues to emphasize the importance of getting vaccinated, especially against COVID-19.

Dr. Costi Sifri, UVA Health’s director of hospital epidemiology, says the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that 95 percent of people hospitalized with COVID this past winter didn’t get an updated booster.

[WATCH CBS19 VIDEO](#)

Community Conversation: Dr. Curtis Argo with UVA Health (29NEWS)



Dr. Curtis Argo speaks with 29News about live liver donation and transplant.

[WATCH 29NEWS VIDEO](#)

HIV Crisis In Atlanta Made Worse By Racial Disparities In Treatment (The Atlantic Journal-Constitution)



Research from Dr. Kathleen McManus is cited in an Atlanta Journal-Constitution story on the HIV crisis in Atlanta.

[READ MORE](#)

In Media

Why are cases rising in the U.S.? Dr. Bill Petri Answers Questions From Yahoo!Life

Measles, a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening disease, is reemerging in the U.S., with cases on the rise in multiple states.

What's going on here? Dr. Petri has some answers.

[READ MORE](#)



Hand Hygiene With Dr. Costi Sifri

Costi Sifri, MD, FACP, FIDSA, director of hospital epidemiology, delves into the latest developments in hand hygiene at UVA Health, outlining current initiatives, recent achievements, and upcoming strategies aimed at upholding our standard of excellence.

[WATCH](#)



Andrew Parsons, MD, MPH, FACP Receives the Herbert S. Waxman Award for Outstanding Medical Student Educator While Drs. Stewart Babbott, Jeannine Engel, and Mohan Nadkarni are Awarded Masterships from the American College of Physicians



Dr. Andrew Parsons (Hospital Medicine and former IM/UMA resident) has been awarded the Herbert S. Waxman Award for Outstanding Medical Student Educator by the American College of Physicians (ACP), a national organization of internal medicine physicians. The Herbert S. Waxman Award recognizes an ACP member who is an internal medicine interest group leader, clinical clerkship director, program director, or faculty member who spends significant time instructing medical students. [Read more...](#)

The ACP National Society of 161,000 Internal Medicine physicians annually awards 50 Masterships. There are 15 living Masters in Virginia, including Drs. Reynolds, Rosner, and Wolf. This year, the ACP recognized three of our faculty. Dr. Stewart Babbott (GIM), Dr. Jeannine Engel (GIM), and Dr. Mohan Nadkarni (GIM & former IM/UMA resident) were awarded a Mastership in AC P.

From left: Stewart Babbott (New Master of ACP), Jeannine Engel (Master of ACP), Bill Fox (New Chair of ACP Board of Regents), Mo Nadkarni (New Master of ACP), Andrew Parsons (National Waxman Award Winner for Medical Education).

Award recipients were recognized at ACP's annual Convocation ceremony on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, where ACP hosted its

annual scientific conference, Internal Medicine Meeting 2024, through April 20. Congratulations all on these significant achievements!

In Media

Community Conversation: Dr. David Callender with UVA Health



29News talks with Dr. David Callender about the importance of screening for colon-rectal cancer.

WATCH 29NEWS VIDEO

US Department of Labor Finalizes Silica Dust Exposure Limits for Miners



According to a press release from the department, the Mine Safety and Health Administration within the U.S. Department of Labor has finalized stricter limits on silica dust exposure for miners.

Drew A. Harris, MD, is associate professor of medicine in the pulmonary division

READ MORE

COVID-19 Vaccines: CDC Says People Ages 65 and Up Should Get a Shot This Spring



Even if you got a COVID-19 shot last fall, the spring shot is still essential for the 65 and up age group. Dr. Laurie Archbald-Pannone, a geriatrician explains why it's vitally important.

READ MORE

Is Your Content Up-to-Date?

Our department websites are one of the most powerful recruitment tools we have, and to use them effectively, we need your help to keep our content up-to-date.

Please check your Division's DOM site for wherever you appear to be sure all information is current.

Researchers and lab managers, if you don't already have a research page dedicated to your team, please get in touch with Kim Kelley-Wagner to get started at kak2cj@uvahealth.org or 434.328.0680

Need a team photo or a research lab photo shoot? Contact Kim Kelley-Wagner.

Thanks for making our websites a valuable and dynamic experience!

COME SEE HOOS RUNNING WITH GIM!

'Run with GIM' (General Internal Medicine) would love for all interested to join us at 5pm every Wednesday across from the South garage on the corner of Jeanette Lancaster and Crispell Dr.

Run with GIM is a non-competitive, all-inclusive running group focused on building wellness and growing camaraderie.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



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DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Events

Come Out and Join and/or Ride In Support of ALS Research

Internal Medicine group will ride out in support of ALS research again this May 5th in Crozet. Anyone is welcome to join them by contacting Patrick Dillon or using the link below. Various distances are available, including a children's ride. Non-riders are also invited to the event, so please come out in support. Take a look at photos from last year!

