MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

I hope that everyone had a great holiday and was able to take some time off from the stresses of the pandemic world. This month it is fitting that we highlight and celebrate the accomplishments of the Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health led by Dr. Eric Houpt. There is no doubt that our response to COVID-19 has been dramatically impacted by the faculty and staff of this Division. From providing world-class clinical care to developing clinical trials and investigating the science behind this infection, and leading the hospital and University efforts in containment, the Division has been at the lead. We owe them a great deal of thanks. But life is more than COVID-19, and the Division has had a terrific and productive year in many other domains. They are a world leader in research into infectious diseases, have a renowned education program, and provide extensive clinical care across many disciplines. Please join me in congratulating the Division for an outstanding year.

A few other items to highlight as we enter into the year. We are hopeful that as more and more people are vaccinated, we can return to normal operations. In the coming weeks, I would like to start some small group discussions on the Department’s critical topics to prepare us for the coming year. These topics will focus on mentorship, academic advancement, wellness and diversity, equity, and community engagement. Please look for announcements and invitations to these sessions soon. Your participation and voice are critical in shaping our Department and making sure we are meeting everyone’s needs.

With best wishes,

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

Department of Medicine
Summary of Consolidated Financials
FY21 as of November 30, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget YTD</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
<th>$ Variance YTD</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work RVUs</td>
<td>370,255</td>
<td>373,824</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Receipts (NPSR)</td>
<td>24,614,971</td>
<td>24,843,617</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>79,032,303</td>
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<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>78,174,165</td>
<td>75,107,313</td>
<td>3,066,851</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>858,138</td>
<td>(549,600)</td>
<td>(1,407,739)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary Explanation of Variance:
For the fiscal year through November 30, 2020 DOM posted a consolidated net loss of $550K and an unfavorable variance to net budget surplus of $1.4M.
Clinical revenues underperformed budget by $877K due to lower than anticipated Indigent Care revenue, delayed Medical Center support (MOU) and payments from Outreach Programs.
Non-clinical revenues underperformed budget by $1.4M driven by FY20 clinical deficit support and reduced Medical Center support (Funds Flow).
Personnel and Non-personnel expenditures outperformed budget driven by the impact of financial mitigation efforts and over statement of incentive accruals.
Total revenues include $2.6M Endowment revenue received for December through June.
Total expenditures include $243K pension charge back adjustment for December through June.

UVAHRS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UVA COVID-19 COMMUNITY TESTING PROGRAM

SIGN UP HERE

Strict infection control precautions are followed and PPE is offered to everyone according to the risk of exposure per our infection control colleagues.

Check Out Mindfulness Matters
A Newsletter from the UVA Mindfulness Center

WELCOME TO ALL OF OUR NEW FELLOWS!
Congratulations to **Drs Taison Bell** and **Andy Wolf** who have been named Outstanding Faculty Award winners for 2021 by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). The SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Awards are the state’s highest honor for faculty at Virginia’s public and private colleges and universities, highlighting the recipients’ achievements in teaching, research and public service.

Congratulations to **Dr Michael Salerno** for his appointment to the ACC Cardiovascular Imaging Section Leadership Council.

Congratulations to **Dr Anneke T. Schroen**, Associate Professor of Surgery who has been awarded the Sharon L. Hostler Women in Medicine Leadership Award 2020.

Congratulations to **Dr Sula Mazimba and team** - one of the 5 winners in the NHLBI Big Data HF Analysis Challenge.

Congratulations to the UVA Medical team studying Sphingolipids in Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML) led by **Dr Thomas Loughran, Jr.** and **Dr Mark Kester, PhD**.

Congratulations to **Dr Matthew Wolf** for his exciting new manuscript in Circ Research. [https://ahajournals.org](https://ahajournals.org)

Congratulations to Chief Resident **Alex Zimmet, MD** and his UVA ID mentor on his work to comprehensively describe the physiological response to bloodstream infection in critically ill adults.

Congratulations to **Dr Nishtha Sodhi** for her appointment to the ACC Accreditation Services Committee.

Congratulations to **Jessica Proffitt** who has been accepted into the JMU Honors College.

