

MEDICINE

MATTERS

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

JULY 2024

 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.



Welcome to this month's Department newsletter. Over the past few weeks, I have been thinking a lot about the concept of a "health system" and what that means for faculty, staff, our patients, and the community. Recently, a friend of mine, Jeff Goldsmith, wrote a piece for the Harvard Business Review that made the cogent argument that a "health system" must have certain characteristics. According to his article, "The core of a

health system should be a sentient clinical entity governed by the clinicians themselves, with system logistical and financial support. This means that its clinicians — whether they are employees, contractors, or independent practitioners — must collaborate in a consistent way across the system. The care they provide must be organized, not improvised. It must be driven by consensus best practice and grounded in the best available scientific evidence of what works. To drive results, the clinical enterprise should rely on strong professional values articulated by clinical leadership. Care performance should be constantly examined and continuously improved." I think this quote is extremely important in these changing times and emphasizes the core principles that our Department is grounded in self-governance, professionalism, evidence-based practice, and a focus on continued improvement. Each aspect translates into a better experience for patients and families and better outcomes. It is also what distinguishes us from other professions and jobs. Ultimately, it comes down to our values, and I am so proud that every day, our faculty and staff practice a selfless devotion to others with great integrity and resilience. As we face change, I urge us to remain grounded in these values and concepts. They will serve us well.

With best wishes,

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

[DoM WEBSITE](#) ▶

[GRAND ROUNDS](#) ▶

[HIGHLIGHTED DIVISION](#) . . . ▶

[MINDFULLNESS MATTERS](#) . . . ▶

[GIVE TO DOM](#) ▶

[SUBSCRIBE](#) ▶



UVA Health

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

DOM Financial Update

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

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	\$ Variance YTD
Work RVUs	1,121,943	1,178,192	56,249
Clinical Receipts (NPSR)	72,017,556	76,729,780	4,712,224
Total Revenues	197,162,033	208,630,705	11,468,672
Total Expenditures	196,117,716	210,539,838	(14,422,122)
Net Income	1,044,317	(1,909,133)	(2,953,450)

Summary Explanation of Variance:

For the fiscal year through May 2024, DOM reported a consolidated net loss of \$1.9M and an unfavorable variance to YTD net income budget of \$3.0M.

Clinical receipts surpassed budget by \$4.7M primarily due to strong productivity, unbudgeted Community Oncology and APP charge volumes.

Total revenues include \$420K Endowment revenue recorded for June and \$1.3M clinical deficit coverage revenue accrual.

Total revenue is missing \$1.8M in missing clinical agreements and revenue contingencies.

Total expenditures variance is unfavorably impacted by \$6.3M increased spending related to grants and commitments, \$3.9M unbudgeted CommOnc Expenses, \$1.5M unbudgeted ICU Culpeper APPs and unbudgeted APPs night and weekend shifts and \$1.8M budgeted expenditure reduction contingencies.

Welcome To The World



Congratulations to Jamey Cutts and wife Mary Lewis who welcomed baby Walker Lucas Cutts on May 25, 2024.



Congratulations to Jackie Hodges and husband Rob Sukumar who welcomed baby Devan James Sukumar on May 18, 2024.

DOM UPDATES & NOTES



Milad Memari MD



John Popovich MD



Daniel Strand MD



Kelly Wingerter MD



Benjamin Martin MD



Varun Kavuru MD

Awards and Achievements

Congratulations to 2024 new *Academy for Excellence in Education* DOM members **Milad Memari, MD, MS, MEd (Division of General Medicine), John Popovich, MD, Medicine (Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care), Daniel Strand, MD, FASGE (Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology), Kelly Wingerter, MD (Division of Cardiovascular Medicine), Benjamin Martin, MD (Division of Hospital Medicine)** [Read more...](#)

Congratulations to graduating resident **Dr. Varun Kavuru**, who has been honored with the Anne L. Brodie Resident Clinician Award. The recipient of the award is a graduating resident known to provide continuity of care and intentionally develop collaborative, longitudinal, doctor-patient relationships; demonstrate compassionate, patient-centered care; demonstrate excellence in clinical knowledge, skill, and judgment. [Read more...](#)

New studies opened since May 1, 2024

CALM: Chronic & Acute Leukemia/MDS & MPN

Randomized Phase 2 Study of daunorubicin and cytarabine liposome + Pomalidomide versus daunorubicin and cytarabine liposome in Newly Diagnosed AML with MDS-Related Changes

IRB #HSR230512

CT. Gov. ID: NCT04802161

Sponsor Protocol: 10434 Sponsor: ETCTN

Principal Investigator: Reed, Daniel

Study Contact: Avani J Hopkins ajh7jqe@uvahealth.org 434-243-8108

Developmental Therapeutics

A Phase 1, First-in-Human, Dose Escalation and Expansion Study to Evaluate the Safety and Tolerability of XmAb®541 in Advanced Solid Tumors

IRB #300025

CT. Gov. ID: NCT06276491

Sponsor Protocol: XmAb541-01 Sponsor: Xencor, Inc.

Principal Investigator: Reilley, Matthew

Study Contact: Francis Bagley fb9up@uvahealth.org

Gastro-intestinal (GI)

A Phase 2, Randomized, Open-label Study of Onvansertib in Combination with FOLFIRI and Bevacizumab or FOLFOX and Bevacizumab Versus FOLFIRI and Bevacizumab or FOLFOX and Bevacizumab for First-line Treatment of Metastatic Colorectal Cancer in Patients with a KRAS or NRAS Mutation

IRB #HSR230447

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05593328

Sponsor Protocol: CRDF-004 Sponsor: Cardiff Oncology, Inc.

Principal Investigator: Reilley, Matthew

Study Contact: Kristen A Harris kah2gv@uvahealth.org 434-297-5724

GenitoUrinary (GU)

Phase 1/2a, Open-label, Multicenter Study of Intramuscular PRL-02 Depot in Patients with Advanced Prostate Cancer

IRB #HSR210129

CT. Gov. ID: NCT04729114

Sponsor Protocol: PRL-02-1001 Sponsor: Propella Therapeutics, Inc.

Principal Investigator: Devitt, Michael

Study Contact: Steven H Goff wrs9hw@uvahealth.org 434-297-4126

Note: There will be no issue of *Medicine Matters* in August. The edition will resume in September 2024.

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Department of Medicine Education Update

By **Brian Uthlaut MD**

It has been another busy and exciting spring in the realm of education in the Department of Medicine, as another year of residents and chief residents close out the academic year and another year of students graduate from the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

Mulholland Department Teaching Award

Each year, the outgoing medical students select a clinical department to recognize for providing the best educational experience. For the record-breaking ninth straight year (16 years out of 20), the Department of Medicine was honored by our students with this award. This continues the longest streak of consecutive awards in the four-decade history of the Mulholland Department Award. It is a testament to the daily commitment to education

and inclusion of our students in the variety of experiences they rotate through in our Department. It is truly an award that all staff, residents, fellows, and faculty should celebrate. Thank you and congratulations!

Resident and Fellow Teaching Awards from Students

Congratulations to IM Residents Drs. Heather Frazier, Matthew Schliep, Tucker Wilkinson, and Cardiology Fellow Dr. Nick Ashur. Each was selected for 1 of 10 Mulholland Resident/Fellow Teaching Awards by medical students. Dr. Ashur was recognized with an All-University Teaching Award. Congratulations to these committed and outstanding physician teachers!



MAY 31st - Chief Resident Grand Rounds and Residency Program Awards

Outgoing chief residents—Drs. Kara Harrison, Joe Mort, John Popovich, and Margo Tanner— did a remarkable job teaching and leading the residency program this past year. Their Grand Rounds— “The Year of Team-Building”—capped a year of outstanding achievement of these goals.



DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Department of Medicine Education Update

We honored many residents, faculty, and staff in our year-end awards:

- Outpatient Nurse/NP of the Year: **Tracy McGatha** (UMA)
- Inpatient Nurse/NP of the Year: **Bethany Payne** (Hospice and Palliative Care)
- Case Manager of the Year: **Becky Monteith** (3W)
- Emergency Medicine Resident of the Year: **Jackson Agraz**
- Most Outstanding Fellow: **Olivia Ondigi** (Cardiology)
- Most Outstanding Inpatient Attending: **Alex Millard** (Hospital Medicine)
- Andy Wolf Award: **Jeff Sturek** (Pulmonary-Critical Care)
- Most Outstanding Outpatient Attending: **Zach Boggs** (General Medicine)
- John Dunn Award: **Varun Kavuru**
- Leadership Service and Advocacy Award: **Emily Brzana**
- Intern Professionalism Award: **Drew Viperman**
- Resident Teaching and Mentorship Award: **Aziz Almulhim**
- Esprit de Corps Award: **Kevin Toy** and **Emma Trachman** (tie)
- Brodie Resident Clinician Award: **Varun Kavuru**
- Mulholland Teaching Award: **Heather Frazier, Matt Schliep, Tucker Wilkinson**



PGY3 Dr. Aziz Almulhim receiving the Resident Teaching and Mentorship Award from chief resident Dr. Joe Mort



Dr. Jeff Sturek, inaugural recipient of the Andy Wolf Faculty Award, posing with its namesake Dr. Wolf



PGY3 Dr. Varun Kavuru receiving the Brodie Award from Dr. Evan Heald



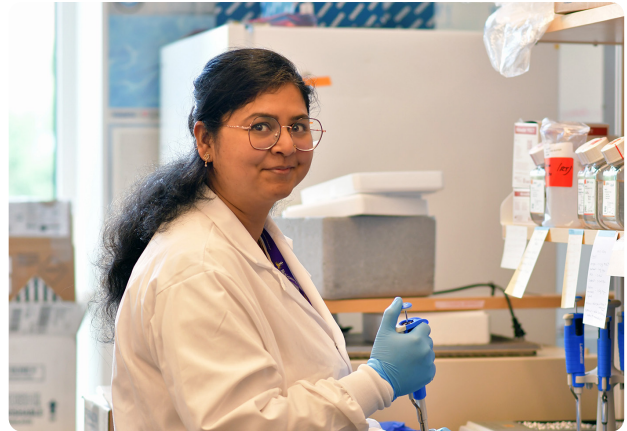
PGY2 Dr. Heather Frazier receiving a Mulholland Teaching Award from Dr. Monica Lawrence, DIO

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Department of Medicine Education Update

May 7-10: Carey, Marshall, and Thorner Research and Scholar's Week

The Department of Medicine's Carey, Marshall, and Thorner Research & Scholar's Week was held in the Education Resource Center on May 7th and 9th, 2024, with Grand Rounds on May 10th, 2024, delivered by Dr. Jeff Sturek. This annual research celebration of the Department of Medicine included five oral and more than poster presentations. Discoveries spanned all medical disciplines, including allergy, immunology, endocrinology, nephrology, pulmonology, general medicine, gastroenterology, cardiology, infectious diseases, hematology and oncology, and rheumatology. Presenters included residents and interns, subspecialty fellows, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and undergraduates. The titles of the presentations receiving awards are given below as a sample of the exciting science members of the Department of Medicine are conducting.



