

MEDICINE

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MATTERS

APRIL 2021

 UVA Health | DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MISSION

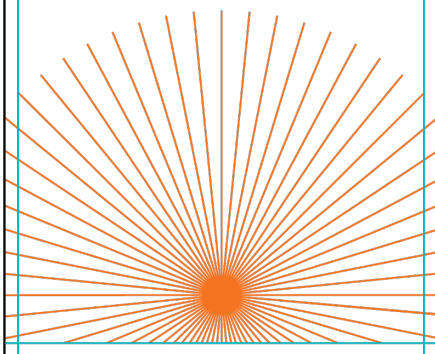
We are dedicated to preventing disease and treating illness, educating and inspiring future leaders in the field of internal medicine, and supporting innovative biomedical research.

VALUES

We strive for a sense of community, connection, and synergy among all faculty, staff, and trainees.

PLEDGE

We will conform to the highest ethical standards, uphold the values of our partner organizations, and give back to our community through public service.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Spring is finally here, and with it comes a sense of optimism and hope. As a baseball fan and, more specifically, a New York Mets fan, spring is always a highlight for me. The sense of “anything is possible” is in the air, and coupled with the warmer weather, green grass, and watching my favorite team has a chance to win before they inevitably dash my hopes are always fun and uplifting. This spring is particularly special as we emerge from the pandemic’s

darkness and hopefully see the light that vaccination brings. It is time to rekindle our plans and focus on our growth and objectives outside of the pandemic world and time to get back out into the world. I know that we are all looking forward to this. There is no doubt that we will still have COVID-19 to contend with moving forward, and it will continue to pose challenges. However, we are now experienced and prepared.

A great example is seen in the Division of Hematology and Oncology, led by Dr. Karen Ballen. This Division has seen tremendous growth and continues to excel in all missions. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, their march forward carries on. Their research continues to gain momentum, as does their excellence in education, and there is no doubt that they provide ground-breaking, compassionate, and excellent care to patients. In this edition of Medicine Matters, you will read about the Division’s exceptional faculty and staff; my thanks for all their efforts. Enjoy reading about this amazing group of extraordinary individuals.

With best wishes,

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



UVA Health

DOM FINANCIAL UPDATE

Department of Medicine Summary of Consolidated Financials FY21 as of February 28, 2021

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	\$ Variance YTD
Work RVUs	607,769	621,505	13,736
Clinical Receipts (NPSR)	40,519,608	40,405,122	(114,486)
Total Revenues	122,684,201	118,110,949	(4,573,252)
Total Expenditures	123,920,043	119,369,212	4,550,832
Net Income	(1,235,843)	(1,258,263)	(22,420)

Summary Explanation of Variance:

For the fiscal year through February 28, 2021 DOM posted a consolidated net loss of \$1.3M and an unfavorable variance to net income budget of \$22K. Clinical productivity outperformed budget despite the COVID-19 pandemic. Clinical revenues underperformed budget by \$862K driven by financial mitigations (Indigent Care), delayed Medical Center support (MOU) and payments from Outreach Programs. Non-clinical revenues underperformed budget by \$3.7M driven by required FY20 clinical deficit support recorded in FY21, reduced Medical Center support (Funds Flow) and lower grant expenditures. Personnel and Non-personnel expenditures outperformed budget driven by the impact of financial mitigation efforts. Total revenues include \$1.5M Endowment revenue received for March through June. Total expenditures include \$139K pension charge back adjustment for March through June.

UVAHS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UVA COVID-19 COMMUNITY TESTING PROGRAM

SIGN UP HERE

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

THANK YOU!

TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN VOLUNTEERING AT UVA COMMUNITY COVID-19 TESTING SITES



Check Out Mindfulness Matters A Newsletter from the UVA Mindfulness Center

DOM UPDATES & NOTES



Karen Ward



Cynthia Yoshida, MD



Patrick Northup, MD



Brendan Bowman MD



Andrew Barros, MD



Costi Sifri, MD



Taison Bell, MD



Zhen Yan, PhD



Max Luna, MD



Michael Williams, MD



Karen Warburton, MD

Awards and Achievements

Congratulations to **Karen Ward** on being elected as the new *Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM)* for *Clerkship Administrators Advisory Council Council (CAAC)* for 2022 beginning July 1, 2021.

Congratulations to **Dr Cynthia Yoshida**, Professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, who has been recognized by the *National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable*, founded by the *American Cancer Society* and the *Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention*, as one of the winners of the 2021 “80% In Every Community” *National Achievement Award*. Dr Yoshida was the only individual winner among several institutions selected for this honor. She was chosen based on her incredible efforts to establish a comprehensive colorectal cancer screening program at UVA that has provided screenings for hundreds of patients, including 400+ free screenings for uninsured patients in rural Virginia.

Congratulations to **Dr Patrick Northup** on his groundbreaking article on vascular liver disorders: “[*Vascular Liver Disorders, Portal Vein Thrombosis, and Procedural Bleeding in Patients With Liver Disease: 2020 Practice Guidance by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases*](#)” for the *Hepatology Journal* of the American Association of the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD). Dr Northup, Associate Professor of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, is the lead author of this important document, which sets new guidelines for studying and evaluating liver diseases. AASLD is the premier organization for hepatology professionals working to prevent and cure liver disease.

Congratulations to **Dr Brendan Bowman**, Associate Professor of Nephrology, who has worked tirelessly advocating on behalf of our dialysis patients, who are at a higher risk of a serious reaction to the disease. Working with Debbie Cote, Administrator of the UVA Health Dialysis program, and the Virginia Department of Health, Bowman and his team vaccinated 85% of UVA Health dialysis patients, a vulnerable patient population, at 12 centers. Bowman also established Transitional Start Units, a vanguard clinical program designed to improve the care of 900 dialysis patients locally as well as impact the care of 700,000 dialysis patients nationally. This program improves quality of life by helping patients live as independently as possible with home dialysis and therapy.

Congratulations to **Drs Andrew Barros, Costi Sifri, and Taison Bell**, on having their article “[*Effectiveness of Elastomeric Half-Mask Respirators vs N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators During Simulated Resuscitation: A Nonrandomized Controlled Trial*](#)” published by [*JAMA Network*](#).

Congratulations to **Dr Zhen Yan**, whose paper “[*UVA Research: Exercise During Pregnancy Can Prevent Non-communicable Diseases in Offspring*](#)” was highlighted in the [*Daily Progress*](#) as well as the American Physiologic Society select paper of the month.

Congratulations to **Dr Max Luna**, named Vice Chair of the *UVA Department of Medicine for Diversity and Inclusion*.

Congratulations to **Dr Michael Williams** who will be awarded the inaugural *Mantle Cell Lymphoma Leadership Award* from the [*Lymphoma Research Foundation*](#).

Congratulations to **Dr Karen Warburton** who has been selected by the Alpha Omega Alpha chapter of the *Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society* at the University of Virginia for her dedication to high-quality patient care, service, leadership, and scholarship, which serve as foundational values to the organization to be a faculty inductee for 2021. Dr Warburton will be inducted at a Virtual Induction Ceremony which will take place via Zoom on Saturday April 17th, 2021.

