Medicine Matters! You might wonder about the genesis of our newsletter moniker. Twelve years ago, we were looking for a way to communicate within the Department and, more importantly, to elevate our stature and celebrate the amazing work in our Department. We held a contest to solicit the best name for the newsletter, and Dr. Bill Petri sent us “Medicine Matters.” Dr. Petri won a 16 GB Ipod for his suggestion as well! Here we are twelve years later; Medicine Matters is going strong and is an excellent vehicle for communication. I hope it helps all of you better understand our community. We are always open to suggestions, and please send any along.

This month it is fitting to highlight the Division of Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care led by Dr. Imre Noth. To say the least, this group of faculty and amazing fellows has been at the forefront of the COVID-19 pandemic. Their excellence in clinical care, research, and education, and their grace and resiliency under pressure have been a model for all of us. We owe them a tremendous amount of gratitude for all of their efforts and dedication. From the early days of the pandemic, when they placed themselves at personal risk to developing cutting-edge care protocols and performing critical research studies, they have excelled at every moment. I am so proud of this group! I encourage you to read Dr. Noth’s article describing their work in more detail. I am sure you will be impressed.

With best wishes,

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

Department of Medicine
Summary of Consolidated Financials
FY21 as of January 31, 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget YTD</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
<th>$ Variance YTD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work RVUs</td>
<td>618,695</td>
<td>602,970</td>
<td>(15,724)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Receipts (NPSR)</td>
<td>39,919,957</td>
<td>39,664,195</td>
<td>(255,762)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>112,447,386</td>
<td>117,425,426</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures</td>
<td>110,567,759</td>
<td>113,386,261</td>
<td>(2,818,502)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Income</td>
<td>1,879,627</td>
<td>4,039,165</td>
<td>2,159,539</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary Explanation of Variance:
For the fiscal year through January, 2022 DOM posted a consolidated net gain of $4.0M and a favorable variance to YTD net income budget of $2.2M. Clinical receipts underperformed budget by $256K due to more than anticipated write offs.
Total expenditures outpaced budget driven by timing and unbudgeted grant expenditures on new and existing awards.
Total revenues include FY22 CARES Allocations of $460K and $2.0M Endowment revenue recorded for February through June.

New Studies
Cellular Therapies
Phase 2, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Assess the Safety and Efficacy of Viralym-M Compared to Placebo for the Prevention of AdV, BKV, CMV, EBV, HHV-6, and JCV Infection and/or Disease, in High-Risk Patients After Allogeneic Hematopoietic Cell Transplant
IRB #: HSR210040
CT. Gov. ID: NCT04693637
Sponsor Protocol P-105-202 Sponsor: AlloVir
Kirby Grove
Principal Investigator: Varadarajan, Indumathy
Study Contact: Sara Casana Granell qna7wg@virginia.edu 434-924-5254

LCM: Lymphoma/CLL/Myeloma
Novel immuno-epigenetic based platform for patients with peripheral T-cell Lymphoma (PTCL) and cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL): an international phase Ib study of pembrolizumab combined with decitabine and/or pralatrexate
IRB #: HSR200265
CT. Gov. ID: NCT03240211
Sponsor Protocol PTCL-002 Sponsor: Merck
Principal Investigator: Marchi, Enrica
Study Contact: Aishling Rada jdp5pg@virginia.edu 434-924-0816

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

MINDFULNESS FOR HEALTHCARE EMPLOYEES
Mindfulness for Healthcare Employees
Free Spring 2022 Course
Live online via Zoom
Thursdays, March 31 – May 19, 2022
4:00pm – 6:00pm
Retreat: Saturday, May 7, 2022
9:00am-1:00pm
Congratulations to **Drs. Braulio Cuesta, Margo Tanner, and Joseph Mort** who participated in a Jeopardy-style medical knowledge competition representing UVA’s residency program at the Virginia chapter of the *American College of Physicians*. They competed against teams of residents from the five other residency programs in Virginia (VCU, EVMS, Innova, Virginia Tech, and Navy). Their team took the gold and will now move on to ACP’s national meeting in April in Chicago in April! They will be competing against teams from all 50 states.