Farha Naz

Oral Presentation 1st Place: **Farha Naz** - *Development of a Next-Generation Vaccine Against Clostridioides Difficile Infection*



Kathryn Fortune

Oral Presentation 2nd Place: **Kathryn Fortune** - *Impact of Renin-Angiotensin System Inhibitors on Response to PD1/L1 Inhibitors in Patients with Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma (mRCC)*

Outstanding Poster Presentation Award: **Qingxiang Mo** – *Cytomegalovirus IgG “Positive” does not always mean protected: CMV IgG Considerations to Determine Risk of CMV Infection in Kidney/Pancreas Transplant Recipients*

Outstanding Poster Presentation Award: **Vikram Sabapathy** – *Novel Role of ST2+ Tubular Cells in Shaping Immune Microenvironment*

Outstanding Poster Presentation Award: **Christina Halstead** – *HCM Patient Profiling and A Machine Learning Approach for Mortality Prediction: Development and Evaluation of a New HCM Risk Stratifying Score*

Outstanding Poster Presentation Award: **Francesco Moroni** – *High C Reactive Protein Levels at Admission and Response to Anakinra in ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction: A Pooled Analysis of the VCU-ART Studies*

Outstanding Poster Presentation Award: **Danh Tran** – *STAT3 Mutations Are Associated with Differential Treatment Responses to Methotrexate and Cyclophosphamide in T-Large Granular Lymphocyte Leukemia*

Outstanding Publication Award: **Jashim Uddin** - *Investigating the impact of antibiotic-induced dysbiosis on protection from Clostridium difficile colitis by mouse colonic innate lymphoid cells. mBio. 2024 Mar 13;15(3):e0333823. doi: 10.1128/mbio.03338-23*

Outstanding Publication Award: **Patrick Stafford** - *Investigating the impact of antibiotic-induced dysbiosis on protection from Clostridium difficile colitis by mouse colonic innate lymphoid cells. mBio. 2024 Mar 13;15(3):e0333823. doi: 10.1128/mbio.03338-23*

Outstanding Publication Award: **Lisa Post** - *Inceptor as a Regulator of Brain Insulin Sensitivity. Scientific Reports. 2023. DOI: 10.1038/s41598-023-36248-4. PMC10354159*

Shyr Te Ju Immunology Award: **Saanvi Acharya** - *IL1RL1/IL-33 ‘alarmin’ based transcriptomic analysis of regulatory T cells reveals its crucial role in immunomodulation during Type-1 diabetes.*

[View Photos From the Poster Event](#)

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Department of Medicine Education Update



JUNE/JULY Transitions

Our PGY3 graduating residents finished training in June 2024 and are heading to places near and far for internal medicine jobs or continuing in subspecialty fellowships. This class has stepped up time and time again to address the challenges of residency training during the pandemic. We held a wonderful graduation celebration in the Dome Room of the Rotunda on May 24th, honoring our graduates and having a time of fellowship with them and many of their families. To our class of 2024, congratulations and thank you!

On June 1st, our new chief residents started their tenure of leadership, teaching, and mentorship of our residents for the 2024-2025 academic year. Welcome to the chief residents' office to Drs. Thompson Barr, Marcus Ellison, Shaina Hasan, and Kia Salafian.



Drs. Marcus Ellison, Kiarash Salafian, Thompson Barr, and Shaina Hasan

Our intern class of 2023-2024 has been a fantastic group that has established outstanding clinical acumen and commitment to our educational mission. They celebrated the upcoming end of the intern year on June 8th with the traditional Intern Appreciation Day, during which upper-level residents, fellows, and faculty covered the inpatient services for all interns to be together to celebrate.

fellows, and faculty covered the inpatient services for all interns to be together to celebrate.

This year's new class of interns will be oriented during the week of June 24-28 and will start July 1st, so please welcome this new class of physicians to UVA as you see them in July.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Each year, the Department of Medicine has the honor of selecting a 4th-year medical student recipient for each of two awards. For the graduating class of 2025, **we are now accepting nominations with a deadline of July 31st, 2024!**

The award descriptions and selection criteria are listed below. The selection committee is comprised of the following faculty from the Charlottesville and Inova campuses, in alphabetical order: Molly Hughes, Alex Millard, Glenn Moulder, Brad Nitta (Inova campus), Brian Uthlaut, and Homan Wai (Inova campus). Please send your nominations to Molly Hughes at mah3x@uvahealth.org, and please specify which award you are nominating a student for. Final selection of awardees will be determined in August so that the students may include the award information in their residency applications which are due in early September.

Gratton Alexander Litz Award honors Dr. Alex Litz, who graduated from the UVA SOM in 1983. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at the University of Alabama, where he received many teaching and clinical awards and was named "Outstanding Medicine Resident." He was selected to be Chief Resident at UAB but developed cancer during his final year of residency and, tragically, passed away from cancer in November 1986. His family, friends, and colleagues established this award to honor the attributes that Alex exemplified.

- Litz Award - Selection criteria: a 4th-year medical student who exhibits all of the following:
- Excellent clinical skills
- Outstanding ability to interact with patients
- Zest and enthusiasm for the Clerkship
- Eagerness to learn
- Good sense of humor
- Evidence of being a well-rounded person

Herbert R. Farber Award honors Dr. Herbert R. Farber, who graduated from the UVA SOM in 1940. Dr. Farber had a passion for medicine and was a well-rounded individual with a wide range of outside interests and hobbies that included accomplishments in sports and the fine arts. The Farber family set up this award to honor these attributes:

- Farber Award - Selection criteria: a 4th-year medical student who exhibits the following:
- Excels in the Internal Medicine Clerkship
- Demonstrates excellence in athletics or in the fine or performing arts

FOLLOW UVA IM RESIDENCY

**FOLLOW
UVA ID**

**FOLLOW UVA
PULMONARY**

**FOLLOW
UVA CARDIO**

**FOLLOW
UVA ENDO**

**FOLLOW UVA
NEPHROLOGY**

**FOLLOW
GASTRO**

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

Contact Kim Kelley-Wagner
kak2cj@virginia.edu
434.328.0680

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Events

Women In Medicine Network



Meghan Dotter

On June 13th, the Women in Medicine Network hosted Meghan Dotter, CEO and founder of the communications firm Portico, for the seminar “Speaking While Female.” Participants learned about women’s challenges when presenting and communicating and learned strategies for women to employ to increase their impact.

If you would like to know more about WIMN and upcoming events, please visit our [website](#) or contact us at: RWomenInMedicineNetwork@uvahealth.org



Dr. Lindsey Carter (Director, Women in Medicine Network) and Meghan Dotter

Society of General Internal Medicine National Meeting



By Dr. Rachel Kon and Dr. Milad Memari

The University of Virginia Division of General Internal Medicine was well-represented at the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) national meeting this May in Boston! The contingent of attendees included UVA medical students, IM residents, pharmacy residents, and faculty, who served in several leadership roles and presented research and case reports while also serving as panelists and mentors throughout the meeting! Dr. Milad Memari served on the SGIM24 Meeting Planning Committee and co-chaired the Mentorship Committee. Medicine residents Dr. Thompson Barr, Dr. Emily Jezewski, Dr. Aislinn Camoney, and UVA pharmacy residents Dr. Stephanie Hannon and Dr. Morgan Lockhart were among those who presented their work in Boston. Division faculty presenting peer-reviewed abstracts or oral presentations included Dr. Matt Allen, Dr. Zach Boggs, Dr. Rachel Kon, Dr. Tabor Flickinger, Dr. Memari, Dr. Jess Driecer, Dr. Andy Wolf, Dr. Ross Buerlein, Dr. Andrew Parsons, and Dr. Mo Nadkarni. Dr. Memari, Dr. Flickinger, Dr. Boggs, Dr. Kon, and Dr. Callender served on mentoring panels. Dr. Memari, Dr. Flickinger, and Dr.



Callender also presented workshops in Boston. Dr. Stew Babbott, Dr. Kim Dowdell, and Dr. Callender also joined Dr. Mo Nadkarni at the Academic Chiefs and Leaders of General Internal Medicine (ACLGIM) part of the meeting where Mo completed his term as the president of ACLGIM as the Awards Dinner host!



In Media

Dr. Platts-Mills Receives University's Top Honor



Dr. Thomas Platts-Mills, left, poses with Provost Ian Baucom. (photo credit Emily Faith Morgan, University Communications)

Dr. Thomas Platts-Mills, received the Thomas Jefferson Award for scholarship, the highest honor bestowed upon a member of the University community, during the University of Virginia Board of Visitors meeting.

"These awards are the most prestigious honor that the University presents," Baucom said at the ceremony. "The give us the opportunity to recognize members of the UVA community who have exemplified the principles, ideals and mission of the University in their character and their life's work."

[READ MORE](#)

VDH: 25 Cases of E.coli Reported Among Lake Anna Visitors, Swimmers

"E. coli often will start by having diarrhea and then several days after can develop a more severe syndrome characterized by kidney damage and some disorders of the blood," Doctor Patrick Jackson, assistant professor of infectious disease at the University of Virginia, said.

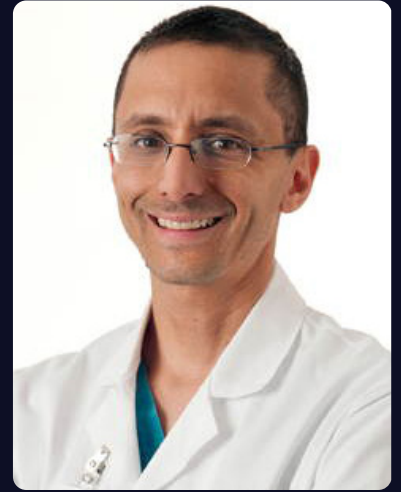


[WATCH VIDEO](#) on NBC29

Can Mitral Valve Innovators Dig Themselves Out of a Rut? (MedPageToday)

D. Scott Lim, MD speaks with MedPageToday about Mitral valve technology and the need for better transcatheter mitral valve replacement devices.

[READ MORE](#)



Elder fraud has reached epidemic proportions – a geriatrician explains what older Americans need to know (TheConversation)

Dr. Laurie Archbald-Pannone writes about the consequences of elder fraud. The experience is traumatic for many, with some victims feeling deep shame and self-doubt in the aftermath. This can interfere with their relationships, erode their trust in others, and harm their mental and physical health.

[READ MORE](#)



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

In Media

UVA Researchers Look at How Funding Supported COVID-19 Research, Treatments and More



New School of Medicine research is shedding light on how federal funding helped scientists understand the COVID-19 virus, develop new treatments and deploy lifesaving vaccines in record time.

The new analysis of how COVID-19 funding was used comes from UVA Health's Adishesh Narahari, MD, PhD; Anirudha Chandrabhatia; Taison D. Bell, MD; and Taylor Horgan.