[2024 Ride to Defeat ALS: Blue Ridge: UVA Internal Medicine - The ALS Association \(convio.net\)](https://convio.net)



The Infectious Diseases "Running a Fever" team at the Charlottesville 10 Miler on March 23rd! Here are the stats:

Audrey Brown 1:50:29

Ryan Brown 1:04:42

Claire Fleming 1:51:03

Charlotte Harmon 1:29:47

Eric Houpt 1:25:36

Ghassan Ilaiwy 1:24:04

Greg Madden 1:21:43

Katie Pavelec 1:29:35

Cadigan Perriello 1:16:47

Bill Petri 1:40:56

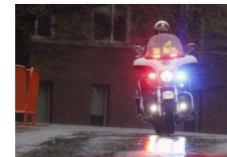
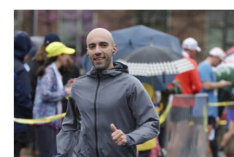
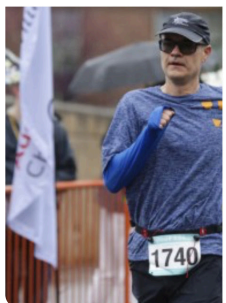
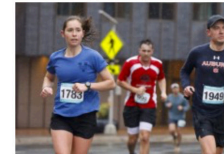
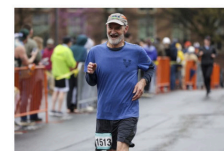
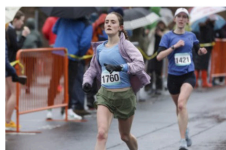
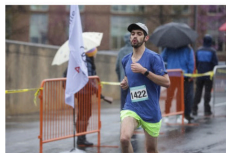
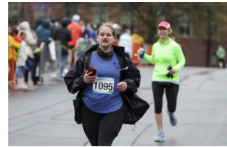
Lindsey Power 1:17:02

Larry Saunders 1:45:05

David Tyus 1:06:14

Pablo Penataro Yori 1:38:41

Kristine Zengeler 1:18:09



**FOLLOW
UVA
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OF
MEDICINE
DIVERSITY
&
INCLUSION**

**FOLLOW
UVA
WOMEN
IN
INTERNAL
MEDICINE
NETWORK**

Events

UVA Department of Medicine H. Charles Malpass III Memorial Grand Rounds

Friday, May 24, 2024
ERC Auditorium (or Zoom)
12 p.m.-1 p.m.



Cynthia D. Brown, MD
Professor of Clinical
Medicine
Adult Cystic Fibrosis
Director
Indiana University

Dr. Cynthia Brown joins us from Indiana University to celebrate the legacy of Dr. H. Charles Malpass III (Charlie). Dr. Malpass, an amazing father, husband, brother, son, runner, and clinician, passed away suddenly on September 14, 2023.

Charlie was renowned for his dedication as a pulmonary physician at UVA Health, specializing in interventional pulmonary and bronchoscopy. He worked tirelessly to provide diagnostic lung results and guidance for his patients, even while facing his battle with acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

Like Charlie, Dr. Brown is esteemed for her dedication to fellow education and patient care. We hope you will join us for the May 24th Grand Rounds as we remember Dr. Malpass and celebrate his enduring impact on the medical community.



INTRODUCTION TO MINDFULNESS FOR HEALTHCARE EMPLOYEES

Free course for all UVA Health System
Employees - Spring 2024
Live online via Zoom
Wednesdays, May 8 – June 12, 2024
6:00pm – 7:30pm

REGISTER

Education Update

Brittany Davis, Fellowship Coordinator for Gastroenterology and Hepatology, was recognized on April 17th at the National AAIM (Academic Alliance for Internal Medicine) conference during the award ceremony for receiving the Alliance’s “Rising Star Award.”