Congratulations to **Ruth Aldridge** who has been accepted to UVA’s first UVA Edge Program. The UVA Edge Program is a one-year undergraduate experience for working adults designed to develop the digital and human skills one needs to thrive. Since her teens, it has been a dream of Ruth’s to one day attend UVA as a student. She is a Hoo through and through!

**William Petri, MD** has been elected to the *Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine*, and has also been nominated to be the *Chair of the NIH Pathogenic Eukaryotes Study Section*.

Congratulations to Jeffrey Ware, Associate Administrator, on his 35 years of service with the University of Virginia.

**Hematology/Oncology New Fellows**

Nathan Roberts, MD is joining us from Wake Forest. Nathan is a Virginia native, attended Virginia Tech (another Hokie to the program) for undergrad and Wake Forest for both medical school and residency, where he is currently a chief resident.

Chris Thomas, MBBS is joining us from the University of Kentucky Lexington. He was born in India and attended St. Johns Medical College in India. He is currently a chief resident at UK Lexington.

John (Will) Thomas, MD is originally from Georgia and is joining us from the University of Alabama Birmingham. Will attended Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC then Augusta University for medical school where he was elected to AOA before entering residency at UAB.

Phil Young, MD will now be a triple Hoo, having attended UVA for medical school, residency, and now fellowship. Prior to starting at UVA Phil attended BYU undergrad. We are thrilled that he will be staying with us for three more years.

We will also welcome a new fellow who is joining us in January 2021.

Melissa Yacur, MD will be joining us as a transfer from George Washington University where she is currently a 2nd year fellow. Melissa is transferring to our program to complete the remainder of her fellowship. Melissa is actually becoming a double Hoo – having attended UVA for undergrad before Temple for medical school, Penn State for residency, and then GWU.
DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Congratulations to UVA Medicine alumna Vivian W. Pinn, MD ’67 on being presented the *Alma Dea Morani MD Renaissance Woman Award*, and also receiving the *American Medical Association Distinguished Service Award*. The award honors meritorious service in the science and art of medicine.

Parents, guardians, and caregivers: We’ve got resources to support you!

Attention parents, guardians, and caregivers: We’ve got resources to support you! UVA HR and the Provost’s Office have created *Parent & Guardian Connections*, a newsletter for UVA faculty, staff, and team members with school-aged children. The newsletter includes resources featuring education (school news, at-home learning tools, and childcare options), enrichment (extracurricular activities, programming, and creative projects), and engagement (community news, volunteer opportunities, and emotional support). Please share the newsletter broadly with your UVA colleagues.

12 Mental Health and Wellness Resources For You To Know About

Follow DOM on Twitter. Visit us Here.

Last January in front of Cobb Hall, the season’s one and only snow fall. What will this winter bring? (Photo credit: Kim Kelley-Wagner) Have a photo you would like to share? Please end to: kak2cj@hscmail.mcc.virginia.edu
DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Welcome To The World

Congratulations to Chris Hanson and wife Katelyn who welcomed son George Cotter, born October 24, 2020

Congratulations to Elona Rrapo Kaso and husband Arber who welcomed daughter Sophia Kaso, born in August 2020

“Santa’s Med Ed Helpers”
From top left: Tony Brinkman, Lisa Mackey, Kara Watts, Javanov Barksdale, Cheryl Etelvari, Karen Ward, Monte Parsons, Leslie Stewart, Ginny Atwell, Joy Hilton, Erin Arnold, Terry Bennett, Monica Olsen
Message from Dr. Eric Houpt, Division Chief, Infectious Diseases and International Health

2020 will go down in infamy, and it is great to have it behind us. The Infectious Diseases and International Health Division continued our everyday work in the clinic and research, plus many of us pivoted and took on new COVID related activities. This combination of “usual work” amidst COVID and the addition of “new COVID work” was strenuous, and my colleagues’ fortitude has been remarkable. To look on the bright side, I think that we learned a lot about COVID and other areas. For example, our faculty stood up several new clinical research projects right here at UVA; others took on new leadership roles within the Health System, University, and the Commonwealth; others covered for faculty who were pulled away in other directions. We all played a part, and we will take these experiences with us and forge ahead. So we look towards 2021 with optimism. We are optimistic that we will see an effective COVID vaccine deployed throughout the community. We are confident that by late 2021 we will resume with a bit more normalcy our usual Divisional work in the clinic, on the wards, in the lab, and in the classroom. But let us take one step at a time and not get ahead of ourselves.

