Welcome to September and the beginning of fall. To say the least, this is an unusual and unexpected start to the academic year. We remain socially distanced, masked, and gowned and gloved and life is still unsettled. However, when I previewed this edition of Medicine Matters, I was struck by a strong sense of positive energy and optimism despite the challenges we face. For one thing, how could someone not smile when they see all of the happy baby faces in this month’s newsletter. What a special time for all of these families and what a beautiful and happy group of babies! In addition, faculty and staff continue their focus on our missions and the results show in publications, grants, as well as excellence in education and clinical care. What an amazing collection of accomplishments! As you will see, the Division of Nephrology, which is highlighted this month, is a great example of this vibrancy. Under Mark Okusa’s leadership, the Division has grown in all respects and is nationally and internationally recognized for its work in many areas. Please congratulate the Division on their accomplishments. As always, I welcome your thoughts and inputs.

With best wishes,

Mitchell H. Rosner, MD, MACP
Henry B. Mulholland Professor of Medicine
Chair, Department of Medicine
NEW PARKING CHANGES

UTS Changes:

1. To support the needs of the UVA community, we have redesigned our routes to maximize efficiency and deliver service to those that are transit dependent. With this redesign, McCormick road will no longer be serviced. Less vehicles traveling down McCormick will mean for a safer walking environment. We are also encouraging anyone who does not need to ride the bus to walk, bike, or scoot to get to class/work.
   a. Our new Fall 2020 routes can be found here: https://parking.virginia.edu/university-transit-service-fall-2020
   b. A guide for finding the right bus route can be found here: https://parking.virginia.edu/finding-your-route

2. All UTS service will end at 10:00PM each day. This is to allow additional cleaning of the buses.
   a. After hours transportation is available via SafeRide
   b. Additional information on after hours transportation can be found at: https://parking.virginia.edu/after-hours-parking-and-transportation

3. UTS will not have service on Sundays, to allow for comprehensive cleaning of the buses.

Download the TransLoc Rider app or use TransLoc online to find the nearest bus stop, track your bus in real-time, see arrival time estimates, and receive service impact notifications.

In effect starting September 1st, any faculty, staff, or students may purchase hourly parking via ParkMobile in many of our lots. This is ideal for those who visit Grounds infrequently and do not wish to purchase a permit.

To learn more about ParkMobile, please visit: https://parking.virginia.edu/parkmobile

To view which lots are available hourly: https://parking.virginia.edu/parkmobile-zones

DOM FINANCIAL UPDATE

Department of Medicine
Summary of Consolidated Financials
FY20 as of July 31, 2020

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Budget YTD</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
<th>$ Variance YTD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work RVUs</td>
<td>66,855</td>
<td>73,713</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Receipts (NPSR)</td>
<td>4,460,919</td>
<td>5,162,465</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>21,502,883</td>
<td>20,329,301</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>17,398,847</td>
<td>15,766,581</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>4,104,036</td>
<td>4,562,720</td>
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</table>

Summary Explanation of Variance:
For the fiscal year July 31, 2020 DOM posted a consolidated net surplus of $4.1M and a favorable variance to net budget surplus of $459K. The favorable variance in Net Patient Service Revenue is largely driven by strong clinical productivity and bigger charge volume than anticipated. Non-clinical revenues underperformed budget driven by reduced Medical Center support. Non-grant personnel expenditures outperformed budget due to the impact of financial mitigation efforts.
Please join in welcoming Dr Kaitlin M. Love to the faculty of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism as an Assistant Professor of Medicine, effective September 1, 2020. Katie received her Medical Degree from Florida State University College of Medicine and completed both her Internal Medicine residency (2017) and clinical endocrinology fellowship (June 2020) at UVA. During her fellowship training, she developed a strong interest in clinical research and proved herself as a rising star by successfully obtaining an NRSA and the highly competitive integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (iTHRIV) scholar award. Katie will focus her effort on developing an independent clinical research program on insulin action and diabetes complications.