In addition to receiving this distinguished national award, Brittany and her UVA colleague, **Lizzie Daniels** (Pulmonary/Critical Care Coordinator), also presented a workshop entitled “*Utilizing Instagram and Creating Your Brand: The Ultimate Recruitment Tool*” at the national conference and Brittany presented a second workshop in collaboration with Dawn DeSantis, MS a colleague from Norwalk Hospital, Internal Medicine Residency Program with Nuvance Health,



From left: Marcus Ellison, Thompson Barr, Shaina Hasan, and Kia Salafian



Brittany Davis and Dawn DeSantis



Lizzie and Daniels and Brittany Davis

entitled “*Embracing the Future of Interviews with Thalamus: a Coordinator’s Perspective.*”

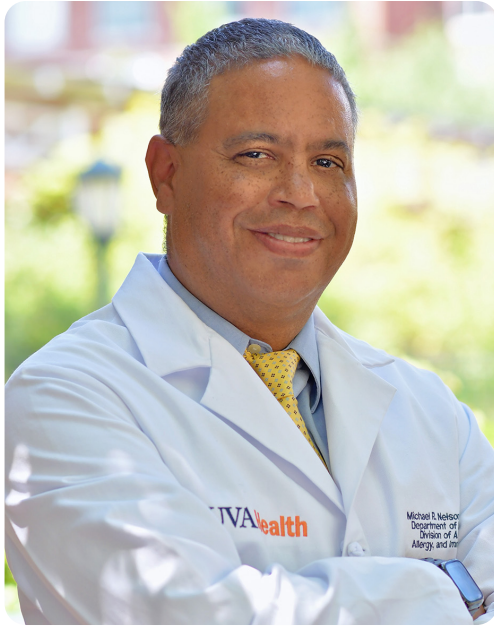
Learn more about the [Rising Star Award](#). View Brittany’s [acceptance speech](#).

Also attending the AAIM conference were our four rising Chief Residents.

They participated in “Chief Boot Camp” in preparation for their Chief Residency year in our Internal Medicine Residency Program (academic year 24-25).

DIVISION OF ASTHMA, ALLERGY & IMMUNOLOGY

Message from Michael Nelson MD PhD, Division Chief Asthma, Allergy & Immunology



As the end of another academic year approaches, I look back over the excitement of the past year and the promise that lies ahead. Highlights of the past year are again plentiful.

As many of you are already aware, Dr. Monica Lawrence was named the University of Virginia's Designated Institutional Official overseeing all graduate medical education for the University following the departure and distinguished tenure of Dr. Susan Kirk. This is a tremendous, bittersweet honor for the Division as she transitions from fellowship director and some of her clinical and research duties. UVA GME is in great hands. Our fellowship will also be in great hands with Dr. Sam Minnicozzi, who will begin as program director this summer. UVA Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) program is also in great hands- congratulations to Professor Judith Woodfolk from our Division, who was recently named as an incoming co-director of this prestigious program, preparing the next generation of MD/PhD physician-scientists.

On the research front, the Platts-Mills and Wilson labs continued their work on the R37 and new supplement, contributing to groundbreaking research in alpha-gal hypersensitivity, including uncovering novel cardiovascular risks and striking regional epidemiology of alpha-gal sensitization in national military recruits. Did I mention that Dr. Platts-Mills was also awarded the prestigious 2024 Distinguished Scientist Award for career achievements from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology? The Borish lab continues its cutting-edge research in asthma pathogenesis, including leading a clinical trial studying viral-induced asthma pathogenesis and the impact of dupilumab. The Woodfolk lab is publishing its seminal work on distinct Type 1 immune networks underlying restrictive lung disease after COVID-19. The McGowan lab embarked on an RO1 studying eosinophilic esophagitis pathogenesis, epidemiology, and noninvasive testing. At a recent Gordon Conference, Charlene Dunaway Altamirano (2nd-year fellow) and mentors presented novel findings on Honduran children's food allergen sensitization.

Not to be outdone on the clinical front, we are excited about expanding our services to the south by establishing a new outreach clinic in Lynchburg this summer led by Dr. Kyin. We are also completing our first year with a dedicated clinical immunology consult service triaged behind every consult to our inpatient general allergy-immunology consult service.

This year, we also marked another successful fellowship match for our training program. We matched our top two choices again this year. We welcome Amelia Perozo from Danbury, CT, and welcome back Nathan Richards, whom Dr. Wilson and Dr. Platts-Mills mentored as a research assistant before residency. Nathan now returns as a fellow in our program. How's that for yet another example of outstanding mentorship in the Division?!

On April 12th and 13th, we hosted the 62nd Swineford Conference, marking Dr. Platts-Mills' 40th edition of this clinical and scientific meeting. International and national experts contributed to the long tradition of cutting-edge science and clinical presentations, enabling the engagement of the entire audience in lively discussions. Invited distinguished extramural speakers included Professors Elizabeth Matsui (University of Texas at Austin), Paul Turner (Imperial College, London), Francesca Levi-Schaffer (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Andrew Wang (Yale), Brian Vickery (Emory), Melody Carter (NIH), Martin Chapman (Inbio/Indoor Biotechnologies), Michael Blaiss (Medical College of Georgia) and Larry Schwartz (VCU).