I hope you enjoy reading about a few of our 2020 activities. If you have any comments or questions, feel free to reach out to any of us directly.

Eric Houpt, MD

COVID EFFORTS AND ITEMS OF NOTE

- Drs. Sifri, Jackson, Bell, Mathers, Platts-Mills, Donowitz, Muto, McManus, Hogan, Enfield, and Madden have staffed the Hospital Epidemiologist/COVID pager 24/7 since March 11 2020
- Amy Mathers: COVID testing in Clinical Microbiology, wastewater testing at UVA, swab production for Virginia/VDH
- Josh Eby: Medical Director, Employee Health
- Patrick Jackson: Adaptive COVID-19 Treatment Trial, NIH ACTT COVID Clinical Trial Consortium
- Scott Heysell: COVID-19 convalescent plasma trial/ COVID-19 research prioritization committee/ COVID-19 phase 1 vaccine trial
- Barb Mann: BSL-3 COVID laboratory
- William Petri and Mayuresh Abhyankar: COVID immunotherapy and vaccine research using BSL3 mouse model
- Girija Ramakrishnan: COVID Research Ramp up
- Mami Taniuchi: COVID-19 surveillance in Bangladesh and Pakistan, more below
- Eric Houpt and Elizabeth McQuade: Virginia Coronavirus Serology Project, VDH

AN EXCEPTIONAL NIH YEAR

- Cirle Warren: Alanyl-glutamine supplementation of standard treatment for C. difficile infection
- Stacey Burgess: Gut microbiome communication with the bone marrow regulates intestinal inflammation
- James Platts-Mills: Epidemiology and impact of diverse Campylobacter species in low-resource settings
- Chelsea Marie: the role of PKC in cryptosporidiosis
- Scott Heysell: Urine Colorimetry for Tuberculosis Pharmacokinetics Evaluation in Children and Adults
- William Petri, Jr: Role of Th17 in Severe and Recurrent C. difficile Infection
- Margaret Kosek: Genomic Epidemiology of Campylobacter to Improve Disease Control in Low and Middle-Income Countries
- Eric Houpt with Amy Mathers, Hardik Parikh, Scott Heysell, and Girija Ramakrishnan: Mycobacterium avium lung disease
- Molly Hughes: chemokines and antimicrobial resistance
**COVID-19 Related Work**

**Stacey L. Burgess, PhD**


2020 September;103(3):1215-1219. PubMed PMID: 32723427; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC7470527; DOI: 10.4269/ajtmh.20-0762.”

**William Petri, MD**

• Dr Petri led a team of ID faculty (Greg Madden, Jae Shin, Cirle Warren, Jen Sasson, Chelsea Marie) and Debbie Shirley (Director of COVID-19 Clinic) on a phase 3 trial of Regeneron anti-Spike antibodies to prevent household transmission

• Studied the role of IL-13, the metabolome and hyaluronin in respiratory failure in humans and in the mouse model of COVID-19

• Tested novel antibody detection tests from Millipore and Antigen Discovery with Mary Young, Jen Sasson, Rebecca Carpenter (MS4) to delineate the role of humoral immunity in the disease course

• Evaluated the role of COVID-19 in placental insufficiency with Rebecca Carpenter (MS4) in collaboration with INOVA (Larry Maxwell)

• Assembled a biorepository of clinical specimens from COVID-19 patients at UVA led by Mary Young and in collaboration with Judith Woodfolk and Jeff Sturek

**Carol Gilchrist, PhD**

Dr. Gilchrist’s Project: TechLab, Inc and University of Virginia (Gilchrist) 1076839_ Antibody Response to SARS-CoV-2 Virus in Subjects Suspected of COVID-19

Collaboration on the assessment of ddPCR/OTNPCR assays to detect very low levels of virus.
**COVID-19 Related Work**