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Cardiovascular Medicine Valve Program Medical Directors Announced



Nishtha Sodhi, MD

The Division of Cardiovascular Medicine is pleased to announce that **Dr Nishtha Sodhi** and **Dr Kenan Yount** will assume shared medical director duties for the Valve Program. This medicine, surgery, and anesthesia collaboration builds on the program development by Drs Ragosta, Lim, Ailawadi, Kron, and the team of CV Anesthesiologists. Both Drs Sodhi and Yount bring outstanding training, expertise and a devoted interest in Transcatheter technology. Their fiscal acumen has been demonstrated in their program surveillance over this past year and they are eager to collaborate on additional clinical outcome efforts.



Kenan Yount, MD

The Valve Program has been a showcase for Cardiovascular Medicine, introducing and developing advanced therapy options for patients in our region while influencing care delivery across the country. The Division also welcomes **Ginger Kidd** in the role of program coordinator and notes that this team is highly multidisciplinary, additionally bringing together APPs, RNs, office, ambulatory, interventional, perfusion and OR teams. We look forward to watching the Valve program's continued growth and contributions.

Congratulations Dr Sodhi and Dr Yount into this uniquely shared role.

FRIDAYS AT NOON via Zoom
Click for details and schedule.



Follow DOM on Twitter.

WE NEED YOU!
SIGN UP TO BE A VACCINATOR OR VOLUNTEER SCREENER

Seminole Square Vaccination Clinic

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Welcome To The World



Congratulations to Rebecca and Emmanuel Haug who welcomed baby Caroline Marie Haug to the world on March 6, 2021.



Congratulations to Rebecca Clemo and Merrick Kozak who welcomed son Rhys Philip James Kozak to the world on March 3, 2021.



May 12th Wednesday 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Come join the Women In Internal Medicine Network and Dr. Marcia Childress for a casual discussion about Dr. Rana Awdish's book *In Shock*.

Dr. Marcia Childress is the Director of the Programs in Humanities at the Center for Health Humanities and Ethics, University of Virginia School of Medicine.

**Event will be held via Zoom.*

LIVING OUR VALUES

Presentation with Rose Markey

April 21st Wednesday 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Please join the **Women In Internal Medicine Network** for a **Living Into Our Values** training program that will help attendees **identify what they stand for and how to show up from a place of integrity every day.**

It will be led by Certified Dare to Lead™ Facilitator Rose Markey and will be based on the research of Brené Brown.

The Dare to Lead™ program is an empirically based, courage-building program based on four skills sets that are teachable, observable, and measurable.

**Event will be held via Zoom.*

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Message from Karen Ballen, Division Chief, Hematology and Oncology



Karen Ballen, MD

The Hematology/Oncology Division has had another productive year in clinical care, research, and education, despite the pandemic's obvious challenges. In July 2021, I had the privilege of assuming the position of Division Chief, and it is an honor to work with such an excellent team. Fortunately, the fabulous Dr. Mike Williams continues to lead us as the Service Line Lead for Oncology. Our National Cancer Institute Cancer Center Support Grant for Comprehensive Status was submitted in January, with our site visit expected this spring.

This year, we opened a new comprehensive breast center at Pantops, and patient reviews have been fantastic. We celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Couric Center this spring and have expanded our infusion capacity in the Couric and Pantops and Augusta.

We recruited three new faculty, Emily Ayers from the University of Pennsylvania, Owen O'Connor from Columbia, and Enrica Marchi from Columbia, all part of our growing lymphoma program.

We are currently interviewing for new faculty in GI Oncology, Stem Cell Transplant, and Community Oncology. We also welcomed Melody Noble, Julia Gyampoh, and Julie Armatas to our team as Advanced Practice Professionals.

Our providers continue to provide outstanding care in both inpatient and outpatient settings. The Couric 3rd floor West Clinic, where many of our faculty practice, received a high honor from Press-Ganey: The 2020 Press Ganey Pinnacle of Excellence Award, based on three years of excellent patient experience results, and the only clinic that has received this award at UVA. We are proud that 21 of our providers were recognized for achieving Press-Ganey scores above the 90th percentile in FY 20. Three physicians, Drs. Douvas, Grosh, and Hall received perfect 100% scores.

In research, we have 181 open clinical research trials. Partnering with the UVA Cancer Center Community Outreach and Engagement, we are working hard to ensure clinical trials are available to all of our patients throughout Virginia. Drs. Loughran, Kester, Conaway, Papin, Horton, Tan, Garrett-Bakelman, Deering, Feith, Janes, Fox, and Keng earned The School of Medicine Team Science Award for their work on acute leukemia. The Loughran/Kester P01 renewal was officially funded by the National Cancer Institute and will include \$10M total funding over the next five years. This consists of the phase I trial of ceramide nanoliposomes in relapsed/refractory AML with Dr. Mike Keng as the PI at UVA.

In education, our fellowship program, under the leadership of Drs. Rick Hall, Laahn Foster, and Trish Millard, continues to grow in number and national reputation. We had several hundred applications this year for four slots. We are pleased that we have added an additional fellow for the next academic year, which will bring our total to 11 for next year, and ultimately to 12. The fellows have been productive in their clinical work, and research, with several presentations at national meetings. Under the direction of Dr. John Densmore, our Inova campus opened to UVA medical students for their third and fourth-year rotations in undergraduate medical education.

We wish Dr. Bill Grosh well on his well-deserved retirement and congratulate him on his Emeritus status. It was fun to see Bill's family, albeit on Zoom. Although it was a challenging year for celebrations, we held a socially distant retreat at Morven Farms, focusing on mentorship, wellness, and strategic planning. It is wonderful to see our team's accomplishments. Of course, we are most appreciative of our colleagues in other divisions and Departments, nurses, research coordinators, division staff, and other team members who work hard each day to make UVA such an exceptional place.

~Karen K Ballen, MD

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Hematology/Oncology Division Faculty on National & International Committees & Boards