Congratulations to Leon Farhi, PhD whose project “Machine Learning Technology for Prediction of Future Glucose Fluctuations to Enable a New Generation of Adaptive Glucose Control in Diabetes” was selected for funding as part of $2.48 million set to support new research commercialization in emerging technology sectors announced by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam recently.

Congratulations to Dr Christopher McCartney on his promotion to Professor of Medicine and on being appointed Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs (July 1, 2020).

Congratulations to Dr Gregory Hong on his promotion to Professor of Medicine and on being appointed the new Endocrine Fellowship Program Director (July 1, 2020).

Congratulations to Dr Coleen McNamara for being funded as part of the LeDucq Foundation Translational Networks of Excellence, along with investigators from University of Vienna, MGH, and the Karolinska Institute. The project is entitled B Cells in Cardiovascular Disease.

Congratulations to Dr Robert M. Carey who received an outstanding score for his R01 competitive renewal titled “Renal AT2 receptors in hypertension”. It received an Impact Score of 20 and Percentile Score of 2.0. When Bob submitted this grant he [*mentioned] this was the best grant he ever wrote and clearly our study section colleagues agreed! We are confident that this grant will be funded after the council meet in a few months. This outstanding score clearly reflects the continued leadership position of Bob in endocrine hypertension research.

Congratulations to Dr Patrick Dillon on his 10 years of service with the Division of Hematology/Oncology.

Congratulations to Dr Hui Zong on receiving funding for a grant which Dr Dillion is co-investigator, Mary Kay foundation entitled, “Optimization of dosing regimen of PARP inhibitor for BRCA1 related breast cancer prevention.”

Welcome to the new Hematology/Oncology faculty Dr Emily Ayers, an Assistant Professor of Medicine joined the Malignant Hematology team. Dr John Manavalan, an Assistant Professor of Medicine joined Dr Marchi’s lab specializing in T-cell lymphoma. Dr Enrica Marchi, an Assistant Professor of Medicine joined the Malignant Hematology team, and Dr Owen O’Connor, an American Cancer Society Research Professor collaborating with Drs Loughran and Marchi.

The Division of Hematology/Oncology graduated three fellows in July 2020.
Daniel Reed, MD - Wake Forest, Winston-Salem, NC
Erin McLoughlin, MD – Sentara Martha Jefferson Hematology and Medical Oncology Associates, Charlottesville, VA
Victor Orellana-Noia, MD – Emory, Atlanta, GA


**Dr Robert Carey to Receive AHA Distinguished Scientist Award**

Congratulations to Dr Robert Carey who will be receiving the American Heart Association (AHA) Distinguished Scientist Award for 2020. The award is the highest award given by the AHA in science and the Distinguished Scientist designation honors for AHA professional members who have made extraordinary contributions to cardiovascular and stroke research. The Award will be presented in November at AHA Scientific Sessions in Dallas or virtually, whichever option is selected.

This is one of many lifetime achievement awards for Bob, but this one is particularly important as we believe this is the first time an ENDOCRINOLOGIST is receiving a CARDIOLOGY lifetime achievement award!

Following are just a few quotes from the nomination letters submitted to the American Heart Association supporting Dr Carey for this distinguished scientist award:

“Bob is an outstanding researcher, educator, mentor, leader, role model and advocate for the AHA.”

“Bob has devoted his life to biomedical research in hypertension but has coupled this with exceptional contributions in many other facets of academic medicine and contributions to several professional societies, including the AHA. His contributions to furthering our understanding of hormonal control of blood pressure and hypertension are widely recognized. He is an exceptional individual and role model, who in my opinion is highly deserving of the AHA Distinguished Scientist Award.”

Again, congratulations Dr Carey, well done!

