

MEDICINEMATTERS

MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER

Medicine Matters is a monthly newsletter published by the University of Virginia, Department of Medicine. Inquires may be sent to the editor, Kim Kelley-Wagner, at kak2cj@uvahealth.org



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.

Message from the Acting Chair



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We find ourselves in a time of real challenge in academic medicine. Across the country, departments like ours are navigating financial pressures, workforce constraints, and a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape. Yet, even amid uncertainty, I continue to be inspired by the excellence, resilience, and generosity of spirit that define our Department. This month's newsletter reminds us of what makes our community so exceptional.

We celebrate an incredible number of DOM physicians named Virginia Business Top Doctors for 2025—recognition reflecting our divisions' deep commitment to clinical excellence. Several of our faculty have also been featured in the media recently, sharing their expertise and bringing visibility to the vital work we do every day. Our research and education missions continue to be energized by recent awards and philanthropic gifts that support innovation, discovery, and the future of medicine.

A warm welcome goes out to our incoming class of internal medicine interns. They are coming from all over the country to train, and we look forward to welcoming them to the UVA family.

This month, we also shine a spotlight on our Division of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology, whose collaborative and patient-centered approach reflects the best of what we do in academic medicine.

Alongside this, we're creating space for connection and joy: a terrific series of events hosted by the Women in Medicine Network and a memorable Family Fun Day brought us together for a few well-earned moments of connection.

In short, there is much to be proud of—and much to look forward to. Thank you for everything you bring to our Department and one another. The challenges we face are real, but the strength of our community gives me hope for the future.

With gratitude,
Taison Bell, MD, MBA
Acting Chair, Department of Medicine



"It pains me to see our institution's culture, funding, and inclusive priorities threatened.

However, I am most heartened every day seeing our passionate faculty and staff rise above the fray to conduct great science and care for patients and not stay silent."

~Michael Nelson, MD PhD



SCHOOL of MEDICINE
Department of Medicine

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OFF DEPARTMENT NOTE

DOM Financial Update

Department of Medicine Summary of Consolidated Financials March 2025

FY25 as of

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	\$ Variance YTD
Work RVUs	1,031,214	998,313	(32,901)
Clinical Receipts (NPSR)	69,063,301	64,731,817	(4,331,484)
Total Revenues	185,380,696	185,688,688	307,992
Total Expenditures	186,485,593	186,700,946	(215,353)
Net Income	(1,104,897)	(1,012,259)	92,639

Summary Explanation of Variance:

1. For the fiscal year through March 31, 2025, DOM reported a consolidated net loss of \$1.0M and a favorable variance to YTD net income budget of \$93K.
2. Clinical receipts underperformed budget by \$4.3M primarily due to lower productivity and lower conversion factor. Productivity was impacted by CrowdStrike software outage, inclement weather interruptions and Community Oncology transitioning to Community Health. In addition, changes in third-party agreements, unrealized budgeted revenue cycle efficiency, budgeted risk withhold for transplant posted to miscellaneous revenue, lower MIPS payments, and accrual model adjustments.
3. Total revenue includes \$3.6M MC clinical deficit and APP gap coverage revenue accrual, \$3.8M unbudgeted internal research support, \$1.9M unbudgeted gifts and \$1.3M endowment revenue for the remainder of the fiscal year.
4. Total expenditures are impacted by unbudgeted hires, extra clinic shifts, unbudgeted merit increases unbudgeted sign on bonuses and unrealized budgeted personnel reduction contingencies.

**FOLLOW WOMEN IN INTERNAL
MEDICINE NETWORK**

FOLLOW UVA ENDO

**MINDFULNESS
MATTERS
NEWSLETTER**

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**FOLLOW UVA
PULMONARY**

**FOLLOW UVA
NEPHROLOGY**

**Is Your Division's Website Content Up-to-Date?
Need a Team or Research Lab Photo Shoot?**

Contact Kim Kelley-Wagner to get started at
kak2cj@uvahealth.org or 434.328.0680

FOLLOW GASTRO

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE
Support our local nonprofits

FOLLOW CARDIO



Antonio Abbate MD PhD



Michael Ayers MD



Jameison Bourque MD



Chris Kramer MD FACC



Rohit Malhotra MD



Mohamed Morsy MD



Patricia Rodriguez-Lozano MD



Carl Valentine MD



Monica Lawrence MD



Margaret Crook MD



Silas Culver MD



Christine Eagleson MD



Ben Horton MD



Jennifer Kirby MD



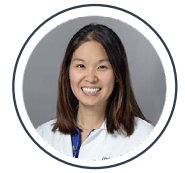
Laurie Archbald-Pannone MD



Karen Starr MD



Kelly Davidson MD



Louise Man MD



Michael E. Williams MD



Joshua Barclay MD



Leslie Blackhall MD



Rebecca Dillingham MD



Kate McManus MD



Costi Sifri MD



David Callender MD



Kim Dowdell MD



Rachel Kon MD



Simon Lehtinen MD



John MacKnight MD



Lawrence Gimple MD



Michael Ragosta MD



Kanwar Singh MD



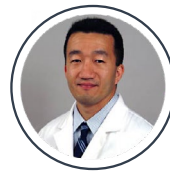
Angela Taylor MD



Samantha Minnicozzi MD



Kyle Enfield MD



Y. Michael Shim MD



Adam Carlson MD



Eric Davis MD

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following doctors who have been recognized by Virginia Business as Top Doctor for 2025!

Antonio Abbate (Cardiology)

Michael Ayers (Cardiology)

Jamieson Bourque (Cardiology)

Chris Kramer (Cardiology)

Rohit Malhotra (Cardiology)

Mohamed Morsy (Cardiology)

Patricia Rodriguez-Lozano (Cardiology)

Carl Valentine (Cardiology)

Monica Lawrence (Allergy & Immunology)

Margaret Crook (Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism)

Silas Culver (Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism)

Christine Eagleson (Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism)

Ben Horton (Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism)

Jennifer Kirby (Endocrinology Diabetes & Metabolism)

Laurie Archbald-Pannone (Geriatric Medicine)

Karen Starr (Geriatric Medicine)

Kelly Davidson (Hematology Oncology)

Louise Man (Hematology Oncology)

Michael E. Williams (Hematology Oncology)

Joshua Barclay (Hospice and Palliative)

Leslie Blackhall (Hospice and Palliative)

Rebecca Dillingham (Infectious Disease)

Kathleen McManus (Infectious Disease)

Costi Sifri (Infectious Disease)

David Callender (Internal Medicine)

Kim Dowdell (Internal Medicine)

Rachel Kon (Internal Medicine)

Simon Lehtinen (Internal Medicine)

John MacKnight (Internal Medicine)

Lawrence Gimple (Interventional Cardiology)

Michael Ragosta (Interventional Cardiology)

Kanwar Singh (Interventional Cardiology)

Angela Taylor (Interventional Cardiology)

Samantha Minnicozzi (Pediatric Allergy & Immunology)

Kyle Enfield (Pulmonary)

Yun Michael Shim (Pulmonary)

Adam Carlson (Rheumatology)

Eric Davis (Sleep Medicine)



Robert D. Powers MD MPH



Patrick Jackson MD



Angela Taylor MD



Patricia Rodriguez Lozano MD



Andrew Parsons MD

Congratulations to **Dr. Robert D. Powers** (Division of General, Geriatric & Palliative Medicine), who has been selected as a recipient of the 2025 Robertson Award for Excellence in Teaching by the Adelle F. Robertson Award committee. Dr. Powers will retire after twenty years of teaching and advising post-bac premed students. This award is well deserved and given in appreciation for the difference Dr. Powers is making in their lives.