Congratulations to **Thomas Platts-Mills, MD**, Division of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, who has received confirmation of his extraordinary achievement, a five-year extension of his NIH R37 Merit Award. This is an extension of his second NIH R37 Merit Award at the University of Virginia. Dr. Platts-Mills will continue his remarkable research investigating the epidemiology, pathophysiology and treatment of alpha gal (galactose-a-1,3 galactose) hypersensitivity manifest primarily as delayed anaphylaxis to mammalian meat and dairy products following sensitization by tick bites. Exciting new directions of research include a GI only variant subset, association with cardiovascular disease that has recently been externally validated, and novel genetically modified pork challenge clinical trial. He received his first NIH R37 Merit Award in 1992 for his work on dust mite allergens. Dr. Platts-Mills is the only allergist-immunologist ever to be recognized with multiple R37 awards and 20 years of merit award funding.

Congratulations to **Julia Scialla, MD**, Division of Nephrology, on her appointment as a Deputy Editor of the *American Journal of Kidney Diseases (AJKD)*.

Congratulations to **John Kim, MD, MS**, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and the research team that found that immune cells called monocytes could be used to predict lung abnormalities and their progression. The researchers have published their findings in the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*. Read more...

Congratulations to **Andrew Wolf, MD**, Division of General Medicine, Geriatrics and Palliative Care, on being named by *The American Cancer Society* as a Chair of the National Cancer Screening Guideline Development Group. In this role, he will oversee all the ACS Work Groups that develop evidence-based guidelines for specific cancer treatments. Dr. Wolf has been involved with the guideline development process with the ACS since 2001 and chaired the ACS committee that developed the prostate cancer screening guidelines in 2010.

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**Cultural Awareness Series: Celebrating Black History Month 2022**

Taison Bell, MD, MBA, and Stella Safo, MD, MPH, led by moderator Mati Hlatshwayo Davis, MD, discuss the importance of celebrating Black History Month within the medical community and taking stock of progress made while recognizing and refocusing efforts to address the impact of health inequities. Panelists also share perspectives on the different actions that Black Americans can take in celebrating, including taking time to rest.

**LISTEN HERE**

For more videos on this topic, please visit the Cultural Awareness Series page within the COVID Health Equity Resources.
Awards and Achievements

2021 Endowed Professorship Electees

Christopher McCartney, MD, Kenneth R. Crispell Professorship
Andrew Wolf, MD, Harry T. Peters, Sr. Professorship in Internal Medicine

2021 UVA School of Medicine Faculty Awards

Brian Uthlaut, MD, Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching
Paul Helgerson, MD, Dean’s Award for Clinical Excellence
John MacKnight, MD, Dean’s Award for Clinical Excellence

Team Science Award, COVID Core Team

Judith Woodfolk, MBBCH
Coleen McNamara, MD
William Petri, Jr., MD, PhD
Alexandra Kadl, MD
Mayuresh Abhyankar, PhD
Catherine Bonham, MD
Michael Shim, MD
Jeffrey Sturek, MD

2022 Endowed Professorship Electees

Rasheed Balogun, MD, Harrison Distinguished Teaching Professor of Nephrology
Sifri Costi, MD, Becton, Dickinson and Company Endowed Chair of Infectious Diseases and International Health
Jie Sun, MD, Harrison Distinguished Teaching Professor of Internal Medicine/Infectious Diseases
On February 1, 2022, the University of Virginia Cancer Center officially became a National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. The UVACCC is the only NCI-designated Comprehensive Center in Virginia – and one of just 52 nationally. Learn more...

FRIDAYS AT NOON via Zoom
Click for details and schedule.
We are greatly saddened by the passing of Avinash (Avi) Agarwal, MD, unexpectedly on January 19, 2022, at home. Dr. Agarwal was an Associate Professor in the UVA Department of Surgery, Division of Transplantation Surgery, for the past 11 years.

Dr. Agarwal received his B.S. from Cornell University and his medical degree from New York Medical College. He completed his general surgery residency at Indiana University, followed by a transplant fellowship at Emory University. In addition, he received a Master of Public Health degree from UVA.

Dr. Agarwal was dedicated to his clinical practice on abdominal transplantation kidney, and pancreas transplantation. Through his essential efforts, particularly in organ donation, the UVA transplant programs greatly expanded and served patients in dire need of organ transplants. He was well-regarded as a clinical teacher at the bedside, intra-operatively, in the classroom, and via other organized educational sessions.