*Scott Heysell, MD*

Dr. Heysell was co-PI for UVA’s investigator-initiated trial of convalescent immune plasma (along with Jeff Sturek- PCCM, Lawrence Lum- Heme/Onc, and Tania Thomas- ID), which is one of the few in the country to have met target accrual (manuscript in preparation). He participates on the COVID Treatment Guideline committee (UVA Health) while initially providing inpatient consultation for COVID specific treatment access, and continues to serve on the COVID Research Prioritization Committee (School of Medicine). He is co-investigator on two Ivy Foundation proposals to test a phase 1 SARS-CoV-2 vaccine for safety and antibody response among healthy volunteers. Like many, he worked initially in the COVID Screening Clinic and has volunteered in community testing outreach. Along with Rebecca Dillingham, MD he has published an opinion about strategies to mitigate COVID among incarcerated populations (“Correctional Facilities are Virginia’s Landlocked Cruise Ships” -Virginia Mercury), and with Kristen Petros de Guex, MA to raise awareness for equitable access to COVID resources for Latinx communities in Virginia (“En Virginia, la voz de la epidemia de COVID-19 habla español” -El Tiempo Latino).

*Patrick Jackson, MD*

Dr. Jackson is one of the site principal investigators for the NIH Adaptive COVID-19 Treatment Trial (ACTT). We’ve enrolled 48 patients in three phases of the trial. Data from ACTT led directly to the first FDA-approved treatment for COVID-19, remdesivir, and an emergency use authorization for the first combination therapy, remdesivir with baricitinib. We are completing ACTT-3, a study of remdesivir in combination with interferon beta-1a, and plan to participate in ACTT-4 this winter. I coordinate the UVA COVID-19 treatment guideline committee, and I am assisting frontline clinicians in the appropriate use of remdesivir and monoclonal antibody therapies for COVID-19 on the COVID-19 treatment pager.

*Taison Bell, MD*

Dr. Bell’s efforts:

- Sub-PI for the ACTT trials
- Coordinated a PPE production effort across the engineering school, architecture school, nursing school, and UVA Health
- COVID Epi Pager
- Community messaging: heard 38 weekly Facebook live streams with Dr. Cameron Webb to answer community questions about COVID-19

- Dr. Bell has been interviewed by many media outlets to talk about COVID-19: BBC, MSNBC, Yahoo Finance, NPR, to name a few

*Chelsea Marie, MD*

The Marie lab (in collaboration with Barb Mann, Allie Donlan, and the Petri lab) led the transcriptomic analysis of murine covid19 infection. It discovered that numerous type 2 immune response genes were unregulated in the lung tissue during covid19 infection and that IL-13 neutralization blocked upregulation of potentially pathogenic type 2 effectors including has1 which encodes a hyaluronan synthase previously been implicated in influenza infection.
COVID-19 Related Work

**Mami Taniuchi, PhD**

Dr. Taniuchi has been actively working on integrated sewage surveillance for poliovirus, enteric pathogens, and antimicrobial resistance in Bangladesh and India since 2018. Building on this work, Dr. Taniuchi received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to establish sewagesurveillance for SARS-CoV-2 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, with Dr. Rashidul Haque from the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease, Bangladesh and Dr. Isobel Blake from Imperial College London. Like many low-income countries, Bangladesh’s already weak health infrastructure was woefully unprepared for the COVID pandemic. Resources such as testing, ICU beds, ventilators, and contact tracing are minimal and only available to those who can afford them. Like polio, many infected individuals are asymptomatic and not likely to be tested. Therefore, the true extent of community transmission is unknown. Sewage surveillance can be a powerful tool in this setting to capture both asymptomatic and symptomatic infections and to track the disease transmission. She received a second grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to establish similar integrated sewage surveillance for SARS-CoV-2, poliovirus, and vaccine-preventable diseases in Karachi, Pakistan for the next three years. Dr. Taniuchi’s team (Tahmina Ahmed, Ryan Dodd, and Suporn Pholwat) have been active in Virginia as well carrying out SARS-CoV-2 sewage surveillance in Roanoke (in collaboration with VDH) and Washington Lee University (in partnership with Dr. Bill Washington). Dr. Taniuchi was an invited expert panelist for “Online Panel Discussion: Advancing Research and Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in Wastewater” hosted by Qiagen and an invited speaker for the “Measurement, Evidence, & Dissemination, for Scale Virtual Convening 2020 Session 2: COVID-related WaSH work” hosted by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

**Eric Houpt, MD and Elizabeth McQuade, MD**

Drs. Houpt and McQuade completed a VDH-funded statewide coronavirus serology project, in press in JAMANetworkOpen, McQuade et al.