- Dr Karen Ballen –**
- Chair, Cord Blood Advisory Group, National Marrow Donor Program
 - Chair, State of the Science Committee: Graft Sources, BMT Clinical Trials Network
 - Chair, Public and Professional Education, Cord Blood Association
 - Study Section, American Society of Hematology
 - Associate Editor, Bone Marrow Transplantation
- Dr Kelly Davidson –**
- Member, American Board of Internal Medicine Hematology Exam Committee
- Dr Robert Dreicer –**
- Chair Elect, ASCO Cancer Communications Committee
 - Member, ABIM Medical Oncology Longitudinal Assessment Approval Committee
 - Chair, ASCO Conquer Cancer Advanced Clinical Research Award Review Committee
 - Member, AUA Advanced Prostate Cancer Guidelines Panel
- Dr Firas El Chaer –**
- Member, ASTCT Acute Myeloid Leukemia Guidelines Committee
 - Member, ETCTN Leukemia Disease Focused Group
- Dr Laahn Foster –**
- Member, ASH Governmental Affairs Committee
- Dr Ryan Gentzler –**
- Multiple-Principal Investigator, NCI Experimental Therapeutics Clinical Trials Network (ETCTN) Johns Hopkins LAO
 - Member, ASCO Annual Meeting Scientific Program Committee, “Lung Cancer Non-Small Cell Local-regional/Small Cell/Other”
 - Member, NCI Investigational Drug Steering Committee (IDSC)
 - Co-Chair, Hoosier Cancer Research Network (HCRN), Thoracic Clinical Trials Working Group
 - Editorial Board Advisory Panelist, ASCO Cancer.net, Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
- Dr Varinder Kaur –**
- Member, ASCO Melanoma Guideline Panel
- Dr Michael Keng –**
- Chair, ASCO Quality Training Program
 - Committee Member, ASH Committee on Quality
- Dr Tamila Kindwall-Keller –**
- BMT CTN Medical Monitor for BMT CTN 1301
 - Task Force Member, BMT CTN Evidence into Practice
 - Member, BMT CTN Regimen Related Toxicity State of the Science Committee
 - Member, BMT CTN Protocol Writing Committee, CAR-T Cell Therapy for Myeloma (BMT CTN 1901/1902)
 - Member, BMT CNT Publication Committee 2021 – 2023
 - FACT Inspector
- Dr Daniel (Trey) Lee –**
- Member, Immune Effector Cell-related Adverse Events Subcommittee, Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer
- Dr Thomas Loughran –**
- Board of Directors, AACI
- Dr Matthew Reilly –**
- Committee Member, North American Neuroendocrine Tumor society (NANETs)
- Dr Michael E. Williams –**
- Editorial Board Member, Journal of Clinical Oncology and Annals of Lymphoma Associate Editor for Hematologic Malignancies, NEJM Group Journal Watch Oncology/Hematology
 - Associate Editor for Lymphoma, ASCO cancer.net
 - Lymphoma Research Foundation Scientific Advisory Board
 - Executive Committee, Member, ABIM Hematology Longitudinal Knowledge Assessment Approval Committee

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Message from Medical Oncology Section Head, Dr Robert Dreicer



Robert Dreicer, MD

The past academic year has seen some notable accomplishments. The late fall saw the opening of the new UVA Breast Care Center. Our breast medical oncologists, including Drs. Brenin (Medical Director of the UVA Cancer Center Infusion Center), Dillon and Millard, were significant contributors to this excellent facility's highly successful opening providing a full range of clinical and clinical investigative care for our medical breast cancer patients.

Although the UVA Cancer Center's submission for renewal of our NCI designated status has not yet been renewed at the time of this report, the sections clinical investigators have been significant contributors to our clinical trials programs' evolving growth and success.

Melanoma/and related disorders

Drs. Elizabeth Gaughan and William Grosh (retired 12/31/2020)
APP: Jennifer Eccles

Breast Medical Oncology

Drs. Christiana Brenin, Patrick Dillon and Trish Millard

APP: Paul "Mike" Marshall

Thoracic Medical Oncology

Drs. Ryan Gentzler and Richard Hall

APP: Marie Thomas

Head and Neck Oncology

Dr. Varinder Kaur

Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology and Unknown Primary Neoplasms

Drs. Tri Le, Paul Kunk, and Matthew Reilley

APP: Jenna Ally

Genitourinary Medical Oncology

Drs. Michael Devitt and Robert Dreicer

APP: Jennifer Eccles

Sarcoma

Drs. Michael Douvas, William Grosh, and Johann Hsu

Infusion/Urgent Care

APPs: Julia Gyampoh and Melody Noble

2021 Updates in Hematology & Hematologic Malignancies

Date and location TBD

This program will explore research and advances in the diagnosis and management of benign hematologic conditions and hematologic malignancies, including indications for novel therapies and use in special populations.

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Message from Stem Cell Transplant Associate Clinical Director, Dr Tamila Kindwall-Keller



Tamila Kindwall-Keller, MD

The Stem Cell Transplant and Cellular Therapy Program is entering its 10th year of serving patients in Virginia. Our first transplant was performed in January 2012, and at the end of February 2021, we have completed 743 transplants. We receive referrals from all over Virginia, including Virginia Beach, Northern Virginia, and Appalachia / SW Virginia. In the calendar year 2020, we performed transplants for various hematologic malignancies, including multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, acute leukemia, myelodysplastic syndrome, and myeloproliferative disorders. Since the inception of the CAR T-cell program, we have given commercial and research CAR T-cells to 13 patients. Our cell processing lab helps support cellular therapy trials in digestive health, vascular surgery, cardiology, and pulmonary/critical care for SARS-CoV2 patients. We are working with the Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network (BMT CTN) to open cooperative group clinical trials at UVA for our patients. Both Dr. Varadarajan and Dr. Volodin are working with Dr. Larry Lum's lab to bring the novel Bispecific Activated Armed T-Cells to our patients through clinical trials. The physicians

would like to thank all the team members and consultants who have helped us take amazing care of our patients over the past ten years; we would not be where we are today without them.

We look forward to bringing all the new cellular therapies developed over the next ten years to our UVA patients.

Stem Cell Transplant

Drs. Karen Ballen, Tamila Kindwall-Keller, Indumathy Varadarajan, and Leonid Volodin
APPs: Hania Aloul, Joshua Humphrey, Jessica Kassay-McAllister and Christine Mazimba

Message from UVA Community Oncology Section Head, Dr. Elizabeth Gaughan



Elizabeth Gaughan, MD

The UVA Community Oncology Section includes seven providers serving patients with the spectrum of hematologic and solid tumor diagnoses at three Central Virginia locations. They provide oversight for the multidisciplinary infusion centers, including 42 active infusion chairs. Due to our convenient office locations, we can see patients quickly and facilitate referrals to subspecialists at the Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center, when appropriate. The team actively supports the education, research, and administrative priorities of the Division.

The UVA Cancer Center Augusta recently welcomed a weekly clinic for Dr. David Brenin along with the Mobile Mammography Coach. We anticipate opening nine additional infusion chairs at the Augusta clinic to serve the UVA patient population in FY21 further. Optimization efforts are underway for the clinical trial efforts at UVA Cancer Center Pantops, the backbone for expanding these services to our other regional sites. The UVA Cancer Care Culpeper team is looking forward to the spring 2021 expansion of PET

services in the Culpeper area linked with UVA Nuclear Medicine.

Augusta Location

Dr. Nicholas Paphitis
APP: Meera Kumar

Culpeper Location

Drs. Ali Mahjoub and Pranav Patel
APP: Michelle Otto

Charlottesville/Pantops Location

Dr. Johann Hsu
APP: Kathleen Oleson

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Message from Hematologic Malignancies Section Head, Dr. Craig Portell



Craig Portell, MD

Our Hematologic Malignancy Service continues to grow and expand in clinical care and research. A highlight of the year was creating a dedicated T-cell lymphoma team, led by Dr. Enrica Marchi and Dr. Owen O'Connor. They joined us from Columbia University in New York, NY. The lymphoma team also welcomed Dr. Emily Ayers from the University of Pennsylvania. The lymphoma team continues to have a strong presence with the NCI cooperative groups and leads multi-institution studies combining novel agents with either chemotherapy or other targeted drugs. There continues to be an expanding role for immunotherapy in lymphoma and CLL with CAR T-cell therapy and bispecific antibodies making strong headways at UVA. In myeloma, an explosion of new drugs and likely CAR T-cell therapy soon has increased life expectancy and made myeloma a chronic disease. Dr. Laahn Foster and Dr. John Densmore study combinations of novel drugs, both in the refractory setting and in patients with minimal residual disease. And leukemia does not stop for the pandemic, and neither does the team of Dr. Firas El Chaer, Dr. Fran Garrett-Bakelman, Dr. Michael Douvas, and Dr. Mike Keng. They have

partnered with our primary science colleagues with several exciting new studies, using nanotechnology and PIM inhibition, genuinely creating a bench-to-bedside approach.

