Welcome to Summer! As the academic year ends, it is time to celebrate the multiple achievements in the Department of Medicine across all of our missions. In this edition of Medicine Matters you will see our annual award winners who represent the very best of our efforts in clinical care, research, education, and administration. I especially want to thank our staff who work tirelessly to help us reach new heights of excellence. In addition, this month highlights the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. Professor Jim Scheiman joined us to lead the Division just over 18 months ago and during his short time here he has worked to expand clinical services, enhance education and develop new research programs. His progress has been outstanding and our thanks for his leadership.

Additionally, I would encourage you to read about the history of the Division as written by Dr. Stephen Caldwell (who, I think, is the only Division Historian that we have in the Department).

Finally, during June and July, I am meeting with each Division to hear your concerns, questions and ideas on how we can improve. Once these Divisional meetings are completed, I will provide all of you with some summaries and an overview of the past year. As always, please feel free to offer your thoughts on the Department of Medicine.

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

Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I have been with UVA for 9 years – I began in the Department of Medicine, worked with OB/GYN and Pediatrics for 6 years collectively and I have now returned to the Department of Medicine and been here for a little over a year. I am a native “Townie” and have lived in Charlottesville my entire life. Myself, my Fiancé and our 2 children Ruby 3½ and Jackson 4 months live in Charlottesville. We enjoy visiting local parks and lakes and also working our vegetable garden at home.

Why Healthcare?
While I am not involved in direct patient care – I know that my work as a Biller and Coder is important to the patient’s care. Correct billing is important not only for payment but to ensure the patient’s diagnosis are true and correct, as they are attached to the patient and their medical record always.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
I was born and raised here in Charlottesville and have lived here my entire life.

What excites you about your work?
I enjoy the detective part of my job and investigating issues and finding solutions for coding and billing issues.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
My greatest achievement in life has been my two children and being a mother to them.

Next life?
I would love to be a Gypsy and travel the world.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
We enjoy doing activities as a family – we spend a lot of weekends at the lake boating with our friends.

How did you meet your partner?
We met through mutual friends at a Friday’s After Five concert in Downtown Charlottesville.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
We recently traveled to Disney World in 2018 and that was our very favorite vacation ever! We plan to return once Jackson is a little older so he can enjoy the fun!

Most admired person, and why?
My grandmother! She was the sweetest, most helpful person I have ever met. She always looked after me and guided me through life.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
To love yourself and be kind to others.

DOM FINANCIAL UPDATE
Department of Medicine
Summary of Consolidated Financials
FY19 as of May 31, 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget YTD</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
<th>$ Variance YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work RVUs</td>
<td>829,649</td>
<td>830,140</td>
<td>492</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Receipts (NPSR)</td>
<td>50,778,423</td>
<td>53,585,662</td>
<td>2,807,239</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>160,885,450</td>
<td>156,411,503</td>
<td>(4,473,947)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>162,999,404</td>
<td>156,560,388</td>
<td>6,439,016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>(2,113,954)</td>
<td>(148,885)</td>
<td>1,965,069</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary Explanation of Variance:
For the eleven months ending May 31, 2019 DOM posted a consolidated net surplus of $149K and a favorable variance to net budget surplus of $1.97M. Providers clinical effort performance and higher collections per Work RVU drove net patient service revenue to outperform budget by $2.8M. Sponsored program revenue underperformed budget by $3.9M due to the timing of anticipated NIH awards. The department realized non-personnel cost savings of $8.1M driven by lower than expected grant expenditures.

BILLING TEAM SPOTLIGHT PROFILE
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I was originally born in Kingston, Jamaica. From there, my family and I migrated to Miami, Florida. My interest in the health care industry began as a teenager when I learned about Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) during high school. I obtained my Master of Health Services Administration at Florida International University.

Why Healthcare?
Healthcare allows me the opportunity to positively impact the lives of people every day, while also affording me the opportunity to give back to the community.

What excites you about your work?
Good team dynamics! I work and interact with wonderful minds, and learning something each day makes it good.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Usually on the weekends I am either spending time with family and friends, exercising, reading a good book out by my pool, or just relaxing in front of my television.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
Egypt is undoubtedly a special place for vacationing, especially with so much to see and do. Among all the places I have visited, it is the most unique and intriguing. If anybody asks me about a vacation spot, the first place that comes to mind is Egypt.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
“When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time.”

What about you would surprise us?
I used to participate in competitive track and field and I am hypermobile (double-jointed).
Congratulations to **Dr Kambiz Kalantari** who is one of two winners of the 2019 American Society of Nephrology’s (ASN) Mid-Career Distinguished Educator Award. This award honors individuals who have made substantial and meritorious contributions in clinical or research education as it relates to nephrology on both the local and national levels.

Congratulations to UVA and Hematology/Oncology’s **Dr Patrick Dillon** on receiving a grant from the Department of Defense for Breast Cancer research.