Dr. Agarwal was a prolific researcher working to improve the care delivered to candidates waiting for transplantation and the quality of care for kidney transplant recipients. His endeavors resulted in numerous presentations at national and international transplant conferences and publications in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Agarwal had a passion for clinical trials research and assumed an important leadership role in the Strickler Transplant Center. UVA is consistently one of the top participating kidney transplant clinical trials centers through his work. In addition, he led regional and national research efforts that demonstrably increased the number of organs available for transplantation.

Dr. Agarwal served as the Program Director of the UVA Abdominal Transplant Fellowship and the medical director of the UVA Transplant Unit and LifeNet Health Virginia. Working with LifeNet, he recovered 833 transplanted organs and saved 793 patient lives.

Above all, Dr. Agarwal was an extraordinary human being, kind and passionate about all he did. He loved challenging the status quo and looking at complex health care problems from different perspectives. We will all greatly miss him, and his legacy will endure.

You may find Dr. Agarwal’s obituary at this link.

(Message taken in part and edited from an email sent by Melina R. Kibbe, MD, Dean, UVA School of Medicine, James Carroll Flippin Professor of Medical Science, Chief Health Affairs Officer, UVA Health, Professor, Departments of Surgery and Biomedical Engineering)
Message from Pulmonary & Critical Care Division Chief, Imre Noth, MD

I am constantly awed and impressed by the dedication of the faculty within the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Virginia.

Over the last two years and entering a third now, the Division has faced the most difficult challenge in the COVID-19 pandemic over the last century. Yet, all the faculty has maintained an unbelievable level of professionalism and optimism towards the future through it. When the original shutdown took place in the spring of 2020, and people stayed home, we went to work in the ICU. While surges came and went, we found that our COVID ICU numbers never went down to zero. There was never a stoppage physical or emotional to the turmoil created by the pandemic. As of writing this message, we are in the peak portion of the omicron surge, and the sheer numbers are again reaching new heights. We have delivered the best possible care and a lower mortality rate than comparable institutions with the sickest patients. I’m not sure that we will ever be the same, but we are eager to move forward.

Amid all the chaos, we managed to keep building and expanding on three academic missions of excellence in patient care, education, and research. Since our last update, we now have 29 faculty members (six full Professors, nine Associate Professors, fourteen Assistant Professors). There are also over a dozen Nurse Practitioners and twelve clinical pulmonary and critical care fellows.

In our clinical programs, we have added several faculty just within the past year, with Subodh Pandey, MBBS, providing an additional trained Interventional Pulmonary specialist, greatly expanding our repertoire for patients with complex airways and minimally invasive techniques.

Charles Alex, MD, joined our transplant team over a year ago to help Drs. Mannem and Weder in the excellent care of our patients. Dr. Alex has three decades of experience in the Chicagoland area, as Chief of the Division at Loyola and Transplant Director at Loyola and Advocate Christ Hospital. Our homegrown Jamie MacLeod, MD, joined us this past year to further her work in COPD with Y. Michael Shim, MD. We also welcomed Katarine von Lang Egressy, MD, MPH, who has been instrumental in helping with our increased MICU numbers. Scott Schecter, MD joined us from the University of Iowa and has helped address our backlog in sleep medicine. Lastly, world-class immunologist Anne Sperling, PhD, joined us from the University of Chicago. We are excited at what she brings to our future research endeavors.

In our educational efforts, the faculty continue to garner teaching awards and applause from the medical students rotating through our services. Lastly, in the face of increasing our critical care output, the Division also concurrently increased its publication record over the last year, leveraging translational science resulting from the COVID-19 biorepository and the post-COVID clinic. Drs. Alexandra Kadl, Andrew Barros, and Jeffrey Sturek made notable contributions.

As we exit the darkness into the light, the future has never looked brighter for the Division, and I am excited to see where the next steps will lead us.

~ Imre Noth, MD, Division Chief
RESEARCH UPDATE

In 2021, the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division maintained and expanded a diverse research portfolio while considering pandemic clinical care’s rigors.

