

MEDICINEMATTERS

JUNE 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,

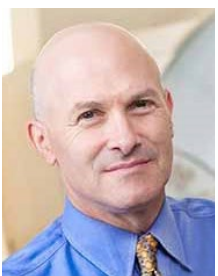
I write to you as we enter June, a month of transition. The school year is wrapping up, graduation has passed—which (hopefully) means traffic will ease a bit—and if we're lucky, we can make it to Fridays After Five on the Downtown Mall to exhale and enjoy a moment of early summer.

That spirit of transition is also evident in our work. We continue to navigate uncertainty—tight resources, evolving expectations, and the daily complexity of academic medicine. But even amid these challenges, there are reasons to pause and find hope and connection.

One of those reasons is the steady, mission-driven work happening across our Department. This month, we highlight the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, whose efforts span high-impact clinical care, world-class research, and a deep commitment to equity and collaboration. Their work reminds us of what's possible when expertise is paired with purpose.

As we step into summer, I'm grateful for each of you—for the resilience you've shown and for the way you continue to lift one another up. Here's to finding moments of lightness, connection, and pride in what we're building—together.

"Our commitment to science, research and innovation has never been stronger. As we navigate the current



dynamic environment, we reaffirm our dedication to protecting and advancing the critical role of scientific discovery, especially at academic institutions and medical centers where so much of today's research in the fight against cardiovascular disease occurs."

~Christopher Kramer, MD

My best to you,
Taison Bell, MD, MBA
Acting Chair, Department of Medicine



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Department of Medicine

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OFF DEPARTMENT NOTE

DOM Financial Update

Department of Medicine Summary of Consolidated Financials April 2025

FY25 as of

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	\$ Variance YTD
Work RVUs	1,183,322	1,144,114	(39,209)
Clinical Receipts (NPSR)	77,406,310	71,925,806	(5,480,504)
Total Revenues	205,135,230	206,699,752	1,564,522
Total Expenditures	206,832,604	206,525,626	306,978
Net Income	(1,697,373)	174,126	1,871,500

Summary Explanation of Variance:

1. For the fiscal year through April 2025, DOM reported a consolidated net gain of \$174K and a favorable variance to YTD net income budget of \$1.9M.
2. Clinical receipts underperformed budget by \$5.5M 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 \$5.1M MC clinical deficit and APP gap coverage revenue accrual, \$2.3M unbudgeted internal research support, \$1.9M unbudgeted gifts and \$879K 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.

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NETWORK**

**MINDFULNESS
MATTERS
NEWSLETTER**

**Is Your Division's Website Content Up-to-Date?
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Contact Kim Kelley-Wagner to get started at
kak2cj@uvahealth.org or 434.328.0680

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Robert Becker MD



Tushar Chopra MBBS



Ben Horton MD



Patrick Jackson MD



Charles Magee MD



Anthony Marino MD



Brian Peterson MD



Kate McManus MD



Jie Sun PhD



Michael Devitt MD



Robert Dreicer MD MS



William Skelton MD



Ryan Gentzler MD MS



Richard Hall MD



Avneesh Sharma MD



Greg Young MD



Rebecca Clemo MD



Ian Crane MD



Milad Memari MD



Taison Bell MD

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to the following members of the Department of Medicine who became part of the 2025 *Academy for Excellence in Education*: **Robert Becker, MD** (Division of Hospital Medicine), **Tushar Chopra, MBBS** (Division of Nephrology), **William (Ben) Horton, MD, MSc, FACE, FACP** (Division of), **Patrick Jackson, MD** (Division of Infectious Diseases), **Charles Magee, MD, MPH** (Division of Hospital Medicine), **Anthony Marino, MD** (Division of General, Geriatric, and Palliative Medicine), **Brian Peterson, MD** (Division of Hospital Medicine). The Academy for Excellence in Education (AEE) was founded to build an inclusive learning community of educators and foster and honor educational excellence across the UVA School of Medicine. The 2025 inductees were honored at a ceremony on May 7. This year's inductees include 17 faculty members from seven departments and degree programs in the School of Medicine. [Read more...](#)

Congratulations to **Dr. Kate McManus** (Division of Infectious Diseases), who is one of this year's recipients of the *Dean's Excellence in Faculty Research Award*. This award will be recognized in an upcoming event to be held the evening of Wednesday, October 29, 2025.

Congratulations to **Dr. Jie Sun** (Division of Infectious Diseases), who is one of this year's recipients of the *Dean's Excellence in Faculty Research Award*. This award will be recognized in an upcoming event to be held the evening of Wednesday, October 29, 2025.

Congratulations to **Drs. Michael Devitt, Robert Dreicer, and William P. Skelton IV**, (Division of Hematology and Oncology) on the publication of their paper "[*When You Get to the Fork in the Road, Take It: The Challenges in Managing Patients With Advanced Prostate Cancer*](#)" in JCO Oncology Practice.

Congratulations to **Drs. Ryan Gentzler and Richard Hall** (Division of Hematology and Oncology) on the publication of their paper "[*Real-World Outcomes of Tarlatamab in Small Cell Lung Cancer, Including Patients With Untreated Brain Metastases*](#)" in PubMed.

Congratulations to **Dr. Avneesh Sharma** (Internal Medicine, PGY-2), who has been presented the Excellence in Performance Assessment award by the School of Medicine EPA leadership group. Dr. Sharma was selected for this award based on the quantity and quality of their EPA assessments, direct observation, appropriate supervision ratings, and meaningful verbal and narrative feedback.

Congratulations to **Dr. Greg Young** (Division of Hospital Medicine) on receiving the *Center for Excellence in Education's (CEE) Education Scholarship Grant* for his project entitled "Coaching across the Continuum: A learner-driven UME to GME Handover."

Congratulations to **Dr. Brian Peterson** (Division of Hospital Medicine) on receiving funding from the *Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) and the Brodie Medical Education Committee* for his research project entitled "Communicating Diagnostic Uncertainty to Patients: How Medical Trainees Develop Self-Efficacy Through Clinical Experience and Observational Learning."

Congratulations to **Drs. Rebecca Clemo, Robert Becker, Ian Crane, and Milad Memari** (Division of Hospital Medicine) and General Medicine) on receiving *Excellence in Performance Assessment Awards* from the School of Medicine for their high quantity and quality of feedback given to medical students doing EPA.

Congratulations to **Dr. Taison Bell**, who has been named a *Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America* by the *Infectious Diseases Society of America* (IDSA). Fellowship in IDSA is one of the highest honors in the field of infectious diseases. It recognizes distinguished clinicians and scientists from the United States and around the world whose contributions continue to advance the field.