Congratulations to **Michelle Otto, ANP, MSN, RN** on celebrating her five years of service with UVA Community Oncology.

Congratulations to **Dr Pranav Patel** on celebrating his five years of service with UVA Community Oncology.

Congratulations to Hematology/Oncology’s **Ewa Kubicka** on being promoted to Lab Specialist in Dr. Lum’s Labs.

Congratulations to Hematology/Oncology’s **Taylor Matousek** on her new position as Grant and Contracts Specialist in Dr. Lum’s Labs.

Congratulations to Hematology/Oncology’s **Dr Richard Hall** on celebrating his 5 years of service with UVA.

Congratulations to Hematology/Oncology’s **Dr Elizabeth Gaughan** on being promoted, from Assistant Professor of Medicine, to Associate Professor of Medicine, effective July 1, 2019.

Congratulations to Hematology/Oncology’s **Dr Hillary Maitland**, on being promoted from Assistant Professor of Medicine, to Associate Professor of Medicine, effective July 1, 2019.

Congratulations to **Dr Craig Portell**, on being promoted from Assistant Professor of Medicine, to Associate Professor of Medicine, effective July 1, 2019.

**Press Ganey recognitions for outstanding patient satisfaction:** All physicians were in the 99th percentile score. **Dr Michael Douvas** was one of only 4 physicians in the Health System at 100%. Congratulations to the following physicians on receiving this award: **Drs Christiana Brenin, John Densmore, Michael Douvas, Robert Dreicer, Elizabeth Gaughan, Ryan Gentzler, William Grosh, Richard Hall, Tamila Kindwall-Keller, Craig Portell, Michael E. Williams**.

Congratulations to **Drs Michael Douvas, Ryan Gentzler, Richard Hall, Craig Portell and Daniel Reed** on their recent publication, *Treatment of refractory ALK rearranged anaplastic large cell lymphoma with alectinib Clin Lymphoma Myeloma Leuk.* (2019), pp. S2152-2650

*2019 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) Annual Meeting Highlights:* Lawrence Lum, MD, DSc assistant professors Archana Thakur, PhD and Manley Huang, PhD and research assistant **Johnson Ung** recently traveled to Atlanta, GA, for the 2019 American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) annual meeting. They presented three abstracts in three different poster sessions: “Induction of Highly Efficacious Anti-tumor and Immune Modulating Activity: Cell-Free Off-the-Shelf Therapeutic Modality,” “Anti-CD3 x Anti-EGFR Bispecific Antibody Armed T cells (EGFR BATs) Kill Resistant Pancreatic Cancer Cell Lines and Increase Sensitivity to Chemotherapy,” and “Anti-CS1 x Anti-CD3 Bispecific Antibody (BiAb)-Armed Anti-CD3 Activated T Cells (CS1-BATs) Specifically Kill CS1+ Myeloma Cells and Release Type-1 Cytokines.” Two more abstracts were recently accepted by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO): “Phase II Clinical Trial using Anti-CD3 x Anti-HER2 Bispecific Antibody Armed Activated T Cells (HER2 BATs) for HER2 Negative (0-2+) Metastatic Breast Cancer” and “Exceptional Clinical and Immune Responses Using Anti-CD3 x anti-EGFR Bispecific Antibody Armed T cells (BATs) for Locally Advanced or Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer.”
Each spring, the UVA Department of Medicine recognizes outstanding contributions from DOM faculty and staff members with awards in a variety of categories. Congratulations to all of this year’s winners! (View photos from the presentation here)

2019 DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL CARE

As Demonstrated by Outstanding Productivity, a High Level of Patient Satisfaction, Development of New Programs, or Other Areas of Excellence

Amber Inofuentes, MD
Danielle Wentworth, MSN, FNP
Sana Khan, MD
Michael McCabe, MD
Dushant Uppal, MD
Varinder Kaur, MD
Kelly Davidson, MD
Paul Katzenstein, MD
Lawrence Gimple, MD
Kanwar Singh, MD
Ralf Nass, MD

EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

As Demonstrated by New Grant Funding, Publication of Research Findings, or Other Areas of Excellence

Mami Taniuchi, PhD
Francine Garrett-Bakelman, MD, PhD
Nishaki Mehta, MD
Douglas Lake, PhD
Ananda Basu, MD
Patrick Dillon, MD

EXCELLENCE IN MENTORSHIP

As Demonstrated by Leadership in Faculty Development

Stephen Caldwell, MD
Larry Borish, MD
Michael Brown, PhD
Margaret Shupnik, PhD

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

As Demonstrated by Outstanding Teaching Reviews, Development of New Curricula, or Other Areas of Excellence

Christopher Arnold, MD
Andrew Parsons, MD
Amanda Renaghan, MD
Michael Keng, MD

OUTSTANDING STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

As Demonstrated by Outstanding Citizenship and Support of the Missions of the Department of Medicine