[READ MORE](#)

[VIEW CBS19 VIDEO](#)

Every Breath You Take: Invention Detects Breathing Problems Before It's Too Late



Dr. Shrirang Gadrey, an internal medicine physician at UVA Health, wanted to be able to “measure labored breathing precisely, quantitatively, like we measure blood pressure or temperature.” With the help of the University of Virginia Licensing & Ventures Group, he and his team have done just that through a technology they invented called ARK, which stands for Analysis of Respiratory Kinematics.

Gadrey believes ARK can do for labored breathing what a sphygmomanometer does for checking a person's blood pressure or a thermometer does for taking someone's temperature.

[READ MORE](#)

Drew Harris, MD, Testifies Before U.S. Senate about Black Lung Disease

On May 22, 2024, Dr. Drew Harris testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on Workplace Safety. The congressional hearing brought attention to concerns about the existing federal black lung benefits program. Dr. Harris is director of the Black Lung Program at Stone Mountain Health Services, serving miners across Appalachia and a nationally recognized expert and advocate for mine safety.



[READ MORE](#)

Sequencing the Y-chromosome (The Week)



Understanding the Y chromosome can help with a number of health issues, including fertility. Genes have also “been shown to be required for the prevention of cancer and cardiovascular disease,” Dr. Kenneth Walsh, a professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics at the University, said to CNN.

[READ MORE](#)

UVA Researchers Discover Novel ‘Silent’ Rhinovirus Infection, Inflammation Has Major Impact on Cough and Wheeze in Children



School of Medicine researchers have discovered a novel clinical syndrome in children with recurrent wheeze — an asymptomatic or “silent” rhinovirus (RV) infection in the lungs accompanied by inflammation. The syndrome has major implications on cough and wheeze in young preschool children and may be associated with the development of asthma but is potentially treatable.

[READ MORE](#)

Stem cell transplantation - Preclinical and translational
 CHAIRS: JORDI ESTEVE REYNER, EMMA MORRIS

EHA2024

CIBMTR
 CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL BLOOD & MARROW TRANSPLANT RESEARCH

Pre-Allogeneic Transplantation Flow Cytometry Testing for Patients with AML in First CR, as Currently Performed, Has Limited Clinical Utility for Relapse and Survival Prediction: a CIBMTR Analysis

Firas El Chaer¹, Mei-Jei Zhang², Gege Guj³, Mariam Nawas⁴, Christopher Hourigan⁵, Kristin Page² & the CIBMTR Acute Leukemia Working Committee Consortium

¹University of Virginia, ²Medical College of Wisconsin, ³National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, ⁴University of Chicago, ⁵Virginia Tech FBRI Cancer Research Center

Firas El Chaer
 PRE-ALLOGENEIC TRANSPLANTATION FLOW CYTOMETRY TESTING FOR PATIENTS WITH AML IN FIRST CR, AS CURRENTLY PERFORMED, HAS LIMITED CLINICAL UTILITY FOR RELAPSE AND SURVIVAL PREDICTION: A CIBMTR ANALYSIS

EHA2024
 JUNE 13 - 16 | MADRID

Key findings include:

- **Patient Data:** The study analyzed data from 2,544 adult AML patients across 131 CIBMTR sites in the US, treated between 2013 and 2019.
- **Relapse Rates:** Patients with positive pre-transplant MFC tests had significantly higher relapse rates (35% at one year, 43% at three years) compared to those with negative tests.
- **Survival and Disease-Free Survival (DFS):** MFC positivity before transplant was associated with lower overall survival (OS) and DFS.
- **Predictive Value:** Despite statistically significant correlations, the positive predictive value (PPV) of pre-transplant MFC testing was 45%, and the negative predictive value (NPV) was 64%. Only a small proportion of patients who relapsed post-transplant had positive MFC results pre-transplant.

El Chaer’s presentation highlighted the need for improved methodologies in MRD testing better to predict post-transplant relapse and survival in AML patients.

[MRD testing prior to alloSCT can predict OS and DFS in AML](#)



Firas El Chaer, MD
 University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

**FOLLOW UVA WOMEN
 IN INTERNAL MEDICINE
 NETWORK**

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

Congratulations



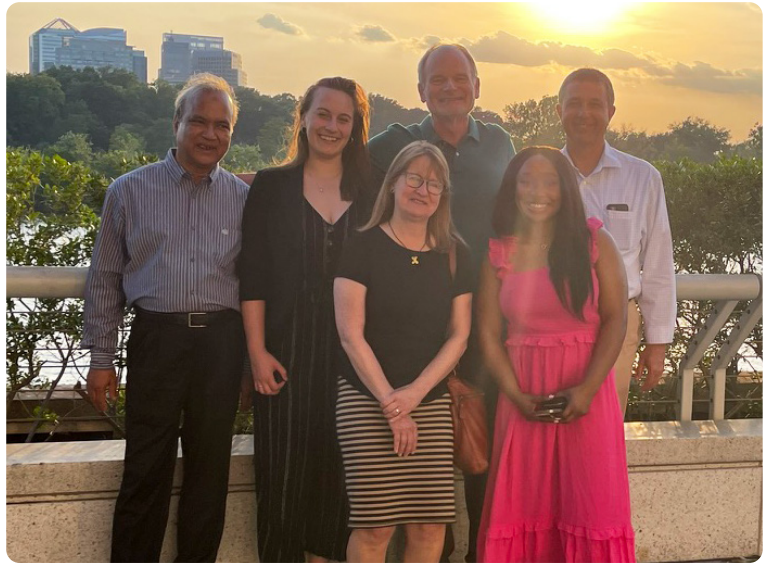
The Division of Hematology/Oncology commemorated the achievements of four exceptional fellows who successfully completed their training on Saturday, June 8th at Hazy Mountain Vineyards & Brewery. Best wishes to them all as they move forward in their careers!

Nathan Roberts, MD – Faculty position in Malignant Hematology at UVA

Chris Thomas, MD – Community Practice at Sentara Martha Jefferson

John “Will” Thomas, MD – Community Practice at Piedmont Cancer Institute, Noonan, Georgia

Phil Young, MD – Community Practice at Kaiser Permanente, Tacoma, Washington



Group which attended the NICHD Global Network for Maternal-Child Health in Washington D. C. Dr. Bill Petri is the PI for the University of Virginia-Bangladesh site, one of seven sites for this clinical trials network. They are currently testing intravenous iron repletion for post-partum anemia. They will soon be starting studies on caffeine for neonatal asphyxia and the importance of antibiotic treatment for asymptomatic bacteriuria in pregnancy. From left: Dr. Rashidul Haque (head of the Bangladesh site), Rachel Boone (UVA graduate student), Dr. Karen Fairchild (UVA neonatology), Ame Ayemere (UVA 2nd year medical student), and Dr. Chris Chisholm (UVA maternal-fetal medicine). An excellent three-department collaboration!



Follow DOM on
INSTAGRAM! ¹²

Is Your Division's Website Content Up-to-Date?

Need a Team or Research Lab Photo Shoot?

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



FOLLOW

Research in Motion

Charles Chalfant, PhD,
Professor, Departments of
Medicine and Cell Biology

Dr. Chalfant conducts basic biomedical research to examine how cellular mechanisms are affected in disease.

WATCH VIDEO

FOLLOW UVA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

Message from Andrew Wang MD, Division Chief Gastroenterology and Hepatology



The Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology is concluding another strong and busy year. Our faculty, fellows, and staff have continued our tradition of excellence in clinical patient care, education, and research. We are fortunate to be the premier academic Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our 24 faculty members (eight full professors, eight associate professors, six assistant professors, one clinical instructor, and one visiting professor), five advanced practice providers, twelve GI fellows, and four administrative staff that belong to our five Sections (Luminal Gastroenterology, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Interventional Endoscopy, Hepatology/Liver Transplantation and Education) are outstanding clinicians, caregivers, and professionals. Our division is regularly referred patients for gastrointestinal and hepatology care throughout Virginia and the surrounding states. Additionally, patients seek the Division's subspecialty expertise, consultative care, and advanced endoscopy procedures from across the United States and internationally.

We welcome **Dr. Rebecca Haug**, who will join our Section of Luminal GI in July 2024. Dr. Haug was a resident and chief resident in our Department of Medicine (DOM), and she has been an outstanding GI fellow at UVA. Dr. Haug will be seeing general GI patients and taking over as our division's Quality Lead with assistance from **Dr. Zach Henry**, who has led in this role with distinction for the past three years. We also welcome **Dr. Anya Mezina**, who will join our Section of Hepatology and Liver Transplantation in September 2024. Dr. Mezina graduated from the Osler Medical Residency Training Program at

Johns Hopkins Hospital and completed her GI Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, where she is completing her Transplant Hepatology Fellowship. Dr. Mezina is interested in the genetics of steatohepatitis and in data science research from a liver perspective.

Our faculty have been responsible for many awards and honors this past year. Several have authored clinical guidelines and/or clinical practice updates for our major GI and hepatology societies, positively influencing patient care. We wish to congratulate **Dr. Neeral Shah**, who received the David A. Harrison Distinguished Educator Award, **Dr. Daniel Strand**, who was given a Dean's Clinical Excellence Award; **Dr. Curt Argo** was recognized with the 2023 UVA GME Master Educator Award, and **Dr. Vanessa Shami** was the recipient of two national awards: a Research Mentor Award from the American Gastroenterological Association and the Women in Endoscopy's 2024 Founding Mothers in Endoscopy Award. Lastly, UVA Health conferred **Karen Finke, PA-C**, the Leonard Sandridge Outstanding Contributor Award. We also wish to call attention to **Dr. Alexander Podboy** who was recently accepted into the iTHRIV Scholars Mentored Career Development Program. Dr. Podboy will be mentored by Dr. Emily McGowan in the Division of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology on his project "Deciphering the Immunologic Landscape of Gastroparesis Associated Pylorospasm: Insights from Single-Cell RNA Sequencing and Gastric Per-oral Endoscopic Myotomy." Last but not least, we wish to thank **Dr. Stephen Caldwell**, who, in October 2023, assumed the role and responsibilities of Chair of the UVA Institutional Review Board for Health Sciences Research.



Karen Finke receiving notification of the Leonard Sandridge Award: Karen Finke was a winner of the Leonard Sandridge Outstanding Contributor Award. This is the highest staff award at the University. The span of her multi-disciplinary contributions is immense, and we are so thankful she was recognized for her empathy, clinical excellence, selfless dedication to patients, and collegiality among UVA team members. Contributions for her nomination letter were received from many GI Faculty, RN Care Coordination, Nutrition, Radiation Oncology, and Neurology reflecting her wide impact across the health system and continuum of care.

Front from left – Catherine Bauer, Dr. Andrew Wang, Tammie Rinaldo, Julia Warren, Yvonne Jarvis, Dr. Jeanetta Frye, Dr. Vanessa Shami, Karen Finke, Anne Hodgson, Jane Moore, Lisa Beach, Katie Edmonson, Colleen Green

Back from left – Dr. Leland Stratton, Dr. Dennis Kumral, Jennifer Mileur, Nicole Maupin, Brenda Clark, Jody Farmer, Hallie Gunnoe, Dr. Mark Worthington

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY



From left – Dr. Lindsey Bierle, Dr. Andrew Wang, Dr. Vanessa Shami, Dr. Kyoungwon Jung

The Division is responsible for over 1,200 outpatient clinic visits/month, and we routinely perform around 18,000-20,000 endoscopic procedures annually. Over half of the calls for transfers to the Department of Medicine (DOM) at UVA Medical Center are requests for transfer for complex GI and hepatology/liver transplant inpatient care, and our annual inpatient consult volume continues to climb (7,100 consults in FY22, 7,900 in FY23, and an estimated 8,200 in FY24). Due to the work of our Division's Transplant Hepatologists, who staff outreach clinics in Arlington, Virginia—and are expanding services to see patients in Southwest Virginia—our referrals for liver transplantation are more numerous than ever.