IN **DEPARTMENT** IMMEDIA

UVA Research Finds Distinct Changes In Immune Systems of COVID-19 Survivors

New groundbreaking research from the University of Virginia's School of Medicine has revealed that the immune systems of COVID-19 survivors, specifically those with breathing issues, have distinct changes.

According to a release from the university, officials say these findings shed light on the complexity of Long COVID and may pave the way for more personalized and effective treatments. The research, conducted by a team led by Judith A. Woodfolk, MBChB, PhD, from the Department of Medicine's Division of Asthma, Allergy and Immunology, highlights the varied underlying causes of Long COVID, even among patients presenting with the same symptoms.

READ MORE

WATCH ON 13NEWS NOW



Laurie Archbald-Pannone MD Talks With HuffPost About Avoiding Sugar-Sweetened Beverages to Support Healthy Aging

Laurie Archbald-Pannone, MD, an associate professor in the Department of Medicine, spoke with HuffPost about the importance of avoiding sugar-sweetened beverages like soda to support healthy aging. Although water remains the best option for staying hydrated, Dr. Archbald-Pannone noted that sparkling water can be a suitable alternative to soda—provided it's free of sugar and artificial sweeteners. To enhance the flavor, she suggests adding fruits like lemon or sliced strawberries, or herbs such as mint. And if quitting soda feels challenging, it may be more effective to cut back gradually rather than attempting to stop all at once.

READ MORE

READ ON HUFFPOST

Immune System Changes Explain Long COVID Breathing Problems

Groundbreaking research from the University of Virginia School of Medicine has revealed crucial new insights into the immune systems of COVID-19 survivors, particularly those struggling with persistent breathing issues. The study shows that these patients have distinct changes in their immune system that link to the severity of their lung damage. This discovery holds promise for developing targeted treatments for the lung complications of Long COVID.

"Long COVID is complex, with a variety of potential underlying causes. For this reason, understanding the immune response in patients with lung disease has been especially difficult," said Judith A. Woodfolk, MBChB, PhD.

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Retirement Party for Greg Townsend MD

Location: Pinn Hall 2ABC

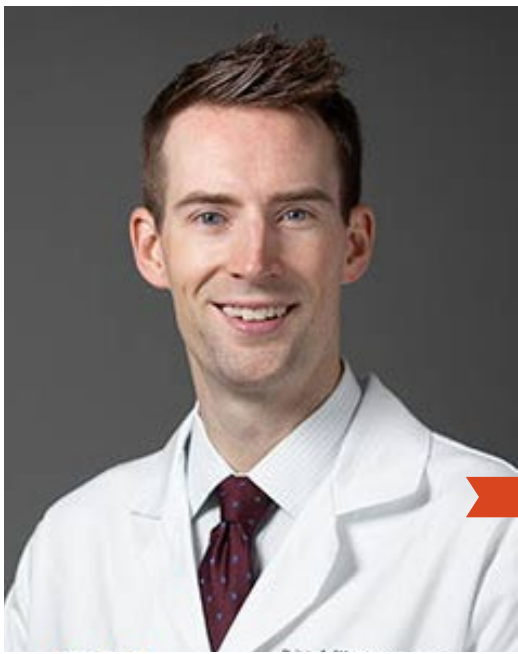
Date: Jun 10, 2025 - Jun 10, 2025

Start Time: 4:00 pm

End Time: 7:00 pm

A retirement party is being hosted in honor of Greg Townsend, MD, who has worked at the University of Virginia Health System/School of Medicine for 32 years. Please join us on June 10 to celebrate Dr. Townsend!

Reservation is required. Please RSVP by June 2: <https://forms.office.com/r/SAmtgSq86z>.



Community Conversation: Dr. Brian Wentworth with UVA Health

Dr. Brian Wentworth speaks with NBC29 about how the process of being a living liver donor works.

WATCH ON 29NEWS



Dr. Christopher Kramer talks with Medscape Heart Failure and Type 2 Diabetes

Dr. Christopher Kramer areas of expertise are hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and cardiovascular imaging, including echocardiography, cardiac magnetic resonance imaging, and cardiac computed tomography.

He talks with Medscape about new insights into heart failure and type 2 diabetes on this podcast.

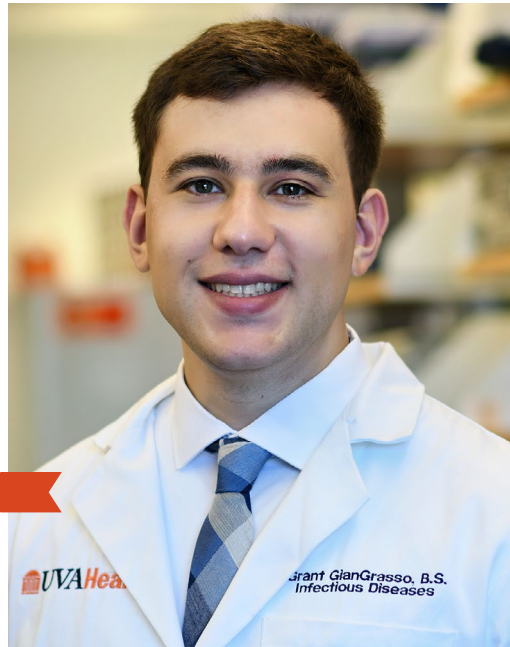
LISTEN TO PODCAST

UVA's 56th Rhodes Scholar Targets 2 Oxford Degrees Before Medical School

Grant GianGrasso graduated from the University in Virginia, for the second time, in 2024.

As an undergraduate at UVA, GianGrasso conducted research in the lab of Chelsea Marie Braun, an associate professor of medicine, who focuses on infectious diseases. There he studied cryptosporidium, a diarrheal parasite affecting children, particularly in low- and middle-income countries.

READ MORE



Dr. Mo Nadkarni talks with Medscape about best ways to talk with patients newly

Approximately 1.4 million people will receive a diagnosis of diabetes this year. That means conversations with patients about what it means to have this chronic condition and how to manage it effectively.

Learning some motivational interviewing skills can help with navigating this type of conversation, said Mohan Moreshwar Nadkarni, MD. Nadkarni uses these skills when seeing patients at a large primary care clinic where about 30% of the patients have diabetes.