Congratulations to **Dr. Patrick Jackson** (Division of Infectious Diseases) and **Dr. Angela Taylor** (Division of Cardiovascular Medicine) on their appointments to the University's Faculty Senate for a four-year term beginning June 2025. Those elected comprise a total of 21 Senators for the School of Medicine, who work to represent all faculty members of the University in all academic functions. [Read more...](#)

Congratulations to **Dr. Patricia Rodriguez Lozano** (Division of Cardiovascular Medicine), who will be one of the "Mentors and Sponsors" Building Your Support System" session panelists at the American College of Cardiology 2025 meeting (ACC25). [Read more...](#)

Congratulations to **Dr. Andrew Parsons** (Division of Hospital Medicine), who was invited as a speaker at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on Exploring Approaches to Improve Clinical Reasoning for Trainees and Educators. [Learn More...](#)

Philanthropic Gifts

We want to recognize and appreciate some recent Philanthropic gifts to honor faculty in our Department.

Donor Caroline Angle, a long-time patient of **Dr. Dan Becker** (Emeritus, Division of General, Geriatric, and Palliative Medicine) and subsequently **Dr. Matthew Goodman** at UPC, has donated a significant gift to establish the Daniel M Becker Geriatric Research Professorship as well as the Matthew Goodman Fund for seed funding for geriatric research. We are now in the process of recruiting for this position. This is a testament to the excellent primary and holistic care provided to her by both fabulous doctors.

Donor Sally Booker, a long-time University of Virginia employee and patient of **Dr. John Macknight** (Division of General, Geriatric, and Palliative Medicine), has established the John Macknight Resident Education fund to support UVA Internal Medicine residency education initiatives. Again, this is a tribute to the excellent care Dr. Macknight has provided to her over the years.

We also want to acknowledge a recent estate gift of \$1 million to support research in heart arrhythmia made possible by **Dr. James Mangrum's** (Division of Cardiovascular Medicine) and UVA Health's approach to caring for patients and a partnership with the Office of Health Philanthropy. Here is what Courtney M. Wilson, Director of Development, said about the bequest.

"This gift would not have happened without Dr. Mangrum's dedication to his patients, but I also wanted to acknowledge his partnership with our office that has continued to impress me over the last few years. He has been willing to take any phone call to discuss patient strategy, potential connections to prospects across Grounds, and a willingness to bring recognition to UVA Health and his work. I am so appreciative of the positive place our partnership is at and looking forward to the next few years."

We also want to acknowledge and thank the patient and family, who were annual supporters of Dr. Mangrum's research. The patient responded in 2024 to a thank you email from the Office of Development and let them know that because of his life-changing experience and Dr. Mangrum's approach to patient care, UVA Health had been included in his estate.

Thank you to our donors and their families who make vital research possible with their generous gifts.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

2025-2026 Medicine PGY1 (Interns)

CATEGORICAL

Please welcome this year's new interns! Thank you to our residents, faculty reviewers and interviewers, admin team, and especially our chief residents, Thompson Barr, Marcus Ellison, Shaina Hasan, and Kia Salafian, for all their hard work in welcoming, interviewing, and teaching more than 500 interviewees. This year's is distinguished academically in leadership and service. Help make them part of the UVA family and contribute to our missions.



Farid Abou-Issa
LSU



Al-Hafis Adegun
GWU



Catherine Bassett
Edward Via



Rachel Cherny
Temple



Maria Cortes
EVMS



Michael Costa
VCU



Samuel Crow
Marshall



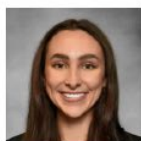
Brandon Dashtizad
EVMS



Elisa Enriquez
Hesles
UVA



David Filston
MCG



Hannah Freibert
Univ. Kentucky



Krishna Gandhi
VCU



Zachary Gopin
Texas A&M



Kate Hickmann
Drexel



Christopher Hicks
VCU



Julia Lucktong
UVA



Lucila Marino
Univ. Buenos Aires



Alyssa Martin
UCSD



Jacquelyn
McCullough
UT - Houston



Shefali Mehra
Univ. Miami



Nancy Nguyen
Univ. Oklahoma



Cecilia Padron
MUSC



Shiv Patel
UT - Galveston



Arjun Peddireddy
UT - Houston



Felix Sanjay
USF



Jonathan Smith
UF



Lilliana Starsiak
GWU



Calvin Tabetah
GWU



Hiba Vohra
VCU



Ian Weber
UVA

PRIMARY CARE



Erin Harten
Drexel



David Lee
Univ. Miami



Austin Wahle
Univ. Kentucky

OPHTHALMOLOGY



Margaret Boudreau
UConn



Mena Kerrison
Univ. South Carolina



Zachary Shepard
Univ. Iowa



Tuyet-Minh Tran
UVA

PRELIMINARY



Mary Kathryn
Howard
UVA



Kingsley Odega
UVA



Divya Shan
VCU



Rachel Dum
Penn State



Hayes Fountain
Univ. Miami



Christina Kargol
Univ. Cincinnati



Michael Limia
Wake Forest



Leilani Miranda
Tufts



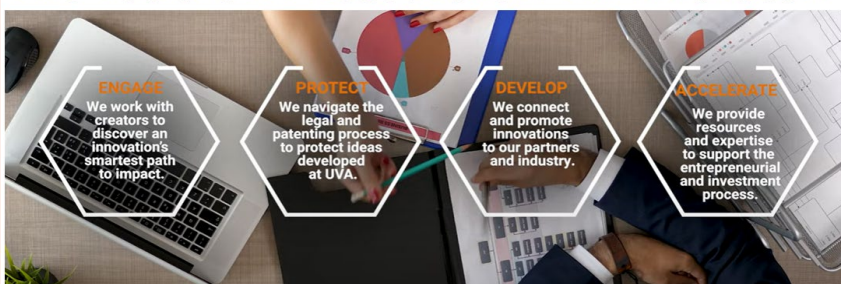
Pantea Sazegar
Univ. Arizona



Catherine Shang
Columbia

NEUROLOGY

Are You a UVA Researcher? An Innovator?



Licensing & Ventures Group

Where research
gets *real*

We partner with faculty, researchers, and investors to bring innovations discovered at UVA to the marketplace.

WELCOME NEW FELLOWS!



UVA Resources for Team Members
support for dealing with crisis and how to stay informed.

IN DEPARTMENT MEDIA

What to Do With Difficult-to-Manage Seasonal Allergies

When the usual methods aren't enough to control seasonal allergic rhinitis, what do you do? After determining that the patient doesn't have true perennial allergies, like dust mites or grass, it's time to increase reliance on avoidance, said Michael R. Nelson, MD, PhD,

The emergence of sublingual tablets has been an advantage, Nelson said. "For example, for those patients who have exclusively spring grass season pollen allergy, this affords them the opportunity to receive at-home treatment with sublingual tablets without having to come in once a month to get their allergy shots, but still gives them a great chance of changing their immune system and substantially reducing their symptoms when they're exposed to those allergens."

[READ MORE](#)



UVA Health named to the National Lung Disease Care Network

UVA Health was recently named to the National Lung Disease Care Network, making it the first health system of this kind in Virginia and one of just 24 nationally.

UVA Health will focus on bronchiectasis caused by nontuberculous mycobacteria, a disease that causes lung scarring and changes the shape of airways.

UVA Health says the disease affects 500 to 1,000 Virginians every year. "It's somewhat rare. There's been an explosion in diagnoses over the last 20 years or so, and part of that is because we have both an aging population and part of it has to do with the mechanisms that cause bronchiectasis," said Dr. Lindsay Somerville, UVA Health lung disease expert.