As we enter the latter half of 2024, our Division and the UVA Digestive Health Program still have work to do. To meet the demand for our great clinical care, we are actively recruiting outstanding clinicians, educators, and researchers to fill positions in transplant hepatology, inflammatory bowel disease, and general gastroenterology. We are assisting leadership in UVA Community Health (CH) build a community-based GI/Hepatology program in the

Prince William/Manassas corridor, and we were pleased to welcome UVA CH's first GI hospitalist **Dr. Rohit Sharda** this past Spring. Our Division's efforts at integration between UVA CH and UVA Medical Center were recognized by UVA Health for our "there-and-back-again" ERCP program whereby patients at UVA CH in Northern Virginia are transported to UVA Medical Center for ERCPs, after which they return to their UVA CH hospital to recover closer to home and their families. In March 2024, we began renovating our two existing interventional endoscopy fluoroscopy rooms. We will break ground on a third state-of-the-art interventional endoscopy room in the coming months to meet ever-increasing demands for our specialized procedural services. Given the huge demand for our general endoscopy services, we expect to offer outpatient endoscopy procedures at UVA Riverside/Monticello Surgery Center soon. Our outpatient clinics have expanded to Zion's Crossroads, and we anticipate seeing patients soon at the UVA Multispecialty Clinic in Fishersville.

As always, our division and faculty Medical Directors continue working closely with our Digestive Health leaders (**Rob Teaster, Cathy Bauer, Jody Farmer, Barbara Seabert, Yvonne Jarvis, Heather Rojas, and Jennifer Mileur**). Our physicians, advance-practice providers, and fellows would be unable to do what we do without our skilled and dedicated nurses, techs, medical assistants, and access team members. High-quality patient care is a product of our entire team working together, and we are thankful for our outstanding team. Special thanks to the Division's great Administrative Team led by **Lisa Beach, MHA**, which includes **Tammy Eubank, Sandy Marshall, Joanne Delapp-Anderson, and Emily Mikovic**.

Please take a few minutes to read this issue of Medicine Matters. In these pages, you will learn about the clinical advances and research being pursued by each of our Sections.

Finally, we wish to thank our grateful patients, GI fellowship alums, and all who have donated to the Division to further our academic missions. Special thanks to **Dr. Syed Siddiqi**, a former UVA GI fellow, who with his family endowed the **Richard W. McCallum, MD** and Siddiqi Family Gastroenterology Motility Research Grant and a separately endowed Research Mentorship Award. The contributions of all of our generous donors are critical to all that we do.

Thank you for joining us!

Andrew Y. Wang, MD, AGAF, FACG, FJGES, FASGE
David D. Stone, MD Professor of Medicine
Division Chief of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, UVA School of Medicine
Director of Interventional Endoscopy, UVA Medical Center
University of Virginia

[Follow Dr Andrew Wang](#)

[Follow UVA Gastro](#)

Clinical Update

Section of Inflammatory Bowel Disease

The Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Section has remained active in the Division's clinical, academic, and research missions. Unfortunately, **Dr. Esteban Figueroa** will leave UVA for other career pursuits this June, leaving a small but mighty section comprised of **Krysti Homa, AG-ACNP**, and **Drs. Brian Behm** and **Anne Tuskey**. The group continues to see patients with complex Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis from across the state and neighboring states. We are actively interviewing for an additional advanced practice provider and an IBD physician to continue to serve our broad referral base.

Dr. Behm continues to serve as the Clinical Director of the Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) Program and collaborates with colleagues in Infectious Disease to manage patients with complicated *C. difficile* infections. In addition to a busy clinical practice, the IBD section is actively involved in clinical research. The Section receives funding from two NIH awards for which Drs. Behm and Tuskey are co-investigators. UVA just opened enrollment for a third NIH-funded study on using hyperbaric oxygen in patients hospitalized with acute severe ulcerative colitis. Dr. Tuskey is the local primary investigator. In addition, the group currently participates in six industry-sponsored IBD clinical trials.

Lastly, Drs. Behm and Tuskey continue to maintain a commitment to education and the academic mission of the Division. Dr. Tuskey continues to co-lead the six-week GI System for the UVA SOM's first-year students, and all three faculty were invited to speak at local, regional, and national meetings this past year.

Section of Hepatology

The Section of Hepatology has remained active and successful in all its academic missions in FY24.

We are pleased to add a new faculty member, **Dr. Anya Mezina**, who will join us after completing her transplant hepatology fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. She also gave birth to her son Adrian recently! We look forward to Dr. Mezina's arrival and welcoming her to our growing team.

Dr. Brian Wentworth completed the Junior Faculty Development Program with an exceptional presentation on his main research interest, hypoadrenalism in cirrhosis. He also served as an invited speaker at Digestive Disease Week (DDW) 2024, the largest annual international meeting in GI and hepatology.

Dr. Zachary Henry has also had an excellent year. He is spearheading UVA Liver Transplant's addition of an outreach clinic in Roanoke and taking leadership in establishing UVA's first-ever transplant oncology clinic. Dr. Henry will also be taking over the Medical Directorship for UVA Living Donor Liver Transplant in July 2024, accepting the leadership post from Curtis Argo, who has served as Medical Director of this program for over ten years.

Dr. Nicolas Intagliata has also demonstrated superior leadership in his Directorships of the Transplant Hepatology Fellowship program and the UVA Transplant Clinic. Dr. Intagliata has had several top-tier publications in the last year, including interim results from his international, multi-center study of peri-procedural bleeding in cirrhosis patients. This year, Dr. Intagliata will be an invited lecturer at DDW and the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL) meeting.

Dr. Neeral Shah continues to lead our Division's Gastroenterology and Hepatology Fellowship for his seventh year and he leads the hepatology portion of the UVA SOM's pre-clinical curriculum. Dr. Shah also serves as an Associate Editor of one of the most prominent journals in our field—The American Journal of Gastroenterology. Dr. Shah has continued serving as Course Director for UVA's annual regional gastroenterology and hepatology conference at The Boar's Head Conference Center. Dr. Shah is the Director of the UVA School of Medicine's Academy for Excellence in Education. Dr. Shah was named Chair of the Academies Collaborative for the AAMC, a committee of all US teaching academies. He also serves as Governor of Virginia for the American College of Gastroenterology and is President of the Virginia Gastroenterological Society.

Dr. Curtis Argo continues to serve as Chief of the Hepatology Section in our division. He is also Medical Director of the UVA Liver Transplant Program. Dr. Argo was Co-Director of UVA's Controversies in Liver Transplantation fall conference at Wintergreen Conference Center. Along with Dr. Shah, Dr. Argo helped co-

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

author several authoritative reviews with UVA GI/Hepatology fellows, **Dr. Sahil Khanna**, **Dr. Neha Rajpal**, and **Dr. Himesh Zaver** on the application of the recently revised MELD 3.0 score and utilization of PEth testing in caring for alcoholic liver disease patients.

Dr. Stephen Caldwell took over the ambitious task of chairing the UVA IRB-HSR in November 2023. Dr. Caldwell is the Director of the Division's Clinical Research Program, oversees a team of seasoned CRCs, and has an annual research budget in the \$1.2 to \$1.4 million range.

The Hepatology Section continues to lend strong support to UVA's Liver Transplant program, which posted a growing number of liver transplant referrals and had 82 deceased and living-donor liver transplants performed with exceptional one- and three-year outcomes—well above expected performance levels. The living-donor liver transplant program successfully performed 14 living-donor liver transplants in adult and pediatric recipients. Dr. Zach Henry continues to lead our division's quality improvement efforts, collaborating with Sierra Lee and team leaders in endoscopy, outpatient clinic, and inpatient medicine.

Colleen Green, PA and **Carolyn Driscoll, FNP** continue to lead our strong General Hepatology APP team. Together, Carolyn and Colleen have over 30 years of experience treating hepatology patients. Our APP team is looking to grow in the next several years based on the growing demand for general hepatology consultative visits. We all continue to be strongly supported by an exceptional nurse coordinator team, which includes **Amy Brown**, **Katherine Craig**, **Marcia Haney**, **Stacy Harper**, **Faith Mawyer**, and **Jivannie Nelson**.

Our hepatology team has refined our urgent outpatient clinic visit triage mechanism that helps to provide general and transplant consultative care on a time-sensitive basis according to the urgency of the request. This has been successful in helping to maintain a manageable wait time for clinic access to hepatology care. **Dr. Nicolas Intagliata** and **Sue Striano** (Transplant Social Work) continue to revise the UVA Liver Transplant team's approach to transplant candidacy for alcoholic liver disease patients, emphasizing a more individualized, relapse-risk-based approach.

Section of Luminal Gastroenterology

Our Section of General or Luminal GI comprises a group of clinically focused faculty who provide a broad range of expert care to meet the clinical needs of patients from the UVA primary care base, as well as—in consultation—patients referred from gastroenterologists, surgeons, and other practices across the Commonwealth. The luminal GI group also takes great pride in its educational endeavors within and outside UVA. This group includes **Drs. Andrew Copland**, **Amy Doran**, **Jeanetta Frye**, **Dennis Kumral**, **Steven Powell**, **Mark Worthington**, **Cynthia Yoshida**, and our two advanced practice providers, **Karen Finke, PA** and **Hallie Gunnoe, PA**. The group offers a full array of procedural support, including services that are limited across the Commonwealth for needs such as small bowel enteroscopy and GI motility services (esophageal manometry, gastroesophageal reflux/pH studies, anorectal manometry, smart pill endoscopy, and targeted breath testing). In particular, esophageal motility and reflux studies have played an important role in supporting other programs, such as the UVA lung transplant program. Dr. Jeanetta Frye manages Virginia's most comprehensive GI motility lab, performing high-resolution esophageal/anorectal manometry and other GI physiology studies. Furthermore, the Luminal GI group offers key endoscopy services to the community, including high-quality colonoscopy for colorectal cancer screening and an open-access diagnostic upper endoscopy and colonoscopy program for UVA patients.

The luminal group is growing, and we're delighted to welcome one of our graduating fellows, **Dr. Rebecca Haug**, to our group as an Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine. Dr. Haug graduated from UVA's Internal Medicine Residency, after which she excelled in our GI fellowship program. We're excited about the energy, new ideas, and clinical acumen she will bring to the Division.