Lymphoma and CLL

Drs. Emily Ayers, Enrica Marchi, Craig Portell, and Michael E. Williams
APPs: Kim Leake and Heather Youngberg

Myeloma

Drs. Laahn Foster and John Densmore
APP: Heather Youngberg

Leukemia

Drs. Michael Douvas, Michael Keng, Francine Garrett-Bakelman and Firas El Chaer
APP: Kim Leake

Message from Hematology Section Head, Dr. Karen Ballen



Karen Ballen MD

In Hematology, under Dr. Louise Man's direction, we opened our Adult Comprehensive Hemophilia Center, a grant-supported collaborative effort with Pediatrics, to serve adult patients with Hemophilia Bleeding Disorders. Dr. Kelly Davidson has been instrumental in expanding our Sickle Cell Program and advocating for adult patients from Virginia's Commonwealth. She has partnered with our Hospitalist Team to design individualized care plans to reduce hospitalizations. Dr. Hillary Maitland is leading our efforts to reduce deep vein thrombosis throughout UVA Health, and is working on a research project to reduce blood transfusion requirements in dialysis patients.

Hematology

Drs. Kelly Davidson, Hillary Maitland, and Louise Man
APPs: Julie Armatas and Kathryn Strickler

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Clinical Volumes

Clinical volumes have remained relatively steady over the past year(s), despite the disruption caused by Covid-19, impacting the inpatient census. Ambulatory volumes/visits continue to grow as newer faculty establish their practice and referral relationships, and patients continued to choose UVA for their care through this tumultuous year. Based regional clinics and infusion centers are located at Pantops, Culpeper, and Augusta. Subspecialty clinics are also provided at the Pantops location.

The opening of the UVA Breast Center in October 2020 created new space for our breast oncology team and allowed for reassignment of space in Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center – EC4. The expanded infusion center (December 2019), with 56 chairs, once fully staffed, and establishing an Urgent Symptom Clinic (March 2020), has provided operational improvements.

	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
			(projected)
Inpatient Attending	13,622	13,351	13,156
Inpatient Consults	2,928	2,700	2,464
Inpatient Totals	16,550	16,051	15,620
Outpatient New and Consults	4,380	4,125	4,368
Established Outpatient Visits	42,072	40,721	42,479
Outpatient Totals	46,452	44,846	46,847

*Clinical Volumes – Does not include “other specialty procedures.”

Selected Clinical Programs/Initiatives

Press Ganey 90% Recognition

Press Ganey Results for Patient Experience (90% or greater)

Ballen, Karen K.
 Brenin, Christiana M.
 Davidson, Kelly M.
 Densmore, John J.
 Dillon, Patrick M.
 Douvas, Michael G.
 Dreicer, Robert
 Gaughan, Elizabeth M.
 Gentzler, Ryan D.
 Grosh, William W.
 Hall, Richard D.
 Kaur, Varinder
 Keng, Michael K.
 Kunk, Paul R.
 Le, Tri M.
 Man, Louise M.
 Marshall, Paul M.
 Patel, Pranav D.
 Portell, Craig A.
 Reilley, Matthew J.
 Williams, Michael E.

Press Ganey Results for Special Recognition who received a Perfect Score for Patient Experience

Douvas, Michael G.
 Grosh, William W.
 Hall, Richard D.

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Hemophilia Program

The Adult Comprehensive Bleeding Disorder Clinic (also known as the “Hemophilia Treatment Center” clinic) was started in mid-2020. Just like the comprehensive pediatric Clinic, the adult program promotes optimal health in patients with congenital bleeding disorders through a model of integrated, multidisciplinary, comprehensive care. Dr. Louise Man leads this program; other members of this multidisciplinary team include Julie Armatas (nurse practitioner), Ellen Brock (nurse coordinator), Adonice D’Atre (social worker), Marc Gilgannon (physical therapist), and Lindsay Comstock (research and resource nurse).

CAR-T

The Immune Effector Cell Program is a fast-growing component of UVA’s Cellular Therapy/Stem Cell Program led by Dr. Varadarajan, Medical Director of the Immune Effector Program, and her partners Nurse Practitioner, Jessica Kassay-McAllister, the Effector Cell NP and Glenda Royael, RN Care Coordinator. Chimeric Antigen receptor therapy (CAR-T) cell therapy provides hope of a cure in patients with relapsed refractory Leukemias and Lymphoma and Myeloma.

Autologous T cells are engineered to recognize tumor-specific surface antigens such as CD19, BCMA. Harnessing and enhancing the immune system has led to efficient tumor recognition and elimination, thereby paving the way to this novel therapeutic modality. Its application is hence expanding into the world of solid tumors. UVA has provided excellent care to patients using an incredible team of physicians and nurse practitioners in inpatient and outpatient settings. We currently have both commercial and trial products for our patients. We have partnered with Novartis and Kite for their commercial products. Kymriah (Novartis) and Yescarta (Kite) are used to treat Diffuse Large B cell Lymphoma and Tecartus for Mantle cell Lymphoma. This has enabled us to expand our treatment options and help deliver the T cell therapy efficiently.

Up and coming products include Idacel and Lisocel from the manufacturer Bristol Meyers (BMS), further expanding our treatment options to Multiple Myeloma (Idacel targeting BCMA). We have also partnered with BMS for the JUNO CAR-T study to treat patients with relapsed refractory follicular lymphoma.

Breast Care Center



On October 12, 2020, after five years of thorough planning, the UVA Breast Care program moved into the new 18,500 square foot Breast Care Center (BCC) at 652 Peter Jefferson Parkway. This is an off-grounds location, a one-stop-shop with the full complement of physicians involved in breast care, imaging, laboratory, and treatment facilities – all under one roof.

The site is designed to make it easier for patients to access coordinated breast care in a single, convenient location. From mammography, ultrasound, and biopsy, to survivorship, genetics, PM&R, infusion therapy, and clinical trial participation, almost all breast care services provided by UVA are now available to patients in a single visit. Flourish “feel better” boutique

is also on-site and offers Dignicap support, allowing patients to minimize hair loss during chemotherapy.

The new UVA BCC is run by a tripartite all-female leadership team – Dr. Shayna Showalter from Surgical Oncology, Dr. Carrie Rochman from Breast Imaging Dr. Christiana Brenin from Medical Oncology. This team has been working together for nearly a decade and has finally come together under one roof to provide the coordinated multidisciplinary care that our patients so deserve. There are three surgeons, three medical oncologists, two plastic surgeons, six breast imagers, two genetic counselors, and 2 APNs who practice out of the BCC. We are delighted to be sharing this beautiful and bright space, with the bonus of having ample and free ground-level parking, a drastically improved experience for our patients!

