Welcome to August and the newest edition of Medicine Matters.

We have now closed the books on the 2019 academic year and I am very proud of our collective accomplishments. All too often, we focus on financial performance but this is really a poor way to assess the contributions and successes of a Department of Medicine. Instead, I want to highlight some of the remarkable results that we should take great pride in.

On the clinical side, we continue to be the destination for care in the state of Virginia. A recent analysis from Vizient for the Department showed that in FY2018, patients identified as first seeing a Department of Medicine provider went on to have more than 34,000 other health system visits and over 43,000 procedures. We drive many of the activities of the Health System. In addition, we continue to deliver care at the highest quality that continues to improve. In each Division, every day we are there for our patients and giving people hope and the very best possible outcomes.

Within the realm of research and academic activities, Department faculty publish near 2 high-impact, peer-reviewed, publications per day. Faculty are lead presenters at meetings across the world, receive awards for their research and accomplishments and lead national and international societies. Our research portfolio accounts for nearly 25% of all of the School of Medicine. We are continuing to actively recruit investigators and push the boundaries of discovery.

Educationally, we are institutional leaders. We, once again, won the Mulholland Award signifying our contributions to medical student education. We continue to recruit the very best trainees for residency and fellowship training. Graduates from our programs become leaders in their fields. Without doubt, we are training the next generation of doctors with a focus on excellence and providing the very best role models for them.

So, while we face the frustrations and obstacles of our everyday work, please remember that you are among the very best in the country and that every day we really are making a difference in people’s lives in many tangible ways.

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

Department of Medicine
Summary of Consolidated Financials
FY19 as of June 30, 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>912,824</td>
<td>905,684</td>
<td>(7,140)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Receipts (NPSR)</td>
<td>55,914,560</td>
<td>58,461,507</td>
<td>2,546,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>172,329,122</td>
<td>168,097,148</td>
<td>(4,231,974)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>174,324,995</td>
<td>167,963,623</td>
<td>6,361,372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>(1,995,873)</td>
<td>133,525</td>
<td>2,129,398</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary Explanation of Variance:
For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 DOM posted a consolidated net surplus of $134K and a favorable variance to budget surplus of $2.1M. Providers clinical effort performance and higher collections per Work RVU drove net patient service revenue to outperform budget by $2.5M. Sponsored program revenue underperformed budget by $4.8M due to the timing of anticipated NIH awards. The department realized non-personnel cost savings of $9.5M driven by lower than expected grant expenditures.

Note from the Chief Operating Office:
Recently Dr Voss happened upon a cache of bound Department of Medicine Meeting Minutes from the days when Dr Hook was the Chair. I thought it would be interesting to share a financial comparison from the May 14, 1981 minutes against our 2019 results. Without the actual financial records themselves we can’t determine any comparability. However, the magnitude of change over 39 years is amazing to see.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY1981</th>
<th>FY1982</th>
<th>FY2019</th>
<th>Compound Annual Growth Rate FY1982 to FY2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td>$3,954,000</td>
<td>$4,304,000</td>
<td>$168,097,000</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td>$3,650,000</td>
<td>$4,245,000</td>
<td>$167,963,000</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>$304,000</td>
<td>$59,000</td>
<td>$134,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a side note, in May 1981, I was in an internship at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital in Weston West Virginia where I was mostly working on impact analyses on implending DRG.
LENA DELISO - Senior Budget Analyst

Tell us a little bit about yourself.
Prior to moving to Charlottesville, I was employed at George Mason University in Northern Virginia. I moved to Charlottesville for a position with the School of Medicine Dean’s Office in 2008 in Budget and Finance, then to the Department of Medicine in 2012. I’ve been in Central Virginia for 12 years, and enjoy NOT having to deal with Northern Virginia traffic every day.

Why education and why research?
Education is empowering for so many people and Academic Medicine is interesting. All of the missions – clinical care, research, teaching, and community service can positively impact and transform people’s lives. It is an honor to be part of that, even indirectly.

What excites you about your work?
Being able to contribute to make suggestions to improve systems and make processes better.