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UVA Health Takes Aim at Long COVID in Two National Clinical Trials

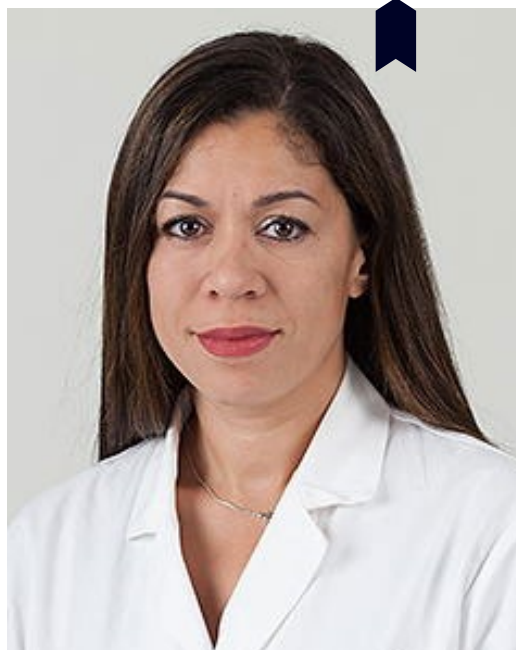
University of Virginia researchers are working to better understand and treat the persistent symptoms of long COVID affecting millions of Americans.

"It's estimated that between 5% and 30% of people who had COVID-19 may experience symptoms of long COVID," said Dr. Alexandra Kadl, director of UVA Health's post-COVID clinic, which opened in July 2020. "Given that pretty much all Americans have had at least one episode of COVID, the estimates right now are that maybe 50 million Americans could be affected by it in different severities."

[READ ABOUT IT HERE](#)

[WATCH ON 29 NEWS](#)

[JOIN THE STUDY](#)





Sharma Lab Receives a New Award from Breakthrough T1D for Islet Transplantation

The laboratory of Rahul Sharma, PhD, an associate professor of medicine in the Division of Nephrology's Center for Immunity Inflammation and Regenerative Medicine, was awarded a new three-year grant from Breakthrough T1D, formerly JDRF – Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, to study islet transplantation in patients with Type-1 diabetes (T1D).

[READ MORE](#)



**Research
in Motion**

Kenneth Bilchick, MD

Neeral Shah, MD, Receives Excellence in Teaching Award From Jefferson Scholars Foundation

Dr. Neeral Shah, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, has been honored with the 2025 Award for Excellence in Teaching by the Jefferson Scholars Foundation. Established in 2012, this award recognizes faculty members who demonstrate exceptional teaching and a deep commitment to student development. Dr. Shah's dedication to education aligns with the Foundation's mission to uphold the highest standards of teaching at the University of Virginia.

[READ MORE](#)



Neeral Shah, MD, Featured Across Virginia and on TV Stations Nationally Discussing Link Between Alcohol Consumption and Cancer

Dr. Neeral Shah has been featured in media outlets across Virginia and on national TV stations discussing the connection between alcohol consumption and cancer.

Alcohol is a carcinogen that can increase cancer risk by directly damaging liver cells.

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[WATCH ON 29 NEWS](#)

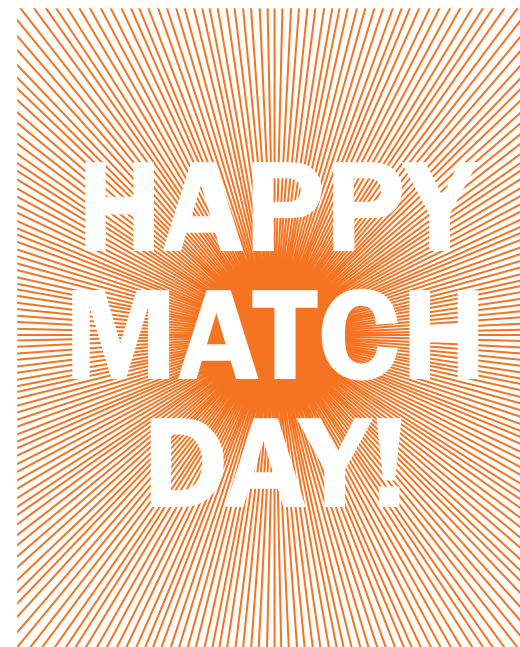


Experts Push Back on RFK Jr's Infection Comments

Patrick Jackson, MD, (Division of Infectious Diseases) agrees that cod liver oil is not a viable option for the treatment of measles.

"We would generally use a high dose and a known dose of vitamin A at least in the developing world to treat measles" where access to vaccination is limited, Jackson said. But you wouldn't use cod liver oil. "It's important that the dose be tested and consistent because too much vitamin A is toxic."

[READ MORE](#)



Virus Plus Chronic Condition Can Equal Major Illness

RSV plus an underlying condition like heart or lung disease leads to a weakened immune system and additional strain. It makes recovery more complicated.

Listen to Dr. Laurie Archbald-Pannone explain the risks to older adults who may have these health conditions and how to best protect your health.

LISTEN TO PODCAST



What Can Make You Feel Dizzy? Could it be an inner-ear issue? Your medications? How to figure out the problem—and fix it.

Whether it's a moment of lightheadedness or the room-whirling sensation of vertigo, dizziness can be unsettling. It can also knock you off balance.

"If the room is spinning and it started suddenly when you got up from tying your shoe, let's say, odds are you're experiencing BPPV," says Laurie Archbald-Pannone, MD

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The One Grocery Item Geriatricians Avoid To Live A Long, Healthy Life

People are living longer these days than they did in the past. While that's definitely good news, it does come with one caveat. While lifespan is increasing, healthspan is decreasing. On average, someone in the U.S. spends up to 20% of their life not in good health.

What this looks like varies. It could mean having heart disease, experiencing a neurodegenerative disease such as dementia, living with chronic pain or having osteoporosis. None of that is how you want to spend your golden years, right?

"Good nutrition helps our brain and cognition, lowering the risk of memory problems. It helps with bone and muscle strength, which lowers the risk of falling, and it also lowers the risk of diabetes and hypertension," said Dr. Laurie Archbald-Pannone, a geriatrician and associate professor of medicine at the University of Virginia. "It's important to think about how we can have an impact. Healthy aging isn't all about diet, but it is something we can [control]. Regular movement and maintaining healthy relationships are other important parts of healthy aging we can control," she added.

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UVA Researchers Examine Role of Clonal Hematopoiesis in Hypertension

Understanding the origins of medication-resistant hypertension is the focus of a new research by Ariel Polizio, PhD, a scientist in the lab of Ken Walsh, PhD. They recently published work in the journals *Circulation Research* and *Hypertension* about the impact of clonal hematopoiesis (CH) on hypertension and a promising new treatment through renal denervation.

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Patients Come First Podcast – Dr. Anita Vincent-Johnson

This episode of VHHA's Patients Come First podcast features Dr. Anita Vincent-Johnson, a nephrologist with UVA Health, who join us during National Kidney Month for a conversation about her work, the UVA Kidney Disease Screening and Awareness Program, and more.

LISTEN TO PODCAST

One drug shows promise in cardiovascular research, UVA Health's Dr. Christopher Kramer says

The focus is on a drug called Lepodisiran, that could target certain factors that increase this risk.

He says it's showing good signs, but it's still too early to call.

"I would say they're very promising, but you know, the proof is always in the pudding," said Doctor Christopher Kramer, Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine at UVA Health.

WATCH ON 29 NEWS



Q&A: Could a New Drug Help Prevent Heart Attacks and Strokes?

A new drug in clinical trials is showing promise in lowering a key genetic risk factor for heart attacks and strokes – something no existing treatment has been able to do.

Dr. Christopher Kramer, chief of the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine at UVA Health, moderated the session when the findings were presented last month and shared with UVA Today the key takeaways from the studies.