I am eternally grateful to have received the Walter Reed Distinguished Achievement Award at SOM reunions last month. I am humbled to be on a list of recipients of this outstanding award, including such institutional pillars as Munsey Wheby, MD, Vivian Pinn, MD, Charles Gross, MD, and William Petri, MD, PhD. I am most appreciative to this institution, Carl Creutz, PhD (Pharmacology), Maurice Apprey, PhD (Psychiatry), Moses Woode, MD, DMED (Diversity Programs). Additionally, I'd like to thank my many other UVA mentors along the way who gave me my start in medicine and inspired me to return to UVA to continue to carry the torch handed to me by my mentors for the next generation of academic leaders. The future remains bright!

~ Michael Nelson MD PhD

Research Update



Borish Lab

The Larry Borish, MD laboratory's primary focus remains the role of rhinovirus (RV) in precipitating asthma exacerbations. These NIH-funded studies are designed to define the role of innate immune responses, including anti-viral and T2-promoting immune responses, by infected airway epithelial cells as they might distinguish the consequences of RV infections in asthmatics, allergic rhinitis, and healthy control subjects. For the next two years, the Borish laboratory will be the co-lead sponsor of a Regeneron-funded, investigator-initiated study entitled "Viral infection in asthma (VIA) Study." This randomized, placebo-controlled study assesses cellular and molecular markers related to experimental RV infection in asthmatics and the effect of dupilumab in preventing exacerbations in this investigational model. This study will aim to assess the molecular and cellular basis by which dupilumab prevents the development of an

RV-induced asthma exacerbation. Unrelated to the RV studies, the Borish lab collaborates closely with Dr. Gerry Teague in pediatrics as co-PI for studies addressing the role of mast cells and mononuclear phagocytic cells in the immune response to viral respiratory infections in children and adolescents with problematic wheeze. Additional NIH-funded studies have identified an immune deficit state in the airways of many infants with a persistent wheeze that leads to susceptibility to persistent RV infection, chronic neutrophilic bronchia alveolitis, and increased susceptibility to the development of asthma. We are enrolling patients in a Regeneron-sponsored study to demonstrate the ability of dupilumab to attenuate staphylococcus aureus infection in chronic sinusitis and ameliorate the dysbiotic state, including with restoration of a healthier antimicrobial state, including restoration of a healthier antimicrobial state.



McGowan Lab

Dr. McGowan's group continues to expand their research on eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE), an emerging form of food allergy. Through her NIH/NIAID K23 Award, Dr. McGowan established the University of Virginia EoE Cohort with her collaborators, Drs. Bryan Sauer (Adult Gastroenterology) and Barrett Barnes (Pediatric Gastroenterology). This cohort longitudinally follows over 350 patients with EoE and has been used to examine immunologic drivers of this disease. In particular, her team found that immunoglobulin G4 (IgG4) may play an essential role in the inflammatory response in EoE. Through an NIH/NIAID R01 Award, they are examining whether this could be used to help identify food triggers in EoE patients. This work is being performed in collaboration with the laboratories of Dr. Judith Woodfolk (Allergy/Immunology) and Sarah Ewald (Microbiology).

Dr. McGowan's group also examined the epidemiology of EoE and found that children who live farther away from a pediatric gastroenterologist and those who live in more impoverished areas are less likely to be diagnosed with EoE. In addition, they found that EoE is often underdiagnosed among patients with other allergic conditions. This work has been funded by the American College of Gastroenterology (PIs McGowan and Sauer), iTHRIV, and the NIH/NIAID (K23, R21, R01). Last year, Dr. McGowan's group expanded to include Rebecca Revell, a clinical research coordinator, and Dr. Roopesh Singh, a research scientist.



FOLLOW THE DOM

Research Update

Platts-Mills Lab



The Platts-Mills' lab is long-standing interested in understanding environmental and immunologic contributions to allergic disease. A major focus of the lab has been related to understanding how dust mites and cat allergens are causally related to asthma. More recently, our lab has been a primary driver in understanding a novel form of allergic reaction to red meat (alpha-gal syndrome or AGS) caused by tick bites. In 2018, we published a paper on the relationship between sIgE and alpha-gal, and evidence of coronary artery disease (CAD) samples were obtained by Angela Taylor, MD (UVA Heart and Vascular Center) using intravascular ultrasound (IVUS). In 2022, a major cardiology group in Sydney, Australia, confirmed our results on the positive association between alpha-gal and CAD. Most recently, we saw a woman in her 40s who had been seen initially 8-10 years prior for a severe episode of anaphylaxis and diagnosed with AGS. Just before her recent visit, she had two myocardial infarctions and

now has five stents in her main cardiac arteries. Between her initial visit and these cardiac events, she maintained a strict diet, avoiding mammalian meat and organs; however, she continued to consume dairy products derived from *Bos domesticus*.