Proudest / greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
Earning my Master’s degree as an older student while working full time using my education benefits from George Mason. The program pushed me way outside my comfort zone as giving presentations was required for almost every single class, in addition to writing lots of papers. Still do not like public speaking but am now more comfortable because of that educational experience.

Next life?
Doing something with dogs. Dogs are a joy and have such pure hearts.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Quilting and lately, square dancing.

Most admired person, and why?
My siblings, I continue to learn from each of them. People often hear me say that when it comes to sisters, I was the mega-millions winner. My oldest sister Toni has always been so calm and a very thoughtful gift giver. Whatever few social skills I have I learned from my sister Sara. My brother Seb and I are very close in age and we were always mixing it up. Having him as a brother taught me that direct, straight forward way of communicating that served me well when I was an adjutant in the Air Force on active duty in a flying squadron with fighter pilots. Clear the air and move on.

Hematology/Oncology Studies Opened Since June 2019

19-21217 PHAR IDR-OM-02-USA
A Pivotal, Double-Blind, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Multinational Study of SGX942 (Dusquetide) for the Treatment of Oral Mucositis in Patients Being Treated with Concomitant Chemoradiation for the Treatment of Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT03237325
Primary Kaur, Varinder
CRC: Adelaja, Olusegun

19-21552 PHAR EZH-701
Tazemetostat Expanded Access Program for Adults with Solid Tumors
Stages: Any/all stages CT.GOV ID: NCT03874455
Primary Gaughan, Elizabeth
CRC: Allred, Emily
Congratulations to **Dr Monica Lawrence** in the Division of Allergy and Immunology on being promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics.

Congratulations to **Dr Ryan Gentzler** in the Division of Hematology/Oncology on celebrating his five years of service with University of Virginia.

Congratulations to **Amanda Polend**, Laboratory Technician 2, who joined Dr Lum’s lab on July 15, 2019.

Congratulations to **Drs Christian Barlow, David Riley, and Lindsey Shantzer** on their fellowship with UVA Hematology/Oncology.

We want to congratulate and recognize **Yolanda Forney, Dr Kelly Davidson, Dr Julio Silvestre, & Dr Laahn Foster**, for their contribution to the hospital wide sickle cell workgroup. Their group has been recognized for their excellent work with the Charles Brown Award. Please congratulate them if you see them and thank them for all they’ve done to help provide improved care to our sickle cell population!

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**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS**

**DOM UPDATES & NOTES**

**POLIO VACCINATION CAMPAIGN IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH**

On the Road to Eradicating Polio: Finding polio in the environment to supplement acute flaccid poliomyelitis surveillance in resource-challenged countries for the polio endgame.

Mami Taniuchi, PhD, assistant professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health, has conducted a groundbreaking study funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with Infectious Diseases’ Eric Houpt, Bill Petri, and James Platts-Mills. Collaborators also included Rashidul Haque and K. Zaman from the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh’s (icddr,b). The study investigated household, community, and environmental transmission of Sabin 2 vaccine strain poliovirus in rural Bangladesh from 2015-2018. The results of this work were published in Lancet Infectious Diseases in Oct 2017 (PMID: 28693854). This current project, which started in 2018 with a $833,000 Gates grant entitled “Validation of TaqMan Array Card (TAC) method for polio environmental surveillance”, ID’s Mami Taniuchi and Suporn Pholwat built on the methods developed in previous studies to develop a novel rapid high-throughput method to track polio transmission in the environment. A secondary goal of this study was to utilize geospatial maps to design an effective environmental surveillance following a vaccine campaign with oral polio vaccine. Collaborators in this new project included Rashidul Haque and Firdausi Qadri from the icddr,b, Isobel Blake and Nick Grassly from Imperial College London, and Sidhartha Giri and Ira Praharat at the Christian Medical College Vellore in India.
In order to achieve a polio-free world, sensitive methods to find poliovirus in its last hiding places are needed. Although acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) surveillance has been the gold standard polio surveillance, this case based system misses poliovirus still circulating in the environment. Thus, the Global Polio Endgame Initiative has expanded environmental surveillance (ES) to supplement the AFP surveillance for the eradication endgame. Current environmental sampling methods are labor intensive, culture based, and can take 14 days for detection of the virus in samples collected from the environment. The environmental TAC assay developed by Taniuchi and Pholwat has several advantages over the conventional method such as it is culture free and only takes 2 days to detection. Additionally, simultaneous detection of 10 different types of polio are possible on this platform.