Pam Schaefer
Caroline McCormick
Stacey White
Jordanna Leake
Goldie Rawlings
Garrett Rhodes
Pamela Morris

EXCELLENCE IN ADMINISTRATION

As Demonstrated by Managerial Leadership

Laura Fabian
Tiffany Powell

WOMEN IN MEDICINE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Excellence in Work That Makes a Direct and Significant Impact on the Core Academic Enterprise of the University

Leslie Blackhall
Vanessa Shami
Photopheresis is a modified apheresis procedure where lymphocytes in the buffy coat are treated with a photosensitizer, called methoxypsoralen, and exposed to ultraviolet light. Methoxypsoralen when exposed to ultraviolet light damages DNA in the targeted cells which results in cell death. Currently, there are four CMS approved indications for photopheresis, chronic graft-versus-host disease, heart transplant rejection, cutaneous t-cell non-Hodgkin lymphoma, and bronchiolitis obliterans following lung transplant when the recipient is enrolled on an approved clinical trial. Additional autoimmune and dermatologic diseases may respond to photopheresis. Photopheresis is well tolerated by most patients with the side effects of mild low blood pressure and possible fainting.

The stem cell transplant program apheresis collection facility has initiated photopheresis at UVA. We have performed our first 2-consecutive day photopheresis in April 2019. Photopheresis is not only available to patients within the stem cell transplant program, but to patients from other providers with illnesses that may benefit from this procedure. Bringing photopheresis capabilities to our UVA patients was the work of a multi-disciplinary team. I would like to thank all involved in the Department of Medicine and the Medical Center who made this possible.

Dr Tamila Kindwall-Keller

Clinical Trials Now Open - Division of Hematology and Oncology

Gastrointestinal Oncology
19-21252 PHAR CV202103
A Phase Ib/2 Study of BMS-813160 in Combination with Chemotherapy or Nivolumab in Patients with Advanced Solid Tumors
Stages: IV CT.GOV ID: NCT03184870
Primary Le, Tri, CRC: Jackson, Linsey

19-20984 PHAR CT 4006
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT03126435
A Randomized Controlled, Open label, Adaptive Phase-3 Trial to Evaluate Safety and Efficacy of EndoTAG-1 Plus Gemcitabine versus Gemcitabine alone in Patients with Measurable Locally Advanced and/or Metastatic Adenocarcinoma of the Pancreas Failed on FOLFIRINOX Treatment
Primary Kunk, Paul, CRC: Jackson, Linsey

Genitourinary Oncology
19-19787 PHAR 64091742PCR2001
A Phase 2 Efficacy and Safety Study of Niraparib in Men with Metastatic Castration-Resistant Prostate Cancer and DNA-Repair Anomalies
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT02854436
Primary Dreicer, Robert, CRC: Torres, Julio

Hematologic Malignancies
19-20629 PHAR PrE0404
A Phase I/II Study of Ixazomib and Ibrutinib in Relapsed/Refractory Mantle Cell Lymphoma
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT03323151
Primary Portell, Craig

19-21445 PHAR CCTL019B2003I
Managed Access Program (MAP) to provide access to CTL019, for acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) or large B-cell lymphoma patients with out of specification leukapheresis product and/or manufactured tisagenlecleucel out of specification for commercial release
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT03601442
Primary Portell, Craig, CRC: Thielen, Monika, J

Melanoma
19-20968 Other: National EA6134
A Randomized Phase III trial of Dabrafenib + Trametinib followed by Ipilimumab + Nivolumab at Progression vs. Ipilimumab + Nivolumab followed by Dabrafenib + Trametinib at Progression in Patients With Advanced BRAFV600 Mutant Melanoma
Stages: III; IV CT.GOV ID: NCT02224781
Primary Gaughan, Elizabeth, CRC: Allred, Emily; Mahmutovic, Adela

Thoracic Oncology
19-20823 PHAR MK-3475-587
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT03486873
A Multicenter, Open label, Phase III Extension Trial to Study the Long-term Safety and Efficacy in Participants with Advanced Tumors Who Are Currently on Treatment or in Follow-up in a Pembrolizumab Trial
Primary Gentzler, Ryan, CRC: Hockenberry, Gracie, Tubbs

Hematology and Oncology Studies that have opened since May 1, 2019
19-21441 Other: National S1619
A Feasibility Trial of Neoadjuvant Cisplatin-Pemetrexed with Atezolizumab in Combination and in Maintenance for Resectable Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma
Stages: I; II; III CT.GOV ID: NCT03228537
Primary Hall, Richard, CRC: Ouikir, Hakeem
Dr Francine Garrett-Bakelman (a.k.a. Fran), a physician scientist in the Departments of Medicine and Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics, was one of the first co-authors on a Science paper published on April 12, 2019 (The NASA Twins Study). This publication is a comprehensive molecular, biological, and physiological survey of the NASA Twins Study subjects. Fran was a co-investigator on a grant to Weill Cornell Medicine which supported this work.