Emily Couric Cancer Center, Infusion Center

Key Infusion Center Initiatives

- January 2020 - Opened template to include 37 chairs
- March 2020 - Establishment of the Urgent Care Clinic, providing telemedicine as well as in-person clinic visits
- March 2020 - Facilitated relocation of apheresis to ECCC
- April 2020 - On-boarded second APN to support clinical activities
- May 2020 - Expansion of care to include Intravesical Chemo/BCG
- August 2020 - Supported PO Chemotherapy focused clinical trials
- June 2020 - Expanded Pre-infusion template from 84 to 97 appointments daily
- May to July 2020 - Supported organizational financial mitigation directives
- September 2020 - APN's assume "Doc of the Day" Coverage for Emily Couric Cancer Center (ECCC)

Key Staff Metrics

- 25% of nursing team certified as oncology nurses (COC standard)
- 32 % of nursing team enrolled in BSN or higher degree program (Magnet standard)

For 2021

- February 21, 2021 - Stem cell mobilizations moving to the infusion center, and extended weekend hours: 8:30 - 4:30 pm Saturday and Sunday
- March 2021 - Opened template to include all infusion chairs (46 in total)
- March 2021 - Extended weekday holiday hours - 8:30 - 4:30

Message from the Fellowship Program Director, Dr. Richard Hall



Richard Hall, MD

Writing a summary "letter" for Medicine Matters this spring is challenging. In past years, I would highlight our fellows' accomplishments and share large program initiatives to constantly improve our educational curriculum. This year, however, I think our fellowship team is slowly exhaling – having held our breath for far too long as the pandemic around us raged.

One welcome change over the past year is that our hematology/oncology fellowship program successfully petitioned the Medical Center to expand our annual complement of fellows from three to four fellows per year. This expansion has been long-awaited. Like many of you, we adapted to our circumstances and successfully recruited an outstanding group of new fellows who will start with us in July 2021 – Nate Roberts MD (Wake Forest), Chris Thomas (Kentucky), Will Thomas (UAB), and Phi Young (UVA). In addition to our annual program expansion, we welcomed Melissa Yacur, MD, as a transfer from George Washington University in January 2021.

Over the coming year, our program leadership team will re-evaluate and refine our educational curriculum and implement new initiatives. The pandemic has uncovered opportunities to grow and improve how we educate fellows to adapt to a rapidly changing hematology/oncology treatment landscape. We have several project ideas for inter-institutional educational projects, and we are looking forward to the coming spring and summer months to spend more time together.

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

2021 Graduating Fellows



Krista Isaac, DO

Krista has been our Chief Fellow over the past year, and we are very grateful for her dedication to the fellowship and academic productivity over the past three years. She is joining a practice with Alliance Cancer Specialists at St. Mary's Health outside Philadelphia, PA.



Pooja Mehra, MD

Pooja has been a core part of many programs at UVA, having graduated from the UVA School of Medicine in 2014 before completing her residency in 2017, working as a hospitalist until 2018, then having joined our fellowship where she is currently leading initiatives in our Quality program. She is moving to Boston, MA, where she is joining Atrius Health.



Joseph Mock, MD

Having spent many years at UVA – both in medical school and residency at UVA, Joey follows his Hokie heart back to Blacksburg, VA, where he is joining the Blue Ridge Cancer Care practice. Joey is also completing a term as the GME Housestaff Council Co-President over the past year.

2021 Incoming Fellows



Nathan Roberts, MD

Nathan 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

Chris 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

Will 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

Phil 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.



Melissa Yacur, MD

Melissa has joined 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.

**CONGRATS
GRADUATES!
WELCOME
NEW
FELLOWS!**

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

American Society of Clinical Oncology's Quality Training Program

The American Society of Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) Quality Training Program (QTP) is a six-month program designed to train physician-led teams to design and implement quality improvement projects at their home institutions. Dr. Michael Keng is the ASCO QTP Chair and faculty for the program. Joseph Mock MD participated in 2020 with "Delays in Admission for Scheduled Chemotherapy." Currently, due to COVID, we did not send fellows to QTP. However, there are three ongoing longitudinal fellow QI projects in their initial planning phases at this time that are being mentored by Pooja Mehra (along with Dr. Keng).

Eric Pierce and Samantha DiBenedetto – Reducing Readmissions in Hematology/Oncology Patients

Lindsey Shantzer and Christian Barlow – Timely and Efficient Discharges in Hematology/Oncology Patients

David Riley, Krista Isaac, and Nicholas Schmidt – Reducing Length of Stay in Scheduled Admissions for Elective Chemotherapy in Patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Research Funding

FY2019	FY2020	FY2021
All Awards	All Awards	All Awards (projected)
\$5,782,000	\$6,107,000	\$7,107,000



Lawrence Lum, MD

Dr. Lawrence Lum's Lab

In 2016, the targeted T cell immunotherapy was established by the Cancer Center's recruitment of Dr. Lum. Research and cGMP facilities and clinical infrastructure were created to support investigator-initiated clinical trials using bispecific antibody-targeted T cells (BATs) for solid and liquid cancers. Together with principal investigators for clinical trials, there are now FDA-approved protocols for growing and administering BATs to treat patients with metastatic breast cancer, pancreatic and hormone-refractory prostate cancer, primary glioblastoma, multiple myeloma, and pediatric neuroblastoma/osteosarcoma. A new, more powerful killer T cell created by transducing T cells with co-activating genes armed with bispecific antibodies is in the clinical pipeline for solid tumors and hematologic malignancies.

In addition, to the manufacture of targeted T cells for cancer treatment, Dr. Lum is studying the effects of irradiation on immune functions, convalescent immune plasma on patients with COVID-19 infections, lymphocyte functions in patients treated for Hodgkin's disease with ibrutinib, immune function in men receiving Sipuleucel-T, and the regulation of T cell trafficking by CXCR3. The laboratory is developing T regulatory cells to treat Type 1 Diabetes, GVHD, and other autoimmune diseases and bispecific antibody targeting T cells to treatment with COVID-19 infection.

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Research Team Science Award

Tom Loughran Jr., MD, and collaborators, received the 2020 School of Medicine Dean's Excellence in Faculty Research Team Science Award. Dr. Loughran leads the team along with his long-term collaborator Mark Kester, Ph.D. (Pharmacology). The two are multiple PIs for a National Cancer Institute (NCI) program project (P01) grant entitled Targeting Sphingolipid Metabolism for Treatment of AML. The P01 aims to define the dysregulated sphingolipid metabolism in AML and target this pathway to enhance therapeutic efficacy. The three major projects are led by the Loughran and Kester labs at UVA along with Dr. Myles Cabot at East Carolina University. Other Hem/Onc team members of the 12-person team included David Feith, Ph.D., and Su-Fern Tan, PhD (Loughran group), Fran Garrett-Bakelman, MD Ph.D. (Systems Metabolomics Core), and Michael Keng, MD (clinical trial PI). The team's excellence is exemplified by the successful renewal of the Program Project grant in 2020 for an additional 5-year term and over 50 co-authored publications while funded by the NCI.