We are proud of our fellows, who have garnered research recognition and grants in biomedical engineering (Daisy Zhu, MD, Engineering Coulter Fellowship), sarcoidosis (Jimi Akingbade, MD, American Thoracic Society scholarship), and the iDRIV scholar’s program (Claire Debolt, MD, and Eva Otoupalova, MD).

Fellow Chintan Ramani, MD, and faculty Alexandra Kadl, MD, MS, forged new paths in clinical research on COVID-19 survivorship; publication of their experience caring for COVID-19 ICU survivors garnered national attention and has led to multi-center collaborations.

John S. Kim, MD, MS, received an NIH K23 award in 2021 to study the role of polyunsaturated fatty acids in pulmonary fibrosis and was recently lauded for his work modeling serum biomarkers of lung injury.

Andrew Barros, MD, MS, utilizes high dimensional electronic health record data and medical data science techniques to investigate hospitalization outcomes.

Jamie MacLeod, MD, studies the immunologic effects of calcineurin inhibition in lung transplants.

Jeffrey Sturek, MD, PhD, is an emerging leader in B-cell biology and received a new Ivy Foundation grant last year.

Catherine Bonham, MD, has a K23 to study T-cells in pulmonary fibrosis.

Drs. Kadl, Bonham, and Somerville, received Global Infectious Disease Institute funding for their COVID-19 immunophenotyping research and biorepository initiative.

Drs. Sturek, Kadl, Bonham, and Shim received Dean Kibbe’s 2022 Faculty Research Award for Team Science for their interdivisional initiatives on COVID-19.

Dr. Y. Michael Shim is continuously R01 funded for his work in COPD, using hyperpolarized Xenon-129 MRI to measure pulmonary physiologic responses to therapeutics.

Imre Noth, MD, holds R and U level funding in the study of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) genomics which he conducts with collaborators Shwu-Fan Ma, PhD, and Yong Huang, MD, MS.

Under Dr. Noth’s leadership, the University of Virginia is the lead site for the first-ever NIH-funded pharmacogenomics interventional trial in IPF (PRECISIONS).

In the area of transplant, Max Weder MD, Hannah Mannem MD, and Charles Alex, MD, blazed trails with one of the first COVID-19 lung transplants in the nation and launched an international database to track experiences and outcomes of COVID-19 lung transplant patients, who were the third leading indication for a lung transplant in 2021.

In the area of cystic fibrosis, Drs. Somerville and Albon innovated to deliver exceptional multidisciplinary telemedicine-based care, publishing their clinical research in CHEST. At the same time, cystic fibrosis respiratory therapist Martina H. Compton, RRT-NPS, RPFT received both the National Respiratory Patient Advocacy Award and the CF Foundation Outreach Award in 2021.

Finally, in 2021, we welcomed senior investigator Anne Sperling, PhD, whose internationally recognized expertise in translational immunology, asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, and mentorship in respiratory biology is truly an asset to the division and reflects our academic mission of excellence and scholarship.
INTERVENTIONAL PULMONARY

The Interventional Pulmonary sub-division of Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine provides state-of-the-art care in minimally invasive pulmonary procedures. The multidisciplinary team works closely with other specialty departments of the Emily Couric Cancer Center, including Thoracic Surgery, Medical and Radiation Oncology, Pathology, Radiology, and Laryngology. Our team provides advanced diagnostic bronchoscopy, including endobronchial ultrasound, navigation bronchoscopy, and biopsy. We also offer a full array of therapeutic interventions in benign and malignant complex airway diseases, including tumor debridement and airway recanalization using rigid bronchoscopy, laser, argon, cryotherapy, balloon bronchoplasty, airway stenting, and thermoplasty. Our team also provides expertise in pleural disease management. We are excited to announce the addition of the ION robotic bronchoscopy platform and Endobronchial Lung Volume Reduction programs in the coming months.

SLEEP MEDICINE PROGRAM

In the past year, the sleep medicine program has added two new clinicians, Scott Schecter, MD, a Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine/Sleep Medicine physician, who comes to us from the University of Iowa, and Matthew Burns, a newly minted NP, who comes to us from the UVA MICU. We currently have three physicians and two APPs, and two pediatric sleep clinicians in the program. UVA Health appears to be committed to the ongoing growth and development of the sleep medicine program, which is good because we continue to get referrals from across the state.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

RESEARCH WEEK

The 1st year PCCM fellows recently participated in their very own Research Week! The week was filled with presentations ranging from grant opportunities and research tracks to learning about the library and iTHRIV resources to faculty sharing their current research in a “speed dating” format. The fellows utilized these talks and the protected time to focus on deciding what type of research they would like to do as part of fellowship.