Fran initiated her involvement in the NASA Twins Study in 2014 while she was an Instructor in Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine. She participated in the development of protocols for blood processing on earth and on the International Space Station, was an integral member of the small group of individuals who processed the blood and plasma specimens collected during the study (2014-2016), she helped with data generation, analysis and interpretation focused on gene expression, and she was one of the lead writers of the paper published in Science.

The main findings of the study were that: 1. The human body was adaptable to space environment living and upon return to earth most parameters that changed with space flight returned to pre-flight status, 2. Most parameters measured, including response to vaccination, epigenetic (DNA methylation) changes, gut flora diversity and others, did not change during space flight more than what would be expected on earth, 3. a minority of gene expression changes detected with space flight remained changed 6 months after return from space, and 4. Surprisingly, telomere length increased during space flight and returned decreased upon return to earth. The full results can be found in the publication at: The NASA Twins Study: A multidimensional analysis of a year-long human spaceflight.
Outgoing Chief Residents Drs Walid El-Nahal, Carrie Hamilton, Amy Ogurick, and Anthony Peters delivered their Grand Rounds talk on making exemplary physicians, highlighting some of the key changes and efforts they have been a part of during their chief year. The four shared research, changes, and progress that have been implemented during their year in the areas of Clinical Knowledge and Skills, Public Health and Service, Communication, and Education and Learning. Their efforts have resulted in better care for patients, more efficient, productive and less stressful work environments, improved communication between residents and nursing staff, and the Greater Charlottesville area is benefiting from new outreach healthcare programs serving populations at The Haven, the Charlottesville Free Clinic, the Central Virginia Community Health Center, the Federally Qualified Health Center, the Refugee Clinic, the Ryan White Clinic as well as other advocacy opportunities. They emphasized that none of this was done alone, that the old adage, “it takes a village” holds true when building exemplary physicians. A good balance between autonomy and support, quality and quantity, education and care are all equally important. And that here at UVA they are fortunate to have the best faculty, medical, and administrative staff, and of course the best residents! The doctors then passed their duties on to incoming chief residents Drs Samuel Oliver, Kirsten Koons, Elizabeth Arant, and Sumner Abraham.

Outgoing chief residents with Dr Uthlaut, pictured from left: Amy Ogurick, MD, Walid El-Nahal, MD, Carrie Hamilton, MD, Brian Uthlaut, MD, and Anthony Peters, MD

Incoming chief residents with Dr Uthlaut, pictured from left: Brian Uthlaut, MD, Samuel Oliver, MD, Kirsten Koons, MD, Elizabeth Arant, MD, Sumner Abraham, MD

Dr Tim Short introducing Chief Grand Rounds for 2019

Dr Anthony Peters begins by speaking about the importance of a good balance between autonomy and support
Dr Walid El-Nahal spoke about Clinical Knowledge and Skills as well as Public Health and Service

Dr Amy Ogurick spoke about the challenges of good communication and new team processes to help overcome obstacles

Dr Carrie Hamilton told about areas of quality improvement based on resident’s ideas that have been implemented in the areas of Education and Learning

Dr Susan Kirk presented Dr Sumner Abraham with a Mulholland Teaching Award

Nikki Price, RN accepting her award from Dr Brian Uthlaut for Outpatient Nurse/Nurse Practitioner of the Year

Kendall Barger, RN accepts her award from Dr Brian Uthlaut for Inpatient Nurse/Nurse Practitioner of the Year

Sara Guertler accepting her award for Inpatient Case Manager of the Year

Dr Jack Melson receiving the W. Leroy Dunn Award from Dr Uthlaut

Dr Aaron Blackshaw receiving the Emergency Medicine Admitting Resident of the Year Award

Saad Ghumman, MBBS accepts the Outstanding Fellow of the Year Award from Dr Brian Uthlaut

Dr Alex Kadl receiving the award for Inpatient Attending of the Year from Dr Uthlaut

Dr Susan Kirk speaks to Dr Sam Oliver’s award winning qualities before presenting him with his Mulholland Teaching Award
I am very excited to share with you many of our enhancements to clinical care, research, and education. It is hard to believe that nearly a year and a half has passed since I arrived in Charlottesville, and I am proud to share that the Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology has seen growth in all of our undertakings. Flowing from our mission to develop passionate leaders focused on excellence who provide innovative and compassionate clinical care and advance the field through research and education, we have made many transformations with a renewed focus on excellence.