Our general GI practices are largely housed at the main hospital, with a smaller satellite clinic at the UVA Crozet Clinic. In addition to the general GI clinics, there are several subspecialty clinics, such as the Celiac Clinic, led by **Dr. Dennis Kumral**, which allows for focused care of patients with celiac sprue in close partnership with our dietetics colleague **Mallory Foster**. The Society for the Study of Celiac Disease has recognized our clinic at UVA as part of its Celiac Disease Unit Recognition Program.

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

Dr. Andrew Copland provides specialty care for small bowel diseases, providing expertise in cases requiring video capsule endoscopy and small bowel enteroscopy. Dr. Copland also specializes in endoscopic resection of large luminal GI polyps, and he is the first author of an AGA Clinical Practice Update on Appropriate and Tailored Polypectomy, which was published in 2024. Because of Dr. Copland's knowledge and expertise in colorectal polyp resection, he was invited to speak at DDW 2024 on this topic. As Medical Director of Endoscopy, Dr. Copland oversees our busy Outpatient Endoscopy unit at Monroe Lane, and he has been leading efforts to expand our endoscopy services to the UVA Health Surgical Care Unit at Riverside/Monticello Surgery Center.

Dr. Amy Doran serves as the Associate Program Director of our GI Fellowship and plays an active role in fellow education, curriculum development, and the GI fellows continuity clinic. Dr. Doran and Dr. Jeanetta Frye have excelled at mentorship in research as Mira Sridharan (a former UVA medical student) presented their original research on the "Evaluating the Prevalence of Intestinal Methanogen Overgrowth" as a podium presentation at DDW 2024.

Dr. Jeanetta Frye continues to spearhead the UVA Luminal GI E-consult program and her role as the Director of Motility. Dr. Frye's motility lab recently received a generous research grant from a former UVA alumnus, Dr Siddiqui, to help sponsor research efforts in GI motility. Additionally, Dr. Frye is UVA's site PI for a phase 2 trial: "A Multi-Center Study of Panosyl-Isomaltooligosaccharides (PIMO) Adjunctive to Proton Pump Inhibitor (PPI) Therapy to Treat Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) in Subjects Who Are PPI-Responders or PPI-Partial Responders."

Karen Finke, PA-C, one of our senior-most clinicians, leads our gastrostomy tube nutrition clinic, which helps support the needs of patients in oncology services and the neurology ALS clinic. For the outstanding clinical care she provided for over two decades, Karen was recognized with the prestigious Leonard Sandidge Outstanding Contributor Award in November 2023. This award is given to outstanding university staff and team members whose service and contribution far exceed the overall mission and values of the university, and it is the highest honor achieved by non-faculty at the University of Virginia.

Dr. Mark Worthington has a busy general GI practice and loans his wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our fellows (and his partners!) daily. We appreciate his efforts as a member of the School of Medicine's Promotion and Tenure Committee, which serves a critical academic mission. Dr. Worthington will be helping to lead our expansion in endoscopy services to UVA Health Surgical Care Unit at Riverside/Monticello Surgery Center.

Dr. Cynthia Yoshida leads the UVA Comprehensive Cancer Center's Colorectal Cancer screening program. Dr. Yoshida has partnered with Dr. Li Li and Dr. Jamie Zoellner on a project investigating genetic, lifestyle, and community factors that drive the significant racial disparities that exist for colorectal cancer. She has served as UVA's Virginia CRC Round Table lead and remains passionate about educating patients and providers about colorectal cancer screening options and best practices.

Section of Interventional Endoscopy

Our Interventional Endoscopy team continues to succeed in clinical care, education research, and local, national, and international scholarship.

Dr. Vanessa Shami, Section Chief of Interventional Endoscopy, received the American Gastroenterology Association and Women In Endoscopy awards for mentoring at Digestive Diseases Week in May 2024. She continues to mentor clinicians in endoscopic ultrasound as part of the American Society in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Diagnostic EUS course, which she co-created with two other colleagues from Stanford and Mayo Clinic Arizona. She continues to serve as Editor-in-Chief of Clinical Endoscopy. Her proudest immediate achievement has been collaborating with **Dr. Zachary Henry** to introduce and grow the field of endo-hepatology at the University of Virginia.

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

Section of Interventional Endoscopy

Dr. Ross Buerlein's research, conducted in collaboration with Dr. Matthew Reilley in Oncology and Kim Kelly, PhD, has yielded promising results. They have been assessing the ability of a novel biomarker (cell surface Plectin) to diagnose cholangiocarcinoma from samples of biliary epithelial cells obtained via ERCP-directed biopsies. Their pilot study showed all cases of cholangiocarcinoma had positive Plectin expression, and they are planning to expand this study to indeterminate biliary strictures. In addition, Dr. Buerlein has been actively mentoring **Gianna Stoleru, MD** (UVA GI fellow), who won the EndoTitans Challenge at the 2023 American College of Gastroenterology Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada. He and colleague **Dr. Andrew Copland** have also been developing a hands-on endoscopy education curriculum for the GI fellowship program, creating models specific for teaching certain endoscopic skills. Lastly, he presented Hospitalist Grand Rounds on the inpatient management of acute pancreatitis and its complications, sharing his expertise with the broader medical community.

Dr. Daniel Strand co-directed the 2023 ACG/VGS/ODSGNA regional conference in Williamsburg, the oldest and one of the most well-attended ACG regional meetings, with an annual attendance of over 300 practicing GI physicians. Dr. Strand will direct this acclaimed meeting in September 2024. He was awarded the Dean's Award for Clinical Excellence and co-authored nine manuscripts last year. He appeared on an AGA podcast highlighting a Clinical Practice Update on Endoscopic Management of Acute and Chronic Pancreatitis, on an NBC 29 interview about cholangiocarcinoma treatment, and in a UVA Health System Town Hall for our same-day ERCP service. Dr. Strand leads the UVA Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship Program and directs the UVA-National Pancreas Foundation Centers for Pancreatitis Care and Pancreatic Cancer.



2024 Guatemala Trip: Dr. Bryan Sauer leads an NGO (Central America Outreach and Endoscopy – CARE) dedicated to providing endoscopy and gastrointestinal care in Central America, focusing on Guatemala. Over the past year, three medical mission trips occurred, providing GI care to over 150 individuals, with over 100 endoscopy procedures performed.

Dr. Bryan Sauer was promoted to Professor of Medicine and continues to be active clinically in esophageal diseases, primarily focusing on eosinophilic esophagitis. The Adult Multidisciplinary EoE Clinic remains active with over 500 patients. The EoE Program recently was awarded an NIH R01 grant, led by Dr. Emily McGowan (Allergy) as the PI, entitled “Defining the Role of Immunoglobulin G4 (IgG4) in Food-induced Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE).” Dr. Sauer continues to be very active in the American College of Gastroenterology as a GRADE methodologist and newly elected Chair of the Practice Parameters Committee, responsible for creating clinical practice guidelines for the ACG. Finally, he leads an NGO (Central America Outreach and Endoscopy – CARE) dedicated to providing endoscopy and gastrointestinal care in Central America, focusing on Guatemala. Over the past year, three medical mission trips occurred, providing GI care to over 150 individuals with over 100 endoscopy procedures performed.

novel endoscopic therapies for treating obesity. Dr. Podboy has also continued to develop the UVA Per Oral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM) program into one of the highest-volume programs in the mid-Atlantic, which treats patients with achalasia and gastroparesis. He continues to further UVA's commitment to research with over ten publications. He is the current PI in a multi-center study assessing the role of high resolution esophageal manometry in treating medically refractory gastroparesis. As mentioned, Dr. Podboy recently received an iTHRIV research mentorship award. Dr. Podboy achieved all of this while also becoming a dad!

Dr. Alex Podboy assumed the Director of Bariatric Endoscopy role at UVA and has been spearheading

Dr. Kyoungwon Jung is a visiting professor at Kosin University, Busan, Korea, who has been at UVA since September 2023. Dr. Jung is an expert in GI endoscopy and third-space endoscopy. Dr. Jung has been conducting research in our Division and assisting some of our faculty in gaining high-level training in ESD.

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

Dr. Andrew Wang has continued to serve as Director of Director of Interventional Endoscopy for the UVA Medical Center, in addition to being Division Chief. He has led the Endoscopy Device Committee since 2009. He has worked with Rob Teaster, Cathy Bauer, and Susan DiGuilio from UVA Value Management to help negotiate best-in-class contracts for endoscopy capital, disposables, and scope repair contracts. Dr. Wang completed his role as an adjudicator for the Stent vs. Indomethacin Trial (NIH U award), which culminated in a publication in the Lancet in 2024 on “Indomethacin with or without prophylactic pancreatic stent placement to prevent pancreatitis after ERCP: a randomized non-inferiority trial.” Dr. Wang also completed his three-year term as Chair of the AGA Clinical Practice Updates Committee in May 2024, having served seven years on this important committee that has been responsible for informing patients, clinicians, and payors about the latest in clinical GI and hepatology usually before guideline-level documents are possible. Dr. Wang continues his clinical practice focusing on pancreatobiliary endoscopy (ERCP/EUS) and third-space endoscopy (POEM, Zenker’s diverticulotomy, and of course, endoscopic submucosal dissection [ESD] of GI dysplasia and early cancers).

Research Update

The Division’s Clinical Research consists of seven Clinical Research Coordinators, now working on over thirty therapeutic and diagnostic protocols, overseen by eighteen faculty physicians. The work is self-sustained under the direction of CRC manager **Sharon Foster** and director **Dr. Stephen Caldwell**. The Division’s research is a productive enterprise that manages a research budget of approximately 1.4 million Dollars (direct funds) derived from industry, federal, and state grants. The Division receives funding from 2 NIH U-awards (1 for **Dr. Wang** and 1 for **Dr. Tuskey**). **Dr. Behm** is a sub-investigator on one R01 award in collaboration with the Infection Diseases/DOM. **Dr. Sauer** is a sub-investigator on another R01 award in partnership with Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology/DOM.

Active areas of clinical research are in Hepatology (clinical trials concerning therapeutics for fatty liver, autoimmune liver disease, cirrhosis, primary sclerosing cholangitis, and coagulopathy), Advanced Endoscopy (acute pancreatitis treatment/prevention, endoluminal resection of premalignant and early GI malignancies, endoscopic ablative therapy for cholangiocarcinoma, screening for premalignant gastric conditions, endo hepatology), celiac disease, and GI motility. Our IBD team participates in several phase 2 and 3 multi-centered treatment trials for Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis.

Current clinical trials include therapeutics for fatty liver, autoimmune liver disease, cirrhosis (**Drs. Caldwell, Henry, Argo, Shah, Intagliata** and **Wentworth**), inflammatory bowel disease (**Drs. Tuskey, Figueroa, Behm**), prevention of procedure-related pancreatitis (**Drs. Wang, Strand, Buerlein**, and **Podboy**), and direct treatment of portal hypertension (**Dr. Wentworth**). There are several new clinical studies in development for a broad variety of potentially severe liver and GI diseases, including cutting-edge studies of hyperbaric therapy of refractory Ulcerative Colitis as well as immunomodulatory therapy, which offers a potential cure for PBC (an autoimmune liver disease) and celiac disease (**Dr. Kumral**). Investigator-initiated studies include an international consortium started at UVA (**Dr. Intagliata**), which focused on bleeding risk in liver disease patients undergoing various procedures and involved over 1,000 patients from centers in North, South, and Central America; a consortium of centers with a focus on strategies in managing gastric variceal bleeding (**Dr. Henry**); and studies of hepatorenal syndrome (**Dr. Wentworth**). Almost 100 patients are involved in current treatment trials, and nearly 200 additional patients are involved in ongoing observational studies.