**Pam Schaefer Retires**

It’s with mixed feelings of sadness and happiness that we announce that after so many years of service Pam Schaefer (Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health) will be retiring at the end of September. There are no amount of words that could express fully Pam’s tremendous contributions to the success of the Division and the Department of Medicine. To simply say she is a team player is a huge understatement. Pam has taken a lot of us, within and outside of the Division, under her wing and taught us most of what we know today, and she has done so with open arms and kindness.

In addition to managing multiple grant portfolios for multiple faculty in the Division, Pam has expertly managed our T32 training grants and has taken it upon herself to train others in the Division and Department on what she has learned over the years. As Dr Petri, the PI on the T32s has stated, it will be so hard to imagine these programs without her. This is true not only with the T32s but with every program that pam is involved in. She has on several occasions served on many Division, Department, and University-wide committees aimed at improving our processes and operations. Her shoes will be difficult to fill.

We cannot thank Pam enough and she will be greatly missed. We wish her the best as she embarks on this next chapter of her life.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 group gathering restrictions, we cannot bring everyone together to celebrate Pam, but rest assured we will find creative ways to celebrate her and all that she has done for the ID Division. Please wish her well and thank her for her many years of service.
WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW FELLOWS!

INFECTIONOUS DISEASE
Brian Grundy, MBBS, MPH
Residency: University of Texas at Austin

Jennifer Sasson, MD
Residency: University of Virginia

Yosra Alkabab, MBBS
Residency: University of Virginia

Jackie Hodges, MD
Residency: University of Virginia

ENDOCRINOLOGY
Sarah Lee, MD
Residency: Virginia Commonwealth University

Janice McMillian, MD
Residency: University of Rochester

Ronak Patel, MD
Residency: Christiana Care

PULMONARY
Claire DeBolt, MD
Residency: University of California San Francisco

Daisy Zhu, MD
Residency: University of Chicago, North Shore

Eva Otoupalova, MD
Residency: William Beaumont Hospital

Sam Oliver, MD
Residency: University of Virginia

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY
Samantha DiBenedetto, MD
Residency: University of Florida

Eric Pierce, MD
Residency: University of Virginia

Nicholas Schmidt, MD
Residency: University of Virginia

ALLERGY
Ryan Eid, MD
Residency: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School

Jaimin Patel, DO
Residency: University of South Florida College of Medicine, Allentown, PA

CARDIOVASCULAR
Adithya Peruri, MD
Residency: Henry Ford Macomb Hospital

David Cook, MD
Residency: University of Virginia Medical Center

Nisha Hosadurg, MBBS
Residency: Tufts Medical Center

Juliette Logan, MD
Residency: Duke University

Patrick Stafford, MD
Residency: University of Virginia Medical Center

Patricia Rodriguez Lozano, MD
Fellowship: University of Texas Medical Branch

Brittney Heard, MD
Fellowship: University of Virginia Medical Center

Cherisse Baldeo, MD
Residency: University of Florida at Jacksonville

Paul (Tim) Maddux, MD
Fellowship: Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University

GASTROENTEROLOGY
Christopher Young, MD
Residency: Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine

Kelly Diaz, MD
Residency: Mt. Sinai, New York

Robert Schenck, MD
Residency: Northwestern, Chicago

Zachary Dickson, MD
Residency: University of Virginia

Brian Wentworth, MD
Residency: University of Virginia

NEPHROLOGY
Abdulrahman Alwagdani, MBBS
Residency: Ascension St. John Hospital, Detroit, MI

Samuel Lazoff, DO
Residency: Sovah Health-Danville, Danville, VA

Bobak Sharifi, MD
Residency: Virginia Tech Carilion, Roanoke, VA

RHEUMATOLOGY
Atish Dey, DO
Residency: Arrowhead Regional Medical Center

Elijah Mitcham, MD
Residency: Palmetto Health/University of South Carolina School of Medicine
Welcome To The World


Did you know that DOM has a Twitter account? Follow us here.
DIVISION OF NEPHROLOGY - SPOTLIGHT

Division Chief Message - Dr Mark Okusa

This year has changed and challenged us in ways that none of us could have ever imagined. So what did we do? We rose to the challenge, and we adapted quickly. The practice of nephrology and medicine has changed forever. Always waiting in the wings, telemedicine finally took center stage. ZOOM meetings, face masks, and physical distancing became standard practice, homeschooling was back in fashion.

