MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Spring is finally here and with this comes the optimism and freshness of this season. In this month’s Medicine Matters, I think you will be impressed with the amazing achievements of the Division of Hematology and Oncology. Nine years ago, the Division was a third of this size and has grown significantly with the addition of world class clinicians, educators and researchers. The Division is now a leader in cellular therapies and poised for even bigger things to come.

In addition, you will see the names and photos of our newest intern class. These are amazing young men and women who will be the future of medicine and we are proud that we continue attract the very best trainees in the country. The residency program is the bedrock of the Department and our ability to have the strongest residents is critical to fulfilling our missions.

Lastly, it is time to celebrate another Mulholland Award. This award recognizes that the Department of Medicine continues to provide the very best teaching for our students. I am proud to say that we have won this award 7 times over the past 9 years. Congratulations to all and many thanks to everyone for their teaching efforts.

Mitchell H. Rosner, MD, MACP
Henry B. Mulholland Professor of Medicine
Chair, Department of Medicine
**BILLING TEAM SPOTLIGHT PROFILE**

**Steve Hess**

*Tell us a little bit about yourself.* In 2003 I worked at a CD/DVD manufacturing plant in Ruckersville. The company (Technicolor) chose to leave the country and now I was out of a job. Under the NAFTA act the government would pay for my education, billing/coding was a highly sought after field at the time so I decided to take that field of study. After a year and a half I took my CPC exam and passed. I started out putting away medical supplies in the med center’s supply room. Nine positions and 15 years later I am an analyst III for DOM.

*What brought you to Charlottesville?* I was born and raised in Pennsylvania. My family moved to Ruckersville in 1978. We loved the people and the area and have stayed there ever since.

*What excites you about your work?* I just happen to work with three other analysts that share the same values and faith as I do. I consider each one of them family. I always feel like I can share or ask them anything and value their perspective dearly.

*Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?* It’s a tie between losing a hundred pounds and completing a marathon.

*Next life?* Planning on moving close to my grandson sometime over the next two years.

*What are you usually doing on the weekend?* That depends on the season. Oct-Dec I’m usually hunting. The rest of the year it depends on the weather. I like spending it with the family no matter what I’m doing.

*How did you meet your partner?* In 1986 I met my wife Pam at Badger Powhatan where we both worked. She transferred into my dept not too long after getting a job there and the rest is history. She was my first girlfriend. My son married his first girlfriend also and has now been married a couple of years and will celebrate his son’s first birthday in April.

*Favorite vacation/activity spot?* Pam and I both love the rocky mountain states, from Arizona, Utah, up to Montana.

*Most admired person, and why?* Jesus Christ. He was on a mission and had one focus for his whole life here on earth.

*Best advice anyone ever gave you?* I was raised by my grandmother. She told me something that took years for me to understand and appreciate. She told me not to be ashamed of my faith.

*What about you would surprise us?* That I could change from the person I used to be.
ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM SPOTLIGHT PROFILE

EDUCATION - Tony Brinkman

Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I moved to Central Virginia 5 years ago with my wife once we found out we were expecting. I've been at UVA for 4 years now. I started out as a temp in Student Health and then in Neurology. It’s there where I discovered my love for graduate medical education and eventually accepted a position in the Department of Medicine's Internal Medicine Residency Program as a coordinator. I live in a nice home in Troy, Virginia with my wife, 4 year old daughter, and our rambunctious 8 month old Golden Retriever.

Why medical education?
Medicine is fascinating. Being able to work so closely with great physicians and witness their dedication is inspiring. Once I became a temp in Neurology, I knew this was bigger than me and I am truly honored to be a part of something that is so much bigger than myself.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
I grew up around Central Virginia and as a young boy Virginia was a paradise. It allowed me to hunt and fish as well as learn about Virginia’s unique history. When my wife and I found out that we were expecting a child, we knew this is where we wanted her to be raised.

What excites you about your work?
Being able to work with such an outstanding team and assist in making great and efficient clinicians.

Proudest / greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
Being a dad is my greatest achievement outside of the professional realm, followed by graduating from the University of Florida with my Bachelor’s degree.

Next life?
I would retire from the military.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
I enjoy spending time outdoors. Usually you can find me outdoors smoking meat, playing with my daughter and our dog in my yard. Additionally, I like to go for long runs during the weekend. During the warmer months you can usually find me down at a local fishing hole, hiking through the woods or on a golf course.

How did you meet your partner?
We were high school sweethearts from rival schools that happened to work at a local grocery store in Gordonsville, Virginia. She agreed to marry me and now the jokes on her, haha!

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. You can’t beat the beaches, golf and just great atmosphere.

Most admired person, and why?
Pat Tillman. Pat walked away from Millions of dollars to join the US Army. There Is No Greater Love Than To Lay Down Your Life for Another.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
Never go to bed angry at each other.

What about you would surprise us?
I never graduated high school. I had to quit to get a job to support my single mom.
DOM EDUCATION UPDATES

WELCOME 2019 INTERNS!

We are delighted to share this year’s match as we prepare for the intern class of 2019! We are blessed to have another outstanding group coming from a diversity of schools and states that embody our commitment to excellence in all domains, including diversity and inclusion. We have two categorical residents staying here at UVA and two preliminary interns staying as well.

Schools represented in our match of all tracks include: UVA (4); Mississippi (4); UNC (2), Tennessee (2); LSU (2), Rochester (2), Thomas Jefferson, Tulane, UT-Houston, Ohio State, Puerto Rico, VCU, Michigan State, Miami, EVMS, Maryland, South Carolina, Florida, Albany, Rutgers, Penn State, Vanderbilt, Mercer, Temple, Pittsburgh, and Iowa (1 each).