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ACC President Christopher Kramer, Appears Before Congress to Advocate For HEARTS Act Implementation Funding

ACC President Christopher Kramer, MD, FACC, testified before the U.S. House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies on April 9, urging lawmakers to allocate full funding for the Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, Research, and Training in Schools (HEARTS) Act.

Passed by Congress last year with near-unanimous support, the legislation ensures that public elementary and secondary schools in the U.S. can develop cardiac emergency response plans, provide CPR and AED training to staff, and have AEDs available on school property. In his testimony, Kramer highlighted how the law benefits all community members.

"While student athletes are the original focus of this bill, its benefits extend into the communities around them," he said. "Schools are a gathering point, a cornerstone in American public life. Having an AED nearby helps protect every person passing through a school setting, whether they are students, parents, educators or seniors."

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Helmy Siragy, MD, Guest Editor for Special Issue of International Journal of Molecular Sciences Invites Manuscript Submissions

Helmy Siragy, MD, a professor of medicine and endocrinology, is the guest editor of the International Journal of Molecular Sciences' special issue focusing on neurohormones in cardiac fibrosis and heart failure. The journal is accepting manuscript submissions. This special issue will focus on the evolving knowledge about the role of neurohormones in cardiac fibrosis and heart failure.

LEARN MORE

Primary Care Practices See Steady Rise in Patients With Diabetes

Internist Mohan Moreshwar Nadkarni, MD, has been in practice for more than 30 years. He is keenly aware of the increase in patients with diabetes and prediabetes over the years.

"The increase in diabetes can be directly linked to the increase in obesity and the decrease in exercise," said Nadkarni.

Driven by sedentary lifestyles, high-calorie diets, and in some cases, genetics, have been a key factors.

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UVA School of Medicine Faculty Article Promoted as 'Must Read' by John Hopkins Reviewers

School of Medicine faculty recently published an article in the journal Academic Medicine about how medical students benefit from longitudinal partnerships with patient teachers that was highlighted as a medical education. The article was selected as a "must read" article by reviewers at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

Authors of the study include Drs. Rachel Kon and Margaret Plews-Ogan

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William Petri, MD, PhD, Shares Powerful Personal Story at UVA Storytellers Event that highlights the vibrant role science plays in our daily lives.

UVA was excited to welcome The Story Collider team back to Charlottesville on April 3. During a special recording at Carr's Hill, President Jim Ryan's residence on Grounds, four UVA STEM leaders told stories about their careers, their research and some unexpected personal experiences.

[READ MORE](#)



Dr. Mitchell Rosner is featured locally, across Virginia, and on TV stations nationally discussing our Doctors' Day donations to Virginia nonprofits.

Doctors at UVA Health decided to use a day all about them to give back to their patients.

To celebrate Doctors' Day, UVA Health gifted six Virginia nonprofits \$10,000 each.

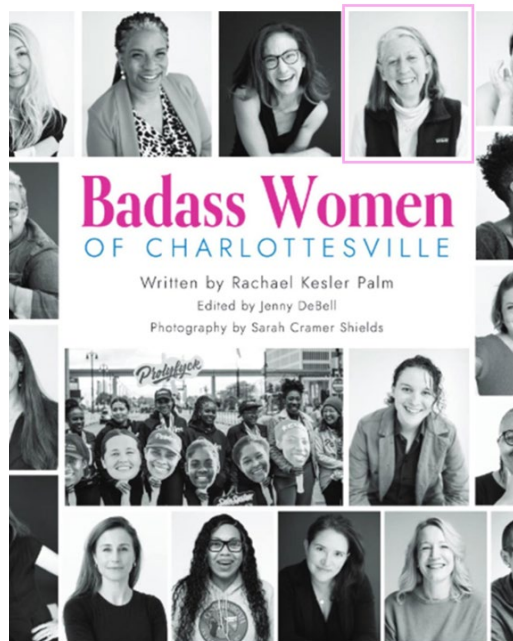
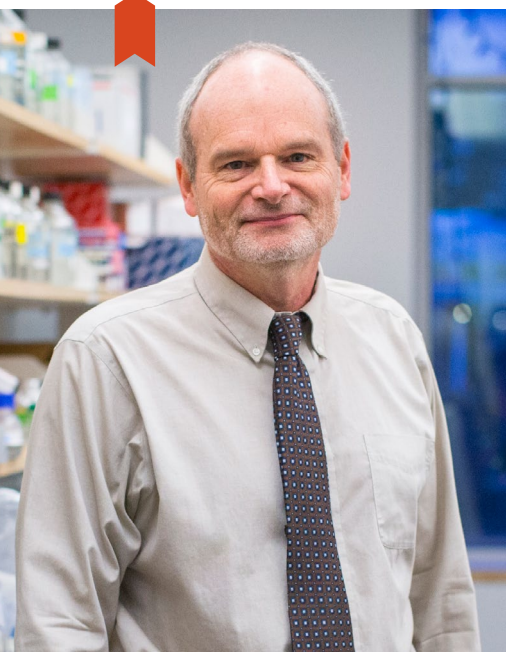
It's the gift that gives back, says Mitch Rosner, UVA Health's Executive Vice President for Health Affairs.

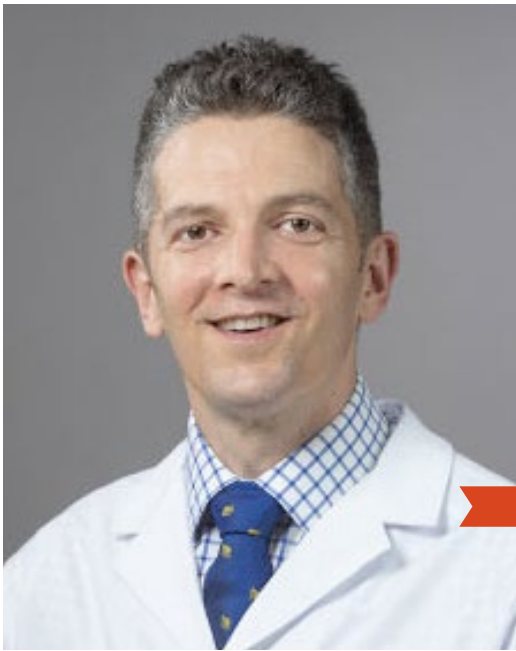
These nonprofits work to build a healthy community just like its doctors do.

"As physicians, as the care team at UVA Health, we recognize that we only care for them for a short period of their daily life, and that for most of that time they're in their community and they may need significant amount of support," Rosner said.

Of the nonprofits supported, three are in Charlottesville. Those include Yellow Door Foundation, McDonald House Charities of Charlottesville, and All Blessings Flow.

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Coal miners' health care hit hard in job cuts to CDC

A class-action lawsuit has been filed against Robert F. Kennedy Jr and the agency he now runs, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to reinstate the respiratory health unit within CDC's National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health that ran the Coal Workers' Health Surveillance Program.

But news of the program's recent fate has not yet reached the coal miners affected, says Dr. Drew Harris, a pulmonologist and director of the Black Lung Program at Stone Mountain Health.

READ/LISTEN ON NPR



UVA Comprehensive Cancer Center Joins Melanoma Research Foundation's Breakthrough Consortium

UVA Comprehensive Cancer Center (UVACCC) was recently accepted as a member of the Melanoma Research Foundation Breakthrough Consortium (MRFBC).

Elizabeth Gaughan MD, Associate Professor of Hematology and Oncology, and Craig Slingluff MD, Professor of Surgery, will act as UVACCC's representatives at meetings, events and symposia.

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Community Conversation: Dr. Paul Skelton with UVA Cancer Center

Dr. Paul Skelton discusses some of the most common risk factors for kidney cancer, and what you can do to modify your risk.