Findings: This statewide cross-sectional surveillance study of 4675 outpatients presenting for non-COVID related healthcare revealed a seroprevalence of 2.4%. Hispanic ethnicity, residence in a multi-family unit, and contact with a COVID-19 case were significant risk factors for exposure. An estimated 66% of seropositive results were due to asymptomatic infections.

Meaning: As of Fall 2020, the population in Virginia remains largely immunologically naïve to this virus.
COVID-19 Related Work

Amy Mathers, MD

During the pandemic, Amy Mathers has worn several hats at the University of Virginia to address the pandemic’s needs. She has helped establish and then expand clinical viral testing for patients here and across the state and was critical to the One Lab proposals funded for the University of Virginia to do public health priority SARS-CoV-2 testing in Clinical microbiology. Dr. Mathers has worked in a supervisory role for COVID-19 clinic for protocols, procedures, results, and logistics and assisted the community testing efforts to reach underserved populations. She has also worked with Will Guilford in Biomedical Engineering and to develop and then run an FDA trial for producing and distributing nylon flocked swabs for SARS-CoV-2 testing. Dr. Mathers oversees the manufacturing by UVA to provide 75,000 swabs per week to UVA and the state. She has acted in an infection control capacity to assist with covering the pager and developing testing and isolation protocols and worked with partners in surgery and hospital epidemiology to develop pre-operative testing protocols. Lastly, Amy Mathers has served the University academic side to establish protocols to keep transmission down among the student population. This work included developing a wastewater monitoring system of the on-grounds dormitories as an early warning system of pooled surveillance using her research laboratory in collaboration with the School of Engineering and on-ground facilities groups.

Kate McManus, MD

Dr. McManus helped with the UVA Ryan White HIV Clinic’s COVID-19 response by designing new Epic smart phrases and a telemedicine note template. With Becca Dillingham, Brooke Williams, and Jackie Sherbuk, she published a paper that describes the negative impact of COVID-19 on people with HIV who receive care at UVA clinics in terms of food insecurity, housing, and employment. Dr. McManus completed 24-hour shifts on the Hospital Epidemiology (9204) pager and is working on a project that quantifies access to COVID-19 biomedical interventional clinical trials.

Josh Colston, MD

The surge in COVID-19 cases across North America and Europe this winter has underscored how little is known about the virus’s seasonality and sensitivity to climate and changes in the weather. Early in the pandemic, UVA Professor Margaret Kosek and epidemiologist Josh Colston obtained funding from NASA to explore these questions. They have joined forces with the team behind the renowned COVID-19 Dashboard at Johns Hopkins University and brought on a small group of UVA students, aspiring data scientists themselves, to help track the pandemic’s course across the globe and link information about cases to weather data derived from satellites. As new vaccines are rolled out over the Spring, their findings will help the public health community understand how much of the trends in cases can be attributed to the vaccines instead of seasonal patterns and the influence of warming weather, which would have happened anyway.

CHECK OUT THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES
TWITTER ACCOUNT
Follow us here.
Led by Program Director, Dr. Chris Moore, and Associate Program Director, Dr. Kate McManus, UVA’s Infectious Disease Fellowship for MDs is a three-year program supported by two NIH T-32 training grants that aim to produce world-class physicians dedicated to a career in academic infectious diseases. The program offers rigorous training and supervised experience with faculty members who have broad clinical and research expertise. The first year of practice is dedicated to research, and the second and third years of training are divided between clinical training and research. Opportunities abound for rich interdisciplinary research experiences in cutting-edge fundamental science, translational, clinical, and epidemiologic infectious diseases research. Research takes place in state-of-the-art laboratories, clinics, hospitals, UVA, and facilities around the world. Research themes include care for patients with HIV; modeling and outcomes related to critical care and severe sepsis; epidemiology of multi-drug resistant organisms; global health; diagnostics; immunology; host susceptibility to infection; host-pathogen interactions; and pathogenesis of infectious diseases.