Cases like this emphasize two questions: Should all patients or subjects with sIgE to alpha-gal be advised to avoid all mammalian products because of the potential chronic risk of cardiac disease (CAD)? This would include avoiding dairy products even though, in most cases, the products would not give rise to clinically apparent allergic reactions.

The most promising candidate for another marker is antibodies to alpha-gal of the IgG3 isotype. IgG3 is an inflammatory immunoglobulin that has recently been reported to 'increase after implantation of porcine or bovine aortic valves.' We are currently adapting the ImmunoCap 250 machine to assay IgG3-specific antibodies using reagents provided by Dr. Robert Moverare from Phadia Thermo-Fisher in Sweden.

Studies on TH2 antibody responses and Asthma

We have recently conducted detailed studies on specific IgE and IgG4 antibodies to component allergens (single proteins) of cat and dust mites in sera from six hundred teenagers participating in the Viva birth cohort in Boston. The primary evidence on these children shows that dust mites and cats are the main sources of asthma-related indoor allergens. However, analysis of the data on the two major allergens Der p 1 and Fel d 1 has revealed a striking difference in IgG4 compared to the responses to more recently identified allergens such as Der p 23, Fel d 4, and Fel d 7. As expected, the primary contributor to specific IgG4 for cat allergens was Fel d 1. However, the surprise is that the other cat allergens show no significant effect on sIgG4 related to living in a home with a cat. The most likely relevant feature of these secondary allergens is that they are present in extracts in significantly lower quantities. The results imply that IgG4 responses require a higher quantitative exposure than IgE responses. In addition, the results suggest that some of the allergens other than Der p 1 and Fel d 1 have greater relevance to asthma because they induce less IgG4 relative to IgE antibodies.



UVA Health

Research Update

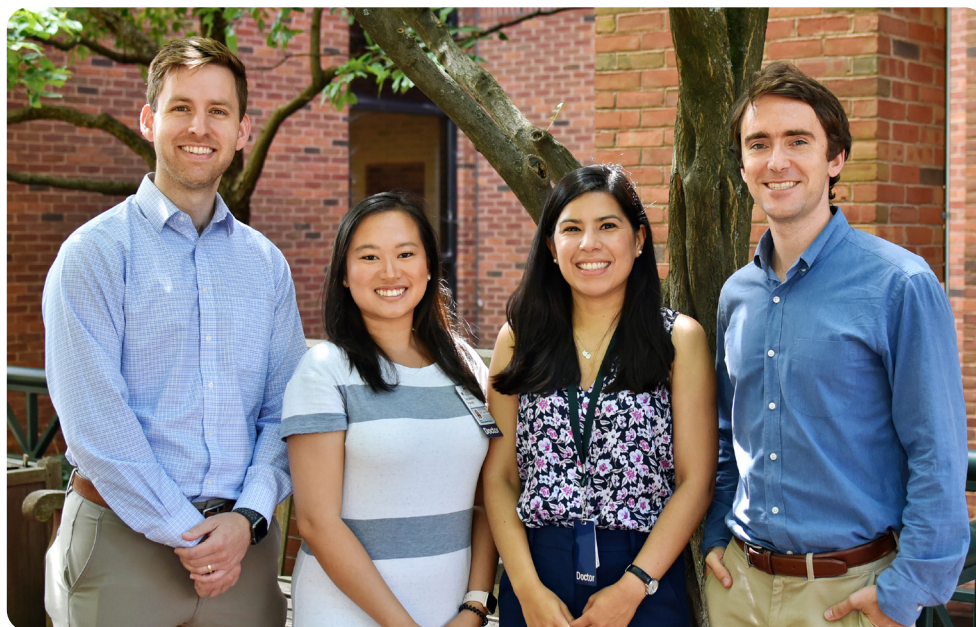


Wilson Lab

Dr. Jeffrey Wilson's primary clinical and research focus is on alpha-gal syndrome. Working with Dr. Platts-Mills and colleagues, his lab has been involved in studies better to understand alpha-gal epidemiology locally and across the USA. This work involved a UVA employee cohort recruited to study COVID-19 vaccine antibody responses and a DoD-funded project of 3000 military recruits collaborating with Dr. Cade Nylund at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. The lab also studies links between tick bites and alpha-gal sensitization and was awarded an NIH grant to recruit and follow individuals who have had recent tick bites. Based on a prior observation that alpha-gal sensitization was associated with heart disease, the lab has been involved with the NHLBI-sponsored Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis. The goal has been to understand better whether IgE sensitization to alpha-gal is a risk factor for early coronary

artery disease development. As part of these investigations, Dr. Wilson has ongoing collaborations with Dr. Coleen McNamara (Cardiology/Beirne Carter Immunology Center) and Prof. Loren Erickson (Microbiology/Beirne Carter Immunology Center). In partnership with Corinne A. Keet, MD, PhD at the University of North Carolina, the lab is also studying whether IgE sensitization to more common food allergens could contribute to cardiovascular disease.