Also discussed are the various ways cancer is detected and some of the treatment options available at the UVA Cancer Center.

Dr. Skelton adds that treatments have continued to advance, and many new options exist.

WATCH ON 29NEWS



Decades-Long Global Health Collaboration in Tanzania Bears New Fruit

Four University of Virginia student scholars will travel to Tanzania to continue their work with post-doctoral fellows at the Kibong'oto Infectious Diseases Hospital, at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro. The opportunity is the result of a 2023 National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Fogarty International Center grant awarded to Dr. Scott Heysell, director of UVA's Center for Global Health Equity (CGHE), and Dr. Stellah Mpagama, head of research, training, and innovation at KIDH, for the project.

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WOMEN IN MEDICINE NETWORK

The Department of Medicine Women in Medicine Network (WIMN), the Committee on Women in Medicine and Science (COWIMS), and the School of Medicine Office of Faculty Affairs and Development co-sponsored the communications catalyst and author Dia Bondi for a series of events on Thursday, April 24th. Across multiple events, Dia spoke about making courageous asks and speaking powerfully when the stakes are high.



Dr. Kate McManus, guest speaker Dia Bondi, and Dr. Lindsay Carter.



Dia Bondi speaks to the audience, using examples from her experience as an amateur actioner to create a powerful “ask.”



Dia Bondi explains “ZOFO” - the Zone of Freaking Out.



Dr. Lindsay Carter and Dia Bondi.

Women In Internal Medicine Network would love to hear from you!



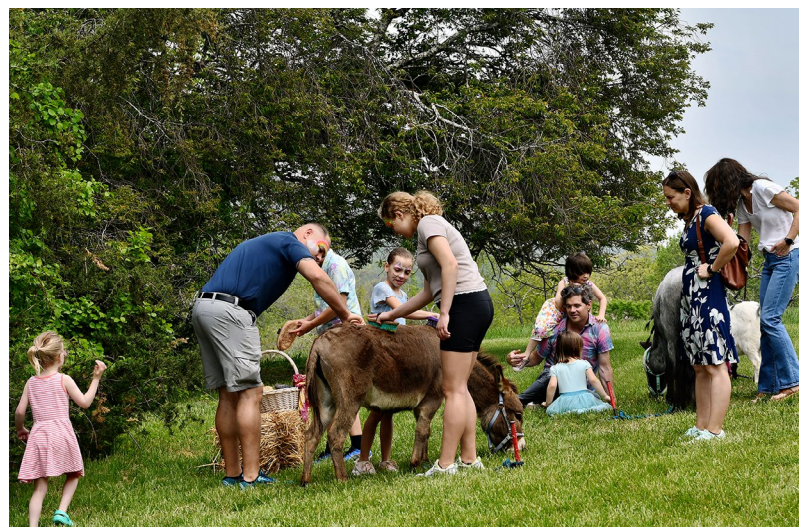
Please share your ideas with us here.

FAMILY FUN DAY!

On April 19, 2025, members of the Department of Medicine and their families gathered at Morven Farm to enjoy a day of camaraderie, relaxation, and family fun. Balloon animals and the real animals at the petting zoo were a huge hit with the kids, as were the two gigantic bounce houses. There was good food, good weather, and good company. Thank you to everyone involved in making this fine day possible and the many who came to enjoy it! ([more photos](#))



Dr. Chelsea Marie Braun and her daughter Ione Braun who wants you to know that she is 3 1/2 and loved the inflatable slide (despite a broken little finger that Dr. DeGeorge recently pinned at the Battle building), that she had her first ever snow cone (she got rainbow) and saw the giant tadpoles in the Japanese garden pond!



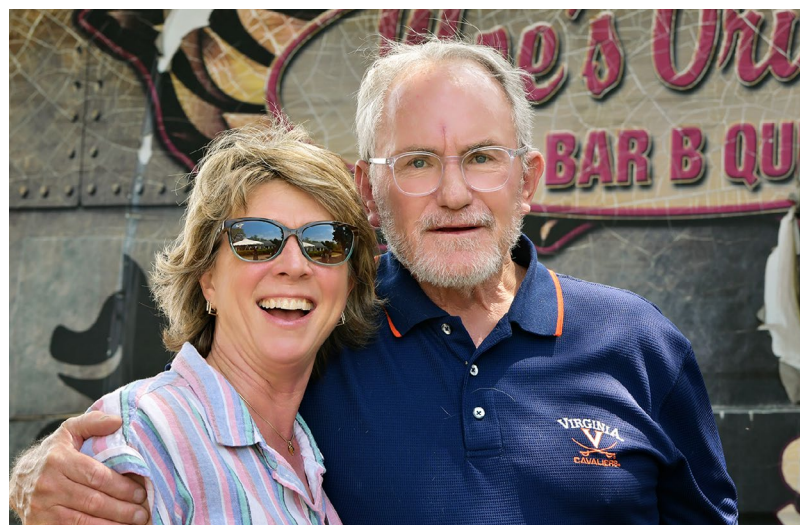
The little donkey was particularly popular in the petting zoo. There were also goats, a sheep, chickens, ducks, rabbits, and a pony!



Terri Washington, Russ Manley and wife Angie Snider.



Dr. Taison Bell and Dr. Mo Nadkarni



Joy and Dr. Stephen Early



Dr. Karen Ballen and husband John.

WELCOME!



Welcome to **Amaris Pulczynski**, who joined the Department of Medicine as the Coordinator of Gastroenterology/Transplant Hepatology Fellowship! She has a background in graduate medical education and previously worked as an Education Coordinator for the University of Virginia Anesthesiology. Most recently, she was the Fellowship Outreach Coordinator at DaVita, where she worked with nephrology fellows to support their career goals and help them navigate opportunities in their field. Amaris says she is thrilled to return to UVA, as she has called Charlottesville home for the last ten years.

Outside work, she loves spending time outdoors—especially hiking and camping with her dog, Beauregard. She is also an avid reader and has been part of a book club, now in its third year. You can probably find her browsing the plant selection at Fifth Season when she is not reading or getting lost on a trail.

Welcome To The World



Congratulations to Zoe Begun and husband Alexander Schoifet who welcomed baby Benjamin Edward Schoifet on April 19, 2025.

FOLLOW UVA IM RESIDENCY

SUBMIT NEWS

SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our **2025 Department-wide Carey, Marshall, and Thorner Research & Scholars Day**.

Tuesday, May 27th, in the Pinn Hall conference center, with oral presentations beginning mid-day, followed by poster presentations that afternoon. The event will conclude with award presentations on **Friday, May 30th**, to kick off our research-focused **Medical Grand Rounds**.



UVA Cancer Center
An NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center

Save the Date for
the **Michael J. Weber Symposium**
Friday, October 3

UVA Cancer Center
An NCI-Designated Comprehensive Cancer Center



The fifth annual **Michael J. Weber Symposium** will take place on **Friday, October 3, 2025**, at the Claude Moore Medical Education Building (200 Jeanette Lancaster Way).

The theme of the symposium is "**Drugging the Undruggable in Cancer**".

The Michael J. Weber Symposium was established to honor the life and achievements of Michael Weber, a renowned scientist, professor and former UVACCC Director. The symposium aims to bring together cancer researchers and clinicians to present their findings on cancer research, with a focus on integrating basic, translational, and population science research with clinical trials and compassionate patient care.

Questions? Email Muzet Felgar at mf8uh@uvahealth.org.