Thank you to our chief residents: Walid, Carrie, Amy, and Anthony, and the faculty on our intern selection committee who screened nearly 1,800 applications; the many faculty and fellows who assisted in interviews; the administrative team who ran a smooth process before and during interview days, and of course, many thanks to our residents for their commitment to making time for our applicants on interview days - always our best advertisement for the training program! ~ Brian Uthlaut, MD

2019 - 2020 MEDICINE PGY I INTERNS
CATEGORICAL

PRELIMINARY

NEUROLOGY

Congratulations to resident Megan Pierce and husband Morgan on the birth of their son Gavyn on March 10th. Megan reports that he is the spitting image of his older brother Dylan (pictured holding him).
The Department of Medicine again selected by UVA medical students as the winner of the Mulholland Award.

This award signifies that the Department of Medicine was chosen as the best teaching Department in the School of Medicine. This is the 3rd year in a row and the 7th time DoM has won this award in the last 9 years. We should be proud of this achievement and it reflects our mutual dedication to education and mentorship. We are educating the next generation of doctors and we are doing it with excellence!

Many thanks to all of you but I want to highlight the work and dedication of our education team that includes Drs. Molly Hughes, Alex Millard, Evan Heald, Brian Uthlaut, Jerry Donowitz and Brian Wispelwey. They are also supported by a world-class administrative team that includes Karen Ward and Joy Hilton. ~ Mitchell H. Rosner, MD, MACP

Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism collaborates with the Department of Telehealth to start innovative programs to manage diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

Virginia Center for Diabetes Prevention & Education
Cardiometabolic Clinic
Virginia Center for Diabetes Prevention & Education
Center for Diabetes Technology

The Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism has teamed up with the Department of Telehealth and the Center for Diabetes Technology to start a new program “Innovate State and Local Public Health Strategies to Prevent and Manage Diabetes and Heart Disease and Stroke (InnoVate)” to better prevent and manage chronic conditions that include diabetes, prediabetes and heart disease. This 5-year initiative is supported by a grant of >$750,000 from CDC and the Virginia Department of Health.

The Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism is involved in the following aspects of the program:

• Pilot and test innovative telehealth technologies to improve screening, diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, referrals, and patient self-management

• Build capacity at UVA for Type II Diabetes and Cardiometabolic Technology Clinic

• Develop telehealth models of care for diabetes, diabetes prevention and cardiovascular risk reduction that are standards-t and evidence-based for deployment by health systems across Virginia

• Expand delivery of telehealth and mobile health technology services to patients in hot-spot areas

• Provide training to health care providers across the Commonwealth in clinical topics, protocols, and use of telehealth technologies, including establishing ENDO ECHO

Though the program has just begun, it has already garnered a lot of media coverage! Please visit the included links to read more. Congratulations to Ms. Anne Wolf, Dr. Heather Ferris, Ms. Viola Holmes, and Dr. Rita Basu.

Press coverage: • UVA Today • NBC29 • mHealth Intelligence • dLife • sNEWSi • Augusta Free Press • Science Magazine

DoM Residents Awarded Humanism & Excellence in Teaching Award

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation recently awarded its Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award, two DoM residents were among the honored recipients. This award recognizes outstanding humanistic teaching residents as identified by their students. This award is based on the residents’ exceptional teaching skills and commitment to the compassionate treatment of patients and families, students, and colleagues.

The DoM awardees are from left: Alex Zimmet, MD and Mike Gallagher, MD.

SWINEFORD ALLERGY CONFERENCE
58th Annual Swineford Allergy Conference
April 5th, 8:00 am- April 6th, 12:15 pm
Pinn Hall Conference Center, University of Virginia
For more information contact Pamela Lace: psl59@virginia.edu or 434.924.5310
The Hematology/Oncology Division has enjoyed continued rapid expansion in faculty and programs during the past year, accommodating growth at our outpatient sites (Couric Center, Augusta, Culpeper and Pantops) and on our inpatient ward and consultation services. We welcomed three new faculty members this academic year: Drs. Trish Millard (Breast oncology), Michael Devitt (GU oncology) and Indumathy Varadarajan (Stem cell transplantation and acute leukemia) – each brings important clinical expertise and strengthens our clinical research capabilities.

Highlights among the Division’s new programs include CAR-T cells for lymphoma and bispecific antibody-based cellular therapeutics (“BATs”) – generated in the new Center for Human Therapeutics in Pinn Hall, under the leadership of Dr. Larry Lum. Dr. Kelly Davidson established a Sickle Cell Disease program, and Dr. Louise Man is organizing the Adult Comprehensive Bleeding Disorders Center. Clinical trials and translational research programs have been highly productive this year, with numerous publications and presentations at national and international conferences. This work is integral to the NCI-designated UVA Cancer Center, led by Dr. Tom Loughran, one of 70 such centers in the U.S. The Cancer Center remains in the top 50 USN & WR rankings, the only such site in Virginia and again putting us in the top 3% of cancer centers nationally.

It’s exciting to be part of such a dynamic and collegial group of faculty, fellows and staff, each of whom is committed to providing the best in patient care and educational experiences, and to advancing the field toward better outcomes for cancer and blood diseases. The coming year will see the opening of the new Infusion Center on the Couric Center 4th floor, a Symptom Management Clinic to expedite urgent patient evaluations and decrease the need for ED visits or inpatient admission, and expansion of clinical trials capacity. I’ll look forward to updating our continued progress in future messages!