Three UVA team members direct core facilities for the Program Project (Todd Fox, Ph.D., Pharmacology, Targeted Sphingomics Core; Kevin Janes, Ph.D., Biomedical Engineering, Systems Metabolomics Core; Mark Conaway, Ph.D., Public Health Sciences, Biostatistics Core). An additional core includes Penn State Cancer Institute (David Claxton, MD) and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center investigators (Martin Tallman, M.D. and Ross Levine, MD). This core provides access to AML patient samples and in vivo models that utilize human AML cell lines, primary AML xenografts, or genetically engineered mouse models for preclinical therapeutic testing. The Systems Metabolomics Core has developed an innovative approach to collate multiparameter datasets (mutational profiling, sphingolipid-omics, gene expression, enzyme activity and proteomics) from human AML cell lines and patient samples to more precisely define sphingolipid dysregulation and therapeutic vulnerabilities as well as to identify diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers in AML.

The primary goal of this translational research team is to develop new sphingolipid-targeted therapeutics for AML. Towards that end, the recent program project renewal includes a phase I clinical trial in relapsed/refractory AML with ceramide nanoliposomes (CNL). These nanoformulations enhance the delivery of the pro-death C6-ceramide sphingolipid. This FDA- and IRB-approved trial will begin patient accrual this spring. Next, a phase II study will combine CNL with standard of care therapy for relapsed/refractory AML (CNL plus low-dose AraC and Venetoclax, a.k.a. the CAV trial). These trials will leverage the multi-institutional program project team to enhance accrual and to complete extensive correlative studies across the projects and cores. The team looks forward to reporting research and clinical trial results in future editions of Medicine matters.

Hematology/Oncology Grand Rounds

First Wednesday of Each Month

8 a.m. - 9 a.m.

Available via Zoom (through June 2021)

Selected Publications

Total number of publications from January 2019 – December 2020: 181
Selected examples across the disease teams are as follows:

El Chaer F, Keng M, Ballen KK. *MLL-Rearranged Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.* *Curr Hematol Malig Rep.* 2020 Apr;15(2):83-89. doi: 10.1007/s11899-020-00582-5. PMID: 32350732.

Dillon PM, Brenin CM, Slingluff CL Jr. *Evaluating Nelipepimut-S in the Treatment of Breast Cancer: A Short Report on the Emerging Data.* *Breast Cancer* (Dove Med Press). 2020 April 3;12:69-75. doi: 10.2147/BCTT.S224758. PMID: 32308474; PMCID: PMC7138626.

Garrett-Bakelman FE, Darshi M, Green SJ, Gur RC, Lin L, Macias BR, McKenna MJ, Meydan C, Mishra T, Nasrini J, Piening BD, Rizzardi LF, Sharma K, Siamwala JH, Taylor L, Vitaterna MH, Afkarian M, Afshinnkoo E, Ahadi S, Ambati A, Arya M, Bezdán D, Callahan CM, Chen S, Choi AMK, Chlipala GE, Contrepois K, Covington M, Crucian BE, De Vivo I, Dinges DF, Ebert DJ, Feinberg JI, Gandara JA, George KA, Goutsias J, Grills GS, Hargens AR, Heer M, Hillary RP, Hoofnagle AN, Hook VYH, Jenkinson G, Jiang P, Keshavarzian A, Laurie SS, Lee-McMullen B, Lumpkins SB, MacKay M, Maienschein-Cline MG, Melnick AM, Moore TM, Nakahira K, Patel HH, Pietrzyk R, Rao V, Saito R, Salins DN, Schilling JM, Sears DD, Sheridan CK, Stenger MB, Tryggvadottir R, Urban AE, Vaisar T, Van Espen B, Zhang J, Ziegler MG, Zwart SR, Charles JB, Kundrot CE, Scott GBI, Bailey SM, Basner M, Feinberg AP, Lee SMC, Mason CE, Mignot E, Rana BK, Smith SM, Snyder MP, Turek FW. *The NASA Twins Study: A multidimensional analysis of a year-long human spaceflight.* *Science.* 2019 Apr 12;364(6436):eaau8650. doi: 10.1126/science.aau8650. PMID: 30975860; PMCID: PMC7580864.

Gentzler RD, Riley DO, Martin LW. *Striving toward Improved Outcomes for Surgically Resectable Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: the Promise and Challenges of Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy.* *Curr Oncol Rep.* 2020 August 15;22(11):109. doi: 10.1007/s11912-020-00969-w. PMID: 32803520.

Seth R, Messersmith H, Kaur V, Kirkwood JM, Kudchadkar R, McQuade JL, Provenzano A, Swami U, Weber J, Alluri KC, Agarwala S, Ascierto PA, Atkins MB, Davis N, Ernstoff MS, Faries MB, Gold JS, Guild S, Gyorki DE, Khushalani NI, Meyers MO, Robert C, Santinami M, Sehdev A, Sondak VK, Spurrier G, Tsai KK, van Akkooi A, Funchain P. *Systemic Therapy for Melanoma: ASCO Guideline.* *J Clin Oncol.* 2020 Nov 20;38(33):3947-3970. doi: 10.1200/JCO.20.00198. Epub 2020 March 31. PMID: 32228358.

Tran T, Arnall J, Moore DC, Ward L, Palkimas S, Man L. *Vonicog alfa for the management of von Willebrand disease: a comprehensive review and single-center experience.* *J Thromb Thrombolysis.* 2020 Apr;49(3):431-440. doi: 10.1007/s11239-019-02018-1. PMID: 31902122.

Mato AR, Roeker LE, Lamanna N, Allan JN, Leslie L, Pagel JM, Patel K, Osterborg A, Wojenski D, Kamdar M, Huntington SF, Davids MS, Brown JR, Antic D, Jacobs R, Ahn IE, Pu J, Isaac KM, Barr PM, Ujjani CS, Geyer MB, Berman E, Zelenetz AD, Malakhov N, Furman RR, Koropsak M, Bailey N, Hanson L, Perini GF, Ma S, Ryan CE, Wiestner A, Portell CA, Shadman M, Chong EA, Brander DM, Sundaram S, Seddon AN, Seymour E, Patel M, Martínez-Calle N, Munir T, Walewska R, Broom A, Walter H, El-Sharkawi D, Parry H, Wilson MR, Patten PEM, Hernández-Rivas JA, Miras F, Fernández Escalada N, Ghione P, Nabhan C, Lebowitz S, Bhavsar E, López-Jiménez J, Naya D, García-Marco JA, Skånland SS, Córdoba R, Eyre TA. *Outcomes of COVID-19 in patients with CLL: a multicenter international experience.* *Blood.* 2020 Sep 3;136(10):1134-1143. doi: 10.1182/blood.2020006965. PMID: 32688395; PMCID: PMC7472711.

Reilley MJ, Morrow B, Ager CR, Liu A, Hong DS, Curran MA. *TLR9 activation cooperates with T cell checkpoint blockade to regress poorly immunogenic melanoma.* *J Immunother Cancer.* 2019 Nov 26;7(1):323. doi: 10.1186/s40425-019-0811-x. PMID: 31771649; PMCID: PMC6880482.