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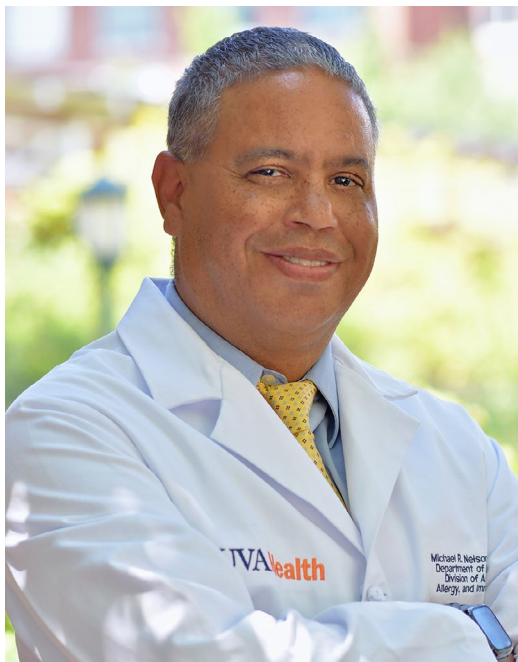


Follow DOM on INSTAGRAM!

UPDATE

DIVISION

Message from Dr Michael Nelson, Division Chief of Asthma, Allergy & Immunology



I am so proud of our faculty and staff's resilience and commitment to our mission. As the mighty challenges mount, they grow stronger and closer together as a team. Whether it is a funding line of eight in NIAID, delays in reviews and awards, constant turnover in clinic personnel, or uncertainties challenging our ASPIRE values and wellbeing, they adapt and overcome. They continue thriving, discovering, teaching, mentoring, and advancing the specialty.

Our faculty continues to conduct impactful research and publish it in high-profile journals. Glenda Canderan, PhD and, Lyndsey Muehling, PhD in the Woodfolk lab, and many collaborators across the institution just published their high-profile work on cellular mechanisms of injury in long COVID in *Nature Immunology*, garnering huge national attention. Jeffrey M. Wilson, MD, PhD, and Dr. Corrinne Keet from UNC were also featured nationally for their paper highlighting potential cardiovascular risks associated with food allergen sensitization. Emily C. McGowan, MD, PhD, along with her peds and adult GI colleagues, organized a highly successful inaugural statewide Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE) conference last Fall, hosted here at UVA's Daren Hall.

Other faculty achievements also keep coming: Thomas Platts-Mills, FRS, received the Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Award last summer, one of the highest honors for researchers across the University of Virginia. Charlene Dunaway Altamirano, MD, PhD, joined our faculty after completing her fellowship in December and will continue her international food allergen sensitization work in the Platts-Mills lab. We are expecting good news on the promotions of Dr. McGowan and Dr. Wilson this year. In January, Judith Woodfolk, MBChB, started her term as co-Director of the MSTP program. Monica Lawrence, MD, is completing an immensely successful first year as institutional DIO, excelling under the most trying of circumstances. And, saving potentially the most exciting for last: Dr. Scott Smith has been recruited from Vanderbilt, arriving at UVA in August. Scott already has multiple collaborators at UVA and brings his unique monoclonal IgE platform for studying allergic and infectious diseases as a future addition to the Manning Institute.

Our training mission remains front and center for the Division. Sam Minnicozzi, MD, completed a banner first year as Program Director. We welcomed Nathan Richards, MD, and Amelia Perozo as new fellows this past year. We had another successful match with Natalie Eidson, DO, from MUSC, and Matt Scott, MD, from VCU, arriving this summer. Congratulations to our graduate students in the Woodfolk lab. Naomi Bryant successfully defended her thesis last month. Paul Dell received a 5th percentile score on his F31 and serves as BIMS student body vice president.

Finally, the 63rd Annual Oscar Swineford conference was a tremendous success, pairing our stellar faculty from multiple Departments and second-year fellows with nationally renowned speakers. Invited speakers included Anju Peters from Northwestern, Melanie Dispenza from Johns Hopkins, Len Bacharier from Vanderbilt, Ben Wright from the Mayo Clinic, Josh Kennedy from Arkansas Children's, Tim Platts-Mills from Ophirex, Inc., and Dana Alban, MD from the UVA PCCM Division.

I could go on, but find myself out of space. Just know that I am very proud of this division, which continues to excel as a team no matter the challenge.

~ Michael Nelson, MD PhD

DIVISION CLINICAL

2024 Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology, Department of Medicine Awards



Emily McGowan, MD PhD
Excellence in Mentorship
and Research



Jeff Wilson, MD PhD
Excellence in Mentorship



Elaine Etter, PhD
Outstanding Staff
Contributor

First Esophageal String Test In The State

On April 30, 2025, the University of Virginia became the first center in the State of Virginia to offer the esophageal string test, a novel, minimally invasive tool to assess for eosinophilic inflammation in the esophagus. Incorporating this test into clinical practice could minimize the need for patients to undergo recurrent endoscopy to monitor their eosinophilic esophagitis.



Dr. Emily McGowan prepares a test for a patient as Clinical Research Coordinator Rebecca Revell assists.

At right: Dr. Barrett Barnes (Pediatric Gastroenterology) explains the procedure to a young patient. Dr. Emily McGowan and Seth Coletti with EnteroTrack in the back.



The capsule and “string” that the patient swallows for the test.



RESEARCH



From left, first row: Martha Joy Spano, W. Gerald Teague, Larry Borish, Rebecca Revell, Khyati Menghani Back row: Kristin Wavell, Cameron Griffiths, and Elaine Etter

Borish Lab

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

assess the molecular and cellular basis by which dupilumab prevents the development of an RV-induced asthma exacerbation. Unrelated to the RV studies, the Borish lab collaborates closely with **Dr. Gerry Teague** in pediatrics as co-PI for studies addressing the role of mast cells and mononuclear phagocytic cells in the immune response to viral respiratory infections in children and adolescents with problematic wheeze.

Additional NIH-funded studies have identified an immune deficit state in the airways of many infants with a persistent wheeze that leads to susceptibility to persistent RV infection, chronic neutrophilic bronchoalveolitis, and increased susceptibility to the development of asthma. Finally, we are enrolling patients in a Regeneron-sponsored study to demonstrate the ability of dupilumab to attenuate staphylococcus aureus infection in chronic sinusitis and ameliorate the dysbiotic state, including with restoration of a healthier antimicrobial state, including restoration of a healthier antimicrobial state.



From left: Rebecca Revell, Emily McGowan, and Roopesh Singh

McGowan Lab

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

Dr. McGowan's group is also examining the epidemiology of EoE, as they have data suggesting that this condition may be underdiagnosed among patients with other allergic conditions and those with decreased access to care. This work is being performed in collaboration with **Dr. Melissa Little** (epidemiology) and **Rebecca Revell** (research coordinator).

Finally, **Dr. Roopesh Singh** (Assistant Professor, Research Scientist in the McGowan lab) has been investigating whether consuming processed milk could be a risk factor for the development and propagation of EoE. This work has been funded by the American College of Gastroenterology (PIs McGowan and Sauer), iTHRIV, and the NIH/NIAID (K23, R21, R01).¹⁷



From left, Rishi Shah, Matthew MacCallum, Jeff Wilson, Thomas Platts-Mills, Pamela Schoppee Bortz, and Lisa Workman

Wilson and Platts-Mills Labs

Dr. Jeffrey Wilson and **Dr. Thomas Platts-Mills** have a major clinical and research focus on the alpha-gal syndrome. Their labs have been involved in NIH and DoD-funded studies to better understand tick-acquired allergic disorder's epidemiology and risk factors. Based on a prior observation that alpha-gal IgE sensitization was associated with heart disease, the lab has also carried out NIH-funded studies assessing links between IgE antibodies to food and heart disease.

As part of these investigations, Dr. Wilson has ongoing collaborations with researchers inside and outside UVA, including **Dr. Coleen McNamara** (Cardiology/Beirne Carter Immunology Center) and **Dr. Loren Erickson** (Microbiology/Beirne Carter Immunology Center).