~Michael E. Williams, MD, ScM, Chief, Division of Hematology/Oncology

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY CLINICAL UPDATES

Over the past five years, the Division has partnered with Medical Center colleagues and Cancer Service Line to improve operational and process efficiencies to be able to manage growing clinical volumes and programs within current clinical space, both inpatient and outpatient. This partnership is working to further develop and implement Health System strategies, such as expanding our referral base and presence in the community and developing relationships with northern Virginia. UVA Community Oncology was also integrated as a section within the Division in FY2018.

The clinical focus continues to be providing subspecialty clinical care for patients as per cancer volume trends in PSA/SSA and assessment of programmatic need and growth – multidisciplinary disease-specific teams across the spectrum on hematologic and oncologic disorders along with recruitment and support of academic faculty whose clinical research interests and effort provides access and new treatment options to our patients, provides a key differentiator for the University of Virginia (UVA). We continue to build a broad spectrum of clinical studies and ongoing scientific integration required to achieve comprehensive status (evaluative factors include robust clinical research activity metrics which include number of patients accrued to therapeutic trials and development of investigator-initiated studies).

Other advancements include:

- Use of targeted agents, immuno-therapeutics and cellular therapeutics (Center for Human Therapeutics opening April 2019) – multi-use FDA-approved cGMP facility: therapeutic T-cells, CAR-Ts, monoclonal and bispecific antibodies, T-reg, vaccines, cytotherapy products for auto- and allo-SCT, etc.
- Growth in clinical research portfolio (latest report list HemeOnc faculty as PI on 68+ active trials) and patient accruals
- Establishment of a multidisciplinary Molecular Tumor Board
Looking Forward:
Building Clinical Programs and Collaborative Research
Train the next generation of clinicians and investigators
Extend the reach of UVA Hematology/Oncology and Cancer Center, regionally and nationally
(From left: Christiana Brenin, Sarah Pardieck, Veronica Brill, Keith Fritz, Sarah Kirby, Kristine Vey, Keith Schrimp)

**CAR-T**
UVA recently has been approved as a site for tisagenlecleucel (Kymirah), an FDA approved CD19 directed chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell product. We have been selecting patients with relapsed diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) for treatment for this product and hope to have our first tisagenlecleucel infusion in early April. We have also been working with another CAR T-cell product, axicabtagene ciloleucel (Yescarta) in clinical studies and have treated 3 patients on study.

**ORIEN Project**
In partnership with 7 other institutions, Dr. Portell and Dr. Williams were recently awarded a grant through the ORIEN network. The UVA Cancer Center is a partner with ORIEN, a multi-institution collaborative focused on blood and tissue collection in a variety of cancer patients. This grant will take patient level and tissue level data to identify predictors of response and survival for patients with various non-Hodgkin Lymphomas who have relapsed to standard treatments.

**Adult Hemophilia Center Opening**
Federally-funded Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs) are the standard of care for patients with inherited bleeding disorders. Dr. Louise Man is leading efforts to extend the Pediatric federally-funded Comprehensive Bleeding Disorders Treatment Center to adult patients in the Benign Hematology Clinic. This would include a multidisciplinary team to meet the complicated health needs involved with caring for this patient population. Dr. Man hopes to have the program up and thriving by Fall 2019.

**Quality Improvement Initiative**
About one-third of DVTs occurring in the hospital are related to central lines. We have convened a working group comprised of representatives from Hematology, general medicine, IR and ID to evaluate our institutional ordering practices for central line placement with a focus on PICC lines. Our goal is to prevent placement of unnecessary PICC lines, and to limit line size to the smallest acceptable diameter to help reduce incidence of line associated thrombosis and CLABSI.

**8West Bed Expansion**
The University of Virginia Cancer Service Line is excited to announce an eight-bed expansion on 8 North beginning March 2019.

All eight beds will be private rooms, featuring floor to ceiling windows and a view of the Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center, the Rotunda and the Blue Ridge Mountains. Six beds will belong to all services under the Cancer Service Line and two beds will be swing beds. These beds will join the current 22 beds on 8 West and 14 beds on 8 Stem Cell Transplant Units, making a total of 44 beds.

Patients in these beds will be cared for by the current team of inpatient oncology medical physicians, nurses, pharmacists, therapy services, and supportive services.

Six beds on 6 Central Unit will still continue to be under the Cancer Service Line. In 2020, with the completion of the new hospital bed tower, additional rooms will be allocated to the Cancer Service Line.

The expansion comes at a critical time, as the patients of Cancer Service Line frequently overflow off the current two units on the eighth floor. The inpatient oncology unit leadership would like to thank the Cancer Service Line leadership and Health System Senior Leadership for these additional assigned beds, and their continued commitment to serving patients with cancer.

**ECCCC 4th Floor Infusion Center Expansion**
4th floor infusion center of the ECCCC is scheduled to be completed in December 2019 with a move in date of 12/14/19; renovations of part of the current infusion center will start afterward to create additional clinic space and provider workrooms, as well as another conference room.

Scope: Fourth Floor - Provide 54 Infusion treatment stations. (There are currently 36 treatment stations on the 2nd floor.) There will be a combination of private and small group areas.

Scope: First Floor – Provide retail pharmacy space to be relocated from 2nd floor and rework Flourish space.