This past year we moved from an inpatient G.I. service to a consultation model. This has allowed access for more than 1000 extra clinic visits, as well as expansion of our endoscopy services, properly utilizing our new Monroe Lane facility. There has been a huge demand for our clinical care and a great focus of my efforts has been on improving customer service in collaboration with our service line team. There have been long waits for patients to gain access to our expert clinicians and a number of efforts, such as improved referral processes, template utilization, strategic overbooking, and a stringent no-show policy, have led to improved clinic utilization. We have been able to expand our services with additional space in the PCC as well.

We have become system leaders in establishing an urgent referral process for enhanced patient care in collaboration with the Emergency Department. At the same time, we have not neglected our strong tradition as educators on the inpatient service and look to expand opportunities for our outpatient practice, which is the primary focus of our specialty.

Our hepatologists have contributed to dramatic increases in transplantation volume and quality. The liver group are expanding their international footprint as experts in coagulation disorders and leaders in the management of portal hypertension. Our interventional endoscopists remain at the cutting edge, offering the most novel and innovative care, not only in the region but across the country. In the upcoming years, our focus will be to expand our research portfolio, enhance collaboration across grounds, and achieve improved national recognition for our quality of clinical care in innovative scholarship. I am excited to share our success and goals in this month’s Medicine Matters!

~ James Scheiman, MD

Both of UVA’s endoscopy units were acknowledged by the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE) in their Endoscopy Unit Recognition Program designed to identify units that are committed to delivering quality and safe care. This program honors endoscopy centers that have shown a commitment to providing safe, high-quality care through policies, clinical practice, and continued efforts for improvement. Everyone involved with teams at both locations are to be commended for their professionalism and dedication to quality care.
In April, Dr. Bryan Sauer led a UVA Medical Team to Guatemala to provide treatment to the people there. As a result, dozens of people in Guatemala are now getting the medical care that they need from doctors and nurses from UVA. Another group will head down this November and then again in March of 2020.

**Timeline**

2016 - Endoscopy needs assessment performed in the Sololá, Totonicapán, and Quetzaltenango regions of Guatemala

2017 - Dr. Bryan Sauer partnered with Americares and Olympus to provide endoscopy equipment to be stationed at Hospitalito Atitlán

2018 - Dr. Sauer set up the equipment

2019 - The first clinical care team performed a week of endoscopies with the help of Dr. Michael Dougherty (Fellow Physician), Dr. Nicolas Nickl, Nurses Farren Dodson, Terri Rodee, and Sarah Schumacher, and Nurse Anesthetist Dixie Mills.
The Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at UVA, now headed by Dr James Scheiman who is well known for his seminal work in preventing post-ERCP pancreatitis, has a long history of significant academic contributions to these fields of study and to the training of Specialists/Consultants in this area who have gone on to successful work in both Academic and Private Practices. The Division is one of few in the country that can boast of having a Nobel Laureate among its alumni. The Fellowship Program, now directed by Neeral Shah, began in the early 1980s and has since trained 240 Fellows who have provided their skills and knowledge throughout all regions of the US in a variety of settings. The arrival of Richard McCallum and Ravi Mittal in the 1980’s brought with it the development of an advanced program in gut motility disorders. McCallum also recruited a little known, barely out of training, clinical investigator – Dr Barry Marshall who along with Pathologist Robin Warren had identified a new gastric infection. With key support from David Peura and Dick Guerant, Marshall completed seminal studies at UVA linking Helicobacter pylori to peptic ulcer disease and gastric cancer. Marshall and Warren went on to win the Nobel Prize for this work in 2005.

Dr Marshall also trained some of our current Faculty including Stephen Caldwell who after Hepatology training under Eugene and Leon Schiff at Miami was recruited back to UVA in 1992 as co-Medical Director of Liver Transplantation. The Liver Transplant program, founded by Timothy Pruett in the 1980’s was already thriving under Pruett and William Stevenson and went on under Pruett’s direction to contribute pioneering work in HBIG passive immunization for preventing recurrent hepatitis B infection in the era prior to availability of anti-HBV therapeutics in the 1990s. The Hepatology group provided key support in these efforts and under Caldwell’s direction and later with Dr Curt Argo’s work also contributed seminal work in NASH with early descriptions of the relationship to cryptogenic cirrhosis, mitochondrial dysfunction, familial and ethnic variation, the natural history of NASH by serial biopsy and treatment with early thiazolidinediones. The association of this disorder with systemic metabolic syndrome eventually led Dr Zach Henry to help found one of the first multidisciplinary clinics addressing fatty liver and associated systemic metabolic disorders. The Hepatology group went on to help redefine many aspects of liver-related Coagulation Disorders under the direction of Caldwell, Patrick Northup, Neeral Shah and Nicolas Intagliata who continues with translational research on this subject and co-organization of an international biennial meeting on this topic that began in 2005. The group also worked to advance management of gastric varices with endoscopic cyanoacrylate and, through collaboration with Interventional Radiology, the selective application of endovascular (BRTO) approached to this problem. This collaborative work continues now largely under the direction of Dr Zach Henry.