Important interdisciplinary collaborations include work with Interventional Radiology in Hepatocellular Cancer therapy, Allergy and Immunology in the care of Eosinophilic Esophagitis (**Dr. Sauer**), and the Division’s work in supporting innovative trials in Liver Transplantation, especially for organ preservation (**Drs. Argo, Pelletier, Goldaracena**) as well as Basic Science collaboration with colleagues in Pharmacology (**Drs. Schulman, Caldwell**) studying advanced models of disordered liver fat metabolism. **Dr. Podboy** has successfully published multiple articles on bariatric endoscopy. Dr. Podboy is also the lead PI on a multi-site prospective trial utilizing a novel high-resolution electrogastronomy device to identify myoelectric gastric patterns that could help predict response for patients undergoing gastric POEM. Dr. Podboy is also a 2024 recent recipient of an i-THRIV award.

Clinical research in the Division has flourished and has been sustained for over 35 years. The Division continues to grow its federally funded research portfolio. In the industry-sponsored realm, UVA’s team has maintained a strong presence in trials, and the number of different trials in which the group participates is at the highest level ever.

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

Education Update

The UVA Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology is very proud of its strong tradition of excellence in education and of its many contributions at UVA (School of Medicine and Fellowship), in the region (local committees and conferences), nationally (via national committees and conferences), and internationally (panel moderators, international trainees, invited talks).

Our premier GI and Hepatology Fellowship Program, led by **Dr. Neeral Shah** (Program Director) and **Dr. Amy Doran** (Associate Program Director), selects four candidates each year from a highly competitive applicant pool. Our fellowship aims to impart to our trainees a solid clinical foundation and to mentor their development as researchers and academic leaders. The three-year program comprises clinical training in year 1, research training in year 2, and a third-year training with a focus determined by individual needs and career goals. A four-year track incorporating formal degree training in clinical research or public health is also offered for qualified candidates.

The division also has a long-standing and successful ACGME Transplant Hepatology Fellowship, which **Dr. Nicolas Intagliata** directs. Additionally, **Dr. Andrew Wang** restarted the Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship (AEF) program in 2012, now directed by **Dr. Daniel Strand**, which trains 1-2 AEF trainees each year, who also serve as Clinical Instructors in the SOM.

Outside of UVA, the faculty in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology continue to have influential educational impacts through holding active committee member roles in Gastroenterology and Hepatology national societies, serving as editors for Board Review Materials, serving as an editor for the American Journal of Gastroenterology; being invited speakers and hands-on trainers of various endoscopy courses.

This year, the division was honored to host four outstanding educational events:



2024 Boars Head Conference: Some of the GI Fellows and Attendings who participated at the Annual Gastroenterology and Hepatology Conference, hosted at the Boars Head. From left – Dr. Dennis Kumral, Dr. Anthony Rainho, Dr. John Hickman, Dr. Neha Rajpal, Dr. Rebecca Haug, Dr. Gianna Stoleru, Dr. Preethi Venkat, Dr. Neeral Shah

Annual UVA GI Conference

Our 19th annual CME conference on gastroenterology and hepatology at the beautiful Boars Head Resort surpassed all expectations this year. With a record-breaking attendance of 160 registrants, the event attracted a diverse audience, including faculty, fellows, referring providers, nurses, and techs. The lineup of speakers was outstanding, featuring three experts from outside the institution, two of whom were alums from our very own fellowship program, adding a special touch of pride and connection. The presence of over 30 trainees, including those from neighboring states, underscored the conference's regional significance and impact. A highlight of the program was the participation of UVA fellows, who contributed significantly by presenting on a panel reviewing complicated GI bleeding cases, showcasing the depth of talent within our institution. With such resounding success, anticipation is already building for the next installment in March 2025, promising yet another enriching and enlightening experience for all involved—special thanks to **Drs. Dennis Kumral** and **Neeral Shah**, thank you for organizing this outstanding educational conference!

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

Dr. David A. Peura Endowed Lectureship

The Second Annual David A. Peura, MD Endowed Lecture: “Early Onset Colorectal Cancer” by **Dr. Priyanka Kanth, MD, MS, FACG, AGAF** from MedStar Georgetown University Hospital took place on March 13, 2024. We were extremely fortunate to have Dr. Kanth as an honored guest and speaker during Colon and Rectal Cancer Awareness Month, with a particular focus on early-onset colorectal cancer awareness. **Dr. Lindsey Bierle**, the 2023-2024 Chief Fellow for Gastroenterology and Hepatology, helped arrange a special UVA Colon and Rectal Cancer Awareness Week (March 11-15, 2024), and Dr. Kanth’s lecture during GI Grand Rounds, as well as mentorship sessions with Faculty and Fellows, were highlighted events during the week.

Battle Against Early Onset Colorectal Cancer (EOCRC) Initiative

Our chief fellow, Lindsey Bierle, led the University of Virginia’s “Battle Against Early Onset Colorectal Cancer (EOCRC) Initiative.” This was a mobilized and collective effort among UVA undergraduates, medical students, internal medicine (IM) residents, and gastroenterology (GI) fellows to amplify awareness during Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in March 2024. Recognizing the importance of engaging younger adults in the 18-35-year age range, the initiative empowered campus groups to shape a compelling outreach strategy. Leveraging insights from the NCCRT (National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable),



Peura Lectureship: From left – Dr. Lindsey Bierle and Dr. Priyanka Kanth

residents crafted visually captivating social media posts to highlight the urgency of early-onset colorectal cancer (EOCRC). Educational content was disseminated across prominent Instagram pages, including [@uvagastro](#), [@uvaimr](#), [@uvaschoolofmedicine](#), and [@hittingcancerbelowthebelt](#). The campaign reached UVA Health’s extensive network of 7,000 employees and medical students through departmental emails and online articles, igniting vital discussions and sparking tangible action in the fight against EOCRC. With over 4,000 accounts reached and significant engagement metrics, the initiative exemplified the power of collaborative efforts in driving meaningful change.

Dr. James C. Respass Endowed Professorship in Gastroenterology

The 26th Annual James C. Respass lectureship series took place on May 7-8, 2024, and was delivered by **Dr. Neena Abraham, MD, AGAF, FACG, FASGE**, Professor of Medicine from Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, Arizona, Divisions of Gastroenterology & Hepatology and Health Care Policy Research. This lectureship series affords us the annual pleasure of inviting senior Distinguished Professors of Gastroenterology to speak at the University of Virginia. Dr. Abraham presented two lectures titled “Boost your GI Career at any (st)age: Strategies to Ensure You Thrive.” and “Antithrombotic Drug Management in GI Bleeding and Endoscopy: Best Practice, Clinical Guidelines & Limitations.” During her visit, Dr. Abraham also provided valuable mentorship sessions with Faculty and Fellows.



Respass Lectureship: From left – Dr. Andrew Wang and Dr. Neena Abraham

Finally, with great pride, we recognize two members of our Division who received significant awards related to the educational mission, congratulate our graduating fellows, and welcome our incoming fellows.

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY



Mullholland Award: From left – Dr. Neja Rajpal and Dr. Monica Lawrence (DIO)

Dr. Neha Rajpal, one of our first-year fellows, received the prestigious Mulholland Teaching Award. This esteemed accolade, presented annually by the Mulholland Society and Graduate Medical Education office, recognizes exceptional teaching abilities demonstrated by residents and fellows. Neha's dedication to medical student education, both formally and informally during clerkships and fourth-year electives, has not gone unnoticed. Her commitment to fostering learning environments where students thrive and her passion for imparting knowledge sets her apart as a standout educator. Neha's receipt of this award is a testament to her outstanding contributions to medical education and inspires her colleagues and peers.

Brittany Davis, our GME Program Coordinator, was named the National Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine (APDIM) Program Administrator Rising Star of the Year. In addition to all that she is doing for our fellowship, Brittany is also working on an institutional and national level with program coordinators in other departments at UVA and around the country to lead the efforts in training people about

virtual interviewing with Thalamus. Brittany has also been selected to present a workshop at the APDIM conference about using social media to highlight your program.



Presentation at the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM) Conference by the Division Fellowship Coordinator, Brittany Davis: From left – Lizzie Daniels and Brittany Davis

Congratulations to our Graduating Fellows

Dr. Lindsey Bierle – Completed a chief fellow year and is moving to Lynchburg, VA to practice.

Dr. Christy Gilman – Will be moving to practice in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Dr. Rebecca Haug – Will be joining the UVA GI faculty.

Dr. Leland Stratton – Will be moving to practice in Washington, DC.

Class of 2024 Gastroenterology Fellowship



Lindsey Bierle, DO



Christy Gilman, MD



Rebecca Haug, MD



Leland Stratton, MD

Welcome to Our Incoming Fellows



Dr. Manavi Bhagwat - Manavi is a Rush University resident who attended medical school at Virginia Tech-Carilion School of Medicine. She completed her undergrad at Georgetown, so she is no stranger to this region of the country. Dr. Bhagwat has researched immunotherapy in GI cancers and was awarded a poster of distinction at ACG in 2022. She has also worked with asylum seekers to help establish their medical care in the US.



Dr. Emily Minor - Emily is currently a UVA resident who came to Charlottesville via the University of West Virginia School of Medicine, where she completed her MD/PhD (PhD work on iron absorption in UC patients). She has her aviation license and loves flying.



Dr. Matthew Schliep - Matt is a current UVA resident who came to us from the University of Maryland. He completed his undergraduate studies at William and Mary and is no stranger to Virginia. Matt has worked in the Charlottesville free clinic and has researched EMR order sets and efficiency in endoscopy units. Matt has a passion for QI topics.



Dr. Deepika Suresh - Deepika is a resident at the University of Michigan and completed her medical school at the University of Albany. She was recently chosen as an AASLD emerging liver scholar for her work with MAFLD and HCC patients.