Size: Fourth floor: 26,000 gross square feet
First floor: 1,300 gross square feet
Hematology/Oncology Faculty are involved on National and International Committees and Boards. A few examples include:

- Dr. Kelly Davidson – Member, American Board of Internal Medicine Hematology Exam Committee
- Dr. Laahn Foster – Member, ASH Governmental Affairs Committee
- Dr. Varinder Kaur – Member, ASCO Melanoma Guideline Panel
- Dr. Varinder Kaur - Member, ORIEN Scientific Review Committee
- Dr. Varinder Kaur - Member, ASCO/ABIM- Test Materials Development Subcommittee
- Dr. Michael Keng – Chair, ASCO Quality Training Program
- Dr. Michael Keng – Committee Member, ASH Committee on Quality
- Dr. Tamila Kindwall-Keller – Medical Monitor, BMT CTN CIBMTR Plasma Cell Working Group
- Dr. Daniel (Trey) Lee – Member, Immune Effector Cell-related Adverse Events Subcommittee, Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer
- Dr. Michael E. Williams – Vice Chair, ECOG Lymphoma Committee
- Dr. Michael E. Williams – Member, Executive Committee, Lymphoma Research Foundation Scientific Advisory Board

DISEASE SPECIFIC SECTIONS WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

MEDICAL ONCOLOGY

As we entered the new academic year, the section of Medical Oncology welcomed two new faculty members well known to the Department, Drs. Trish Millard and Michael Devitt. With their addition, the section of Medical Oncology has reached a milestone in its transformation under the leadership of Dr. Williams to provide disease-specific clinical and clinical investigative expertise across medical oncology.

- **Melanoma/and related disorders** - Drs. Liz Gaughan and William Grosh
- **Breast Medical Oncology** - Drs. Christiana Brenin, Patrick Dillon and Trish Millard
- **Thoracic Medical Oncology** - Drs. Ryan Gentzler and Richard Hall
- **Head and Neck Oncology** - Dr. Varinder Kaur
- **Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology and Unknown Primary Neoplasms** - Drs. Tri Le, Paul Kunk, and Matthew Reilley
- **Genitourinary Medical Oncology** - Drs. Michael Devitt and Robert Dreicer
- **Sarcoma** - Drs. Michael Douvas, William Grosh, and Johann Hsu

HEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCIES/HEMATOLOGY/STEM CELL TRANSPLANT

The Hematology sections welcomed three new members to the Division, Indumathy Varadarajan, MD, Assistant Professor focusing on Stem Cell Transplant, (and two Advanced Practice Providers, Kathryn Strickler, RN, MSN, AG-PCNP and Heather Youngberg, PA-C). Over the past five years the Hematology section has seen significant growth in both clinical and research activities. Also notable is the increase in Stem Cell Transplants from 63 in calendar year 2016 to 118 in calendar year 2018.

- **Non-Malignant Hematology** - Drs. Kelly Davidson, Hillary Maitland, and Louise Man
- **Stem Cell Transplant** - Drs. Karen Ballen, Tamila Kindwall-Keller, Indumathy Varadarajan, and Leonid Volodin
- **Lymphoma and CLL** - Drs. Craig Portell and Michael E. Williams
- **Myeloma** - Drs. Laahn Foster and John Densmore
- **Leukemia** - Drs. Michael Douvas, Michael Keng and Francine Garrett-Bakelman

UVA COMMUNITY ONCOLOGY

The UVA Community Oncology teams that care for patients in central Virginia at three locations: Augusta County (Fishersville), Culpeper and Pantops have undergone significant transitions over the past two years as they were incorporated into the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology and the Medical Center Cancer Service Line. The physicians and members of the staff at each location are dedicated to the care of patients with solid tumors, hematologic malignancies and benign hematologic disorders, and provide multidisciplinary infusion services. In addition to clinical and infusion care, the Community Oncology clinics have robust patient support services including access to UVA Pharmacy services, nutrition, social work, financial assistance and massage therapy. Each LIP and staff member has worked tirelessly to develop the UVA team within and across all locations that continues to strengthen day by day.

Key elements of the transition of the Community Oncology section included the incorporation of breast and gastrointestinal medical oncology and benign hematologic clinical services at the Pantops location, significantly easing the scheduling of initial patients. In addition, we expanded the scope of infusion services at the community locations to accommodate more patients with a variety of needs to support other specialty care services within the Medical Center. Currently, plans are underway to develop the capability to conduct clinical trials at the Community locations, beginning with the Pantops clinic. The Culpeper Medical Oncology and Radiation Oncology clinics are important components of the University’s partnership with Novant Health. Both the Augusta Clinic and the Culpeper clinics have welcomed trainees on clinic elective rotations to fully engage in the educational priorities of the School of Medicine. Community Oncology physicians include Drs. Johann Hsu (Pantops), Cherif Abelmalek and Nicholas Paphitis (Augusta), and Ali Mahjoub and Pranav Patel (Culpeper).
It is a great honor to facilitate the training of future Hematology/Oncology physicians at the University of Virginia. We have an outstanding and vibrant fellowship program in part because our specialty is a dynamic, rapidly changing field. An essential part of my job as program director is to teach future Heme/Onc physicians on strategies to stay sharp in a constantly evolving field of medicine. To that end, we made several significant changes to the structure of our outpatient training curriculum. Fellows now rotate in newly developed disease specific clinics, and their training is augmented by online resources, conferences, and one on one meetings with disease experts. During the March 2019 Graduate Medical Education week, Carolyn Carrera MD and I presented a poster with the first 6-month results of a project entitled, “Block Scheduling: It’s Hip to be Square,” that highlighted the improvements in fellow satisfaction with the new outpatient clinic structure.