From left: Judith Woodfolk, Glenda Canderan, Lyndsey Muehling, Paul Dell, and Naomi Bryant

Woodfolk Lab

Dr. Judith Woodfolk's lab continues to study immunity to respiratory viruses and allergens in diverse diseases using systems immunology methods. Her lab recently reported in *Nature Immunology* on distinct immune networks underlying the severity of lung injury after severe COVID-19 illness. This paper describes work done by an extensive interdisciplinary team of investigators inside and outside UVA, including joint first authors **Drs. Glenda Canderan** and **Lyndsey Muehling** (Division of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology), as well as investigators from the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine (**Drs. Catherine Bonham, Alexandra Kadl, and Jeffrey Sturek**) and the Beirne B. Carter Center for Immunology Research (labs of **Drs. Coleen McNamara** and **Jie Sun**). The COVID project originated from an initiative spearheaded by the team early in the pandemic that garnered the 2021 Dean's Award for Excellence in Team Science. The findings are significant for offering potential biomarkers of severity and new

targets for treating lung disease in patients experiencing post-COVID sequelae. Dr. Woodfolk presented this work in a keynote lecture at the 2024 UVA Immunology Research Day.

The COVID project has led to work funded by an NIH/NIAID administrative supplement on biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease in patients with systemic inflammatory programs (collaboration with **Dr. Thomas Platts-Mills**). It has also fostered a robust collaborative network involving work on ACE-2-like enzymatic activity in patients with persistent pulmonary symptoms (**Dr. Steve Zeichner**, Department of Pediatrics), sexual dimorphism of chimeric RNAs (**Dr. Hui Li**, Department of Pathology), and mathematical modeling of infection outcomes (**Dr. Rayanne Luke**, George Mason University; and **Dr. Prajakta Bedekar**, Johns Hopkins University/NIST). Beyond working on the immunology of COVID illness, the lab continues its research with **Dr. Larry Borish** on the effects of IL-4Ralpha blockade on the response to rhinovirus challenge and with **Dr. Emily McGowan** on T-cell mechanisms of eosinophilic esophagitis.

In lab news, **Naomi Bryant**, a BIMS graduate student working with **Dr. Gerry Teague** (Department of Pediatrics), has completed her thesis work on rhinovirus as a driver of T-cell dynamics in the lower airways of children with severe asthma. Her work has been accepted for publication in *JCI Insight*, and she successfully defended her thesis in April. **Paul Dell**, another BIMS graduate student, presented his work on atypical B cells in severe asthma in a Featured Poster session at the 2025 AAAAI annual meeting. In career advancement initiatives, Dr. Muehling participated in the AAAAI Faculty Development Program held in Milwaukee, WI, in September 2024.

In January 2025, Dr. Woodfolk was appointed Co-Director of the UVA Medical Scientist Training Program. She will lead the Program with **Dr. Mariano Garcia-Blanco** (Chair, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer Biology). Dr. Woodfolk continues to serve as a chartered NIH IHD Study Section member.

The Woodfolk lab continues to seek new scientific partnerships inside and outside UVA and extends thanks to all involved in their collaborative ventures!

The 63rd Annual Swineford Allergy Conference



Faculty and guest speakers. ([More photos here.](#))

The 63rd Annual Oscar Swineford Allergy Conference was held April 11-12, 2025, in the Pinn Hall Conference Center. It is one of the longest-running and most successful CME conferences at the University of Virginia, and this year's conference did not disappoint. This year's conference was a tremendous success for its organizers, Drs. Thomas Platts-Mills and Michael Nelson.

Attendees were treated to spectacular science in a wide array of allergic diseases, including small molecule treatments for snake bite anaphylaxis and anaphylaxis prevention, genetic fingerprints in viral respiratory tract infections, the role of detergents in the development of eosinophilic esophagitis, medical management of cystic fibrosis, food allergy diagnosis and international epidemiology of sensitization, achieving asthma disease remission, COVID19 immune determinants. Dr. Platts-Mills closed out the conference with the most severe alpha-gal syndrome cases yet to be reported.

Invited expert speakers included Leonard B. Bacharier, MD (Vanderbilt University), Melanie Dispenza, MD, PhD (Johns Hopkins University), Joshua L. Kennedy, MD (Arkansas Children's Hospital), Timothy F. Platts-Mills, MD, MSc (Ophirix, Inc), Anju Tripathi Peters, MD, MS (Northwestern University), Benjamin L. Wright (Mayo Clinic Health System), Dana P. Alban, MD (UVA Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine). Glenda Canderan, PhD, Charlene Dunaway, MD, PhD, and fellows Thomas Offerle, MD, and Samantha Nguyen, DO, presented their work from the Asthma, Allergy and Immunology Division.

Mark your calendars for next year's conference April 17-18, 2026!

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DIVISION EDUCATION

Our long-standing fellowship program continues to celebrate the many achievements of our fellows-in-training. We congratulate our 2025 graduating fellows, **Dr. Thomas Offerle**, who will be joining Asthma and Allergy Specialists North Carolina, and **Dr. Samantha Nguyen**, who will be joining Whole Family Allergy and Immunotherapy, Maryland. In July 2024, we welcomed two new fellows into the program: **Dr. Maria Amelia Perozo** (Danbury Hospital, Internal Medicine) and **Dr. Nathan Richards** (Harnett Health, Internal Medicine). We also completed another very successful virtual recruitment season and are excited to welcome two new incoming fellows in July 2025: **Dr. Natalie Eidson** (Medical University of South Carolina, Pediatrics) and **Dr. Matthew Scott** (Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Internal Medicine/Pediatrics).

Our fellows have continued to participate in research in preschool asthma actively (Dr. Offerle; mentors Dr. Borish and Dr. Teague), alpha-gal allergy and its impact on heparin use (Dr. Nguyen; mentor Dr. Wilson), adult asthma phenotypes and novel treatments (Dr. Perozo; mentor Dr. Borish), and alpha-gal allergy related to biologic agents (Dr. Richards; mentors Dr. Wilson and Dr. Platts-Mills). They have presented their work at the American Academy of Asthma Allergy and Immunology (AAAAI) and American College of Asthma Allergy and Immunology (ACAAI) national meetings, as well as the annual Swineford Allergy Conference held on Grounds in April 2025. We commend our fellows for their academic scholarship and research achievements on top of a growing inpatient consultation service and busy outpatient clinics.

Our program administration saw a dramatic change this past year. We were excited to welcome a new Program Director. While new to the role, she was not new to our program. **Dr. Samantha Minnicozzi** took on the role of Program Director in July 2024, having previously served as APD. Dr. Minnicozzi is trained in Pediatrics. She completed her fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital, where she completed cross-training in Adult Allergy and Immunology at Brigham and Women's Hospital before joining the Department of Pediatrics in July 2019. She holds a dual appointment in the Department of Medicine and has been heavily involved in the education of our trainees since her arrival.

But announcing a new Program Director must mean our previous PD departed. Well, sort of: our Division was exceptionally proud to learn that **Dr. Monica Lawrence** [was selected to be UVA's next Designated Institutional Official](#) (DIO) in April 2024, following the departure of **Susan Kirk, MD**. Having dedicated her career to the education of trainees, Dr. Lawrence continues to innovate and advocate for our trainees, now not just in our Division but across the institution and beyond. We were excited to have her continue this academic year as Associate Program Director. Again, congrats Monica!

And our Division is Growing



Congratulations to Nathan and Sarah Richards who welcomed baby Heidi in April 2025.



Congratulations to Charlene Dunaway Altamirano and Tommy Flynn who welcomed baby Elena in January 2025.