Meanwhile, the Liver Transplant Program at UVA has continued to thrive almost 30 years since its founding and now under the direction of Dr Curt Argo’s work also contributed seminal work in NASH with early descriptions of the relationship to cryptogenic cirrhosis, mitochondrial dysfunction, familial and ethnic variation, the natural history of NASH by serial biopsy and treatment with early thiazolidinediones. The association of this disorder with systemic metabolic syndrome eventually led Dr Zach Henry to help found one of the first multidisciplinary clinics addressing fatty liver and associated systemic metabolic disorders. The Hepatology group went on to help redefine many aspects of liver-related Coagulation Disorders under the direction of Caldwell, Patrick Northup, Neeral Shah and Nicolas Intagliata who continues with translational research on this subject and co-organization of an international biennial meeting on this topic that began in 2005. The group also worked to advance management of gastric varices with endoscopic cyanoacrylate and, through collaboration with Interventional Radiology, the selective application of endovascular (BRTO) approached to this problem. This collaborative work continues now largely under the direction of Dr Zach Henry.

The GI Hepatobiliary program (ERCP) at UVA was started by Dan Pambianco working under David Stone in the mid-1980’s and later directed for years by Paul Yeaton and subsequently by Andrew Wang who currently leads a very dynamic program with colleagues Daniel Strand and Dushant Uppal with a very successful and competitive Advanced Biliary Fellowship program. UVA has also established a highly successful and renowned program in Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) which started under the direction of Vanessa Shami since the early 2000’s and more recently under both Dr Shami and Dr Bryan Sauer. Both are consistent contributors to advancement of the field especially in major teaching symposia by the ASGE and AGA. The IRB group was founded many years ago by the late James Roach and grew under the leadership of Fabio Cominelli during his tenure as Division Chief. It was subsequently led by Brian Behm who established UVAs presence in many clinical trials of newer treatments of IBD and is presently led by Ann Tusky with aims to further grow this important aspect of the clinical practice. Advanced Endoscopy especially involving complex polypectomy and balloon enteroscopy has evolved over the many years of the program and is presently led by Andy Copland who serves as a major resource for Division members and outside referring providers for the most challenging polypectomies.

Other milestones in the Division history include the establishment around 1990 of a dedicated Nutrition Service largely dedicated to short gut syndrome and led for almost 30 years by Carol Parish and the establishment in 2011 of a dedicated hepatitis C treatment team which is now run through a combined Pharmacology and GI/Hepatology team led by Colleen Green, Virginia Kelly and Kirsty Coles who provide tremendous expertise in HCV therapy and procurement of appropriate therapy. Their work has increasingly interfaced with Transplantation services in the use of HCV positive donors as a response to organ shortage and availability of highly effective anti-HCV therapy. The addition of Ann Hays and Jim Mann in 2015 provided major strengths to the program. Dr Hays developed fecal transplant as a treatment of refractory C diff infection in work that is ongoing in collaboration with the Division of Infectious Disease and Dr Mann both augmented the Hepatobiliary team and supported the further advancement of the Motility team now under Dr Jeanetta Frye.

The Gastroenterology and Hepatology Division of UVA takes great pride in its resiliency and long and deep history of past and ongoing major contributions to both the scientific and clinical fields combining the major aims of Service, Education and Discovery. Past Division Chiefs include James Respess, Richard McCallum, David Peura, Fabio Cominelli, Carl Berg, Steven Cohn and Cindy Yoshida. The Division, now led by Dr James Scheiman, has just recently expanded both Luminal and Hepatology faculty with anticipation of further growth in all of the missions of the Division including Service, Education and Discovery. With this very strong past and ongoing present, we look forward to the future.
INVESTIGATOR INITIATED RESEARCH

**Hepatology** - NASH, portal hypertension management, coagulation in liver disease

**Interventional Endoscopy** - Cholangiocarcinoma, PEP, Quality, Pancreatic Cysts

**General GI** - FMT, Pelvic Floor dysfunction, E-consultation

**Medical Education Innovation**

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**GRANTS**

**Pharma sponsored - Liver**

- Zydus (PBC)
- Gilead (6 trials: 4 NASH in various stages including cirrhosis and 1 PBC and 1 PSC)
- Conatus (2 NASH cirrhosis Trials)
- GenFit (NASH)
- Mallinckrodt (HRS)
- Vital Therapy (ASH)
- BMS (2 Trials: NASH cirrhosis)
- HCC Study (Wilkins – DOD)

**Medical Education**

- Visiting Scholar Program for Underrepresented Minorities in GI, Jefferson Trust, PI: Neeral Shah
- Computer Based Case Simulation Development, UVA School of Medicine, Educational Fellowship Award, PI: Neeral Shah
- A Key Step in Residency Readiness: Refinement of Critical Thinking Skills, UVA School of Medicine, Educational Fellowship Award, SubI: Neeral Shah