This year we began new curricula to teach resiliency skills led by Trish Millard MD, and we re-organized our clinical research training curriculum with the involvement of Matthew Reilley MD. Our fellowship leadership team consists of two Associate Program Directors, Laahn Foster MD and Craig Portell MD, who continue to evaluate how we can augment and improve our existing fellowship curricula and identify new opportunities to help our fellows grow professionally. We saw an outstanding fellowship recruitment in 2018 thanks to the hard work of many people especially Lisa Mackey, our program coordinator. We reviewed over 300 fellowship applications, interviewed 39 applicants, and matched 3 outstanding fellows who will join us in July 2019.

Lastly, our fellowship program depends on many people for its success from administrative team members to the many engaged faculty members who mentor fellows in clinic and with research projects. The support of the UVA Cancer Center, led by Tom Loughran MD, has been critical in supporting the research mission of the fellowship and providing opportunities for our fellows to present research at national meetings. I personally look forward to an outstanding year ahead as the Hematology/Oncology Fellowship Program Director.

~Richard D. Hall, MD, MS, Assistant Professor of Medicine

2018 - 2019 HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

2018 American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting Fellow Poster Presentations

Our fellowship was well represented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Hematology (ASH) conference held in December 2018 in San Diego, CA. A list of poster presentations presented during the meeting by our fellows include:

Daniel Reed, MD: “Oral regimen for urine alkalization in patients getting HD Methotrexate during shortage of IV bicarbonate”

Victor Orellana-Noia, MD: “Outcome of patient with aggressive B-cell lymphoma post salvage immune-chemotherapy following intensive first line treatment”

Puja Arora, MD: “Single institution experience of GI involved DLBCL: presentation, outcomes, and patterns of treatment failure”

Pooja Mehra, MD: “Outcomes of FL Pts treated with frontline BR: impact of histologic grade and early progression on overall survival”

ASCO Quality Training Program

We sent two of our second year fellows, Daniel (Danny) Reed MD and Erin McLoughlin MD, to participate in the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s (ASCO) Quality Training Program (QTP). This is a six-month program designed to train physician-led teams to design and implement quality improvement projects at their home institutions. Both Danny and Erin’s projects, “Reducing Time to High Dose Methotrexate Administration on an Inpatient Oncology Ward” and “Development of a Standard Protocol to Address the High Incidence of Clinical Heart Failure in our Adult Acute Myeloid Leukemia population” respectively, were aimed at addressing important issues frequently encountered on the inpatient hematology service.
I am excited to start my career as a community hematologist and oncologist in Dover Delaware. As I approach completing my fellowship period at UVA, it is hard to part ways as UVA fellowship program not only provided me with the knowledge and the skills needed to succeed in my chosen path but also provided me with all the support anybody can ask for every step of the way. It truly felt like family. It might be a little easier to leave knowing that I have met some great mentors that I can go back to with any question regarding my future patients knowing that they will be happy to help. The UVA program is fellow-oriented and our program leader, Dr. Hall always listens to our concerns and has made a lot of great changes that made this program even more desirable.

I learned so much more than just how to treat patients with a malignancy during my fellowship in Hematology/Oncology. I learned how to ask questions, how to analyze data, how to empathize with patients and, and how to work in a multidisciplinary team. I also gained some lifelong friends and mentors. After fellowship I will be working at a community oncology site of University Hospitals/Case Western in Cleveland, OH.

UV A Hematology/Oncology has been a fantastic place for fellowship training with excellent teaching, mentorship, and support that have been influential in shaping my development as a hematologist/oncologist. I will be returning to Ann Arbor, MI (Go Blue!), and will be joining IHA Hematology/Oncology Consultants at St. Joseph Mercy Health System with a clinical focus on breast oncology.

Our fellowship has allowed me to focus on becoming a generalist in hematology and oncology by equipping me with a well-rounded clinical experience. I will be heading back to Maine to work in a hospital based group in Augusta, Maine.
**HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY DIVISION TRIALS**

**Total number of trials currently open with Hematology/Oncology Faculty as the Primary PI 75.**

17-19990 19900
Focused Ultrasound Therapy to Augment Antigen Presentation & Immune-Specificity of Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy with Pembrolizumab in Metastatic Breast Cancer
Stages: IV  CT.GOV ID: NCT03237572
Primary: Dillon, Patrick, CRC: Zareno, Jessica

18-20218 20218
A Pilot Study of the Combination of Entinostat with Capecitabine in High Risk Breast Cancer after Neo-adjuvant Therapy
Stages: I; II; III; IV  CT.GOV ID: NCT03473639
Primary: Dillon, Patrick, CRC: Boyd, Jake

17-19236 19236
Phase II/II Treatment of Advanced Pancreatic Cancer with anti-CD3 x anti-EGFR-Bispecific Antibody Armed Activated T-Cells (BATs)
Stages: IV  CT.GOV ID: NCT03269526
Primary: Le, Tri, CRC: Bjornson, Kirsten

18-21003 PHAR 21003
A Phase I/II Study of ARRY-382 in Combination with Pembrolizumab, a Programmed Cell Death Receptor 1 (PD-1) Antibody, for the Treatment of Patients with Advanced Solid Tumors
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT02880371
Primary: Kunk, Paul, CRC: Mannen, Sallie

18-20327 20327
A Randomized Phase II Trial of Abiraterone, Olaparib, or Abiraterone + Olaparib in Patients with Metastatic Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer with DNA Repair Defects
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT03012321
Primary: Dreicer, Robert, CRC: Torres, Julio