READ MORE

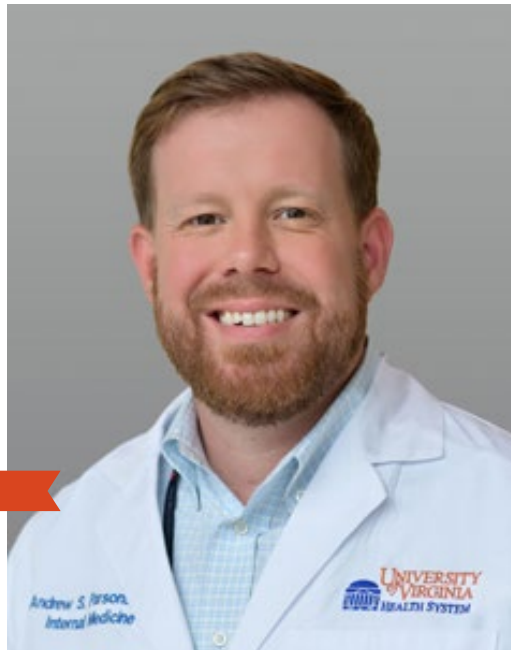


Medical Schools Move From Worrying About AI To Teaching It

"We must prepare students for technology that's probably going to disrupt their clinical practice," says Andrew Parsons, MD, associate professor of medicine and associate dean for clinical competency at the UVA School of Medicine.

"It's going to improve our clinical reasoning if we know how to use it effectively."

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Dr. Sanjay Kishore Gives Virginia Tech School of Medicine's Commencement Speech

"There's no playbook for what medicine will look like even a year from now," he said. "That's scary, but it's also empowering. This is our moment. We must be intentional and make sure the benefits of science and innovation reach everyone."

Enjoy this speech, which starts at about 47 minutes in.

WATCH ON YOUTUBE



Dr. Scott Lim is featured in a MedPage Today story about a new aortic valve replacement platform.

The FDA has approved the Sapien 3 TAVR for asymptomatic aortic stenosis. TAVR is well established for severe aortic stenosis patients with symptoms across surgical risk categories, but guidelines recommend routine monitoring every 6 to 12 months for asymptomatic patients in a new tab or window patients. TAVR is reserved for those with symptoms or asymptomatic individuals who have a reduced LVEF, a positive stress test, or other indication for valve surgery.

"Young patients with bicuspid disease and marked asymmetry of their aortic root/annulus still may be better served by a surgical AVR over TAVR, and young patients in general need to have more forethought into the 'lifetime management' of their aortic valve disease," as Scott Lim, MD, of the University of Virginia Health System in Charlottesville, had told MedPage Today.

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



Please share your ideas with us here.



FOLLOW

CLINICAL TRIALS

Hematology/Oncology Clinical Trials, opened since 04/01/2025

CALM: CHRONIC & ACUTE LEUKEMIA/MDS & MPN

A Phase 1b Study of Menin Inhibitor SNDX-5613 in Combination with Daunorubicin and Cytarabine in Newly Diagnosed Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia and NPM1 Mutated/FLT3 Wildtype with Higher-Risk Features or MLL/KMT2A Rearranged Disease

IRB #301738

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05886049

Sponsor Protocol: 10596

Sponsor: ETCTN

Principal Investigator: Reed, Daniel

Study Contact: Farzana Hakim fcz8yv@uvahealth.org 434-760-6337

Phase 1 Study to Determine the Safety and Tolerability of Ziftomenib Combinations for the Treatment of KMT2A-rearranged or NPM1-mutant Relapsed/Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia

IRB #301783

CT. Gov. ID: NCT06001788

Sponsor Protocol: KO-MEN-008

Sponsor: Kura Oncology, Inc

Principal Investigator: Reed, Daniel

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

HIGH COMPLEXITY HEME

A Phase I Dose-Finding Clinical Trial with Expansion Cohort Evaluating CC-486 in Patients with Relapsed/Refractory T-cell Large Granular Lymphocytic Leukemia (T-LGLL)

IRB #301294

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05141682

Sponsor Protocol: OSU-21018

Sponsor: The Ohio State University

Principal Investigator: Marchi, Enrica

Study Contact: Sydne Curry sve4wy@uvahealth.org

LYMPHOMA

A Randomized, Open-Label, Multicenter, Phase 3 Study of Zilovetamab Vedotin (MK-2140) in Combination With R-CHP Participants With Previously Untreated Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL) (waveLINE-010) Versus R-CHOP

IRB #302033

CT. Gov. ID: NCT03833180

Sponsor Protocol: MK-2140 010-00

Sponsor: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.

Principal Investigator: Ayers, Emily

Study Contact: Erica Stallard elg9r@uvahealth.org 434-243-2649



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).

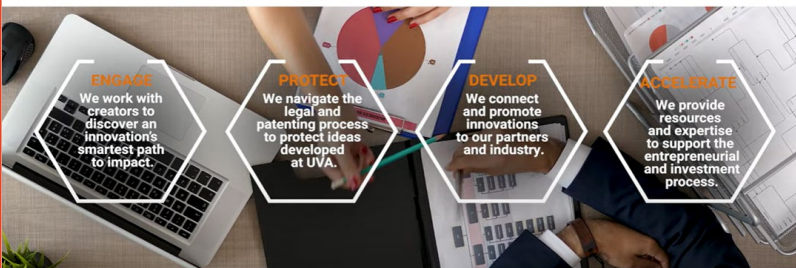
The theme of the symposium is "**Drugging the Undruggable in Cancer**".

The Michael J. Weber Symposium was established to honor the life and achievements of Michael Weber, a renowned scientist, professor and former UVACC 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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DEPARTMENT EVENTS



Pictured in no particular order are UVA's presenters at the National Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) Conference 2025 in Florida this month. Rachel Kon, Donna White, David Callender, Laura Mitchell, Tabor Flickinger, Milad Memari, Katherine Kruse, Zachary Boggs, Emily Bowman, Emily Jezewski, Jessica Dreicer, Heather Frazier, Lauren Mathes and Regan Henderson.



The education team met off site recently for an afternoon team building retreat.



PGY2 Sara Young (Petri lab) working on her research project in Bangladesh!