Foster LH, Lum LG. *Treatment of hematological malignancies with T cell redirected bispecific antibodies: current status and future needs.* *Expert Opin Biol Ther.* 2019 Jul;19(7):707-720. doi: 10.1080/14712598.2019.1604672. Epub 2019 May 13. PMID: 31081696.

Devitt ME, Dreicer R. *Evolving Role of Genomics in Genitourinary Neoplasms.* *Acta Med Acad.* 2019 Apr;48(1):68-77. doi: 10.5644/ama2006-124.243. PMID: 31264434.

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Trials

Hematology/Oncology faculty serve as PIs on 135 active protocols. Selected examples across the disease teams are as follows:

IRB # <i>Effect of Prebiotics on Gut Microbiome in patients undergoing stem cell transplants</i>			
HSR200296			
Sponsor Protocol HCTDIET	Sponsor: University of Virginia		
CT. Gov. ID: NCT04629430	Principal Investigator: Varadarajan, Indumathy	Study Contact: Danyelle Coley	jcs6rz@virginia.edu
IRB # 19406 <i>A Phase I/II Study of Anti-CD3xAnti-HER2/neu (HER2Bi) Armed Activated T Cells (ATC) and Pembrolizumab Combination Therapy in Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer</i>			
Sponsor Protocol Breast 47 BATs	Sponsor University of Virginia		
CT. Gov. ID: NCT03272334	Principal Investigator: Dillon, Patrick	Study Contact: Jungeun Kim	jk9te@virginia.edu 434-982-3365
IRB # 21158 <i>Open Label Phase 2 Study of Tisotumab Vedotin for Locally Advanced or Metastatic Disease in Solid Tumors</i>			
Sponsor Protocol SGNV-001	Sponsor Seattle Genetics, Inc		
CT. Gov. ID: NCT03485209	Principal Investigator: Reilley, Matthew	Study Contact: Sallie Mannen	sbm8qz@virginia.edu 434-297-5724
IRB # <i>A phase 1/1b, first-in-human, open-label, dose-escalation, safety, pharmacokinetic, and pharmacodynamic study of oral TP-1454 alone and in combination with ipilimumab and nivolumab</i>			
HSR200189			
Sponsor Protocol TP-1454-101	Sponsor Sumitomo Dainippon Pharma Oncology Inc.		
CT. Gov. ID: NCT04328740	Principal Investigator: Devitt, Michael	Study Contact: Milos Lesevic	m14ec@virginia.edu 703-628-6675
IRB # 20190 <i>A Phase I Study of VX-970 in Combination with Cisplatin and XRT in Patients with Locally Advanced HPV (-) Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma</i>			
Sponsor Protocol 9950	Sponsor ETCTN		
CT. Gov. ID: NCT02567422	Principal Investigator: Kaur, Varinder	Study Contact: Olusegun Adelaja	oba4e@virginia.edu
IRB # 20629 <i>A Phase I/II Study of Ixazomib and Ibrutinib in Relapsed/Refractory Mantle Cell Lymphoma</i>			
Sponsor Protocol PrE0404	Sponsor PrECOG		
CT. Gov. ID: NCT03323151	Principal Investigator: Portell, Craig	Study Contact: Erica Stallard	elq9r@virginia.edu
IRB # 21417 <i>Phase I Study of Inotuzumab Ozogamicin with 3 and 4 Drug Augmented Berlin-Frankfurt-Münster (BFM) Re-Induction for Younger Adults Ages 18-55 with Relapsed or Refractory B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (B-ALL)</i>			
Sponsor Protocol ALL-001 Funded by Pfizer	Sponsor University of Virginia		
CT. Gov. ID: NCT03962465	Principal Investigator: Douvas, Michael	Study Contact: Cara Hanby	clh5ke@virginia.edu 434-243-9900
		Cory Caldwell	cjc2p@virginia.edu 434-297-4182
IRB # 17700 <i>A trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of a helper peptide vaccine plus combination of BRAF inhibition and MEK inhibition (Mel61)</i>			
Sponsor Protocol MEL 61	Sponsor NCI		
CT. Gov. ID: NCT02382549	Principal Investigator: Gaughan, Elizabeth	Study Contact: Adela Mahmutovic	am6bd@virginia.edu
IRB # <i>A Randomized Phase 3 Multicenter Open-label Study to Compare the Efficacy of TAK-788 as First-line Treatment Versus Platinum-Based Chemotherapy in Patients With Non Small Cell Lung Cancer With EGFR Exon 20 Insertion Mutations</i>			
HSR190098			
Sponsor Protocol TAK-788-3001	Sponsor Takeda Pharmaceuticals		
CT. Gov. ID: NCT04129502	Principal Investigator: Gentzler, Ryan	Study Contact: Gracie Hockenberry	mgt4n@virginia.edu 434-297-7784
IRB # 21795 <i>A Randomized Study of Daratumumab Plus Lenalidomide Versus Lenalidomide Alone as Maintenance Treatment in Patients with Newly Diagnosed Multiple Myeloma Who Are Minimal Residual Disease Positive After Frontline Autologous Stem Cell Transplant</i>			
Sponsor Protocol 54767414MMY3021	Sponsor Janssen Research & Development		
CT. Gov. ID: NCT03901963	Principal Investigator: Foster, Laahn	Study Contact: Silvia Park	spp2d@virginia.edu 434-297-5150

Recent and Future Events

2021 TCT | Transplantation & Cellular Therapy Meeting of ASBMT and CIBMTR February 8th – 12th, Virtual

The UVa Stem Cell Transplant Team had an impressive showing at the recent Transplant and Cell Therapy Meeting virtual presentation. A team of 4 adult transplant physicians, one pediatric transplant physician, one fellow, one pharmacist, and 1 data manager attended. A focus of the meeting was the advances in treatment with Transplantation and CAR T cell therapy. Dr. Joey Mock had an oral presentation on “Barriers to Access to Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation among Acute Myeloid Leukemia Patients in Virginia,” which demonstrated significant geographic variation in care access. This work was also cited as a priority for the Be The Match initiatives, the organization that matches donors and patients. The UVA team had several other presentations: renal effects of chronic graft versus host disease, the regional influence of CD34 stem cell collection, B lymphocytes’ role in acute graft versus host disease, and etiologies for intensive care unit utilization. In collaboration with several other institutions, Dr. Firas El Char presented a proposed research project of minimal residual disease status on outcomes of AML patients in first complete remission going to transplant. This was selected as a national priority.

Dr. Firas El Chaer - *“Impact of minimal residual disease status on outcomes of acute myelogenous leukemia in patients 18-65 years old in first complete remission undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplantation”* (oral presentation of proposed research project)

Dr. Joseph Mock - *“Barriers to Access to Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation among Acute Myeloid Leukemia Patients in Virginia”* (oral presentation of abstract)

Dr. Tamila Kindwall-Keller -

1. Clinical presentation of minimal change disease secondary to graft versus host disease after allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant. This poster was a collaboration with John Wang a second year medical student.

2. Allogeneic hematopoietic cell transplant complications requiring transfer to the intensive care unit in a medium-size program. This poster was a collaboration with Omar Elghawy, a second-year medical student.