15-17983 17983
Multi-institutional Phase I/Ib study of ibrutinib with ABT-199 in relapsed/refractory mantle cell lymphoma
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT02419560
Primary: Portell, Craig, CRC: Stafford, Erica

18-20410 PHAR 20410
A Phase III, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Multicenter, Randomized Study Of Pracinostat In Combination With Azacitidine In Patients With Newly Diagnosed Acute Myeloid Leukemia Unti for Standard Induction Chemotherapy -PRAN-16/52
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT03151408
Primary: Kunk, Michael, CRC: Underwood, Kim, M

18-20729 PHAR 20729
A Phase 3, Randomized, Open-Label Study Evaluating the Efficacy of Axicabtagene Glovucel versus Standard of Care Therapy in Subjects with Relapsed/Refractory Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT03391466
Primary: Foster, Laahn, CRC: Andre, Michael

16-18396 Other: National 18396
A Phase I/II Study of Pomalidomide, Dexamethasone and Ixazomib vs. Pomalidomide and Dexamethasone for Patients With Multiple Myeloma Refractory to Lenalidomide and Proteasome Inhibitor-Based Therapy
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT02004275
Primary: Portell, Craig, CRC: Underwood, Kim, M

18-20307 PHAR 20307
Phase II trial of induction immunotherapy with atezolizumab for patients with unresectable stage IIIA and IIIB NSCLC eligible for chemoradiotherapy with curative intent.
Stages: III A; III B  CT.GOV ID: NCT03102242
Primary: Hall, Richard, CRC: Davenport, Maria

18-20831 PHAR 20831
A Phase 2 Precision Oncology Study of Biomarker-Directed, Pembrolizumab (MK-3475, SCH 900475) Based Combination Therapy for Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (KEYNOTE-395; KeyImPaCT)
Stages: IV  CT.GOV ID: NCT03516981
Primary: Gentzler, Ryan, CRC: Davenport, Maria
The Center for Human Therapeutics is a new, FDA-approved facility for the production of cellular and immune clinical products for human clinical trials at the University of Virginia. Located on the second floor of Pinn Hall, the 7500 square foot facility includes a Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP), multi-use, clean room complex.

Construction began in 2016 when Dr. Richard Shannon, executive vice president of health affairs; Dr. David Wilkes, dean of the School of Medicine; and Dr. Tom Loughran, Jr., director of the UVA Cancer Center, recruited Dr. Lawrence Lum, scientific director of bone marrow transplantation and director of cellular therapy, to lead the Emily Couric Cancer Center’s program development for T cell adoptive immunotherapy. Part of Dr. Lum’s startup support package included $9.3 million in funding—allocated by the Commonwealth in support of clinical research at UVA—to build a new cGMP clean room facility.

The facility includes six ISO 7 manufacturing clean rooms that have been custom designed for the manufacture and processing of different types of clinical products for investigator initiated trials, including: immune cell products, bispecific antibody targeted T cells, chimeric antigen receptor T cells, vaccines, bispecific antibodies, and monoclonal antibodies. The facility will also support the preparation of islet cells for transplantation and, in the future, the production of solution phase nanoparticles for human clinical use.

Connected by an ISO 8 hallway, the six clean rooms experience approximately 30 air exchanges per hour. Support facilities include a quarantine supply room, locker facilities, a quality control/quality assurance room, and offices for the leadership and staff. The facility is outfitted with alarm systems for monitoring air pressure differentials, room temperature, freezer and refrigerator temperatures, CO2 and O2 levels in the liquid nitrogen freezer rooms, and sensor interface for bioreactors.

Thanks to the construction teams at UVA and those who partnered with the University to undertake this feat, construction is complete and validation of the facility is being finalized. The only complex of its kind in Virginia, the Center for Human Therapeutics will be operational in April 2019.
### Hematology/Oncology Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hematology/Oncology Grand Rounds</strong></td>
<td>“Clinical Trials Design Series”&lt;br&gt;April 3rd, April 24th, May 1st, May 8th&lt;br&gt;8 am - 9 am&lt;br&gt;ECCCC, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3303</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2nd Year Fellows Farrow Updates</strong></td>
<td>April 10, 2019&lt;br&gt;8 am - 9 am&lt;br&gt;ECCCC, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3303</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hematology/Oncology Grand Rounds</strong></td>
<td>“American Association for Cancer Research Updates”&lt;br&gt;May 29, 2019&lt;br&gt;8 am - 9 am&lt;br&gt;ECCCC, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3303</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hematology/Oncology Grand Rounds</strong></td>
<td>“American Society of Clinical Oncology Updates”&lt;br&gt;June 12, 2019&lt;br&gt;8 am - 9 am&lt;br&gt;ECCCC, 3rd Floor Conference Room 3303</td>
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<td><strong>UVA/INOVA 2019 Medical Oncology Update</strong></td>
<td>November 13, 2019&lt;br&gt;Boars Head Inn&lt;br&gt;200 Ednam Drive, Charlottesville, VA&lt;br&gt;Didactic review/Case based conference highlighting current state of the art in Melanoma, Breast, GI, GU neoplasms, with an emphasis on immunotherapy and toxicity management.</td>
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<td><strong>3rd Annual Updates in Hematology &amp; Hematologic Malignancies</strong></td>
<td>April 3, 2020&lt;br&gt;Boars Head Inn&lt;br&gt;200 Ednam Drive, Charlottesville, VA&lt;br&gt;This program will explore research and advances in the diagnosis and management of benign hematologic conditions and hematologic malignancies, including indications for novel therapies and use in special populations.</td>
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Tell us a little bit about yourself:
I’ve been at UVA for nearly 2 years since completing fellowship in medical oncology and hematology at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. I take care of patients with gastrointestinal cancers with a particular interest in early phase clinical trials and developmental therapeutics.

