

MEDICINE

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MATTERS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

APRIL 2022



Spring is here, and over the years, nothing heralds spring more for me than hearing about our incoming residency class. This year's class is quite special, with a highly diverse group of outstanding students from across the country. My deepest thanks to the entire education team, the residency selection committee, Dr. Brian Uthlaut, and our Chief Residents. These new

residents will be here before we know it, please welcome them to our community.

This edition highlights the Division of Hematology and Oncology led by Dr. Karen Ballen. This Division has grown faster over the last ten years than any other Division in the Department. The growth and excellence of our faculty were a huge contributor to the Cancer Center getting NCI Comprehensive Cancer Center status. As you will see in this edition, the Division is excelling in everything they do and improving the outcomes and lives of so many people in the region. This group is exceptional, whether in cutting-edge research, educating the next generation of specialists, or in their compassionate and comprehensive clinical care. My thanks to Drs. Ballen, Williams, and Loughran for their leadership.

Enjoy the wonderful weather and, hopefully, a spring break.

With best wishes,

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

 **UVAHealth** | DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MISSION

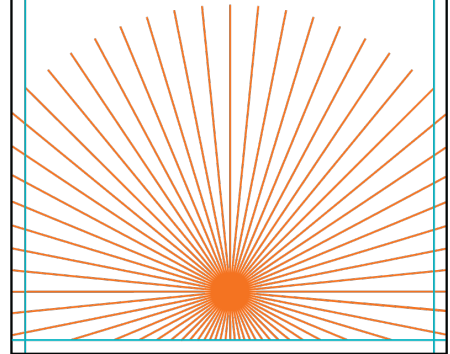
We are dedicated to preventing disease and treating illness, educating and inspiring future leaders in the field of internal medicine, and supporting innovative biomedical research.

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.



DoM WEBSITE 

GRAND ROUNDS 

HIGHLIGHTED DIVISION . . . 

MINDFULLNESS MATTERS . . . 

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UVAHealth

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

DOM Financial Update

Department of Medicine Summary of Consolidated Financials FY21 as of February 28, 2022

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	\$ Variance YTD
Work RVUs	704,578	692,471	(12,107)
Clinical Receipts (NPSR)	45,498,869	45,177,230	(321,639)
Total Revenues	126,760,399	134,654,638	7,894,238
Total Expenditures	125,510,857	130,773,786	(5,262,930)
Net Income	1,249,543	3,880,851	2,631,309

Summary Explanation of Variance:

For the fiscal year through February, 2022 DOM posted a consolidated net gain of \$3.9M and a favorable variance to YTD net income budget of \$2.6M.

Clinical receipts underperformed budget by \$322K due to more than anticipated contractual 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 \$1.6M Endowment revenue recorded for March through June.



Mindfulness Matters
A Newsletter from the
UVA Mindfulness Center

URiM Leadership Program and Travel Scholarship

**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.



**12 Mental
Health and
Wellness
Resources
For You To
Know About**

DOM UPDATES & NOTES



Taison Bell, MD



Zhenqi Liu, MD



Eugene Barrett, MD, PhD



Mami Taniuchi, PhD



Jie Sun, PhD



Judith Woodfolk, MD, PhD



Emily McGowan, MD

Awards and Achievements

Congratulations to **Dr. Taison Bell**, who has been selected as one of the *National Minority Quality Forum's (NMQF) "40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health"* Awards Recipients for 2022. NMQF has selected 40 minority health leaders under the age of 40 who have been leading the charge to better patient outcomes and build sustainable healthy communities since 2016. Despite the unexpected trials in health care during the past couple of years, these 40 leaders persevered in strengthening their communities and reducing health disparities. Dr. Bell will receive his award during the *2022 NMQF Summit on Health Disparities and Spring Health Braintrust* on April 25th and 26th.

Congratulations to **Drs. Zhenqi Liu, Eugene Barrett**, and colleagues on having their paper "*Metformin Improves Skeletal Muscle Microvascular Insulin Resistance in Metabolic Syndrome*" recognized as being Distinctive in Scholarship by the *American Physiological Society (AJPselect)*.

Congratulations to **Dr. Mami Taniuchi**, who received the *2021 University of Virginia Research Award*.