Dr. Catherine Bonham mentoring the first year fellows as they discuss their preliminary thoughts on potential research projects. Left to right: Dr. Naima Farah, Dr. Eric Polley, Dr. Catherine Bonham, Dr. Frank Papik, Dr. M. Ibrar Islam.
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

PROCEDURAL SKILLS DAY

The PCCM division started a quarterly “Procedural Skills Day” to help keep fellows and faculty skills sharp. They’ve focused on hands-on activities involving tasks ranging from advanced airway techniques to pumps & parts of extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO).

Fellows and faculty work to perform cricothyroidotomy on pig tracheas and intubate on the dummy.

The team reviews the supplies available in an advanced airway cart with Dr. Andrew Barros.

Did you know that PCCM has a Twitter Account?
FOLLOW US @UVA_PCCM
PULMONARY EVENTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE - November 2021

In 2019, there were 246,750 SNAP recipients in VA who were classified as elderly or disabled and the average food benefit for an older adult was $87 per month or $0.81 per meal–some elderly persons receive the minimum benefit of only $16 per month or $0.15 per meal (www.cbpp.org).

With these heartbreaking statistics in mind, the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care partnered with the Greene County Department of Social Services (Stanardsville, VA) during November.

Our goal was to create gift bags filled with hygiene and comfort items to supplement twenty-five Thanksgiving food boxes.

Strictly by faculty and staff donations, we far exceeded that goal and could also made a cash donation of $250 to the Greene County foster children’s holiday gift fund.

Anne Winn, Greene County DSS Benefit Services Supervisor, accepted the gifts on behalf of the agency and was overwhelmed by the generosity of our team.

HOT COCOA FOR A CHILLY DAY - December 9, 2021

The Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care hosted a hot cocoa bar in the Administrative area on December 9th. Faculty and staff were met with a lovely decorated bar that included an assortment of hot cocoa flavors, add-ons, and treats. Hot cocoa and fellowship were just what the doctor ordered on a chilly December day!
Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Update

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, three distinct models of interdisciplinary care have emerged from our UVA cystic fibrosis program. The standard of CF care delivery is a collaborative effort by a team of professionals with diverse areas of expertise. A typical CF care visit at UVA can often include between 5-7 care team member interactions per patient. In addition to the physician, these interactions may consist of a registered dietitian, respiratory therapist, clinical psychologist, social worker, and registered nurse coordinator.

The onset of the pandemic in March 2020 and its associated public safety mandates and recommendations set in motion a season of innovation and rapid adaptations by the CF team. The mission is to preserve their high standard of care while emphasizing patient and team safety, PPE conservation, and patient preferences.

Considering a matrix of variables like COVID positivity rates in the community, availability of objective health data, ability and willingness to utilize web-based health tools; patients with CF are triaged into one of three types of care visits personalized to their circumstances and preferences:

- Traditional: patient in person and team members in person
- Telehealth: patient and care team members connect virtually using Webex and utilize remote monitoring devices for spirometry and other patient-reported health data
- Hybrid: patient and physician are in person, and team members join the patient encounter via iPads placed in the exam room

Under the leadership of medical director Dr. Dana Albon, the CF care team has successfully preserved the critical components of the traditional CF care model and demonstrated agility and competence in adapting to the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic. This work has been shared nationally with peers in the CF Care Center Network and key pulmonary and telehealth journals. To learn more about the work being done by our CF team, please see publications in list.


**PUBLICATIONS**


DIVISION OF PULMONARY & CRITICAL CARE MEDICINE

PUBLICATIONS


Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I recently returned to central Virginia in 2020 after spending a few years in Texas. I live with my partner, my best friend, and our cockatiel and cat on the family farm where I grew up. We’ve spent the last year juggling renovations and reclaiming fields, so we are very excited to take a breather soon.

My professional career has ranged from applying state regulations at a local cannery to managing the administrative needs of faculty, staff, and students at a private business school in Houston.