Fellowship/Trainees Update



From left: Thomas Offerle, Samantha Nguyen, Charlene Dunaway Altamirano, and Marc Breidenbaugh

Our long-standing fellowship program continues to celebrate the many achievements of our fellows-in-training. We congratulate our 2024 graduating fellows, **Dr. Marc Breidenbaugh**, who will be joining Richmond Allergy & Asthma in Richmond, Virginia, and **Dr. Charlene Dunaway Altamirano**, who will remain on the Immunology Training Grant following the completion of her fellowship and then be joining the faculty here!

In July 2023, we welcomed two new fellows into the program: **Dr. Thomas Offerle** (Emory University, Pediatrics) and **Dr. Samantha Nguyen** (Wake Forest University, Internal Medicine). We also completed another very successful virtual recruitment season and are excited to welcome two new incoming

fellows in July 2024: **Dr. Amelia Perozo** (Danbury Hospital, Internal Medicine) and **Dr. Nathan Richards** (Harnett Health, Internal Medicine).

Our fellows have continued to actively participate in research projects on the prevalence of food allergy in Honduras (Dr. Dunaway Altamirano; mentors Dr. Nelson, Dr. Platts-Mills, and Dr. Wilson), anxiety in pediatric food allergic patients (Dr. Breidenbaugh; mentor Dr. McGowan), preschool asthma (Dr. Offerle; mentors Dr. Borish and Dr. Teague), and eosinophilic esophagitis (Dr. Nguyen; mentor Dr. McGowan). They have presented their work at the American Academy of Asthma Allergy & Immunology (AAAAI) and American College of Asthma Allergy & Immunology (ACAAI) national meetings, as well as the annual Swineford Allergy Conference held on Grounds in April 2024. We commend our fellows for their academic scholarship and research achievements on top of a growing inpatient consultation service and busy outpatient clinics.

DIVISION OF ASTHMA, ALLERGY & IMMUNOLOGY

Accolades



Dr. Monica Lawrence



Dr. Judith Woodfolk



Dr. Glenda Canderan



Naomi Bryant



Paul Dell



Dr. Lindsey Muehling



Dr. Thomas Platts-Mills



Dr. Michael Nelson

Following an extensive national search, UVA Health University Medical Center has selected **Dr. Monica Lawrence** as the Designated Institutional Official (DIO) and Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education (GME), effective April 8. In this role, Dr. Lawrence will supervise all GME programs and approximately 850 residents, fellows, and trainees across our organization.

Dr. Judith Woodfolk was appointed to the NIH Immunity and Host Defense (IHD) Study Section in 2023 for a 3-year term and served as Co-Chair in 2024.

Dr. Glenda Canderan was appointed to the position of Research Assistant Professor of Medicine.

Naomi Bryant, a fifth-year graduate student, presented a poster at the 2024 AAAAI meeting entitled “Deep T-Cell Profiling Implicates Lung-Resident Rhinovirus-Specific Cells in the Development and Persistence of Severe Childhood Asthma.”

Paul Dell was selected for the 2024 American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (AAAAI) Cells and Mediators of Allergic Inflammation (CMAI) mentorship program. This program pairs participants with a basic scientist in their field for a variety of mentorship activities.

Drs. Glenda Canderan and **Lyndsey Muehling** attended the 2023 Biomedical Data Science Innovation Lab with the theme of “Data Science and the Public Health Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic”

Dr. Lyndsey Muehling presented a poster at the joint Innate Immunity and Systems Immunology Keystone Meeting.

Dr. Thomas Platts-Mills was unanimously named as the 2024 recipient of the AAAAI Distinguished Scientist Award by The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

Dr. Michael Nelson, was named the 2023 recipient of the Walter Reed Distinguished Achievement Award.

DIVISION OF ASTHMA, ALLERGY & IMMUNOLOGY

2024 62nd Swineford Allergy Conference - April 12th, 13th

By Monte Parsons and Rebecca Jewell, Meeting Planning Committee



Pinn Hall once again hosted the prestigious Annual Swineford Allergy Conference, a testament to its status as the longest-running local Allergy meeting in the United States and one of the longest-running CME events in Virginia. This conference, proudly hosted by our Division, serves as a scientific gathering dedicated to educating physicians caring for patients with allergic disorders and for the scientists who work with them to develop a novel understanding of and treatments for allergic disease.