Front row: Javanov Barksdale – Endo and Rheum Fellowship Coordinator, Amaris Pulczynski – GI and Transplant Hepatology Fellowship Coordinator, Lisa Mackey – Heme/Onc and Cardiology subspecialty Fellowship Administrator, and Residency (Ambulatory) Program Administrator, Joy Early – Director of Education

Taylor Lloyd – Pulmonary/CC and Sleep Medicine Fellowship Coordinator

Back row: Erin Zimmerman – Residency Program Administrator, Cheryl Etelvari – Cardiology Programs Administrator

Karen Ward – UME Programs Administrator, Caleb Martin – Infectious Diseases, Geriatrics, and Palliative Care Fellowship Coordinator, Monte Parsons – Allergy/Immunology Fellowship Coordinator, Fawad Sohail – Nephrology and Transplant Nephrology Fellowship Coordinator, Terry Bennett – GME Compliance Manager and Cardiology Subspecialty Administrator, Tony Brinkman – Residency Coordinator and UME Coordinator

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



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

UPDATE

DIVISION

Message from Dr. Christopher Kramer, Division Chief of Cardiovascular Medicine



The Cardiovascular Division is presently comprised of 44 clinical and six research faculty, and we are continuing to grow rapidly, as nine new faculty have been hired to start this summer/fall (see listing below). The Division is extremely busy clinically, with \$23 million in clinical revenue (up nearly 10% over 2024) and over 300,000 work RVUs (up 13% over 2024) in fiscal year 2025. Interventional procedures have increased by 5%, primarily due to a significant increase in coronary and valve procedures. Continued growth has been seen in advanced cardiac imaging procedures over the same time period (11% increase in cardiac MRI, 12% for cardiac CTA, and 31% for stress echo). Outpatients are seen at the UVA Main Hospital, Fontaine Research Park, and outreach clinic locations, including Fishersville, Zion's Crossroads, and Culpepper. Over 57,000 outpatients are projected to be seen in FY '25 at these locations, representing an increase of 9% over FY '24.

Vice Chief for Research, **Jonathan Lindner MD**, provides an update on the research activities within the CV Division under a separate cover in this document. Grant expenditures have increased from \$7.3 in 2023 to \$8.8 million in 2025 (a 21% increase). **Victor Soukoulis MD, PhD** will also provide an update on educational activities in the Division.

The Cardiovascular Division had a remarkable and record year on the philanthropic front.

- Marcia Lipson, **Lewis Lipson, MD**'s former wife, endowed the *Lewis C. Lipson Cardiology Fellowship Fund* as part of an interventional fellowship.
- The *Gib and Lynn Stevenson Professorship in Cardiovascular Research Fund* (\$3 million) was endowed by the Stevenson Family in honor of **Antonio Abbate MD, PhD**.
- **Stephen Stowers MD** granted **Todd Villines MD** a \$400K gift for AI analysis of coronary artery calcium on non-gated CT scans.
- The *Mary Chadwick Sutton Cardiovascular Research Endowment* (\$500K) was created to honor **Jim Bergin MD**.
- **Michael Mangrum MD** received two major pledges: **Bert Goodwin MD** - \$7 million for afib research and another estate gift of \$1 million.
- **Oliver Monfredi MD**, received a gift of 50K over two years from a grateful patient.
- **Michael Ayers MD** received a Charitable Gift Annuity of \$20K yearly from a grateful patient.

Faculty highlights of the past year include the following awards:

- **Amit Patel MD** – *Education Award from the Society for Magnetic Resonance*
- **Patricia Rodriguez-Lozano MD** – *Department of Medicine Excellence in Teaching*
- **Stefano Toldo PhD** – *Department of Medicine Excellence in Research*
- **Kelly Wingerter MD** – *Department of Medicine Excellence in Clinical Care*
- *Patient Experience Awards* – 29 faculty members in the **Cardiovascular Division** were named.
- Newsweek ranked **UVA as the 40th top cardiac hospital** in the U.S.
- Press Ganey awarded the *Heart and Vascular Center the Pinnacle of Excellence Award* for outpatient care experience.
- The *Marfan Foundation* recognized the *Heritable Aneurysm and Arteriopathy program* (**Randy Ramcharitar MD**). It is the only such program in the state of Virginia.

GRANTS

- **Antonio Abbate MD, PhD** and **Stefano Toldo PhD** received an MPI grant from the NHLBI along with **Jeffrey Saucerman PhD**. The study will use modeling to dissect the role of the LRP1 receptor in the different cell types during the inflammatory response after an acute myocardial infarction.
- **Amit Patel MD** received an 8% on a MPI NHLBI grant along with **Fred Epstein PhD** of BME on characterizing epicardial adipose tissue in HFpEF as well as an iPRIME grant for evaluating venous thromboembolism in amyloid patients.
- **Jonathan Lindner MD** – R01 on ultrasound cavitation for AAV delivery and a BioMarin grant for ultrasound-mediated gene therapy.
- **Patricia Rodriguez-Lozano MD** – K01 funded on Coronary Microvascular Dysfunction in Women and a grant from the ACC’s Clinical Trials Research Award Program.
- **Kenneth Walsh PhD** received a NASA award; Space Radiation Exposure and Risk Mediated Clonal Hematopoiesis.

PROMOTIONS

- **Michael Ayers MD** was promoted to *Associate Professor of Medicine*.
- **Matthew Wolf MD, PhD** was promoted to *Professor of Medicine*.

COMMITTEES

- **Michael Ayers MD** – was named to the *Membership Committee of the AHA Council on Genomic and Precision Medicine and Educational Chair for the HCM Society*.
- **Raj Patel MD** was appointed Track Director for the *Coronary Track for the SCAI 2026 Annual Scientific Sessions* in Montreal.
- **Patricia Rodriguez-Lozano MD** was named to the *CMR Board Writing Committee* and the *AHA Cardiac Imaging and Intervention Committee* and was selected for the *Nishimura/O’Gara ACC Emerging Faculty Leadership Academy*.
- **Victor Soukoulis, MD, PhD**, was named vice chair of the *ACC Educator: Advanced Concepts Program* and was on the ACC ‘26 program committee for *Ischemic Heart Disease*.

STUDY SECTION APPOINTMENTS

- **Ken Bilchick MD** to the *Clinical Cardiovascular and Hematology Sciences SS*.
- **Jonathan Lindner MD** to the *NHLBI T32 SS* and *NIH IGIS SS*.

INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

- The **EP team** completed a mission trip to the Dominican Republic for ICD and CRT placement.