In the last year, our fellows have presented work nationally and internationally at IDWeek, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and the TB Union Meeting. They have published papers in the following journals: Clinical Infectious Diseases, Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, Open Forum Infectious Diseases, Expert Review of Anti-Infective Therapy, Clinical Microbiology and Infection, and Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy, among others. After a very successful recent match, we look forward to welcoming Catherine Bielick from Boston University Medical Center, Maria Geba from UVA, and Ghassan Ilaiwy from Georgetown Washington Medical Center to our fellowship program in 2021.

We welcome hearing from residents and students who are interested in working on research projects in the Division. Please contact Chris Moore (ccm5u) or Kate McManus (km8jr) if you would like to be connected to a project and follow our Twitter feed (@UVA_ID) to stay up to date with our news and activities!

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Current Infectious Diseases Fellows</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Residency</th>
<th>Mentor</th>
<th>Research</th>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Grundy</td>
<td>U Texas Austin</td>
<td>Houpt</td>
<td>Acute febrile illness in sub-Saharan Africa</td>
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<td>Jackie Hodges</td>
<td>UVA (ABIM research pathway)</td>
<td>Dillingham</td>
<td>Engagement in HIV, HCV, TB care in Virginia and Russia</td>
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<td>Petri</td>
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<td>Georgetown</td>
<td>James Platts-Mills</td>
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<td>Evan Robinson</td>
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<td>Case Western Reserve</td>
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<td>Pharmacokinetics of anti-TB therapy</td>
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<td>U Texas Medical Branch</td>
<td>Becca Dillingham</td>
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<td>Sagal Mohamed</td>
<td>U Tennessee</td>
<td>Scott Heysell</td>
<td>Pharmacokinetics of anti-TB therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacy Park</td>
<td>UVA</td>
<td>Amy Mathers</td>
<td>Epidemiology of multidrug-resistant organisms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Yusra Alkabab</td>
<td>UVA (ABIM research pathway)</td>
<td>Scott Heysell</td>
<td>Tuberculosis and diabetes in Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


What brought you to Charlottesville?
I am a proud double-Hoo, having attended UVA for Medical School and Infectious Diseases Fellowship. I was born in Annapolis, Maryland, and grew up on the Chesapeake Bay, where I gained a deep appreciation for nature. I decided to pursue medicine while studying Biology at the University of Delaware. I met some of my most valued mentors in the Division of Infectious Diseases as a UVA med student and fell in love with Charlottesville; I vowed to come back. During a brief tour of the Northeast (residency training at Yale and then a couple of years as a Hospitalist at Beth-Israel Deaconess in Boston), I met my wife, Dana. I convinced her to move back to Charlottesville in 2017 for my Infectious Diseases Fellowship, and I have since joined our illustrious Division as faculty. Dana is a nurse practitioner in UVA Developmental Pediatrics, and we have hilarious twin toddlers, Ella and Theo.

Why Research?
William Osler once said, “Happiness lies in the absorption of some vocation which satisfies the soul.” Like seeing patients, research satisfies me because there is always more to discover. My scientific interests have spanned bone physiology in zero-gravity to cryptosporidium infection but what gets me out of bed lately (besides the COVID-19 pandemic) is a healthcare-associated infection, specifically C. difficile; I think that the infections we give to our patients are one of our largest barriers to the advancement of medicine. I’m interested in how and why the immune system plays such a pivotal role in the disease process and how we could use that information to protect better and treat our patients.

Most admired person, and why?
My wife, Dana. She is the most patient and kind person I know and always up for an adventure. She is also capable of wrangling two toddlers while seeing telemedicine patients and looking stylish at the same time.

How did you meet your partner?
Picture the scene in a coffee shop in New Haven, Connecticut: I spy a beautiful woman sitting across from me. While pondering my opening line, the late Senator John McCain happens to walk by. My first words to her were, “Excuse me, is that John McCain?” Thank you, John McCain!

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
So far, I think it was exploring Bagan’s ancient temples in Myanmar, but I am always planning my next adventure!

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
When I am not on a hike or bike ride with the family, you can usually find me gardening or fly fishing.

What is a talent or skill that you don’t have that you wish you did?
I wish I had a photographic memory. Not only would this be helpful to recall the ever-expanding body of medical knowledge, but I would never forget the details of the amazing places and people I have experienced.
I have been at UVA since July 2015, after graduating with my PhD in epidemiology from UNC-Chapel Hill. I started as a post-doctoral fellow in the Center for Global Health. I transitioned to Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences and Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health in 2016. I currently teach the advanced epidemiology methods course in the MPH program and conduct a wide range of infectious disease research projects with a primary focus on enteric disease among young children in low-resource settings.