But more important than all the advanced technology are all the wonderful people in our Division. I could not be prouder of Nephrology/CIHR’s faculty and staff; their dedication and sacrifice deserve endless applause.

Long hours were spent creating new protocols to protect patients and staff alike, we watched the numbers rise everywhere, scrambled for PPOs, volunteered at the COVID-19 clinic, dove into doxy.me, focused heavily on our research, wrote papers, applied for grants, and made a Fellowship Promotional Video.

Every army has its foot soldiers. In this particular battle, our nurses, faced with the unknown, showed unbelievable courage. We kept pushing forward, and in doing so pushed back, and always stayed true to our mission. We are grateful to our DOM leaders, especially Mitch Rosner who along with his team, laid the groundwork to navigate these uncharted waters.

Mark D. Okusa, MD

Clinical Updates

On a practical level, while our clinical performance was impacted by COVID-19, the Division recovered quickly, and ended the fiscal year above budget. Even with staff shortages, our dialysis unit numbers remained constant.

Led by Kambiz Kalantari, the acute hemodialysis unit had a very strong performance and ensured necessary provisions for COVID-19.

Our transplant unit goes from strength to strength under the direction of Alden Doyle.

Augusta Hospital continues to be a powerhouse under Adam Campbell.

Our Culpepper self-care unit opened; it is geared towards converting suitable patients to home dialysis.

We also have a new facility in Waynesboro that will transition dialysis patients from Augusta to Waynesboro.

With the signing of the Executive Order on July 10, 2019, an alternative payment model through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) was created aimed at managing early stages of chronic kidney disease and increasing the number of patients on home dialysis and those receiving preemptive transplants. Through Brendan Bowman’s efforts, we applied and received his letter of acceptance from CMMI into the alternative payment model, Kidney Care First.

Sana Khan is leading a team to create a “High-Risk CKD Clinic” to facilitate late-stage CKD patients to home therapies while incorporating Telehealth as a central component in this program.

Increased faculty meetings led to great ideas, one stand out being a Fellowship Promotional Video. Post-production, our hope is it increases visibility for Nephrology and the entire organization, provides a quality product that builds engagement, is shareable, and gives us a competitive edge. I won’t use the word “trailblazers” but I think the idea’s caught on.
Research Highlights
Clinical Research is rapidly developing under the leadership of Julia Scialla, increasing our capacity for complex studies and allowing us to create a database linking the full ESRD experience.

We have maintained continued growth in research funding. Sho Morioka won an NIH K01 and an ASN Transition to Independence Grant; Okusa was awarded 2 NIH R01 grants and along with Rahul Sharma and William Guilford (School of Engineering) (MPI) was awarded an R25 entitled University of Virginia Kidney Technology Development Research Education Program (VA K-TUTOR). The aim of the VA K-TUTOR is to increase interest and engagement among students from different disciplines to pursue further studies or careers in kidney research. PI’s have many grant applications in the pipeline, and they are managed expertly by Linda Deeds, Andrea Johnson, Kirsti Moose-McConkey, and Lee McCraw-Leavitt. We now conduct faculty grant review sessions to use the collective wisdom of our research faculty to improve our grant applications in the hopes of a positive outcome.