New faculty that began this academic year included:

- **Rajan Patel MD**, Professor, Director of Interventional Cardiology and the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory
- **Oliver Monfredi MD**, Associate Professor, Electrophysiology and Director, Cardiac Lead Extraction Center
- **Joseph Chung MD**, Assistant Professor, General Cardiology
- **Nisha Hosadurg MD**, Assistant Professor, Cardiovascular Imaging and Women’s Heart Disease
- **Patrick Stafford MD**, Assistant Professor, Interventional Cardiology

New faculty hired to begin in the summer/fall of 2025 include:

- **Nick Ashur MD**, Assistant Professor, Heart Failure/Transplant, Pulmonary Hypertension
- **Dominik Beer DO**, Assistant Professor, Electrophysiology and Director, VT Service
- **Mirnela Byku MD**, Associate Professor, Director, Heart Failure/Transplant Section
- **LeAnn Denlinger MD**, Assistant Professor, General Cardiology and Women’s Heart Disease
- **Sumeet Kheterpal MD PhD**, Assistant Professor, co-hire with Cardiovascular Research Center, basic lipid biology and Preventive Cardiology
- **Inga Melvinsdottir MD**, Assistant Professor, Structural Echocardiography
- **James MacNamara MD**, Assistant Professor, CV Imaging and Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy
- **Francesco Moroni MD**, Assistant Professor, Critical Care Cardiology
- **Jonathan Pan MD**, Assistant Professor, Cardiovascular Imaging and HfpEF



Nicholas Ashur, MD

Medical School	Georgetown University
Residency	Duke University
Cardiology Fellowship	University of Virginia
Heart Failure Fellowship	University of Virginia

Nicholas Ashur, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Heart Failure

Start Date : July 2025



Dominik Beer, DO

Medical School	Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
Residency	Geisinger Health
Cardiology Fellowship	Geisinger Health
Electrophysiology Fellowship	Johns Hopkins University
Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiologist	Geisinger Heart Institute

Start Date : October 2025

Dominik Beer, DO
Associate Professor of Medicine
Electrophysiology



Mirnela Byku, MD

Medical School	Saint Louis School of Medicine
Residency	Johns Hopkins Hospital
Cardiology Fellowship	Washington University
Current Faculty at	University of North Carolina

Start Date : August 2025

Mirnela Byku, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine
Director of Heart Failure



Leanne Denlinger, MD

Medical School	Pennsylvania State University
Residency	University of Virginia
Cardiology Fellowship	University of Virginia
Current Staff at	Augusta Health, Heart and Vascular Center

Leanne Denlinger, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
General Cardiology

Start Date : August 2025



Sumeet Kheterpal, MD, PhD

Medical School	University of Pennsylvania
Residency	Massachusetts General Hospital
Cardiology Fellowship	Massachusetts General Hospital
Postdoctoral Fellow	Harvard Medical School

Sumeet Kheterpal MD, PhD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
General Cardiology / Research

Start Date : September 2025



Inga Melvinsdottir, MD

Medical School	University of Iceland
Residency	University of Wisconsin
Cardiology Fellowship	Yale University
Structural Echo Fellowship	Washington Hospital Center

Inga Melvinsdottir, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
General Cardiology/Structural Echo

Start Date : September 2025

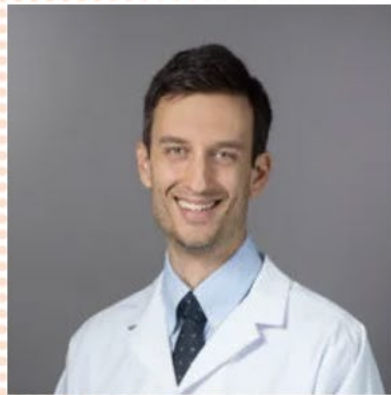


James MacNamara, MD

Medical School	University of Virginia
Residency	Emory University
Cardiology Fellowship	University of Texas Southwestern
Current Faculty at	University of Texas Southwestern

James MacNamara, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
General Cardiology/Imaging

Start Date : June 2025



Francesco Moroni, MD

Medical School	University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy
Residency	University of Virginia
Cardiology Fellowship	University Vita-Salute San Raffaele, Milan, Italy
Critical Care Fellowship	University of Virginia

Francesco Moroni, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
General Cardiology/Critical Care

Start Date : August 2025



Jonathan Pan, MD

Medical School	University of Virginia
Residency	University of Virginia
Cardiology Fellowship	University of Virginia
Advanced Imaging Fellowship	University of Virginia

Jonathan Pan, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine
General Cardiology/Imaging

Start Date : July 2025

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Christopher Kramer Selected as Next Leader of the American College of Cardiology



Christopher M. Kramer, MD, FACC, recently assumed the role of president of the American College of Cardiology, an almost 60,000-member global cardiovascular organization working to transform cardiovascular care and improve heart health for all.

“I see significant challenges and opportunities for the field of cardiology in the coming years, including workforce issues, health equity, diversity and inclusion, and AI-driven solutions, that need to be addressed to achieve ACC’s mission of transforming cardiovascular care for all,” Kramer said. “I am looking forward to using my term as president to help ACC be a leader on these issues while getting to know more of our inspiring, diverse membership and hearing their concerns and achievements across the U.S. and throughout the world.”

Kramer, whose interest in cardiology began during a summer scholarship program in high school, received his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. He completed his residency and chief residency in internal medicine and fellowship in cardiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. His first faculty appointment was at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, then MCP/Hahnemann University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, where he directed the cardiology fellowship before moving in 1999 to the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he became chief of the Cardiovascular Division in 2019.

Kramer’s principal research interest has been applying cardiovascular magnetic resonance (CMR) imaging to the cardiovascular system in translational and clinical studies. In recognition of his work, he received the Gold Medal from the Society for Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance in 2015, reinforcing the impact of his contributions to the field of CMR over his career.

His dedication to the College over a 35-year membership is reflected in his various leadership roles, including vice president, treasurer, and chair of ACC’s Imaging Council. Kramer was also an associate editor for imaging at JACC and executive editor of JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging. In 2021, the ACC named Kramer a Distinguished Mentor, which he has described as “an incredible honor.”

Chris is the fourth ACC President from University of Virginia Cardiology, joining Tim Garson MD (1999), George Beller MD (2000), and Mike Valentine MD (2018) [Read Kramer’s full ACC.25 Convocation Incoming President’s Address](#)

Christopher Kramer MD, FACC Appears Before Congress to Advocate For HEARTS Act Implementation Funding

Christopher Kramer MD, FACC, Cardiovascular Division Chief and American College of Cardiology (ACC) President, 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.

Kramer also took this opportunity to reemphasize the value of investment in NIH research, describing the impact that NIH-funded projects have had in advancing the prevention, treatment and management of heart conditions. Considering the HEARTS Act “a worthy and impactful addition” to the country’s leadership in medical research and progress, he called on lawmakers to provide the funding needed to make the resources promised by this law a reality.