**CRC Screening**

- Exact Sciences Study 2018-07: Blood and Stool Sample Collection in Subjects with a Diagnosis of Colorectal Cancer or Colorectal Lesion (Act Fast) UVA PI: Cindy Yoshida
- Exact Sciences Study 2018-08: Blood and Stool Sample Collection in Subjects Participating in Colorectal Cancer Screening. UVA PI: Cindy Yoshida
- Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission grant awarded (just under $200K) to screen vulnerable populations of Wise and Buckingham counties as well as city of Martinsville. UVA PI: Cindy Yoshida

**NIH**

- NIH U01 PAR-15-067: SpHincterotomy for Acute Recurrent Pancreatitis (SHARP) Trial. Primary investigator: Gregory Coté, MD, MSc (Medical University of South Carolina) UVA PI: Andrew Y. Wang
- NIH U01DK104833-01: Stent vs. Indomethacin for Preventing Post-ERCP Pancreatitis: The SVI Trial (Multicenter RCT Comparing Rectal Indomethacin vs. Prophylactic Pancreatic Stent Placement for Preventing Post-ERCP Pancreatitis in High-Risk Patients.) Primary investigator: B. Joseph Elmunzer, MD, MSc (Medical University of South Carolina). Outcomes adjudicator: Andrew Y. Wang, Steering Committee: James Scheiman
GASTROENTEROLOGY DIVISION - RESEARCH

COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

The Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology would like to thank all committee members for their welcomed participation and invaluable contributions.

Ann Tuskey, MD
ACG Governor

Vanessa Shami, MD
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GI RECENT EVENTS

James Scheiman, MD (left) presents Gary Wu, MD (Professor of Medicine Ferdinand G. Weisbrod Chair in Gastroenterology, Co-Director, PennCHOP Microbiome Program, Perelman School of Medicine University of Pennsylvania) with a plaque at the James C. Respess Lectureship, for his presentation “You are what Your Bugs Eat: Diet and Gut Microbiome in Health and Disease” which he presented at the Department of Medicine’s Grand Rounds on May 2, 2019.

Jennifer Lai, MD, MBA (Hepatology/Liver Transplant Associate Professor of Medicine In Residence, University of California, San Francisco) (left) is presented with a plaque by Patrick Northup, MD in appreciation for her presentation “The Liver Transplant Dilemma: Too well... and too sick for Transplant” at the Mary G. and Stuart E. Houston Lectureship at Department of Medicine’s Grand Rounds on April 18, 2019.

14th Annual Conference Held

The 14th UVA Annual Conference of Liver Disease and Gastroenterology was held June 8, 2019 at UVA’s Darden Business School. The program was designed to provide gastroenterology physicians, physician’s assistants and nurse practitioners an opportunity to learn about and discuss the advance in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with liver disease and luminal GI diseases. The popular poster symposium with presentations of the top abstracts was again included this year. Program educators included UVA faculty as well as visiting faculty from VCU Medical Center.
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I’ve been at UVA for 22 years, after graduating from PVCC. I started out working in the Path lab receiving specimens and ordering tests. From there I went to Neurology and then on to Cardiology, which brings me to now and the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology (Digestive Health). I’m a single mother of five grown children, two boys and three girls. The girls still living at home. I have four grandchildren which I adore. When I occasionally get a day off I like to watch Law and Order, Criminal Minds, and CSI.

Why Healthcare?
Healthcare is a career path where there will always be a need. The roles may change over the years but there will still be a need.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
Actually my sister married a man from Nelson County and she didn’t have any family here so she ask me to stay with her for a while and I ended up staying permanently.

What excites you about your work?
Feeling that what I do makes a difference.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
Being able to accomplish the things that I have being a single parent.

Next life?
Advocate for Social in justice.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Usually working, but if I’m off I spend time with my grandchildren.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
When I took my kids to Disney World.

Most admired person, and why?
My mother, she raise five children alone working as many as three jobs at a time, never seeking any type of assistance, just hard work.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
Anything is achievable if you want it bad enough and work hard to get it.

What about you would surprise us?
When I’m not working at the University of Virginia, I drive for Jaunt 30-35 hours a week.
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I’m part Michigan, part Tennessee. I grew up outside Detroit, moved to a small town outside Memphis when I was 15, and did undergrad at Vanderbilt in Nashville.

After college, I spent a year in NYC getting my Masters in Nutrition at Columbia, then headed back to the midwest for medical school at Saint Louis University. I did my internal medicine residency at the University of Colorado, my GI fellowship at St Louis University, and my hepatology transplant fellowship at U Penn.