Congratulations to Amelia Perozo and Harold Cedeño who welcomed baby Leonor in September 2024.

DIVISION PROFILE

STAFF - Rebecca Revell



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at the University of Virginia for almost two years. I started in my role as a research coordinator after graduating from Virginia Tech, where I studied public health and biology. I had been engaged with research throughout my time at VT and became involved with public health and immunology during the COVID-19 pandemic. I primarily work on eosinophilic esophagitis, which combines allergy and gastroenterology.

Why Research?

I was drawn to clinical research because of the tangible effect on the lives of the patients we see directly and all patients with the conditions we study. My love for the intersection of research and patient care is reinforced by the amazing team I work with; seeing experts dedicating their careers to learning how to improve patients' lives is awe-inspiring.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

As I was applying to my current role, my husband accepted an offer to start his DPT at Mary Baldwin's Fishersville campus – it felt like the world had conspired to bring us here. I graduated on a Wednesday, we moved to the area on Friday, and I started my job in Charlottesville on Monday!

What excites you about your work?

The part of my work that "fills my cup" most is working with our patients to improve their healthcare experience.

As a research coordinator, part of my role is to help explain the scientific landscape to patients. This includes what we know from prior research, what our current studies are investigating, and what those studies hope to discover. Translating scientific jargon into

lay language to educate patients lets me tap into my public health background, and it's always fantastic to hear patients' excitement about the advancements we have made and are making.

In addition to my classic research coordinator role, I help with the EGID team's Healthcare Transition Program, which helps adolescent patients build the knowledge and tools they need for a seamless transition to adult care. Working to give these patients the best possible experience has been incredibly rewarding and represents the best of our healthcare system.

Describe yourself in one word.

Headstrong.



How did you meet your partner?

I met my husband, Jalen, in March of 2020. Our first "date" was a brief conversation in the courtyard as he picked up a friend who lived in the dorm next to mine for spring break. Days later, the global shutdowns started. Over the next several months, we constantly Facetimed, texted, and called one another. Our second "date" was in July 2020, when I drove eleven hours from my parent's house in Massachusetts to spend the week with him and his mom. We got married almost exactly three years later, in June 2023!

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

One of my favorite professors at Virginia Tech (who recently joined UVA's School of Medicine), Dr. Monique Dufour, was a font of academic advice that has colored my entire life. In critiquing my writing, she advised "focusing on saying something, rather than saying everything." Instead of trying to be/say/do everything – and doing it all badly – focus on picking something and doing it well. She also was the first professor who acknowledged that, sometimes, good enough is better than perfect.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

I recently finished the first Red Rising trilogy by Pierce Brown, and I HIGHLY recommend it. I compare it to combining the dystopian political commentary in Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games* and the classic sci-fi of Kim Stanley's *"Red Mars."* I read all three books (totaling 1500 pages) in about two weeks. They're just that good. The second Red Rising trilogy is supposed to be even better – I'll let you know.



DIVISION

PROFILE

FELLOW - Thomas Offerle



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

During my Allergy and Immunology fellowship, I've been at the University of Virginia for almost two years. I'm originally from Greenville, South Carolina. Before landing at UVA, I went to Clemson for college, attended medical school at MUSC in Charleston, and completed my pediatrics residency at Emory in Atlanta. I live in downtown Charlottesville with my wife and our cocker spaniel, Rory.

At the end of my fellowship, my wife and I will move to Charlotte, NC, where I plan to join a private practice allergy clinic. To make things even more exciting, we're also expecting our first child in June—just before our move!

Why Healthcare?

I credit my high school biology teacher, Mrs. Unger, for sparking my interest in science and setting me on medicine. Her class helped to strengthen my interest in biology, which led me to major in it during college and get started along the pre-med track. Beyond that, I'm naturally extroverted and enjoy meeting new people. Being a clinician allows me to combine both—exploring the complexities of medicine while building connections with my patients.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

The people. UVA was my first fellowship interview, and I remember being pleasantly surprised by how easy and enjoyable the day felt. I immediately connected with the faculty, and even over Zoom, the program's culture



was clear—it was welcoming and supportive, and it was exactly the kind of environment in which I wanted to train. As I went through the rest of the interview season, I kept comparing every other program to UVA, and none of them ever quite measured up.

What excites you about your work?

The innovation and the connectivity. Allergy and immunology is a small field, which means many of the leading experts are people I've met or had the chance to work alongside. It's also a rapidly evolving specialty, with constant advancements leading to new treatments for conditions that previously had limited options. The combination of close-knit collaboration and groundbreaking innovation makes this field incredibly exciting to be a part of.



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

My middle school church league basketball team went undefeated from 2005-2008, in an unprecedented era of dominance that has still yet to be replicated ...to my knowledge.

Describe yourself in one word.

Curious.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

I like to watch sports, go on walks with my wife and dog, hang out with friends, and try new restaurants.

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

Sriracha.

Do you have any pets?

Yes – I mentioned her earlier, but Rory is the best dog in the world. She enjoys getting her belly scratched, chasing squirrels, and sleeping in inconvenient locations around our house.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

Wherever my wife wants to go (the beach).

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

Playing the piano (or really any musical instrument).

Favorite fictional characters?

Jean-Ralphio Saperstein.

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

Ten things. My wife sometimes pokes fun at me because I frequently get distracted by random hobbies and interests.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

"Wind and Truth," by Brandon Sanderson.

DIVISION PROFILE

FACULTY - Glenda Canderan



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I have been at the University of Virginia for five years, following a postdoc at the Vaccine and Gene Therapy Institute in Florida and a research position at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. I joined UVA right at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic when everything shifted to remote work. My first few months were spent working from a temporary rental, adjusting to the new normal. I joined the Woodfolk lab as a research scientist, and we quickly pivoted to COVID-related research, focusing on post-COVID pulmonary complications, which has become the focus of my work here at UVA.

Why Research?

Growing up, I loved studying everything and was always curious about how the world worked. I guess I've always wanted to contribute in some way as a kid. I even played a part in being a doctor during pandemics (a little odd, I know). Looking back, it makes me smile, but that curiosity has stuck with me, and research feels like the perfect way to use it to make a real impact.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

I came to Charlottesville to continue my work in the systems immunology of infectious diseases. This area offers great opportunities in medical research, a supportive academic environment, and a wonderful balance of history and natural beauty. It felt like the ideal place to grow professionally.

What excites you about your work?

I love the process of transforming an idea into something tangible. Each experiment is like a puzzle, with new challenges and discoveries at every turn. The potential to make a real difference in people's lives through better treatments makes this work so fulfilling.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

I love spending time with friends, whether they're nearby or spread across the globe. I try to visit when I can, but technology helps me stay connected when that's not possible. I also enjoy getting outside, especially hiking through the beautiful landscapes around Charlottesville.

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

Seasonal fruit and Parmesan cheese.

Do you have any pets?

Not at the moment, but I'm definitely a cat person! I can relate to their mix of independence and playfulness. I used to foster orphaned kittens and hope to return to it someday.

Are you a hunter or a gatherer?

Never a hunter.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

Anywhere I haven't explored yet! I love discovering new places. But, of course, Italy will always feel like home and will always be my favorite spot.

What about you would surprise us?

I'm Italian, but my first language is Friulano, a Romance language spoken by fewer than half a million people. I speak it with family and friends from my small village, and while I can understand and speak it, I can't write it.

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

I enjoy visual art and wish I knew how to paint.

Favorite fictional characters?

Bernardo Soares, a semi-heteronym of Fernando Pessoa in "The Book of Disquiet." He's introspective and constantly reflecting on the complexities of existence. I love him, though I'm lucky not to live in quite as much existential crisis!

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

I'm reading "A Woman" by Sibilla Aleramo, an essential work in European feminist literature.