Why Research?
As an undergraduate, I struggled with where to take my interests in the biological and medical sciences. Early on, I knew that I didn’t want to be a doctor, but I also didn’t love bench science. Epidemiology turned out to be a perfect fit in that it combined my interests in science and math, intending to improve public health. I am fulfilled by the opportunity to generate knowledge that ultimately we hope can improve health at the population level, focusing on prevention and the underserved.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
UVA happens to be the home of many of the top diarrhea researchers globally, so it was an ideal place for me to pursue a post-doc after being in a PhD program where I didn’t have diarrhea-focused mentors. I was particularly excited to work with Dr. Guerrant and Dr. Dillingham in the Center for Global Health.

What excites you about your work?
Sometimes I have existential crises about my work’s relevance, particularly when my husband reminds me that we already know how to prevent diarrhea with large scale water/sanitation infrastructure, so what else is there to know? But, these moments are fleeting. I am excited by how the seemingly incremental knowledge we generate builds into important contributions to our field. I have been lucky to be part of efforts to redefine the global burden of specific causes of diarrhea, quantify their long-term impact in kids, understand why currently available interventions have been unsuccessful, characterize the relationship with antibiotic use and AMR, and prepare for future enteric vaccines. I also get very excited about solving nerdy epidemiologic methods problems, which seem to keep popping up in our work.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
Surviving unmedicated childbirth and many a sleepless night with a newborn – I have so much newfound respect for all mamas!

Next life?
Prima ballerina.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Spending time with my 4-month old son, Simon, and trying to do a COVID-safe activity outside the house, which usually involves a hike or picnic.

How did you meet your partner?
Elias and I connected in Charlottesville over our interest in Zen Buddhism and through sitting meditation with the Blue Ridge Zen Group.

What’s one thing you always have in your fridge?
Hummus. I am getting tired of hummus, but it’s our go-to snack and I’m not creative enough to think of an alternative!

What about you would surprise us?
My husband and I bought a school bus from the school district in Coffee County, Tennessee to build a mobile tea house. It’s still a work in progress but we can’t wait to share it with you!

What is a talent or skill that you don’t have that you wish you did?
I really would love to be a good tennis player.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?
A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

What was your first job, how old were you?
When I was 17, I worked as a To-go person at Famous Dave’s barbeque restaurant. I got the job in the To-go area because I was deemed smart enough to operate a cash register and was too young to be a server. I had to answer the phone and say, “Welcome to Famous Dave’s, this is Famous Liz, how can I help you?”
FELLOW PROFILE - Tarina Parpia

I was born and raised in Dallas, TX (I’m a Cowboys fan). I went to Vanderbilt for college and Georgetown for medical school and Med/Peds residency. I decided I wanted a bit of scenery change and loved UVA when I interviewed for ID fellowship, though I do miss peds! I live in Crozet with my husband of 3 years and our covid puppy, Luna.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
UVA ID!

What excites you about your work?
I love puzzles, and I think that in the field of infectious diseases, figuring out what organism is causing a patient’s symptoms is a bit like solving a mystery. It’s also a field where most of the conditions are treatable, and we can make a difference in a patient’s recovery.

Next life?
National Geographic photographer. Or maybe even in this life! What are you usually doing on the weekends? Taking advantage of the outdoors! My goal is to hike all (most) of the Shenandoah trails before the end of the fellowship. Working on long exposure waterfall photos is my current favorite activity.

How did you meet your partner?
We were in the same service learning group in our first year of medical school.

What’s one thing you always have in your fridge?
Cheese.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
I love to travel. But if I had to pick, we most recently went to Iceland, and it was spectacular; we were fortunate and got multiple Northern Lights shows!

Most admired person, and why?
My mom. She cares fiercely about education and making a difference. In the last ten years, she’s started an international nonprofit aimed at giving teachers the tools they need to be successful. She’s also currently back in school, working on her PhD! She’s my motivation and inspiration.

What about you would surprise us?
My family and I were part of a local DFW news segment on tornado safety when I was in elementary school.