Why medicine?
I chose to become a medical oncologist because I find the field so clinically and intellectually satisfying. Clinically, I am able to develop meaningful, longitudinal relationships with patients and their families. Scientifically, there is a tremendous opportunity to participate in the development and translation of new therapies to patients.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
I was an undergraduate down the road at W&L and loved my time in Virginia. So after years of moving around the northeast/southwest, I was excited to come back. Charlottesville was an appealing place to live and so far my family and I have loved it here.

What excites you about your work?
I love blending clinical care of patients with new ideas/approaches to try to improve current standards. Typically, this means enrolling patients on therapeutic clinical trials. I have also been able to collaborate with colleagues in Engineering and Data Science, and really enjoy thinking about how to improve medicine from a non-medical perspective.

Proudest / greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
My kids - they amaze and impress me everyday.

Next life?
I come from a long-line of engineers in my family and if I wasn’t taking care of patients, I’d probably be programming.

What are you usually doing in your spare time?
My kids are 2 and 5, so when I’m home it’s usually play time. We also enjoy exploring the nearby nature trails and activities.

How did you meet your partner?
My wife (Katie) and I met at W&L and we’ve been together ever since!

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
We recently took a beach vacation in Mexico and had a great time.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
Be nice. This may seem obvious, but medicine and research are team sports and people won’t do their best if they don’t like/want to work together.

What about you would surprise us?
I worked (briefly) for Google on a programming project to improve their translation website before starting medical school. It was a cool experience.
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I’ve been at UVA for two years, after completing post graduate clinical and scientific training at Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY. I now work as a physician scientist. I take care of patients with hematological malignancies on the inpatient service, and I am the principal investigator of a laboratory that focuses on the study of biomarkers and pathogenesis of Acute Myeloid Leukemia.

Why research?
Since a young age, my interests have focused on science and medicine. Growing up for a period of time in Israel, I personally witnessed how professions that are have the potential to transverse race, religion or cultural backgrounds can be universally applied can make a difference in lives. It is this perspective that compelled me to pursue an academic career that involved both science and medicine. Through training, I have learned to value the importance of education and mentorship and am forever grateful to all individuals who have helped me reach this point in my career. Hence, aim to provide educational opportunities in both medicine and science to trainees with whom I have the privilege of working, whenever possible.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
As I began my search for an academic institution to start my independent research career, UVA was a great fit. It was (and still is) a growing institution, with active recruitment of individuals from a variety of academic backgrounds and expertise. As a University, it offered a breadth of individuals in fields that I could collaborate with. As a cancer center, UVA offered me an opportunity to continue to provide care to patients with hematological malignancies with expert colleagues. Finally, Charlottesville offered a family friendly place to live.

What excites you about your work?
Every day I have the privilege of working on understanding a disease that is a devastating diagnosis to most patients. The discovery of biomarkers that could someday help our field better predict how patients will respond to treatments offered is a unique opportunity I do not take for granted. Finally, working with colleagues and trainees to implement experiments aimed at understand the basic mechanisms of disease, which no one else has performed before, is a dream come true. No two days are alike, and results often surprise me – but that is the fun part!!

Proudest / greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
There are a few that come to mind but one that is extremely meaningful to me. I lived in New York in 2001 and was able to visualize the burning twin towers from my dorm room in medical school in the Bronx at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. It was an extremely sad day and one that I will never forget. Through volunteering with the American Red Cross, I was able to provide services at a respite center for the clean-up crews at ground zero. The nights I spent there close to the base of the Twin Towers, will forever be embedded in my memories. I was thankful to have had the opportunity to contribute, even if in a very small, and perhaps insignificant way. That year I was also the Chairperson of the Board of the Student National Medical Association. It was a difficult year for non-profits, and yet with my colleagues on the Board of Directors, we were able to maintain our focus and support the organization and its membership at large to continue our mission of increased diversification in the medical education and profession pipelines.

Next life?
If I had a choice, I would be an astronaut. I think it would be extremely exciting to be able to travel beyond earth’s atmosphere to explore our galaxy.

What are you usually doing in your spare time?
I focus on spending time with my family, whether it is working on a project, making a meal, taking a trip to the grocery store or to another country together, or just relaxing.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
My favorite vacation spot is Tanzania. I was once there as a medical resident, and since on another visit as a tourist. Both times I was amazed by the natural beauty of the country, the warm welcome the people offered, and the wonderful animal populations I saw while on Safari.

Most admired person, and why?
My mother. She is the most resourceful and intelligent person I know, who is eternally optimistic, compassionate and considerate.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
Other that the daily advice I receive from my mother, my PhD supervisor, Dr. Barbara Birshtein offered me advice that I will never forget. She always said that anxiety is another form of excitement. It is that perspective that I follow in my professional life. It helps me face challenges and keeps them in perspective.

What about you would surprise us?
Not too many individuals know, but I am an ex-gymnast. I practiced the sport for nearly twelve years during which I competed internationally.
**Tell us a little bit about yourself.**
I’ve been at UVA for about 9 months, after completing my medical school and residency training in Philadelphia. I currently live in Charlottesville with my husband and our son.