Why Healthcare?
I segued into my role as administrative generalist from a position at a purely academic institution. It has been gratifying to support our physicians, particularly during the pandemic.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
Charlottesville has a unique blend of the rural and urbane, which I love. There’s a wide variety of culture available from local restaurants, bookstores, etc., but folks don’t lose their minds at the sight of a white-tailed deer.

What excites you about your work?
There is always something new to learn, whether medical terminology, new software, or recent research discoveries.

What is your proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
Probably not my greatest achievement, but I was very proud to (1) spot and (2) tackle our newly-purchased pig when she escaped from her enclosure. Don’t @ me, please! She is exceptionally sturdy and fast.

What is the one thing you always have in your fridge?
Green olives. I’m the only one who eats them, so I can buy a quart, and it lasts forever, no fear of someone else sniping them.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
The Bay of Quinte in southern Ontario. It’s about a thirteen-hour drive, but I’ve been visiting there since I was a baby, and it is engraved on my heart. As soon as I see the water from the highway, I can’t wipe the smile from my face. Friends, poutine, canoeing, sauna, and big, beautiful freshwater. I am crossing my fingers for a 2022 visit!

What about you would surprise us?
I am what might be phrased as a “big nerd.” It still sounds a little uncool, but I love fantasy, comics, anime, and I played on a quidditch team throughout college. Go VCU Wizengamot!

What is a talent or skill you don’t have that you wish you did?
I am only able to whistle or finger-snap very quietly. I’m very envious of anyone who can “wolf whistle” or loudly snap along to an entire song.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?
The Life and Loves of Edith Nesbit by Eleanor Fitzsimons. It was a fascinating deep dive into the life of famous children’s author E. Nesbit through her many letters and interviews of her contemporaries in the late 1800s socialist movement. She had a magnetic and polarizing personality and a profoundly human ability to hold antithetical views and values at once.

Do you collect anything?
Since I was about five, I’ve collected salt and pepper shakers, so I’ve amassed a fair amount. Most notable: Skunks, professional wrestlers, a handshake, and one crawfish.

What was your first job, how old were you?
I was a waitress at a French-style café and bakery when I was 16. It was an excellent opportunity to try lots of cheeses, but it did make me very snooty about fresh-baked bread.
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I was raised just north of Charlottesville in Greene County and moved to Maryland in the late eighties. I was fortunate enough to come back home in 2019 to help care for my ailing mother. All of my family is in the area, most within a 10-mile radius. There’s no place like HOME! Added trivia: my late father retired from the University of Virginia!

What excites you about your work?
As an administrative professional, I enjoy helping others and teaching people to use the tools they have on hand. Additionally, I love implementing systems and processes that make my provider’s work lives easier!

What is your proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
It would be my cherished connection with all of my family, and though I didn’t create them directly, my grandchildren are my world.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains, kayaking on my home lake, antiquing, or hanging out with my children/grandchildren.

Most admired person, and why?
My late parents; they loved me unconditionally and taught me the importance of family.

What about you would surprise us?
I can change a car’s flat tire and oil on my own.

What is a talent or skill you don’t have that you wish you did?
I would love to learn how to weld.

If you could go back in time, what year would you travel to?
Live your life in such a way that you never look back.

What was your first job, how old were you?
Babysitter at the grand old age of eight! Of course, my mother was just next door, and it was in the seventy’s!
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I was born in Indiana, grew up in Singapore, and went to Northwestern University for my undergraduate degree. I came to the University of Virginia for medical school, was matched in Chicago for residency, and now I am back in Charlottesville for fellowship.

Why Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine?
I was drawn to healthcare because it is dynamic. Within the past five years alone, from my days as a medical student to my current role as a fellow, many new therapies have been developed and revisions made to guidelines. It is challenging, yet exciting, to keep up with a constantly evolving discipline. Critical care allows us to assimilate and apply that knowledge quickly. Moreover, intensivists are uniquely positioned to care for patients and their families at a crucial juncture in patients’ lives.

On the other hand, pulmonary medicine is a nice change of pace. It is a predominantly outpatient specialty and provides the opportunity to build long-term relationships with patients. In addition, pulmonary physiology involves a lot of mathematics and physics, which speaks to the engineer in me.