An exciting new opportunity and challenge face the Division as we will need to replace our long-standing T32 (as NIH has abandoned the T32, as we know it), and we will apply through a new KUH (Kidney Urology and Hematology) program for a multi-disciplinary multi-institutional training grant (entitled The Integrated Virginia Research Training Centers in Kidney, Urology, and Hematology (IGNITE KUH) to increase the pipeline of early investigators interested in kidney, urologic and hematologic diseases. We will partner with Virginia Commonwealth University as well as Virginia Tech. A large number of individuals from Nephrology/CIIR are leading this program including Scialla, Portilla, Linden, Brown, Okusa, Sharma, and our pediatric colleagues, Agnieszka (Agnes) Swiatecka-Urban (new chief of Pediatric Nephrology) and Ariel Gomez (Director, Pediatric Center of Excellence in Nephrology). We believe this program will be important in expanding the pipeline of researchers across the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Other News
The much-touted Pinn Hall renovation is complete, with a move-in date scheduled for early September. It is state of the art, beautifully appointed, and encourages scientific collaboration.

COVID-19 created havoc and disrupted lives on a personal and professional level, but we still had much to celebrate.

We made three new hires:
Sanja Arandjelovic, PhD, Assistant Professor, joined the Division in July 2020.
Daphne Harrington Knicely, MD, Associate Professor, will officially begin in December 2020. She will be based at Augusta Hospital primarily but will also serve as an attending on the UVA nephrology consult service.
Joel Linden, PhD, Professor Emeritus, joined the Division/CIIR late spring 2020. Joel is one of the world’s leading cardiovascular scientists in inflammation and will contribute to building the Division/CIIR research program.
Sana Khan was promoted to associate professor.
Karen Warburton was awarded tenure.

We have an impressive and talented pool of faculty members as demonstrated by being recipients of the DOM Excellence Awards:
• Swati Rao, MD Excellence in Clinical Care
• Leah Wayner, MSN, ACNP Excellence in Clinical Care
• Charles Brooks, MD Excellence in Clinical Care
• Tushar Chopra, MD Excellence in Teaching
• Linda Deeds, Outstanding Staff contributor
• Sho Morioka, PhD Excellence in Research

Danielle Wentworth, MSN, ACNP, CNN-NP, celebrated five years with the Division of Nephrology.

Leah Wayner is leading the way by creating a UVA Nephrology Advanced Practitioner Program to ensure the growth and career advancement of Nephrology APPs. This program will serve as an educational/training platform for current APPs and student APPs in the future.

Rajkumar Venkatadri was the recipient of the Shyr-Te-Ju Immunology Award for “IL-233 Regulates Mitochondrial Function and Canonical WNT Signaling for Lupus Glomerulonephritis Remission.”

We’re sad to see Sundararaman “Swami” Swaminathan go, he was recruited to head translational research at Mayo Clinic in Arizona.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization and Project Details</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emaad M Abdel-Rahman</td>
<td>BIORASI, LLC - DKPL-00057-001</td>
<td>Clinical Evaluation of HemoCare Hemodialysis System for Home Nocturnal Hemodialysis</td>
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<td>Emaad M Abdel-Rahman</td>
<td>International Society of Nephrology - ISN_Balogun_2020-21 Sister Ren</td>
<td>2020-21 ISN Sister Renal Support Center</td>
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<td>Tushar Chopra</td>
<td>American Society Of Nephrology, Bennett Clinical Educator Award - Chopra ASN_Bennett Award</td>
<td>PD Curriculum Development to Improve PD Prescriptions Writing</td>
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<td>Uta Erdbruegger</td>
<td>University of Tennessee Health Science Center (Flow-Through Sponsor U.S. NIH Institute of Diabetes &amp; Digestive &amp; Kidney Diseases Fund Source Award) Number 20-0350-UVA</td>
<td>Dissecting the role of dynamic epigenome prompting pathways leading to kidney allograft fibrosis</td>
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<td>Sana F Khan</td>
<td>Reata Pharmaceuticals, Inc. - Protocol 402-C-1808</td>
<td>A Phase 3 Trial of the Efficacy and Safety of Bardoxolone Methyl in Patients with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (FALCON Study)</td>
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<td>Sho Morioka</td>
<td>ASN Foundation for Kidney Research - ASN_Morioka_TIG</td>
<td>Boosting apoptotic cell removal during acute kidney injury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sho Morioka</td>
<td>U.S. NIH Institute of Diabetes &amp; Digestive &amp; Kidney Diseases - 1K01DK123497</td>
<td>Removal of apoptotic cells during acute kidney injuries</td>
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<td>American Society Of Nephrology ASN_Okusa_Poudel Fellowship</td>
<td>Pannexin 1 and Acute Kidney Injury</td>
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<td>Sphingolipids in Acute Kidney Injury and Disease Progression</td>
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<td>Julia Scialla</td>
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<td>Integrated Mineral Metabolism Treatment Strategies in Patients on Dialysis</td>
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<td>Julia Scialla</td>
<td>University Of Pennsylvania (Flow-Through Sponsor Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH) - Upenn_Scialla_TRIDENT</td>
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<td>Rahul Sharma</td>
<td>U.S. NIH Institute of Diabetes &amp; Digestive &amp; Kidney Diseases - 1R25DK124918</td>
<td>The University of Virginia Kidney Technology Development Research Education Program (VA K- TUTOR)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DIVISION OF NEPHROLOGY - NEW FACES