Dr. Taniuchi’s team validated this new method in the urban slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh and Vellore, India in 2019. Following National Immunization Days (NID) in Vellore, India, we sampled sewage in our study areas using both conventional methods and the novel TAC method. Results showed that PCR-based TAC based detection was as sensitive as the conventional method.

In the absence of NIDs in Bangladesh, Dr. Taniuchi’s team conducted specialized immunization activities (SIA) with the polio oral vaccine. The study area included 3 wards of the Mirpur area of Dhaka. For the first 3 months of the study, 50+ field and lab workers gathered household demographic data for the entire study area and traced every small and large sewage line. The main goal was to identify all the children under 5 years of age to vaccinate for the subsequent SIAs. In a collaboration with Novel-T (Geneva, Switzerland) an interactive geospatial map of our study area (https://www.es.world/#/catalog/filter?admin0=BDG) which included the household and sewage line data was built. This map allowed the team to refine the search for placement of vaccine centers to best capture children under 5 years of age for the SIA and choose environmental sites to detect polio after the SIA. During the special polio vaccine campaign from June 29 to July 8, 2019 the study team vaccinated a total of 18,278 children under 5 years of age. The study is still ongoing and the team is hard at work sampling the sewage for polio virus persistence following the SIA. Initial results are very promising - TAC is successfully detecting Sabin viruses directly from the environment.

Our hope is that this method can be an alternative to the conventional method for environmental surveillance in resource-challenged countries where a reference polio lab is not available to do culture. One of the unique advantages of the environmental surveillance TAC assay is the ability to expand the genes measured to include detection of anti-microbial resistance genes concurrently with the poliovirus in environmental samples. The team owes much gratitude to the amazing teams at CMC Vellore and icddr,b who worked tirelessly to make this study a success!
I served as a Faculty Instructor in a Public Health Sciences Study Abroad Program in the Dominican Republic. UVA in the Dominican Republic (UVA in the DR) is a 2-week, 3-credit course focused on health promotion, chronic disease perceptions, and international research. UVA collaborated with the Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) School of Medicine, Santo Domingo, DR and other local health clinics and organizations.

The first week of the course is based in Santo Domingo, the capital city. Santo Domingo is rich in history - from the Taíno natives to Columbus’s arrival in 1492 and colonization as the “gateway to the Americas.” The city of Santo Domingo houses many “firsts” - the first university, cathedral, hospital, tavern, and declaration of human rights in the Americas.

I served as faculty instructor for the first week of this course. We hosted 5 UVA students; 2 undergraduates and 3 Masters of Public Health students. During this time, we worked closely with local partners to learn important Dominican history and culture. We spent most days on the UNIBE campus, hosted by Dean Marcos Nunez, UNIBE School of Medicine. During this time, we held formal group discussions with UVA and UNIBE students on research methods and research ethics.

We learned about local health promotion efforts using social media by the UNIBE medical students to increase community health education. I also met with the members of the UNIBE faculty to understand their curriculum and educational philosophy, as well as share our experience at UVA with the NexGen curriculum. I met with the two UNIBE geriatric medicine residents, to understand the current role of geriatricians in the DR health system. Currently, geriatrics is not well utilized in the country and serves mostly an end-of-life role. Therefore, I held a 2-hour workshop with the UNIBE premedical and medical students, as well as hospital physicians and geriatricians in training, to discuss the importance of understanding the care of the elderly and how every physician is critical to optimal geriatrics care. We had lively discussions and learned much from each other’s experiences.

Although the days were long and lectures many, I truly value the opportunity to participate in such an academic ideal as a study abroad program. I hope that I was able to share as much knowledge as I gained from this experience.
As the chief of the Division of Rheumatology, I am delighted to have faculty members who demonstrate a strong commitment to patient care and education. We currently have 5 faculty members who see patients at the Fontaine practice and additionally we have satellite practices at Pantops and Fishersville.