What excites you about your work?
The people I work with – attendings, co-trainees, advanced practice providers, nurses, health unit coordinators, respiratory therapists, pharmacists.

What brought you back to Charlottesville?
When interviewing for fellowships, UVA is one of the few places where both the program director and the division chief are invested in my professional development. Charlottesville is also close to the mountains (Shenandoah National Park for hikers, Wintergreen Resort for skiers), beaches (when I need my seafood fix), and major cities (I love the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C.). Last but not least, my husband grew up here.

What is your proudest achievement outside the professional realm?
I obtained an ATCL (Associate of Trinity College London) diploma in piano performance when I was in high school. It required a lot of practice and hard work, so I was elated when I got it.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Hiking in Shenandoah National Park or George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, checking out one of many wineries or breweries, or taking a short trip to a nearby city or town.

Favorite travel destination?
Tanzania. I spent two months there and felt embraced by the community. Every week, my friends and I would go to a local joint for kitimoto (grilled pork in spinach and tomato sauce) and ugali, which I like to pair with Stoney Tangawizi (ginger beer). I was also able to explore the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and hike Mount Kilimanjaro. My husband cannot wait to visit!

Favorite fictional character?
Samwise Gamgee from Lord of the Rings. His loyalty towards his friends and courage in the face of danger is unparalleled. Furthermore, despite his immense personal growth during his travels, he remained humble and true to his roots.

Words to live by?
Maya Angelou said it best, “be a rainbow in somebody else’s cloud.” We never know what people have been through or are going through, so always be kind.
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I grew up in Nepal, a small but beautiful country surrounded by the Himalayan Mountain range. I completed my medical schooling there and moved to the United States for further training. I completed my residency at SUNY Upstate Medical University and my fellowship at the University of Kentucky and joined as a faculty there for four years. I moved to UVA during the pandemic in July 2021.

Why Healthcare?
My mom worked in public health, and I got to travel to many remote areas in Nepal with medical camps and volunteer and spend time with doctors. I continue to be inspired by this blend of years of medical knowledge and experience to help people and build personal connections.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
Work; I am excited to be a part of the growing Intervention Pulmonary sub-division at UVA.

What excites you about your work?
As a Critical Care and an Intervention Pulmonary doctor, I feel privileged to care for patients with a very high acuity of the disease, uncertainty of dealing with lung cancer, or struggling to breathe. Any small measure of comfort I can provide is immensely gratifying.

What is your proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
Hopefully yet to come. Life has been chiefly small victories and occasional failures. Anytime I have been able to give back to community or family.

Next life?
It’s been pretty great so far – I love what I do at work and have been able to travel and enjoy my hobbies. I wouldn’t mind giving this another go.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
I am usually outdoors. Hiking with my dog – it’s been great having many hiking trails so close to Charlottesville. Mountain biking, cycling, paragliding, or spending time with friends.

What is the one thing you always have in your fridge?
Plain yogurt. It goes with anything.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
It has to be paragliding in the Himalayas. Free flying without an engine, deep in the massive mountain terrains, makes you feel insignificant yet captures you with its infinitesimal beauty and power of nature.

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?
Be Kind. Things will work out the way they are supposed to.

What about you would surprise us?
Outside of my paragliding harness – I am afraid of heights. I don’t know how that works.

What is a talent or skill you don’t have that you wish you did?
Music – I wish I had learned some instrument early on. Now I feel I don’t have the skill, patience, or time required.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?
“Into Thin Air” by Jon Krakauer.

What’s the most unusual thing you have ever eaten?
Though I would like to have a more adventurous palate – I can’t bring myself to eat seafood apart from fish.

Do you collect anything?
Nothing material. I am a firm believer in life experiences.

What was your first job, how old were you?
Around 12 years old – data entry for a Japanese Public Health Scientist. Great experience for me; I learned a bit about Japanese culture. It was also when I figured out I may not like seafood.
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I’ve been at UVA for about four months working in the Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Department.

Why Healthcare?
My favorite part of the job is education because it helps keep me up to date in my practice.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
I enjoyed the city when I had interviewed here previously, so I was excited when I saw a job opening here.

What excites you about your work?
Helping people get a better night’s sleep.

What is your proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
I won a bike taxi race that included some amateur racers.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Biking, playing with my dog.