W
E
L
L
C
O
M
M
E

W
E
L
L
C
O
M
M
E

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

[Use of Phosphatidylethanol Testing in Patients With Liver Disease](#) Khanna S, Shah NL, Argo CK, Am J Gastroenterol 119(4):596-599 01 Apr 2024, Reporting Date:01 Apr 2024

[MELD and MELD 3.0- What it means for your practice.](#) Zaver HB, Rajpal N, Shah NL, Argo CK, Am J Gastroenterol 13 Mar 2024, Reporting Date:13 Mar 2024

[Patients with Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis and Advanced Liver Disease Have the Lowest Cardiorespiratory Fitness.](#) Dahmus J, Hummer B, Rivas G, Schmitz K, Caldwell SH, Argo CK, Schreibman I, Stine JG, Dig Dis Sci 68(6):2695-2703 Jun 2023, Reporting Date:01 Jun 2023

[Clostridioides difficile infection promotes gastrointestinal dysfunction in human and mice post-acute phase of the disease.](#) Costa DVS, Pham N, Loureiro AV, Yang SE, Behm BW, Warren CA, Anaerobe 87:102837 March 26 2024, Reporting Date:26 Mar 2024

[Systemic neutrophil degranulation and emergency granulopoiesis in patients with Clostridioides difficile infection.](#) Ramakrishnan G, Young MK, Nayak U, Rigo I, Marrs AS, Gilchrist CA, Behm BW, Madden GR, Petri WA, Anaerobe 87:102840 March 20 2024, Reporting Date:20 Mar 2024

[Alanyl-glutamine supplementation for Clostridioides difficile infection treatment \(ACT\): a double-blind randomised controlled trial study protocol.](#) Warren CA, Shin JH, Bansal EN, Costa DVDS, Wang XQ, Wu M, Swann JR, Behm BW, Targonski PV, Archbald-Pannone L, BMJ Open 13(7):e075721 19 Jul 2023, Reporting Date:19 Jul 2023

[Individualized Approach to the Management of Hilar Cholangiocarcinoma: How We Do It.](#) Buerlein RCD, Podboy AJ, Strand DS, Am J Gastroenterol 118(12):2101-2105 01 Dec 2023

[Management of coagulopathy among patients with cirrhosis undergoing upper endoscopy and paracentesis: Persistent gaps and areas of consensus in a multispecialty Delphi.](#) Tapper EB, Warner MA, Shah RP, Emamaullee J, Dunbar NM, Sholzberg M, Poston JN, Soto RJ, Sarwar A, Pillai Anjana, Reyner, Karina, Mehta, Shivang, Ghabril, Marwan, Morgan, Timothy R, Caldwell, Stephen, Hepatology April 01 2024, Reporting Date:01 Apr 2024

[Expert opinion on bleeding risk from invasive procedures in cirrhosis.](#) Riescher-Tuczkiwicz A, Caldwell SH, Kamath PS, Villa E, Rautou P-E, Bleeding in liver diseases investigators†, Bleeding in liver diseases investigators, JHEP Rep 6(3):100986 Mar 2024, Reporting Date:01 Mar 2024

[An mHealth Platform for People With HIV Receiving Care in Washington, District of Columbia: Qualitative Analysis of Stakeholder Feedback.](#) Caldwell S, Flickinger T, Hodges J, Waldman ALD, Garofalini C, Cohn W, Dillingham R, Castel, A, Ingersoll K, JMIR Form Res 7:e48739 19 Sep 2023, Reporting Date:19 Sep 2023

[Procedural-Related Bleeding in Hospitalized Patients With Liver Disease \(PROC-BLeeD\): An International, Prospective, Multicenter Observational Study.](#) Intagliata NM, Rahimi RS, Higuera-de-la-Tijera F, Simonetto DA, Farias AQ, Mazo, DF, Boike JR, Stine JG, Serper M, Pereira G, Gastroenterology 165(3):717-732 Sep 2023, Reporting Date:01 Sep 2023

[Safety and efficacy of venous thromboembolism prophylaxis in patients with cirrhosis: A systematic review and meta-analysis.](#) Pasta A, Calabrese F, Labanca S, Marengo S, Pieri G, Plaz Torres MC, Intagliata NM, Caldwell SH, Giannini EG, Liver Int 43(7):1399-1406 Jul 2023, Reporting Date:01 Jul 2023

[Bleeding and Thrombotic Complications in Patients With Cirrhosis: A State-of-the-Art Appraisal.](#) Rautou P-E, Caldwell SH, Villa E, Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 21(8):2110-2123 Jul 2023, Reporting Date:01 Jul 2023

[Safety and Sustained Efficacy of the Farnesoid X Receptor \(FXR\) Agonist Cilofexor Over a 96-Week Open-label Extension in Patients With PSC.](#) Trauner M, Bowlus CL, Gulamhusein A, Hameed B, Caldwell SH, Shiffman ML, Landis C, Muir, AJ, Billin A, Xu J, Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 21(6):1552-1560.e2 Jun 2023, Reporting Date:01 Jun 2023

[AGA Clinical Practice Update on Appropriate and Tailored Polypectomy: Expert Review.](#) Copland AP, Kahi CJ, Ko CW, Ginsberg GG, Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 22(3):470-479.e5 Mar 2024, Reporting Date:01 Mar 2024

[Summary: personal protective equipment in GI endoscopy.](#) American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Technology Committee, Kahn A, Han S, Bhatt A, Bucobo JC, Chandrasekhara V, Copland AP, Kumta NA, Krishnan K, Obando JV, Gastrointest Endosc 98(4):473-474 Oct 2023, Reporting Date:01 Oct 2023

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

[*The intersection of video capsule endoscopy and artificial intelligence: addressing unique challenges using machine learning.*](#) Guleria S, Schwartz B, Sharma Y, Fernandes P, Jablonski J, Adewole S, Srivastava S, Rhoads F, Porter M, Yeghyayan M, Copland AP, ArXiv August 24 2023, Reporting Date:24 Aug 2023

[*Summary: endoscopic therapies for walled-off necrosis.*](#) American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Technology Committee, Saumoy M, Trindade AJ, Bhatt A, Bucobo JC, Chandrasekhara V, Copland AP, Han S, Kahn A, Krishnan K, Gastrointest Endosc 97(6):1001-1002 Jun 2023, Reporting Date:01 Jun 2023

[*Biliary and pancreatic stents.*](#) Han S, Obando JV, Bhatt A, Bucobo JC, Chen D, Copland AP, Das KK, Girotra M, Kahn A, Krishnan K, Gastrointest Endosc 97(6):1003-1004 Jun 2023, Reporting Date:01 Jun 2023

[*Anorectal Manometry: When, How to Perform and Interpret, and Is It Useful?*](#) Frye J, Rao SSC, Am J Gastroenterol 15 Mar 2024, Reporting Date:15 Mar 2024

[*Endoscopic Treatment of Acute Esophageal and Gastric Variceal Bleeding.*](#) Jobe K, Henry Z, Gastrointest Endosc Clin N Am 34(2):249-261 Apr 2024, Reporting Date:01 Apr 2024

[*AGA Institute Quality Indicator Development and Uses.*](#) Sheth SG, Maratt JK, Newberry C, Hung KW, Henry Z, Leiman DA, Quality Committee of the American Gastroenterological Association, Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 21(6):1399-1402 Jun 2023, Reporting Date:01 Jun 2023

[*Procedural-Related Bleeding in Hospitalized Patients With Liver Disease \(PROC-BLeeD\): An International, Prospective, Multicenter Observational Study.*](#) Intagliata NM, Rahimi RS, Higuera-de-la-Tijera F, Simonetto DA, Farias AQ, Mazo DE, Boike JR, Stine JG, Serper M, Pereira G, Gastroenterology 165(3):717-732 Sep 2023, Reporting Date:01 Sep 2023

[*Increased rate of pancreatitis in gender diverse and transgender patients on hormone therapy: a case series study.*](#) Podboy A, Casey C, Buerlein RCD, Strand DS, Shami VM, Wang AY, BMJ Open Gastroenterol 11(1) 22 Apr 2024

[*Electrosurgical Principles: Beyond Blue and Yellow Pedal.*](#) Podboy A, Wang AY, Am J Gastroenterol 12 Mar 2024

[*Associations between income and survival in cholangiocarcinoma: A comprehensive subtype-based analysis.*](#) Geng CX, Gudur AR, Kadiyala J, Strand DS, Shami VM, Wang AY, Podboy A, Le TM, Reilley M, Zaydfudim V, Ann Hepatobiliary Pancreat Surg February 15 2024

[*Utilization of Through-the-scope Sutures for Complex Tissue Apposition: A Series of Novel Cases.*](#) Geng CX, Kadiyala J, Buerlein RCD, Shami VM, Wang AY, Podboy A, Techniques and Innovations in Gastrointestinal Endoscopy 26(1):42-45 2024

[*Endo-bariatric therapies as a treatment strategy for MASLD.*](#) Gudur A, Laird H, Shah N, Podboy A, Clin Liver Dis (Hoboken) 23(1):e0126 2024

[*Socioeconomic Disparities Affect Outcomes in Early-Stage Esophageal Adenocarcinoma: A SEER Analysis.*](#) Geng CX, Gudur AR, Radlinski M, Buerlein RCD, Strand DS, Sauer BG, Shami VM, Wang AY, Podboy A, Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 21(11):2797-2806.e6 Oct 2023

[*Early safety and efficacy comparison of endoscopic bariatric interventions.*](#) Gudur AR, Geng CX, Podboy A, Surg Obes Relat Dis 19(10):1148-1153 Oct 2023

[*Assessment of Colorectal Cancer Risk Factors through the Application of Network-Based Approaches in a Racially Diverse Cohort of Colon Organoid Stem Cells.*](#) Devall M, Eaton S, Yoshida C, Powell SM, Casey G, Li L, Cancers (Basel) 15(14) 09 Jul 2023

[*ACG Clinical Guideline: Alcohol-Associated Liver Disease.*](#) Joplin LL, Singal AK, Bataller R, Wong RJ, Sauer BG, Terrault NA, Shah VH, Am J Gastroenterol 119(1):30-54 01 Jan 2024

[*Immunoglobulin G4 in eosinophilic esophagitis: Immune complex formation and correlation with disease activity.*](#) Medernach JG, Li R-C, Zhao X-Y, Yin B, Noonan EA, Etter EF, Raghavan SS, Borish LC, Wilson JM, Barnes BH, Platts-Mills, Thomas A. E., Ewald, Sarah E., Sauer, Bryan G., McGowan, Emily C., Allergy 78(12):3193-3203 Dec 2023

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

[*Biopsychosocial Factors Associated With Pain and Pain-Related Outcomes in Adults and Children With Sickle Cell Disease: A Multivariable Analysis of the GRNDaD Multicenter Registry.*](#) Kenney MO, Wilson S, Shah N, Bortsov A, Smith WR, Little J, Lanzkron S, Kanter J, Padrino S, Owusu-Ansah A, J Pain 25(1):153-164 Jan 2024, Reporting Date:01 Jan 2024

[*Validation of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation mortality prediction and severity of illness scores in an international COVID-19 cohort.*](#) Shah N, Xue B, Xu Z, Yang H, Marwali E, Dalton H, Payne PPR, Lu C, Said AS, ISARIC Clinical Characterisation Group Artif Organs 47(9):1490-1502 Sep 2023, Reporting Date:01 Sep 2023

[*Guidelines in Practice: The Diagnosis and Management of Gastrointestinal Subepithelial Lesions.*](#) Jacobson BC, Shami VM, Am J Gastroenterol 27 Oct 2023

[*AGA Clinical Practice Update on Interventional EUS for Vascular Investigation and Therapy: Commentary.*](#) Ryou M, DeWitt JM, Das KK, Shami VM, Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 21(7):1699-1705.e2 Jul 2023

[*AGA Rapid Clinical Practice Update on the Management of Patients Taking GLP-1 Receptor Agonists Prior to Endoscopy: Communication.*](#) Hashash JG, Thompson CC, Wang AY, Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 22(4):705-707 Apr 2024, Reporting Date:01 Apr 2024

[*Indomethacin with or without prophylactic pancreatic stent placement to prevent pancreatitis after ERCP: a randomised non-inferiority trial.*](#) Elmunzer BJ, Foster LD, Serrano J, Coté GA, Edmundowicz SA, Wani S, Shah R, Bang JY, Varadarajulu S, Singh VK, Khashab M, Kwon RS, Scheiman JM, Willingham FF, Keilin SA, Papachristou GI, Chak A, Slivka A, Mullady D, Kushnir V, Buxbaum J, Keswani R, Gardner TB, Forbes N, Rastogi A, Ross A, Law J, Yachimski P, Chen YI, Barkun A, Smith ZL, Petersen B, Wang AY, Saltzman JR, Spitzer RL, Ordiah C, Spino C, Durkalski-Mauldin V; SVI Study Group., Lancet 2024;403(10425):450-458.