I love college sports -- I’m a diehard University of Michigan and Vanderbilt football and basketball fan, and I’m excited to add UVA to my list of teams to cheer on.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
My wife and I love hiking and biking and being outdoors -- there’s so much about Charlottesville that appealed to us. Then I met the group at UVA, and I knew this would be a place I’d want to work -- so many smart, talented people who are also fun to be around.

What excites you about your work?
I love the complexities of the liver -- it’s an amazing organ, and there is so much potential to provide treatment options that can offer hope and extend a person’s life by many years. I enjoy the relationships of my work, too, whether that’s working closely with patients to manage their chronic disease, or collaborating with and teaching students, residents and fellows.

How do you like to spend your free time?
I’m always happy on my bike -- thankfully, it’s my 3-year old daughter’s favorite mode of transportation, too. My wife and I are big travelers, with a pull toward the mountains. (Though I love a good city, too.) If you see me with headphones on, chances are I’m listening to a podcast, usually This American Life, Marketplace, or Choiceology.

Where did you go on your last vacation?
My wife, daughter and I spent 6 weeks in Europe this summer, splitting our time between the French Alps and Amsterdam. Ate enough croissants for a lifetime.
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I grew up in a small town called Fredon in the Northwest corner of New Jersey. People are usually surprised to hear that NJ is the “Garden State” but my hometown truly fits this description. I chose a liberal arts education and went to Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA for my undergraduate degree in Neuroscience and Public Health. I came back to NJ for medical school at Rutgers (formerly UMDNJ) Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Since then, I’ve been a Virginian as I completed my internal medicine residency at UVA in 2016 and have now completed gastroenterology and hepatology fellowship at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. I am very excited to return to Charlottesville this summer to join the UVA Gastroenterology clinical faculty as an assistant professor.

Why healthcare?
My father is a retired pathologist and so I was exposed to medicine early. Throughout college, I knew I wanted to be a physician and volunteered as an EMT to gain clinical experience. In medical school, I enjoyed my medicine and general surgery rotations and when I did an gastroenterology elective, I knew it was the perfect fit. I enjoy both the procedural aspect and longitudinal patient care and look forward to incorporating teaching into my practice.

What brings you to Charlottesville?
My wife (Abby Kumral) and I were in the same medical school class. When it was time to apply for residency, we did the couples match -- Pediatrics for her and medicine for me. During the interview trail, both UVA and Charlottesville stood out and we enjoyed our time in Charlottesville during residency. Abby practices general pediatrics at UVA Northridge Pediatrics and we are both very excited to settle down in Charlottesville and call it home.

What do you do in your spare time?
Abby and I really enjoy spending time outdoors and going on scenic day hikes. When we are not hiking, I like to enjoy a good novel (some of my favorites: Cutting for Stone, The Nightingale, Beneath a Scarlet Sky, The Gentleman of Moscow). I also enjoy watching college basketball and the NBA (rooting for another great ‘Hoos season!)

Favorite places to travel?
My parents are originally from Istanbul, Turkey and I have always enjoyed visiting family and traveling in Turkey. Recently, we have done hiking trips to several national parks including: Zion, Arches, and Canyonlands in Utah; Grand Canyon in AZ; Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon in CA, and most recently Great Smoky Mountains in NC and TN.

What about you would surprise us?
My first language was actually Turkish and I learned English later in pre-school. I still am fluent in speaking Turkish which is useful when I talk to my family abroad, intermittently with patient care, but mostly when you need good baklava.
FELLOW PROFILE - Esteban Figueroa

Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I’ve been at UVA for two years as a fellow in the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. I completed undergrad and received my medical degree at UNC-Chapel Hill and then completed internal medicine residency at UCSF in San Francisco. I live in Pantops with my wife, Kali, our 9 month-old son, Boden, and our Bullmastiff named Gandalf.

Why Healthcare?
I enjoy the personal interaction with my patients as well as working within a team of other dedicated clinicians, nurses and clerical staff who all share the same goal of providing high quality care.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
It’s a great place to train and live. My sister and two nephews live in Crozet and living in a college town is always a plus.

What excites you about your work?
Medicine is constantly changing and advancing. My clinical focus is on Inflammatory Bowel Disease which is currently experiencing an explosion of new therapies and we have so much left to learn about this collection of diseases.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
The birth of my first born child September 18th 2018.

Next life?
Chef. I love cooking and find it to be a creative outlet that other people can enjoy, which is more than I can say about my attempt to learn how to play guitar.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Spending time with my family, playing soccer, watching Liverpool FC or Formula 1.

How did you meet your partner?
We started dating in High School and our year book superlative senior year was cutest couple.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
Tokyo, Japan.

Most admired person, and why?
My Dad, he is an extremely hard worker, patient, and always generous with his time.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
Study abroad when you are in college.

What about you would surprise us?
My guilty pleasure is secretly enjoying the Bravo TV shows my wife watches.