Information and photo via ACC News Story

“The HEARTS Act was passed by Congress with the unity and urgency this issue deserves,” Kramer said. “Now, with your support, we can ensure effective nationwide implementation, protecting and investing in the health and safety of our communities.” [Read Kramer’s full testimony](#)

DIVISION RESEARCH

By Jonathan Lindner MD

The University of Virginia Cardiovascular Division is dedicated to advancing patient care through science. The Division's strong commitment to our basic, translational, and clinical research programs and its efforts to support physician-scientists are essential in the current uncertainty regarding federal support for research initiatives. Supporting established and future scientists is key to continuing the Division's 100-year history of making key scientific discoveries and accomplishments that have transformed healthcare.

A recent highlight from the Cardiovascular Research Oversight Committee has been establishing comprehensive research content for the Division's website. This portal ([Research - Division of Cardiovascular Medicine](#)) features some of the Division's recent scientific achievements and the scientists who continue to engage in impactful research. It also provides a descriptive list and contact information for the enrolling subjects of the >60 cardiovascular clinical trials. It also serves as a resource for early career scientists interested in the Division's research activities, including complete information on the NIH T-32 Fellowship training programs.

The Cardiovascular Division continues to play a pre-eminent role in science nationally and internationally. In the last academic year, the total research funding for the Division was \$10.8M, of which \$5.6M was from NIH and other federal grants. These grants fund basic research programs such as the genetic basis for cardiovascular disease, mechanisms of aggressive coronary artery disease and heart failure, novel forms of imaging, and clinical research where discoveries made at UVA are being implemented in first-in-human trials. This year, we will welcome three new research-oriented faculty members. Sumeet Khetarpal, MD, trained at Harvard/MGH and is an internationally recognized expert in lipid metabolism and molecular mechanisms of atherosclerosis. James MacNamara MD is a physician-scientist who trained at UTSW and has research and clinical interests in exercise performance, heart failure, and hypertrophic cardiomyopathies. Jonathan Pan, MD, who trained at UVA and is completing his T32 Research Fellowship, is an expert at applying advanced forms of cardiac imaging better to understand mechanisms of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction. These researchers will add to the already outstanding team of creative and collaborative physician-scientists in the Division.

CLINICAL RESEARCH



From left back row: Joshua Egan, Tevin Jefferson Front: Linda Bryceland, Niki Sprouse, Lauren Preston, Nadia Ventura-Abbas, Mary Knisley, Melanie Dean, Annika King, Erin Orr, Rahel Askari, Katie Sullivan Not pictured: Cathy Roy, Rachael Coleman, Emily Planas, Kelly Parker, Morgan Hamilton and Caroline Flournoy

The Cardiology Clinical Research Program at the University of Virginia is a dynamic and growing initiative that coordinates and supports various clinical trials across multiple investigators and subspecialties. The program consists of a dedicated team of 19 research coordinators strategically organized into specialized teams to support the division's research needs.

Our program involves diverse clinical research efforts, including device and pharmaceutical treatment trials, industry and NIH-sponsored studies, and investigator-initiated projects. The team coordinates over 125 clinical trials spanning straightforward data collection registries to highly complex early feasibility (EFS) trials, demonstrating the capacity to manage routine and cutting-edge cardiovascular research.

With a robust and continually expanding infrastructure, the UVA Cardiology Research Program remains committed to advancing cardiovascular care through excellence in clinical research.

Our mission statement: The Cardiology Clinical Research team is committed to advancing cardiovascular care through exceptional research coordination. We recognize and value the unique strengths of each team member, fostering a collaborative effort to drive meaningful progress. With a steadfast commitment to integrity, accountability, and trust, we work efficiently to streamline processes while prioritizing the safety and well-being of our research subjects. Guided by a shared purpose, we partner with clinicians, patients, sponsors, and community stakeholders to uphold the highest ethical standards and achieve transformative outcomes. Together, we strive to innovate, excel, and improve lives through groundbreaking research and compassionate care.

PUBLICATIONS

Antonio Abbate, MD, PhD; Benjamin Van Tassell, PharmD; Vlad Bogin, MD; Roshanak Markley, MD; Dmitry V. Pevzner, MD, PhD; Paul C. Cremer, MD; Imad Meray, MD, PhD; Dmitry V. Privalov, MD, PhD; Angela Taylor, MD, MS; Sergey A. Grishin, MD, PhD; Alina N. Egorova, MA; Ekaterina G. Ponomar, MD, PhD; Yan Lavrovsky, MD, PhD; Mikhail Yu Samsonov, MD, PhD; on behalf of the RPH-104 STEMI Study Investigators* Results of International, Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Phase IIa Study of Interleukin-1 Blockade With RPH-104 (Goflikcept) in Patients With ST-Segment–Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI)

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FOLLOW UVA CARDIO

DIVISION EDUCATION

By Victor Soukoulis MD PhD

The Cardiovascular Disease fellowship programs are proud to include a remarkable group of outstanding general and subspecialty fellows. Following a great match, we are thrilled to welcome our newest class of talented fellows to the team soon!

Our cardiology fellows deliver excellent clinical care while significantly contributing to research and quality improvement—special kudos to **Drs. Maddie Smoot** (general cardiology) and **Dr. George Prousi** (EP) who were nominated for the 2025 Exemplary Resident/Fellow Physician Nursing Excellence Award for their exceptional professionalism and interdisciplinary collaboration. Our Jeopardy team, composed of **Drs. Jamey Cutts, Anish Desai, and Scott Warner** who extended the multi-year streak of UVA being crowned state champion and represented Virginia admirably on the national stage at ACC.25 in Chicago.

We are also very excited that several of our fellows will be staying on as faculty this summer! **Dr. Nick Ashur** will join the Advanced Heart Failure and Transplant group. **Dr. Jonathan Pan** (quad Hoo) will become one of the Advanced Cardiac Imaging faculty.

On the education front, we continue to enhance the cardiovascular fellowship to meet our trainees' needs in the rapidly changing cardiology landscape. This past year, under the leadership of **Dr. Patricia Rodriguez-Lozano**, we instituted a formal mentorship program for first-year fellows. Through focused meetings with dedicated mentors and interactive sessions with mentorship experts, we aimed to support participants in their transition to fellowship while equipping them with lifelong mentorship skills. Additionally, we enhanced the CT and MRI training experiences during fellowship to align with the growing significance of these imaging modalities in cardiovascular care.

Among some of our subspecialty fellowships, we would like to highlight the Electrophysiology (EP) fellowship's exceptional international collaboration with the Dominican Republic. **Dr. Sami Ibrahim**, accompanied by a team of EP attending physicians, visited the country to deliver vital education and arrhythmia care to a population in need. Back at UVA, EP fellows receive hands-on training in some of the most advanced procedures, including pulsed-field ablation and extracardiac ICD placement.