[*Clinical outcomes of endoscopic submucosal dissection for superficial esophageal neoplasia in close proximity to esophageal varices: a multicenter international experience.*](#) Mony S, Hu B, Joseph A, Aihara H, Ferri L, Bhatt A, Mehta A, Ting PS, Chen A, Kalra A, Farha J, Onimaru M, He L, Luo Q, Wang AY, Inoue H, Ngamruengphong S., Endoscopy 2024;56:119-124.

[*Endoscopic resection of non-papillary neoplastic lesions of the duodenum: A narrative review of clinical application and techniques.*](#) Buerlein RCD, Wang AY. The Annals of Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgery 2024. doi: 10.21037/ales-23-34

[*Hemostatic Powder Offers Patients Respite From Malignant Gastrointestinal Bleeding.*](#) Wang AY, Gastroenterology 165(3):536-537 Sep 2023, Reporting Date:01 Sep 2023

[*AGA Clinical Practice Update on Gastric Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy for Gastroparesis: Commentary.*](#) Khashab MA, Wang AY, Cai Q Gastroenterology 164(7):1329-1335.e1 Jun 2023, Reporting Date:01 Jun 2023

[*Basal cortisol levels do not predict adrenal responsiveness in acute decompensated cirrhosis.*](#) Wentworth BJ, Schliep M, Novicoff WM, Henry ZH, Siragy HM, Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol 36(2):238-244 01 Feb 2024, Reporting Date:01 Feb 2024

[*Basal cortisol levels do not predict adrenal responsiveness in acute decompensated cirrhosis.*](#) Wentworth BJ, Schliep M, Novicoff WM, Henry ZH, Siragy HM, Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol 11 Dec 2023, Reporting Date:11 Dec 2023

[*The Many Faces of Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis: Controversy Abounds.*](#) Wentworth BJ, Khot R, Caldwell SH, Dig Dis Sci 68(9):3514-3526 Sep 2023, Reporting Date:01 Sep 2023



**FOLLOW UVA GI ON
INSTAGRAM**

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

STAFF PROFILE - Tammy Reynolds



with fresh eyes.

How did you meet your partner?

Chris and I met at work, and six months later, he moved to Switzerland. One year later, I followed along, and we got married there. Seven years after that, we moved back to the States so Chris could go to Darden after the birth of our older daughter (and no, Switzerland did not grant her a passport). Our younger daughter was born at Martha Jeff, and the difference in attitudes toward prenatal care and childbirth is astounding.

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

It used to be dip cheese until I cut out gluten and couldn't eat the pretzels to go with it. Now, it is always something green and leafy. Oh, and something bubbly – I'm a prosecco fan.

Do you have any pets?

We have a seven-year-old mix named Kira, whom we affectionately call Puppycat – she loves to be around you until she doesn't, and then she's off to pounce on bugs.



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I joined the University of Virginia in July of 2021. The pandemic had me rethinking my interest in healthcare and wondering how to combine my medical background in cytology and molecular genetics with my organizational and people skills. Clinical research has given me the perfect opportunity to do just that.

We have patients enrolled in our clinical trials who have suffered from chronic GI illnesses for the majority of their adult lives, and have responded positively to the clinical trials and received relief. One particular patient expressed they felt their life was relegated to suffering until we found a successful investigational treatment they responded to. To see this person thrive, to hear about week-long camping trips that would not have even been an option two years ago – that's what I love about my work.

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

I'm an artist at heart and have held my own art exhibit downtown. We've traveled to see friends who have some of my work hanging, and I always have that "Wow, I did that" moment when I see it again



Are you a hunter or a gatherer?

I'm a healthy mix of both, making me a great thrifter.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

We have spent every summer since the girls were born down "da shore" near Cape May, NJ. I love it at my in-law's condo because it's like home – full of good food, good memories, and a lot of laughter.

What about you would surprise us?

I have 52 first cousins, and I like accounting.

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

I wish I had excellent knife skills. I enjoy cooking a lot these days, and I wish I could slice, dice, and chop like a pro. I need to take a class.

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

I prefer to do ten things extraordinarily well – is that possible?

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

I'm in this great book club – whoever hosts prepares food and cocktails that are either mentioned in or go with the book's theme. We just read "Demon Copperhead," and the host served big Mac wraps and moonshine mules – it was pretty bougie.

FACULTY PROFILE - Anya Mezina



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I am thrilled to join the University of Virginia faculty this fall as a transplant hepatologist! I completed my general GI fellowship and transplant hepatology training at Penn, after a short-lived career as a hospitalist (turned COVID nocturnist). Before this role, I was a resident in Baltimore and a medical student in Atlanta, so I have enjoyed moving around the Eastern Seaboard throughout my medical career.

Why Healthcare?

My first job after graduating from college was recruiting Crohn's patients for an NIH-funded clinical trial, which paved the way for a strong interest in gastroenterology and hepatology when I began medical school. At the same time, I became fascinated by the intricacies and complexities of the human genome. I continue to ponder genetic contributions to liver disease on an individual and population level when seeing patients. I love the diverse pathology of liver disease and the ability to correlate clinical exams and histological findings with the objectivity of liver chemistries to arrive at a diagnosis. I also enjoy teaching and working with house staff and medical students to think through complex cases

by reinforcing basic pathophysiology and consulting the primary literature on clinical questions.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

The fantastic environment at UVa. Beyond Charlottesville's beautiful scenery, I was drawn to the incredible camaraderie of the Division and the opportunity to carve out a clinical niche and pursue my research interests in a supportive and collaborative environment.

What excites you about your work?

The intersection of patient care, education, and research! It is humbling to realize the depths of unanswered questions in medicine. Why do some patients with chronic liver disease maintain an excellent quality of life, whereas others, despite our best medical interventions, experience progressive decompensations when the underlying disease is believed to be the same? Throughout my career, I aspire to use clinical and translational research tools to chip away at these unknowns. I think that we are still at the dawn of a "precision hepatology" era. Eventually, there will be greater emphasis on using therapeutics tailored to an individual patient's genetic risk factors. I feel privileged to be part of an incredibly dynamic and innovative field, and I am excited to take advantage of emerging therapies to improve outcomes for liver patients. Relationships with patients and colleagues are the best part of the job, and I look forward to being a part of the UVa community.



What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

My weekends are filled with a repertoire of activities that appeal to my four-year old daughter – lots of scooting, sidewalk chalk art, and large slides-- and my infant son and I mainly tag along for the ride. I am also rediscovering a passion for outdoor gardening now that I finally have a yard after many years of living in urban apartments.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

Lake Tahoe, California – especially in the summer for the hiking, boating, and paddle boarding, surrounded by gorgeous views.

What about you would surprise us?

After taking a class with a fellow medical student at Emory, I once performed in an improv comedy show.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

"A Swim in a Pond in the Rain" by George Saunders.

FACULTY PROFILE - Kyoungwon Jung



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I have been a visiting assistant professor at the University of Virginia Health System since September of last year. I was born in South Korea, received my medical license from Wonkwang University in Iksan, and completed my residency in internal medicine and gastroenterology fellowship at Asan Medical Center in Seoul. Currently, I am working as an associate professor at Kosin University Gospel Hospital in Busan. A visiting assistant professor like me rarely delivers news like this, but I'm delighted to introduce myself.

Why Healthcare?

The mystery of the human body and my reverence for life led me to pursue a career as a medical doctor. During my training, I found history-taking and treating patients the most rewarding. I was happiest when diagnosing and treating patients through gastrointestinal endoscopy. Recent advances in endoscopic technology have also enabled many patients to transition from surgery to endoscopic treatment. Such advancements serve as a driving force

for me to continue exploring this path.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

This is a unique experience for me. During my residency training, I had the opportunity to do a one-month exchange observation training. The professor who guided me at the time introduced me to UVA and Charlottesville. These places reminded me of the peaceful life, beautiful natural environment, and good weather in the United States that I had dreamed of, so I decided to visit here again with my family, this time as a visiting professor.

What excites you about your work?

Using a GI endoscope to examine the gastrointestinal tract is fascinating. Just like the robotic surgery performed by surgeons, diagnosing and removing GI tumors through an endoscope is as interesting as robotic surgery because it uses an endoscope and endoscopic accessories instead of my fingers. In particular, the patient's gratitude when the digestive tract organs (esophagus, stomach, colon, etc.) are preserved rather than resected through endoscopic treatment makes me a more valuable and rewarding endoscopist.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?



On the weekends, I spend time with my wife and children (three sons). Especially since we haven't been able to spend much time together in South Korea, I cherish the time I spend here in Charlottesville. There are many beautiful sights around Charlottesville. In particular, the Shenandoah National Park Skyline Driving Course and Lake Shenandoah are some of the most beautiful natural scenery I have ever seen. My eldest child is creating cherished memories in the United States, learning soccer, basketball, tennis, and golf, while the younger twins revel in outdoor play and immerse themselves in nature.

Describe yourself in one word.

Sincere.

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

Egg. Omelet and egg rolls are the best dishes.

Do you travel or have a favorite trip?

I always try to travel. However, when I'm very busy with work, I attend international conferences and experience the country or city before or after the meeting. To me, having that experience feels like a trip. Mainly, I love traveling to new places to find and eat the most famous foods there.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

Hawaii offers beach beauty, urban charm, and delicious food options.



FACULTY PROFILE - **Kyoungwon Jung (continued)**



Who is the person you admire most, and why?

Professor Hwoon-Yong Jung, my advisor during my residency and master's degree, deeply impressed me with his patient-centered approach, treatment messages, and advanced endoscopic techniques. Additionally, his emphasis on encouraging medical students to ask questions and seek answers independently is something I aspire to emulate.

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

Not everything you worry about is worth worrying about.

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

I want to be good at music. I would most like to have the talent to play the piano. My mother sent me to piano lessons when I was young, but my biggest regret is that I quit so quickly.

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

Ten things!!!, I sometimes want to be just an ordinary person.

Do you collect anything?

I always buy and collect snowball souvenirs when I go to a new city. Looking at them brings back memories of previous trips.



UVA Health