Welcome New Nephrology Fellows

Abdulrahman Alwagdani, MBBS
Completed his residency at Ascension St. John Hospital, Detroit, MI and his medical school at Umm Al-Qura University Faculty of Medicine, Saudi Arabia.
Fun Facts: Enjoys playing soccer and learning new languages. His motto – “Never stop learning.”

Sam Lazoff, DO
Completed his residency at Sovah Health-Danville, Danville, VA and his medical school at William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine.
Fun Facts: Originally from Raleigh, NC. When he is not at work, he loves adventure and travel, especially going to the beach. One summer he even served as a national park ranger.

Bobak Sharifi, MD
Completed his residency at Virginia Tech Carilion, Roanoke, VA and his medical school at Xavier University School of Medicine, Aruba.
Fun Facts: Enjoys playing and coaching soccer and basketball, taking scenic hikes, reading sci-fi novels and watching mixed martial arts.

Welcome To The World

Adrien David was born Feb 10, 2020 at UVA weighing 7 lbs 7 oz to parents Elaine McCall and Brian Roberts. “He is our very hungry big headed baby that has nearly tripled his weight in 5 months! Sadly his mother, the dietitian makes him eat green beans before he gets a slice of peach or banana.”
Krishnassai was born February 27, 2020, weighing 6 lbs 1 oz to parents Lakshmi and Subbu Kannan. He loves having books read to him, especially “Guess how much I love you and Peter Rabbit”. He loves looking at bees, sky and lights and of course putting everything in his mouth!

Arielle Caroline was born April 2, 2020 weighing 6 lbs 7 oz to parents Danielle and Brian Wentworth. Although an official nickname has not yet been decided upon, they jokingly call her The Velociraptor, because she has a voracious appetite and likes to shriek when she has to wait for food. She loves to smile and stomp her feet like a horse. She does not appreciate it when her big fur brother, Bailey, licks her feet.
Clinical Studies

Micro particles in Patients with Essential Hypertension, Resistant Hypertension, Renal vascular Hypertension, Hypertension due to Fibromuscular Dysplasia, Primary Hyperaldosteronism and Healthy Patients without Hypertension. PI: Uta Erdbrügger.

Collecting IGM from Healthy Human Subject Blood. PI: Peter Lobo.

Collecting IgM from Healthy Human Umbilical Cord Blood. PI: Peter Lobo.


Predicting Excess Immunosuppression by Lymphocyte and IgG Levels for Kidney Transplant Recipients. PI: Peter Lobo.


Circulating Exosomes from Kidney Trigger Heart Failure in Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease. PI: Uta Erdbrügger.