The fellowship program continues to flourish under the guidance of Dr Don Kimpel and we have been fortunate to match graduates to our fellowship program from the UVA internal medicine residency program for the past 3 years.

Recognizing the increasing complexity of medical care in patients with multi-system auto-immune disease, we are exploring opportunities to develop more formal partnerships with other specialties. To this end, Dr Adam Carlson will be part of a combined pulmonary-rheumatology clinic for patients with interstitial lung disease.

Under the guidance of Dr. Paul Katzenstein, the infrastructure for clinical trials has been assembled and enrollment is about to start for patients with ANCA associated vasculitis to be treated with an anti C5a monoclonal therapy.

In the setting of robust clinical demand for rheumatologic care, we are looking forward to the addition of Jae Hee Yun, MD to the Division. Dr Yun recently finished her fellowship at Columbia University and will be joining the Division later this year.
Honoring the Memory of Vincent J. Giuliano, MD

Vincent J. Giuliano, MD, age 79, died on July 12, 2019. He was born in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1939, the only child of Vincent and Marie Giuliano. He lived in the Little Italy section of Philadelphia until he was nine years old, attending Catholic School, and then moved to another section of Philadelphia where he attended public schools.

Vince is survived by his wife, Dulcy Giuliano; his four children, Laura Giuliano, PhD. and her husband, Frank Cope and son Max, Santa Cruz, California; Jeanne Giuliano-Dunn and her sons, Liam and Luke and their father, Paul Dunn; Gordon Giuliano and his wife, Julianne Giuliano and daughters, Vaughn and Jackson; and John Giuliano and his wife, Mosa Giuliano, all of Charlottesville; his three stepdaughters, Natalie Wood and her husband, Daniel Wood and daughters, Callie and Carter; Mindy Foster and her husband, Shane Foster and daughters, Addison and Raleigh and son, Wyatt; and Lauren Thraves and her son, Trip and his father, Trevor. He is also survived by his former wife, Marjory B. Giuliano.

He graduated cum laude from Franklin and Marshall College in 1961 and was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa scholastic fraternity. He completed his medical school training at the University of Pennsylvania in 1965. Then followed an internship and residency in Internal Medicine, and a fellowship in Rheumatology, all at Jefferson Medical College Hospital in Philadelphia.

In 1973, he and his family moved to Charlottesville, Va. to accept a position as Assistant Professor on the faculty of the University of Virginia School of Medicine. In 1974, he joined Central Virginia Internists as a Rheumatologist, and in 1990 co-founded Albemarle Arthritis Associates. In 2004, Dr. Giuliano was named to the list of “Best Doctors in Virginia.” He was on the staff of the Martha Jefferson Hospital until his retirement from medical practice in 2008, after which, he then returned to the faculty of the University of Virginia as a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Clinical Rheumatology, teaching Rheumatic Diseases to medical students, house staff, and fellows. In 2015 he was awarded the Excellence in Education Award from the Department of Medicine.

Vince had the single focus of becoming a doctor since he was fifteen years old. All areas of medicine fascinated him. As a Resident, he made hundreds of house calls for established physicians in the evenings, charging $6.00 a visit. This gave him experience in fields such as Pediatrics, Internal Medicine, Neurology, and Psychiatry, among others. He chose to go into Rheumatology in 1968, as it was a field in which little was known and had the potential to help a great many people. His major hobby outside of Medicine was music. In college, he played piano in dance bands, and was a member of a Dixieland band (the Seldom Fed Five) that played in cabarets in New York City. He also enjoyed playing in a concert band and was an active member of the Charlottesville Municipal Band for forty years, playing the bass clarinet. In retirement, he also played with the Senior Center Second Wind Band. He and Dulcy enjoyed traveling to European and South American countries. In 2015 they drove across the USA to California and visited the state capital buildings in over 20 states. He was an active member of the Albemarle County Medical Society, serving as its president in 1988. Finding some activities to do with all of his grandchildren and step-grandchildren was a high priority of his. Grandsons Liam and Max started learning to play piano from him. He actively participated in the home schooling of his grandson Max, teaching him Chemistry, Biology, Italian, American History, and Shakespeare. He also thoroughly enjoyed speaking Italian and participating in Italian conversational groups. Although Vince was a very serious-minded physician and respected by his colleagues, who often sought his help in diagnosing difficult cases, he was also known for his ironic sense of humor. Whether in an exam room or a conference, he usually had people laughing.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Charlottesville Municipal Band, Municipal Arts Center, 1119 Fifth St. SW Ste. B Charlottesville, VA 22902, or the Charlottesville Albemarle Rescue Squad. The family would like to thank Holly Mellot, RN, Dr. Michael Douvas, Dr. Tim Short, and Dr. William Timmins, as well as the entire Emily Couric Cancer Center staff for his loving care over the last few years. The family would also like to thank and acknowledge the love and dedication of Tressie Barrett for her affection and caregiving, to not only Vince, but to the entire family.
**ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