We would also like to note two changes to subspecialty fellowship leadership. **Dr. Raj Patel** took over as program director of the Interventional Cardiology fellowship program, following Dr. Mike Ragosta's stewardship for many years. In addition to traditional training in interventional cardiology, the program also offers the opportunity to gain experience in the rapidly expanding field of structural heart disease. Additionally, the Vascular Medicine fellowship recently underwent a leadership transition, with **Dr. Randy Ramcharitar** taking over as program director. The fellowship continues to deliver a comprehensive education on the diagnosis and management of both common and rare diseases affecting the arteries, veins, and lymphatic system. The program includes vascular imaging education, multidisciplinary rotations in vascular surgery, interventional radiology, vascular neurology, and hematology, and active involvement in the Pulmonary Embolism Response Team.

In conclusion, we are incredibly proud of all our trainees and faculty have achieved across the fellowship programs, and we look forward to even more exciting accomplishments in the upcoming academic year!

American College of Cardiology Conference



Yaquib Betz, Jamey Cutts, and Anish Desai participated in ACC's version of Jeopardy. (Pictured at left)








Yaquib Betz, Jamey Cutts also presented an Imaging case poster.

Anish Desai, Scott Warner, Olivia Ondigi, Emilie Fortman all presented posters.

Jonathan Pan, Bishow Paudel presented posters in Imaging, and **Shiavax Rao** presented a poster in Vascular.

2025 INCOMING FELLOWS

Name	Program	Residency/Fellowship Program
William Bath	Cardiovascular Disease	Tulane University
Matthew Dean	Cardiovascular Disease	VCU
Robyn Goodrich	Cardiovascular Disease	UVA Residency
Joshua Hahm	Cardiovascular Disease	Mount Sinai Hospital
Luke Lawrence	Cardiovascular Disease	Medstar Georgetown
Tucker Wilkinson	Cardiovascular Disease	UVA Residency
Olivia Ondigi	Advanced Imaging	UVA CVD Fellowship (2+2)
Anish Desai	Electrophysiology	UVA CVD Fellowship
Alison Kim	Electrophysiology	UVA CVD Fellowship
Tanzina Afroze	Vascular Medicine	Texas Tech - Amarillo

William Bath *Matthew Dean* *Robyn Goodrich* *Joshua Hahm* *Luke Lawrence* *Tanzina Afroze* *Tucker Wilkinson*

2025 GRADUATING FELLOWS

Name	Program	Residency/Fellowship Program
George Prousi	Electrophysiology	Drexel University, Tower Health, Philadelphia PA
Yaqub Betz	Cardiovascular Disease	Thomas Jefferson Hospital, Philadelphia PA
Jamie Cutts	Cardiovascular Disease	Advanced Imaging (2nd Year)
Anish Desai	Cardiovascular Disease	Electrophysiology - UVA
Alison Kim	Cardiovascular Disease	Electrophysiology - UVA
Travis Skipina	Cardiovascular Disease	Cone Health HeartCare Group, Burlington NC
John Vitarello	Cardiovascular Disease	Cardiac Care Associates, Leesburg VA
Nicholas Ashur	Advanced Heart Failure/Transplant	Faculty - UVA
Jonathan Pan	Advanced Imaging	Faculty - UVA
Jacob Ortiz	Interventional	MUSC Tideland, Charleston SC CT Advanced
Jeffrey Chidester	Valve	Centra, Lynchburg VA
Shiavax Rao	Vascular Medicine	CVD Fellowship, Guthrie, Sayre, PA



Cardiology Admin Team, from left: Patty Dabney, Tessa Shifflett, Jessica Hicks, Amanda Scott, Todd Marks, Chelsea Ryder, Nadine Jones, Tori Lam

DIVISION PROFILE

STAFF - Chelsea Ryder



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I have been at the University of Virginia for eleven years in July. I began my career in the outpatient clinic in Orange, Virginia. I was a front desk access associate there for over four years. I transferred to the billing department in PFS, where I stayed for about a year and a half. Then, I landed in the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine as an administrative coordinator at the beginning of March 2020, right before the world shut down from Covid. I have been here ever since!

Why healthcare?

When I started working for UVA, it wasn't about "wanting" to work in health care but finding a good stable job with benefits and paid bills. Shortly after, my mindset changed to wanting to be a smiling face that patients saw as soon as they entered the clinic for their doctor's appointment, which they may not even be looking forward to. You can change someone's world if you care enough.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

I was born in Charlottesville and have lived in the Ruckersville area my entire life. The majority of my family is here in the surrounding counties, and I love being able to raise my family in this area.

What excites you about your work?

I enjoy not always doing the same thing day in and day out and feeling the appreciation our doctors show when we help make their lives even a little bit easier. I am thankful for the close relationships that my co-workers and I all have and that we all make a great team. I truly love seeing everyone's successes in their work.

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

My greatest personal achievement is the family I have created. I have the most supportive husband, who I can truly say is my best friend, and together, we are raising three beautiful daughters. It is amazing and bittersweet to see them learn and grow!

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

You can typically find us at a ballfield on the weekend between March and October. Two of our daughters play travel softball (one also plays travel volleyball), and they keep us extremely busy! On rare occasions that we do not have any kind of sporting event or practice, I love to spend time with family at parks, breweries, etc.

Do you have any pets?

We have one dog, Zeus.



What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

Most of our family vacations are spent somewhere in the Outer Banks, but honestly, I am happy as long as it's sunny and warm and on a beach!

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

Musical. Preferably, being an amazing singer, I would also find it super cool to be able to play different instruments!

Favorite fictional characters?

Cristina Yang from Grey's Anatomy.



DIVISION PROFILE

FELLOW - Scott Warner



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at the University of Virginia for nearly two years now, having completed my residency and chief residency at Oregon Health and Science University, my medical school education at the University of Louisville, and my undergraduate education at Penn State University. I was raised in the suburbs of Philadelphia (Go Birds). My interests include electrophysiology and medical education. After completing my general cardiology fellowship, I plan to pursue electrophysiology.

Why Healthcare?