Micro particles in Lean and Obese Subjects with Hypertension, Resistant Hypertension, and Subjects without Hypertension. PI: Uta Erdbrügger.

Immune-Related Adverse Events in Patients with Malignancy. PI: Amanda Renaghan.

Transformative Research in Diabetic Nephropathy (TRIDENT). PI: Julia Scialla.

A Phase 3 Trial of the Efficacy and Safety of Bardoxolone Methyl in Patients with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (FALCON) PI: Sana Khan.

International Kidney Registry (K-Reg). PI: Amanda Renaghan.

Clinical Evaluation of the HemoCare™ Hemodialysis System for home Nocturnal Hemodialysis. PI: Emaad Abdel-Rahman.

Influence of positive crossmatch on outcomes of liver transplantation. A single center retrospective cohort study of adult liver transplant recipients at the University of Virginia. PI: Peter Lobo.

Predictive Dosing Algorithms to Address ESRD Induced Anemia. PI: Brendan Bowman.


Integrated Mineral Metabolism Treatment Strategies in Patients with End-Stage Kidney Disease on Dialysis: A Qualitative Study. PI: Julia Scialla.

The Effect of Transitional Dialysis Care on Clinical Outcomes Study. PI: Brendan Bowman.

Comparative Effectiveness Studies in Incident Dialysis Patients. PI: Julia Scialla.

Urinary Extracellular Vesicles as biomarkers and bio activators in cisplatin nephrotoxicity. PI: Uta Erdbrügger.


Improving Causal Inference for CKD-Associated Physiologic Factors. PI: Julia Scialla.

Prediction of Renal Recovery in AKI-D Patients. PI: Emaad Abdel-Rahman.


Selected from over 100 academic year publications


Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I first came to UVA for graduate studies in Biochemistry. On my very first day in Cville, one of the first people I met (a dear friend now) told me “Cville is like a black hole – once you come here, you’ll never leave”, meaning this town draws you in with its charms! At the time, I saw this as a joke, but after leaving for postdoctoral training, both my husband and I jumped at the opportunity to come back to Charlottesville and UVA – the quality of life here is hard to beat!!! So, we live in town with our dog co-pilots in a black hole space ship!

Why Research?
The curiosity – I get to feel like a child making new discoveries every day! Also, to find a cure for autoimmune diseases!

What brought you to Charlottesville?
Science and Charlottesville itself – this little town offers what some big cities can only dream about – awesome people and great (and diverse) food and music!

What excites you about your work?
The discovery – I love the unknown!

Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
Growing my own veggies!

Next life?
Pro surfer!

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Camping in one of the nearby Virginia State Parks or the Shenandoah National Park!

How did you meet your partner?
At UVA in grad school – the labs we studied in were across the hall from one another!

What’s one thing you always have in your fridge?
Sour cherries! A little taste of my first home (Serbia)! And local beers (Champion Brewery is a favorite)!

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
East Coast - First Landing State Park in Virginia Beach; West Coast – Joshua Tree National Park; Europe – anywhere off the beaten path (French cheese, Scottish Highlands, Tara Mountain National Park in Serbia)!

Most admired person, and why?
My husband, for putting up with me!

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
Never give up!

What about you would surprise us?
I used to DJ and host a radio show at WNRN (local radio station).

What is a talent or skill that you don’t have that you wish you did?
Playing a musical instrument (well).

Favorite fictional characters?
Jack Skellington from The Nightmare Before Christmas!

If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to?
Any year in the 80s!

What is the last book you read for pleasure?
The Fifth Season by N.K. Jemisin. In general, I love science fiction!

What’s the most unusual thing you have ever eaten?
Snails…it’s a French thing.

Do you collect anything?
Memories of fun places I’ve been to and pins from U.S. National/State Parks!

What was your first job, how old were you?
Selling CDs (anyone remember those?) in an outdoor market stand in Belgrade, Serbia.
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I have been at UVA for just over a year. I was born and raised in Lagos, a city located on the shores of the Atlantic ocean, in the South Westernmost part of Nigeria. There I learned the value of hard work and the sweet rewards of perseverance; it was the start of my journey, one that has led me on a path to becoming a Nephrologist.