**Mai Abdelnabi, MD**, Second Year Rheumatology Fellow - Title of poster: “Adverse Events due to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors Observed in the UVA Rheumatology Clinic”

Objective: To help characterize the types of autoimmune reactions observed as well as the treatment approaches used to manage their rheumatologic reactions. We also wanted to determine if certain treatments correlated with certain patterns of autoimmune reactions. Presented at 2019 Carey/Marshall/Thorner Research day

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**Majd Alfreijat, MD**, Rheumatology Fellow - Graduate June 2019 - Title of Poster: ‘Identification of STAT 3 Somatic Mutations in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis’

He also represented UVA Rheumatology with a poster presentation at the poster presentation titled: ‘Identification of STAT 3 Somatic Mutations in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis’ - Presented at the ‘17th Annual Fellows Forum’ at DC Society of Rheumatism on May 15, 2019, Washington D.C.

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**William Baker, MD**, Second Year Rheumatology Fellow, was invited to present a clinical poster at the North American Young Rheumatology Investigator Forum (NYRIF link: www.nyrif.com) Title of Poster: ‘Evaluating the Gastrointestinal Manifestations of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus’

He also presented a puzzling case for “Thieves Market” at the Virginia Society of Rheumatologists (VSR) annual meeting in 2018.

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**Donald Kimpel, MD**, Associate Professor, had the following abstract accepted for poster display and presentation in a guided poster tour. Title: ‘Sero-reactivity to Galactose-Alpha-1,3-Galactose and Clinical Presentations of Patients Seen in a Rheumatology Outpatient Practice’. (Conference Link: https://rheumatology.medicinematters.com/icular-2019/16668332)

Dr Kimpel also serves on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Society of Rheumatologists (VSR).

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**Adam Carlson, MD**, wins 2018 Best Bedside Manner Awards, OurHealth Charlottesville and Shenandoah Valley Magazine; First Place, Rheumatology (note: 2019 has not been released)

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**GRADUATION CELEBRATION**

The 2018-2019 Graduation Celebration for the Rheumatology Fellows took place at the home of Dr. Donald Kimpel (Program Director).
Paul Katzenstein, MD, UVA Rheumatology, Assistant Professor, has initiated our participation in a vasculitis drug trial. Paul Katzenstein will serve as PI on the inflaRx sponsored study: Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Multicenter, Parallel-Group Phase II Study to Investigate the Safety and Efficacy of Two Different Dose Regimens of IFX-1 as Add-On to Standard of Care in Subjects with Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (GPA) and Microscopic Polyangiitis (MPA). Enrollment in this study will start shortly. For questions regarding the study, please contact pk4yw@virginia.edu

UVA Rheumatology is also now part of a Clinical Consortium of multiple rheumatology centers organized by the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center to enter patients in clinical trials based on their disease manifestations, prior treatment, autoantibodies, and other factors. More details may be found at: https://37fa343y5cztl3h1dizqghj1-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Myositis-Center-Newsletter_final-Oddis.pdf

Recently graduated rheumatology fellow, Jessica Srstka, MD, received her certification from the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) in Musculoskeletal Ultrasound. For more information on the RhMSUS program, visit: https://www.the-rheumatologist.org/article/introducing-rhmsus-musculoskeletal-ultrasound-certification-in-rheumatology/

Our new 1st Year fellows, Dr Anjali Bal and Dr Josh Liu, recently attended the ‘26th Annual First-Year Rheumatology Fellows Conference’ at the University of Pennsylvania, July 8-19, 2019. This conference is held to introduce fellowship trainees to the field of rheumatology at the fellowship level in preparation for their role as consultants and clinicians in rheumatology.