It is a privilege to care for patients in a meaningful and lasting way, and to be entrusted with sharing in some of their most vulnerable moments. I specifically enjoy working with our cardiovascular disease population, as it encompasses a wide range of services, from disease prevention in the clinic setting to managing cardiogenic shock in our intensive care unit. The broad spectrum of heart disease, combined with the opportunity to work with talented faculty, residents, and medical students, makes for a captivating and inspiring work environment.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

The University of Virginia's exceptional cardiology fellowship program, with an emphasis on mentorship and teaching for all learners, offers proximity to family and immediate access to the Appalachian Mountains, and Charlottesville is an ideal place to start a family. Charlottesville



and UVA Health offer an exceptional blend of groundbreaking healthcare opportunities alongside a tight-knit community, making it an easy choice to train in a healthcare system that I believe will help me grow into the best possible practicing cardiologist.



What excites you about your work?

Being able to learn something new every day at work, in addition to having thought-provoking conversations with people from all walks of life. These opportunities allow me to continue growing as a person while helping patients.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

My wife and I enjoy spending as much time as possible outside, whether that involves hiking, camping, kayaking, cycling, climbing, or playing tennis or pickleball.

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

My wife cannot stand spicy food, so we always have an assortment of hot sauces in our refrigerator to add extra heat to our meals.

Do you have any pets?

We have a very active German shepherd named Nyla.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

Olympic National Park.

Favorite fictional characters?

Seth Milchick from Severance.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

"East of Eden" by John Steinbeck.

DIVISION PROFILE **FELLOW - Emilie Fortman**



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I came to the University of Virginia in July 2023 for a Cardiology fellowship after completing my Internal Medicine residency at VCU in Richmond. I grew up in Raleigh, NC, and Leesburg, VA, and went to UVA for college, where I majored in Biomedical Engineering. I spent four years in DC at Georgetown University, where I studied medical school. I am currently a second-year fellow planning on a career in non-invasive Cardiology.

Why Healthcare?

I was first drawn to healthcare when learning about the history of medicine. We have been treating disease with medicines and surgeries for millennia, and the thought of playing a role in that ongoing legacy has always been immensely exciting to me.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

I loved living in Charlottesville previously while I attended UVA for my undergraduate degree and returning to this prestigious institution to continue my medical career was an aspiration for me. I was thrilled to be matched here for my Cardiology fellowship.

What excites you about your work?

Since starting my medical career, I've appreciated the opportunity to meet various patients from different backgrounds. I am humbled by the amount of trust they place in their healthcare team to take care of them. At UVA, I enjoy the collaborative environment and the opportunity to learn something new daily from my colleagues and mentors.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

I love spending time outdoors. In the summer, you can catch me playing pickleball, tailgating polo matches at King Family Vineyards, hiking Humpback Rock, and meandering around the downtown mall. I like to spend my free time baking when the weather is poor. I especially enjoy cake/cupcake decorating.

How did you meet your partner?

Luke and I met during our internal medicine residency at VCU. We began as friends and co-residents working together on the wards and the ICU before we started dating, and we both share a passion for Cardiology. He is now a Cardiology fellow at Carilion in Roanoke, VA.

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

A variety of interesting cheeses! I am a huge gourmet cheese snob, so I always have a selection of delicious cheeses. My personal favorites are Mizithra, manchego, and Saint Angel.

Do you travel or have a favorite trip?

Some of my favorite trips have been cross-country road trips with my dad, who lives in Washington State. We take different routes across the US and aim to visit as many states as possible. One of my favorite routes was through Monument Valley in Arizona, where the vistas were breathtaking.



What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

"Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood."

What about you would surprise us?

I used to be a mathematics tutor. During the summers in college, I worked at a math learning center and taught all grade levels, from kindergarten through calculus.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

"One Italian Summer" by Rebecca Serle

What's the most unusual thing you have ever eaten?

Venison tartare.

PROFILE

FACULTY - James MacNamara



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I joined the University of Virginia in June 2025 after moving from Dallas, Texas. Previously, I completed my cardiology training at the University of Texas Southwestern and joined the faculty there in 2021. I'm originally from Georgia, and I went to the University of Georgia as an undergraduate and Emory University for my internal medicine training. In 2013, I graduated from UVA School of Medicine and have always kept a bit of Charlottesville with me.

Why Healthcare?

My goal in life is simple: let patients live the lives they want. My clinical practice is focused on patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and shortness of breath with activities. Identifying the cause of breathlessness and helping the patient overcome the root cause is incredibly rewarding.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

Can I say everything? My time at UVA was so impactful that I've always wanted to return. The people are kind. My new colleagues are supportive. Mountains and trees surround us. Having lived in Texas for 9 years, I'm unreasonably excited for distinct seasons!

What excites you about your work?

I am passionate about utilizing the available tools to help patients reach their goals. Echocardiography is an amazing and accessible technique that can

provide unparalleled insight into the human heart, particularly when combined with exercise testing. When we use the right tests to determine a patient's issue, we can truly practice personalized medicine.

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

Our two girls. No question.



Describe yourself in one word.

Passionate.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

I enjoy spending the weekends with my family and friends. Friday night is movie and popcorn night. Weekends are our time for playdates, often coinciding with the F1 race, and I can generally find a delicious and overly large piece of meat to smoke for dinner. In the fall, Saturdays are for Georgia football and the considerable emotional swings that accompany it.

How did you meet your partner?

My wife and I met at the University of Georgia. She thought I was cute at a football game, and we knew we were meant to be together.

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

String Cheese.

Do you have any pets?

We have two dogs, Kacy, the Husky, and Hercules, the brown dog. Kacy is not prepared for a real winter! I also keep tropical fish, and I currently have one discus, two plecos, and a handful of corydoras.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

St George Island on the Florida panhandle. It's shrimp and oyster country and a wonderful quiet beach to read a book or play with the girls.

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

In our business, people generally try to do what they think is best; in times of disagreement or conflict, understanding others and finding common ground is key to making progress.



DIVISION PROFILE

FACULTY -Mirnela Byku

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I will join the University of Virginia this August after being at the University of North Carolina for the last eight years, leading their MCS heart failure program. I am very excited to work with such a vibrant and dedicated group of colleagues and help improve heart failure care for the people UVA serves.

Why Healthcare?

I see being able to take care of people with heart failure as a privilege. Heart failure is a chronic and progressive condition with very high morbidity and mortality. As a heart failure doctor, you can make a tangible, often life-changing impact on patients at vulnerable points in their lives. Seeing a patient improve from struggling to walk across the room to enjoying daily life again is incredibly rewarding. The field offers constant learning and innovation, from medical therapy to cutting-edge devices, making every day intellectually engaging and meaningful. It is also deeply satisfying to educate the next generation of physicians on this and help continue to impact lives.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

I liked the program at UVA, and living close to the Blue Ridge Mountains in a vibrant community like Charlottesville is absolutely beautiful.