What excites you about your work?
What excites me about Nephrology is how it has provided me with a deeper insight into the intricate relationships between every system of the human body. This Fellowship has provided me with the skills to not only be a better physician but also a better person. I will be moving on from here to be a Clinical Nephrologist working not only to improve the health of any community I find myself in, fostering long term relationships, and advocating for social justice and equality.

What is it about you that would surprise us?
I bet you would be surprised if I told you that I could bust a move on the dance floor!

Do you collect anything?
I used to collect Sports Illustrated covers. I still have all the copies from 2006-2012.

Most admired person, and why?
I hold Barack Obama in high esteem, because of how he overcame adversity and he taught me to have the “audacity of hope.”
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I've been working at UVA since 2015 when I started as a part-time graduate student assistant in the Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Cultures (MESALC) while I earned my Master's Degree. After graduating I was hired as the front desk assistant in the School of Medicine Office of Grants and Contracts. I later joined the grants team in that office (shout out to the SOM Grants Team!) before moving on to my current position as a grants administrator for the Divisions of Nephrology and Endocrinology. I live in Afton with my husband and our 7-year-old son where we enjoy gardening, riding bikes, and laying in our hammock. After work I always go see my horse, Felix, who is a recently retired racehorse that I’m restarting as a dressage/eventing horse.

Why Healthcare?
In high school and college, I always enjoyed research and wanted to earn a DVM and become a researcher. Although that didn’t pan out, while working at the front desk of the SOM Office of Grants and Contracts I discovered that I find enjoyment in supporting researchers as an administrator.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
I was accepted to the MESALC Graduate Program, earning a Master’s Degree had always been a longer term goal of mine. (Further incentive was that my love interest at the time – now my husband – lived nearby in Afton)

What excites you about your work?
Helping people find solutions to different problems and being part of a team. I love working on and completing projects.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
Being the first woman in my family to earn a Master’s degree (in two years while our son was a toddler!)

Next life?
Running a horse stable and organic farm in New Zealand.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
We go to Myrtle Beach every winter holiday to spend time with friends that we never get to see the rest of the year (many of us live in different parts of the country). We have a big communal Christmas meal and spend New Year’s Eve square dancing until midnight – the last and most fun dance is always the Virginia Reel, naturally! This is also how I met my husband.

Most admired person, and why?
My husband. He was diagnosed with a brain tumor on his 19th birthday and had to have emergency surgery to save his life that day. He has since been through many different procedures and complications but thankfully has come out with a stable prognosis. He has been unable to participate in life in the same ways he once enjoyed but still manages to be a wonderful partner and father and to ride his mountain bike as much as he can. He has been through so much and despite everything maintains the most amazing positive attitude and is always unconditionally kind, funny, and full of compassion.

What is it about you that would surprise us?
I have competed as a three-phase eventer, power lifter, and cyclo-cross cyclist. I’ve also had several independent art shows featuring my work.

What is a talent or skill that you don’t have that you wish you did?
I wish I wasn’t [deathly] afraid to sing in front of people because I love music (I used to play bass in high school, no singing though) and I would really love to be able to express myself musically.

Favorite fictional characters?
Harley Quinn, Katniss Everdeen and Sherlock Holmes.

Do you collect anything?
Music, especially vinyl records.
A LITTLE FUN

NEPHROLOGY WORD SEARCH

KIDNEY FUNCTION
RENAL
IMMUNOBIOLOGY
URINE
FLUID
ELECTROLYTE
REGENERATIVE
BLOOD PRESSURE
PROTEINURIA

HEMATURIA
CELL BIOLOGY
DIALYSIS
TRANSPLANT
METABOLISM
IMMUNITY
INFLAMMATION
MOLECULAR