How did you meet your partner?
She was a nurse in the MICU when I was a fellow at Iowa.

What is the one thing you always have in your fridge?
Costco rotisserie chicken.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?
The Galapagos Islands.

Most admired person, and why?
Jeff Wilson, who was my pulmonary program director and an excellent clinician and educator.

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?
Try to get out of your comfort zone.

What about you would surprise us?
I used to operate a bicycle taxi in Austin when I was in college.

What is a talent or skill you don’t have that you wish you did?
Ability to play an instrument.

Favorite fictional characters?
George Costanza.

What year would you travel to if you could go back in time?
I would be too worried about changing something.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?
The expanse series.

What’s the most unusual thing you have ever eaten?
It would either be crickets or Haggis.

Do you collect anything?
Dachshunds.

What was your first job, how old were you?
I was sixteen and teaching Sunday School at my temple.
Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I’ve been at the University of Virginia for almost four years since moving here for a pulmonary and critical care fellowship. Before that, I completed my medicine residency and chief resident year in Rhode Island. I learned a tremendous amount during my fellowship and discovered a new passion for research. While pursuing several fellowship projects in my mentor Dr. Shim’s lab, I developed a fascination with clinical translational research in transplant immunology and the application of advanced imaging techniques to this patient population. The opportunity to collaborate with multi-disciplinary investigative teams, including clinicians, physician-scientists, PhDs, radiologists, and biomedical engineers, was awesome! This solidified my desire to pursue an academic faculty career here at UVA. I am eager to continue my ongoing longitudinal research efforts, learn from exceptional colleagues across all specialties, and provide personalized care for my patients.

What excites you about your work?
The ability to care for patients balanced with the opportunity to develop and hone my research interests. While challenging, it’s a great privilege to manage and be responsible for the care of complex critically ill patients. Similarly, managing patients with chronic respiratory disease in the outpatient setting and working together to control their symptoms to keep them out of the hospital hopefully is also rewarding. Ultimately this pandemic has challenged us all, but the resiliency and compassion I continue to see two years in from the people I work with make all the difference.

What is your proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
Being a mom.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?
Hanging out as a family trips to the swimming pool or local parks. Walking our dog. Just getting outdoors and enjoying all the cool things to do around Charlottesville and the surrounding area.

How did you meet your partner?
Ironically, during undergrad in a chemistry class.

What about you would surprise us?
For many years, I was a competitive swimmer. I grew up in Canada but was recruited by the United States as a student-athlete and competed in the Pac-10 (back when it was still the Pac-10 anyway). I’ve competed in Olympic Trials as well. Growing up in Canada, I also attended French immersion schools and speak French, though not as fluently as I used to!

What is the last book you read for pleasure?
School of Sewing. I’m currently learning and teaching myself to sew, which has been fun.
FACULTY PROFILE - Katarine von Lang Egressy

Tell us a little bit about yourself.
My road to the University of Virginia has been slightly curvy and expansive, all the while allowing me to have experiences that led me here in the first place. I grew up in Richmond, and my family still lives here. Virginia has never really left my memory. A serendipitous call from an old colleague inviting me to interview here led to my joining the faculty ranks in the division of Pulmonary and Critical Care at UVA Health.

As everyone knows who lives here, Charlottesville is an absolute gem of a town filled with things to do and places to go. Being tucked away closer to the mountains allows for much more comfortable summers than central Virginia and cooler winters. Beyond the town itself, UVA Health has made me appreciate again and again my ability to be part of a greater mission and join in the legacy of excellence in education, healthcare delivery, and healing. I am fortunate to be surrounded by my colleagues and staff. Although the last two years have been challenging, specifically in the field of pulmonary and critical care, I feel grateful to be where I am every day at work.

Speaking of work, I am hopeful to realize my long-term dream of bringing awareness to personal experiences of healthcare delivery in the United States from both sides of the lane: clinician and patient. My research interest in cancer prevention, specifically lung cancer, has taken a pivot in the last two years. I have found myself providing critical care almost exclusively due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That has led me to rethink the direction of healthcare delivery as it was affected by the pandemic and future of medicine and critical care pertaining to patients, families, clinicians, hospitals, administrators, and most importantly, healthcare staff. There is much work to be done in that field, and I am excited to be part of the journey moving forward.