Nearly one hundred speakers and participants gathered for this in-person meeting, and

we were excited to welcome to the University of Virginia and to Charlottesville experts in our field who traveled from great distances (despite many travel-related hurdles) to share their knowledge and insight. Upholding the tradition of having international meeting faculty, this year's speakers included Professor Paul Turner of the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College (London UK), and Francesca Levi-Schaffer, PhD, from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



Dr. Elizabeth Matsui

Not to be outdone, our speakers from within the US came from all four points of the compass:

- North (Dr. Andrew Yang from Yale and Dr. Melody Carter from the NIH)
- West (Dr. Elizabeth Matsui from the University of Texas at Austin)
- South (Dr. Brian Vickery from Emory University and Dr. Michael Blaiss from Medical College of Georgia)
- East (Dr. Larry Schwartz from Virginia Commonwealth University)



Dr. Larry Schwartz

The list of speakers highlighted includes those from Charlottesville: Marc Breidenbaugh, MD, and Charlene Dunaway Altamirano, MD, PhD (our outstanding second-year fellows), Naomi Bryant (PhD candidate in Dr. Woodfolk's lab), and Dr. Martin Chapman (former UVA faculty member, Founder, and CEO of InBio, Inc.).

In keeping with this meeting's traditions, there were excellent discussions of multiple topics, including the future of biologics in asthma, genetic testing for inborn errors of immunity, the study of antibodies to PEG, and the importance of lipids in maintaining the protective role of infant skin.



Dr. Paul Turner

We have already started to plan for next year's edition, our 63rd Swineford, which will take place in April 2025. Be on the lookout for more information in the Fall!



Dr. Glenda Canderan and PhD candidate and speaker, Naomi Bryant



Drs. Jeffery Miller and Andrew Wang



Drs. Anna Smith, Marc Breidenbaugh, and Samantha Nguyen

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DIVISION OF ASTHMA, ALLERGY & IMMUNOLOGY

STAFF PROFILE - Roopesh Singh



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I have been a part of the UVA Division of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology for almost a year, having joined in June in the laboratory of Dr. Emily McGowan. Currently, I am an Assistant Professor at the Division of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology, investigating the role of eosinophils in eosinophilic esophagitis, working closely with Dr. McGowan. Eosinophilic esophagitis is a chronic allergic condition of the esophagus (the tube that connects the mouth to the stomach), which causes patients to experience trouble swallowing food. This food allergy condition involves a leaky or porous epithelial barrier and an abundance of eosinophils in the esophagus walls. The disease has no cure; however, it can be effectively managed by food elimination dietary therapies.

My journey in research commenced with a PhD in viral immunology from the National Institute of Virology in Pune, India. The same institute where India's COVID-19 vaccine was developed and distributed worldwide during the pandemic. Following my PhD, I had the privilege to work in Professor Francesca Levi-Schaffer's lab at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where my focus shifted towards allergy. My research in the Levi-Schaffer lab encompassed Allergic and non-allergic Asthma, Atopic Dermatitis, and Psoriasis. Subsequently, I was honored with the PBC Fellowship for outstanding postdocs at The Hebrew University. The publication of 18 papers has marked my academic journey, the presentation of abstracts at over a dozen conferences and meetings, and extensive travel across Europe. Before joining UVA, I spent time at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, researching Air Pollution-induced lung inflammation, and at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, focusing on skin inflammation in Psoriasis.

Outside the laboratory, my passion lies in photography, particularly capturing nature and wildlife.

Why Research?

"There is no liberation without knowledge" – Rig Veda. This verse resonates deeply with me and encapsulates the essence of my research journey. I firmly believe that knowledge is the cornerstone of progress, and research is the conduit for its dissemination and application. Through my education and research endeavors, I aspire to contribute meaningfully to societal welfare.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

My passion for people-oriented research and my expertise in eosinophilic diseases perfectly aligned with the opportunities available at UVA. Additionally, the natural beauty of Charlottesville played a significant role in my decision to join the university.

What excites you about your work?

The inherent challenges of the research journey excite me. Whether it's achieving exceptional accuracy of $R^2 = 99.999$ in ELISA or perfecting the separation of immune cells in flow panels, the pursuit of scientific excellence drives me. These milestones serve as stepping stones towards developing novel treatments and diagnostics for the betterment of humanity.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement outside the professional realm?

Finding my soulmate has undoubtedly been my greatest achievement outside the professional realm. Her unwavering support has been a constant source of strength throughout life's journey.

Describe yourself in one word.

Resilient.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

I relish spending quality time with family and staying connected with distant relatives and friends across the globe.

How did you meet your partner? (Through family, like many other traditions). Traditionally, in India, matchmaking often occurs through family networks, and our story followed a similar path. However, we believe that we are truly made for each other.