3. Do B lymphocytes play a role in acute graft versus host disease in allogeneic stem cell transplant recipients? Evidence for donor-derived B cells producing anti-host IgG antibodies in acute graft versus host disease in recipients after allogeneic stem cell transplantation. This poster was in collaboration with Archana Thakur and Larry Lum’s lab.

Dr. Indumathy Varadarajan – *“Regional influence on status of CD34 collection from healthy stem cell donors”* (poster).

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

FACULTY PROFILE - Emily Ayers



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I joined UVa in August of 2020 after completing my medical training in New York City and Philadelphia, and I now specialize in treating lymphomas. I live in Ivy with my husband, two children, and two dogs.

Why Hematology/Oncology?

I was initially drawn to the field of hematology/oncology for personal reasons and have since been motivated by my interactions with patients and their families. As the field of lymphoma and hematologic malignancies are rushing forward, this is the most exciting time to be launching my career. The academic environment of UVa offers a perfect atmosphere for clinical research to contribute to oncology's scientific advances.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

My husband and I found Charlottesville an ideal place to raise our family, and our career opportunities at UVa were unmatched anywhere else.

What excites you about work?

The pace and magnitude of change in lymphoma over the last 5 years is truly amazing. Watching the field change in a way that positively impacts patient survival and quality of life has been rewarding and inspires me to contribute to the progress.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside of the professional realm?

Becoming a mother to my two sons, currently four and two years old, has been simultaneously the most humbling and proudest moment(s) of my life thus far.

Next life?

Maybe an economist.

What are you usually doing in your spare time?

If it's warm, I'm at the beach or the pool with my family.

How did you meet your partner?

The first week of medical school at Columbia in NYC.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?

Seaside, Florida, a small beach town in the Florida panhandle where I've been going since infancy.

Most admired person and why?

This is difficult. I admire my mother, a physician herself, most for her work ethic, strength, and compassion. Professionally, I most admire Dr. Lisa Bellini, my residency program director, as a strong woman in a leadership role who could balance family and work expectations effortlessly.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?

Relax. Sometimes I forget to stop and enjoy things.

What about you would surprise us?

I danced ballet intensively up through my college years and hope to get back to it someday!



DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

FACULTY PROFILE - Julia Gyampoh



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I was born in Ghana West Africa. I attended elementary and high school in Ghana. I relocated to United States to attend College. I have been at UVA for eight years. I began my nursing career at Johns Hopkins Hospital as an oncology nurse. I worked at various oncology institutions, followed by working as a nurse practitioner in vascular surgery here at UVA. I currently care for patients at the oncology urgent care clinic located in the infusion center at the UVA Emory Couric Clinical Cancer Center.

Why Hematology/Oncology?

Coming from a family of physicians and nurses, I have always been interested in caring for the sick. Oncology is such a unique field to be in; I find it very rewarding and challenging at the same time. Advances in Oncology have given millions and continue to give people hope.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

An opportunity to work at UVA for my husband and for me to further my education.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside of the professional realm?

I would say it has been the blessing of being a mother. I have been blessed with two lovely boys, 14 and 12 years, both currently attending Charlottesville Catholic School.

Next life?

I would love to open an Orphanage in Ghana to assist children who are orphaned by disease or abandonment at a young age.

What are you usually doing in your spare time?

Cooking, traveling, and spending time with family and our Poodle Lexi.



Favorite vacation/activity spot?

I love spending time at the beach with family. Our favorite beach is Wrightsville beach in North Carolina.

Most admired person and why?

My parents, their humility, kindness, and generosity have taught my siblings and me to always stay true to ourselves even amid the challenges life brings.

Best advice anyone ever gave you?

“Trust your heart.”

What about you would surprise us?

I am incredibly terrified of spiders.



FACULTY PROFILE - Enrica Marchi



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I have been at UVA for less than one year. Everything started a long time ago back in Italy with my fellowship training in malignant hematology. I followed my passion for drug development in hem malignancies all way to my PhD at Columbia University in New York City. I recently left the city after almost 14 years to build a translational program in T-cell lymphoma research with well-renowned investigators at UVA.

Why Research?

In my opinion, research is the core of what we can do to improve patient's care and patient outcome in all the fields of medicine

What brought you to Charlottesville?

An opportunity to work at UVA and for my husband and I to further our education. Living in Miami in the late '80s was a lot of fun, but I missed the mountains, and we wanted to be closer to our family.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

The great opportunity to build a dedicated T-cell Lymphoma Research Program at UVA with other leaders in the field.

What excites you about work?

I am very passionate about translating new laboratory findings into novel treatment strategies for patients with rare diseases, such as peripheral T-cell lymphomas and other hematologic malignancies. I do enjoy caring for patients and building teamwork with my coworkers.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside of the professional realm?

I have traveled in many different parts of the world, including Mongolia, China, India, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Madagascar, Namibia, Morocco, Belize, Mexico, Seychelles, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and most of the European Countries. I genuinely need to keep adding places to my list.

Next life?

I would work in a non-profit organization focusing on human rights.

What are you usually doing in your spare time?

I do love traveling, music, dancing, running and spending time with all my friends.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?

I don't have a favorite vacation spot, but I do like to continue to explore remote areas of the world. There is only an exception – Italy, but I don't consider it a vacation spot. That's just home.

Most admired person and why?

The Former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and some political activists such as Nelson Mandela. I do not think I need to explain further.



Best advice anyone ever gave you?

The best advice I received so far in my life came from my mentor and one of my friends. The first told me to be confident and proud of my work and achievement, and the second suggested that I be constantly active and dynamic in the broad pursuit of happiness.

What about you would surprise us?

What surprised people about me is the very numerous loving and caring friends I have both in the US and Italy. My friends in the States have genuinely become my acquired family. Oh, also,.... I do love electronic music, and I really would like to travel to Iran!

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

STAFF PROFILE - Jeff Ware



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at UVA for 35 years. I started at the Medical Center as the Night Administrator. I had a wide variety of duties in this role, such as resolving patient and family complaints, policy and legal resources for staff, providing language interpreters, notary services, patient transportation, and press releases to the media, to name a few. I came to the Department of Medicine in 2008. First in Infectious Diseases Division and 2013 to Hematology-Oncology. My wife and I live in Troy, Virginia (near Zion's Crossroads) on 52 acres.

Why UVA?

I was working in retail sales just after College and living in Norfolk. I had an opportunity to come to UVA and the Medical Center, and it was the best move I made in my career.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

I couldn't help myself; I was born here. My family goes back six generations in Albemarle and surrounding counties.

What excites you about work?

I love the challenges we face every day. It makes working here a pleasure. I also appreciate the faculty and staff in my divisions and collaborate with my colleagues in the department and other divisions.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside of the professional realm?

First was meeting my wife, but a close second was getting first place in my fantasy Baseball League.

Next life?

I want to be a dog and live the life my current dog is living.

What are you usually doing in your spare time?

Mostly upkeep on the farm. My wife and I love to travel, and the current pandemic is altering that desire. Hopefully, we'll get past this current predicament, and we can get back out on the road.



DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY

Division Retreat

A highlight of the year was our Division Retreat at beautiful Morven Farms. This was a special time to interact with colleagues in a socially distant fashion and address important issues facing our Division, including mentorship, wellness, and strategic planning.