RHEUMATOLOGY GRAND ROUNDS

EVERY WEDNESDAY

at 8:00 am – 9:00 am

Aurbach Medical Research Building, Fontaine Research Park

450 Ray C Hunt Drive, 1st Floor, Conference Rm #1229/1230
FACULTY PROFILE - Paul Katzenstein

Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I was at Univ. Texas in Houston for 6 years after completing fellowship training, then moved to Kansas City and private practice for 20 years. I helped out at the VA Medical Center in KC but wanted to return to academic medicine for a long time, and jumped at the opportunity UVA offered. I knew UVA’s Department of Medicine as a top choice for housestaff training, and I knew UVA and Charlottesville because my son was a grad student here.

What excites you about your work?
The chance to delve into complicated medical problems and try to put the pieces together, and the opportunity to try to bridge some aspects of clinical rheumatology and molecular genetics.

Proudest / greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
Being part of the growth of my children into great adults and great people, and remaining part of their lives.

Next life?
Neurobiologist

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Epic charts; figuring out clinical problems; working on teaching

What is something that can always be found in your fridge?
Plenty of vegetables.

Favorite vacation/activity spot
Anyplace where my adult children live.

Most admired person, and why?
Mary Betty Stevens, a well known, incredible rheumatologist and diagnostician; and the many additional teachers whose shoulders I was able to stand on.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
Just put your head down and work.
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I have just arrived to UVA as of July 1st in order to start my Fellowship, but I consider Virginia as my second home because I completed my Medical School training at VCU. I am a native of Southern California, and I attended UC Irvine for my undergraduate degree in Biology with a minor in Management. I’m so happy to be back in Virginia, living in Charlottesville, and excited to meet new people and explore all the great places to eat. I can’t wait to ‘yelp’ it up!

Why healthcare?
Medicine was always in the back of my mind growing up. I would say my influence came from my grandfather, who was a general surgeon. I took time off after college to pursue a variety of interests including office jobs and teaching, but I found myself always gravitating back to medicine, from shadowing at my local ENT to ER volunteering and administration to volunteering at an occupational therapy clinic for children with physical disabilities. When I took a deep self-evaluation of myself and what I wanted to accomplish, I concluded a career in medicine would provide me with many rewarding opportunities to partake in lifelong learning and to serve others. After just completing residency, I am happy to say it still holds true today!

What brought you to Charlottesville?
I really like living in Virginia for so many reasons, and I was lucky to be matched to UVA Rheumatology. I am really happy and excited to be here.

What excites you about your work?
I am excited for the opportunity to meet patients who come from all walks of life and diverse backgrounds. They all have a unique story to tell, and as a Healthcare Provider, it is exciting for me to listen and work to put the pieces of the puzzle together in order to help solve their health issues, and improve their quality of life.

Proudest / greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
I was very proud of the time I drove all the way from California to Virginia in order to attend medical school, and proved to my parents how independent I was.

Next life?
Teacher OR Foody Instagram Star.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
You can usually find me checking out all the latest food trends, and I’m looking forward to doing this as well in Charlottesville AFTER my Board Exams are completed.

How did you meet your partner?
Esther and I met during Residency, and we are now enjoying being Newlyweds!

What’s something you always have in your fridge?
Ice Cream. Always ice cream.

Favorite vacation/activity spot
Japan is my all-time favorite place to visit; for the food, the culture and the people.

Most admired person, and why?
My parents are the people in my life that I most admire because their many sacrifices provided a better life for my brother and me.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
Compare only to your yesterday’s self.

What about you would surprise us?
I’m usually seven years older than how I appear! People are often surprised that I am older than I look.