**What brought you to Charlottesville?**
My husband and I were looking to settle down in a town a little less busy than Philadelphia, and I wanted a program that would give me the best training opportunity. I felt the fellowship program at UVA was well-rounded and would allow me to continue translational and clinical research. Charlottesville has a lot of family friendly activities and also allows us to explore the outdoors. It was the best of both worlds!

**What excites you about your work?**
Everything! I am amazed that every day I learn something new. The faculty and staff are great to work with. And I have a fun group of co-fellows.

**Proudest / greatest achievement outside the professional realm?**
My son, Rhys.

**Next life?**
I would work for national geographic traveling around the world filming documentaries.

**What are you usually doing in your spare time?**
Maybe ask me this question next year :)

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**How did you meet your partner?**
My friend in high school wanted to set me up with her cousin. She brought my now husband into my work (I was a sales clerk at Eckerd Pharmacy).

**Favorite vacation/activity spot?**
Exploring somewhere new, especially in Europe. I’ve been lucky to travel a decent amount with my husband prior to having our son.

**Most admired person, and why?**
Benjamin Franklin. I spent a lot of my childhood exploring the Franklin Institute, which was one of my first exposures to science.

**Best advice anyone ever gave you?**
My residency program director told me (just after my son was born): “The greatest and worst thing about babies is that everything passes -- the good and the bad. So enjoy it while you can!”

**What about you would surprise us?**
I was a division 1 athlete in college (as a member of the dance team).
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I’ve been at UVa for 13 years. I started out as a temp in Hematology/Oncology, and became fulltime 8 months later. I am currently a Senior Administrative Assistant to multiple Hematology physicians. I grew up on a farm in Madison County raising horses, cattle, pigs, chickens, dogs and fish.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
I have lived in Central Virginia all of my life. I love the quiet setting of the rural country side.

What excites you about your work?
I love the diversity of my job. I never know what a day holds for me. From helping patients, to scheduling administrative meetings, to entering a reimbursement, creating a webpage or assisting faculty with their portfolio these are just a few of the tasks that I preform daily.

Proudest / greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
My family! I am proud of many things in life, but nothing beats being a mother!

Next life?
I would be a NASCAR driver, as I have a need for speed.

What are you usually doing in your spare time?
If I am not working on the farm you will find me sharing my passion of the outdoors with my children by either big game hunting for deer, relaxing on a beach, or cruising a mountain side in an ATV.

How did you meet your partner?
I first met my husband when playing co-rec softball back in high school but we did not get together until nine years later.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
You can find me one of two places! Exploring the steep mountainous terrain of West Virginia in our Polaris RZR or drifting in the waves of the Outer Banks, NC.

Most admired person, and why?
My dad, he instilled in me that anything worth having is worth working for.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
“Don’t tell God how big your problem is; tell your problem how big your God is!” – Hank Hawkins

What about you would surprise us?
Before coming to UVA I was a private investigator and I hold a degree in Criminal Justice.
HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY DEPARTMENT PHOTOS

Joyti Khokhar, Sharon Ferguson, Dr. Christiana Brenin

Dr. Trish Millard at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Conference (SABCS) in 2018

2018 American Society of Hematology Annual Conference in San Diego, CA. From left: Dr. Daniel Reed, Dr. Puja Arora, Dr. Kristine Gade, Dr. Pooja Mehra, and Dr. Kelly Davidson

Atop the Graduate Hotel for a fellows gathering.
From left: Meghan Devitt, Dr. Mike Devitt, Dr. Carolyn Carrera, Dr. Trish Millard, Dr. Puja Arora, Dr. Laura Talamo, Dr. Paul Kunk, and Dr. Louise Man

RECENT EVENTS

TRANSPLANTATION & CELLULAR THERAPY MEETING OF ASBMT & CIBMTR 2019
February 20th - 24th in Houston, Texas

The UVA Stem Cell Transplant Team had an impressive showing at the recent Transplant and Cell Therapy Meeting in Houston. A team of 3 adult transplant physicians, 1 pediatric transplant physician, 2 fellows, 1 NP, 1 pharmacist, and 1 data manager attended. A focus of the meeting was the advances in treatment with CAR T cell therapy. Dr. Trey Lee’s recent publication on ASBMT Consensus Grading for Cytokine Release Syndrome and Neurologic Toxicity Associated with Immune Effector Cells was highlighted in several sessions. Dr. Puja Arora had an oral presentation on “Access to Transplant Care for Patients in Virginia” which demonstrated significant geographic variation in access to care. This work was also cited as a priority for the initiatives of the Be The Match, the organization that matches donors and patients. The UVA team had several other presentations on cord blood transplant, the use of donor lymphocyte infusion post-transplant, and transplant for myelofibrosis. We also met with collaborators from Duke University to establish a consortium designed to study the microbiome and prevent infections after transplant.

2nd ANNUAL UPDATE IN HEMATOLOGY & HEMATOLOGIC MALIGNANCIES
March 22nd at the Omni Charlottesville Hotel

The 2nd Annual Updates in Hematology and Hematologic Malignancies included 2 national special guest speakers, 9 Hematology physicians from UVA, 1 palliative care physician, 1 pediatric physician, 1 nurse practitioner, and one care coordinator. The meeting explored research and advancement in the diagnosis and management of benign hematologic conditions and hematologic malignancies that included indications for novel therapies and use in special populations. It was aimed at community hematologists and oncologists, as well as advanced practice providers and nurses. The meeting used case-based presentations to highlight recommendations for treatment of common hematologic diagnoses such as myelodysplastic syndromes, myeloproliferative neoplasms, and immune thrombocytopenia.