What is the one thing you always have in your fridge?

Milk and ginger are essential ingredients for making tea.

Do you have any pets?

Not here in the USA, but I love dogs.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

I find solace in temples and nature amidst mountains, national parks, and beaches.

Who is the person you admire most, and why?

Late Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, India's former President and Missile Man. Despite facing numerous challenges in his early life, he emerged as a visionary leader and a pioneer in missile technology in India. His indomitable spirit and dedication to nation-building inspire me.

Would you rather do one thing extraordinarily well or ten things admirably well?

In my professional and personal journey, life has taught me many things, and I am doing ten things admirably well, but out of these ten, one will be extraordinarily well.

Do you collect anything?

I collect moments with my camera, immortalizing memories and experiences through photography.



FELLOW PROFILE - Samantha Nguyen



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at the University of Virginia for nine months. After completing my Internal Medicine residency at Wake Forest, I joined the UVA Medicine Department as an Allergy and Immunology Fellow. I was born in Baltimore, MD, during my mom's residency, and after three years in Maryland, she relocated my family to northern Virginia, where I grew up and call home now. I come from a family of physicians, so becoming a doctor was unsurprising. I am a huge college basketball fan, specifically a huge UVA basketball fan! I am so excited to be here now to complete my medical training and also to go to all the games!

Why Healthcare?

It sounds cliché, but I have wanted to be a doctor for as long as I can remember. Coming from a family of physicians, I was fortunate to have many opportunities to shadow physicians and work with other providers to get a sense of whether this was a career in which I could see myself. Medicine is constantly changing, and this excites me the most about what I do. I am also a people person, so being in healthcare fosters this aspect of my personality. It has been a challenging yet rewarding journey, and I am excited to see where my curiosity takes



me next!

What brought you to Charlottesville?

Matching at UVA brought me here! I was thrilled to be matched at my #1 program for Allergy and Immunology. I wanted to be closer to home, but also Go Hoos!

What excites you most about your work?

I love playing detective and trying to get to the bottom of our patient's symptoms. There is much more to allergy than meets the eye, and I am grateful to be in an environment that fosters my curiosity. Also, many conditions in this field are manageable, and it is rewarding to see patients get better at therapy. The people in this division are also amazing to work with. Even on tough clinic days, they make going to work more enjoyable.

Describe yourself in one word.

Sassy

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

Traveling! I love short weekend trips somewhere else. When I am in town, I like to brunch, check out new coffee shops, go to the farmer's market, hike (weather permitting), and during college basketball season, definitely cheering on the Hoos!

What is the one thing you always have in your fridge?

Some sort of hot sauce.

Do you have any pets?



I wish I had a dog! But sadly, no pets at this time.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

Dubai desert! I accidentally stumbled upon this spot, and everyone should go!

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

Be intentional in everything you do!

What about you would surprise us?

I recorded a Christmas CD with other kids in my 3rd-grade class...that CD is probably floating around somewhere. Apparently, I could sing back in the day.

What is a talent or skill you don't have that you wish you did?

Better hand-eye coordination, so I could better play a sport with a racket.

Favorite fictional characters?

Dr. Cristina Yang - I'd like to think that if I were surgically minded, I would be similar to her. Talk about a woman who knows what she wants and is unafraid to go after it.



What is the last book you read for pleasure?

"She Who Became The Sun" by Shelley Parker-Chan

FACULTY PROFILE - Jeffrey Wilson



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at the University of Virginia for the better part of, gulp, 20 years. Originally, I am from upstate New York. I did undergrad in Chapel Hill, worked for a few years in Biotech in Boston and then landed at UVA for grad school. After completing my MD/PhD I went west to explore the powder and canyons of the Wasatch and did my internal medicine training at the University of Utah. I returned to UVA in 2015 for allergy/immunology fellowship, joining the Division as faculty in 2019.

Why Research/Healthcare?

Torn between clinical care and biomedical research coming out of college, a career as a clinician-investigator turned out to be a good fit.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

There are few academic programs that combine the strength of UVA Medicine with the quality of life and outdoor opportunities in Charlottesville.

What excites you about your work?

The realization that when it comes to health and disease there are often more questions than answers.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

Gravel bike rides, trips to the Blue Ridge or beach with my partner or friends.

What is the one thing you always have in your fridge?

Ice coffee.

Do you have any pets?

Two personable tuxedo cats.

Are you a hunter or a gatherer?

More intro growing vegetables, so I guess a gatherer.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

Probably a rental house in Harbour Island that was so lovely that Taylor and Travis just visited.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

"Gentleman in Moscow," but "American Nations" is the last book I finished.



UVA Health