What is a talent or skill that you don’t have that you wish you did?
Singing, for sure.

Favorite fictional characters?
I’m secretly, not so secretly, Harry Potter obsessed.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?
A Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller.

What is the most unusual thing you have ever eaten?
Cuy (guinea pig) in Peru. I remember it tasted a little like chicken.
I’ve been at UVA for almost two years as a Grants Administrator. I came here after leaving my job of 14 years at a large corporation in Richmond, Virginia. My first job out of college was at VCU Health Systems as a Grants Accountant, and I always loved the work. I am happy to be back in this field! I now live in Bumpass with my many rescue dogs!

Why Research?
My dad was in research and talked about it non-stop when I was a kid! I believe that research is important and fascinating!

What brought you to Charlottesville?
I still live in Bumpass, about an hour away, but I love the Charlottesville area! It is beautiful, and I wanted a change from Richmond.

What excites you about your work?
I get to work with some of the absolute best doctors in the world, and it is fascinating to hear about their work! Also, I love numbers, and doing budgets excites me!

Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
I’ve been involved in the rescue of hundreds of dogs and a handful of cats as well. It is my passion. There is nothing I love more than dogs!

Next life?
I will become a Pharmacist. That was what I originally wanted to do!

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Every Saturday morning, without fail, I do a long run with a couple of close friends. On Sundays, I typically spend time with my dogs and clean the house. When we are not in a pandemic, my boyfriend and I usually go out to dinner on the weekend.

How did you meet your partner?
On a dating app… it seems to be the thing these days! We just celebrated our third anniversary!

What’s one thing you always have in your fridge?
Soymilk, I have to have it for my coffee, or I flip out.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
I’m not a vacation type of person, so if I’m out of town, it’s usually because I have an out of town race that I am running in!

Most admired person, and why?
The frontline workers of this pandemic! They are the heroes of the world, and I cannot express how much I appreciate them.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
Don’t make promises you don’t intend to keep!

What about you would surprise us?
I have been a vegetarian since I was eight years old!

What is a talent or skill that you don’t have that you wish you did?
I never learned how to swim! I tried to take lessons as an adult and was told there was no hope! I think it would have been easier to learn as a child.

Favorite fictional characters?
The Grinch, I’m sorry, but I love that story!

If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to?
2007 so that I could see my grandma one last time.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?
I can’t remember the name, but it was a dog training guide.

What is the most unusual thing you have ever eaten?
I don’t eat anything unusual unless you count tofu!

Do you collect anything?
Not currently, but I used to be obsessed with collecting beanie babies!

What was your first job, how old were you?
I was a Pharmacy Technician at an outpatient hospital pharmacy, I was seventeen.
I am a product of two cultures. I grew up in a bilingual household, with an American father and German mother. Growing up, it was important to my parents that my siblings and I learn the value of hard work and self-discipline. We learned early on the significance of treating others how you would like to be treated, and that has shaped my perspective on a lot of things.

I am still reasonably new to UVA; I have been here for a year now and have enjoyed the opportunity to learn from and meet so many people from different backgrounds. It has been both challenging and rewarding, and I am glad to be part of the team here at the Division of Infectious Diseases. Before coming to UVA, I worked at a private Optometry practice.

Why UVA?
That's a tough question, as I can list more than one reason. But to start, UVA offers an abundance of opportunities. It is a central hub of education, research, healthcare, and more. Each day represents a chance to learn and grow while still challenging yourself. It has a very dynamic atmosphere.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Spending time outside and throwing a Frisbee for my dogs to chase after. They have a ton of energy and keep me busy!

What's one thing you always have in your fridge?
Cherry Coca-Cola. It has been a favorite of mine since I was a kid.

Most admired person, and why?
My great-aunt Kathy. When she was my age, she was part of the early generation of women first entering the professional workforce. She overcame so many obstacles and challenges, but led a diverse and rewarding professional career. She always reminds me that patience is key.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?
Keep your temper. Nobody else wants it. (This piece of advice has always stayed with me and was passed down the family through my great-great-grandfather.)

What about you would surprise us?
My ability to overcome obstacles.

What was your first job, how old were you?
Babysitting! I was 14 and babysat for my neighbors’ two young boys.