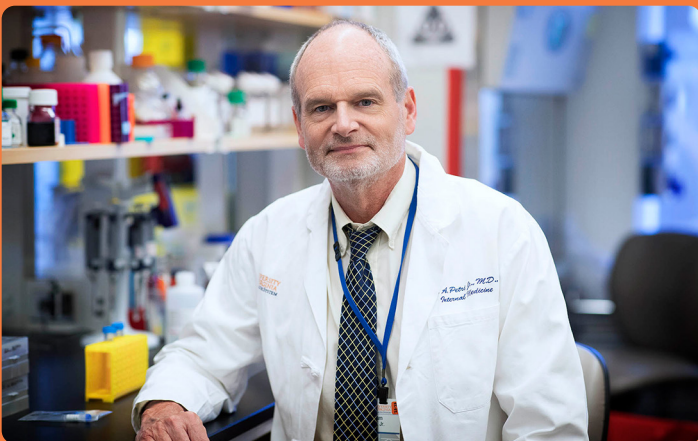
Congratulations to **Dr. Jie Sun** and colleagues on their manuscript "*TFAM-Dependent Mitochondrial Metabolism Is Required for Alveolar Macrophage Maintenance and Homeostasis*" being chosen by *The Journal of Immunology* as a *Top Read*.

Congratulations to **Dr. Judith Woodfolk** and the entire UVA COVID-19 Biorepository Team on being presented the *2021-2022 UVA School of Medicine Dean's Team Science Research Award* for their work that has assisted in the understanding and management of the SARS-CoV-2 infection.

Congratulations to **Dr. Emily McGowan**, who has been elected to the 2022 Editorial Board of the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology* for a five-year term beginning March 2022. Her peers chose Dr. McGowan based on her expertise, high-quality reviews, timely return of her comments, and willingness to review often.

Congratulations to the Cardiovascular team of **Drs. Patricia Rodriguez-Lozano, Elona Rrapo Kaso, Jamieson M. Bourque, Mohamed Morsy, Angela M. Taylor, Todd C. Villines, Christopher M. Kramer, and Michael Salerno**, on the publication of their paper "*Cardiovascular Imaging for Ischemic Heart Disease in Women: Time for a Paradigm Shift*" in *JACC Journals*.

Dr. Bill Petri interview by President James Ryan on "Inside UVA"



Community Conversation - UVA Health 3-23-22 with Dr. Ananda Badu



NBC29 Interview with Dr. Michael Nelson and the Possibility of a Severe Allergy Season



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

NBC29 Interview with Dr. Taison Bell on Being Honored on “40 Under 40 Leaders in Health” List



UVA FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

APPLICATIONS OPEN APRIL 29-MAY 16

PLUMBING

ELECTRICAL

MASONRY

HVAC

CARPENTRY

UNIVERSITY
OF VIRGINIA

Facilities Management

APPLY TODAY: <https://apprenticeship.fm.virginia.edu/>

FRIDAYS AT NOON via Zoom
Click for details and schedule.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE



Follow the Department of Medicine on Twitter

CONGRATULATIONS NEW RESIDENTS!

2022 – 2023 Medicine PGY 1 (Interns)

CATEGORICAL



Soham Ali
Univ of Iowa



Tijesuni Babalola
East Carolina Univ



Michael Bates
LSU



Rebecca Brown
Univ of Pittsburgh



Emily Brzana
Temple



Kathryn Fortune
Albany Medical College



Heather Frazier
Medical College of Georgia



Jacob Friedberg
Boston Univ



Sarah Gillaspie
Univ of Kansas



Robyn Goodrich
Virginia Tech Carilion



Thomas Hilton
Wake Forest



Meera Jain
Drexel



Jagannath Kadiyala
Univ of Maryland



Laura Beth Lavette
Wake Forest



Alessia Lavin
Univ of Miami



Tala Mahmoud
Univ of Balamand



Kenan Michaels
Virginia Tech Carilion



Francesco Moroni
Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele



James Ngoyi
MUSC



Natalie Pham
UVA



Abhijit Ravindran
UVA



Benjamin Robinson
UVA



Steven Scherping
UVA



Zoya Shakeel
Univ of Florida



Mary Kate Sullivan
MUSC



Kevin Toy
EVMS



Tucker Wilkinson
Drexel



David Wise
Univ of South Carolina



Bennett Wisner
UVA



Viktoriya Zelisko
VCU

NEUROLOGY



Andrew Chapman
Rosalind Franklin



Arlinda Deng
Univ of Maryland



Katherine Henry
Mayo Clinic AZ



Rachel Mascari
U South Carolina



Harika Rayala
Univ of Michigan



Rachel Shaffer
Drexel



Abdulhakim Aghil
Univ of Kentucky

PRIMARY CARE



Lydia Prokosch
UVA



Amber Roberts
MUSC

OPHTHALMOLOGY



Eleanor Burton
Johns Hopkins



Ryan Duong
UVA



Samuel Levant
Emory



Simon Mogendi
Emory



Shira Lanyi
VCU

PRELIMINARY



Nabeel Mirza
Univ of Florida



Nwanneoma Ngonadi
UVA



Brian Uthlaut, MD

The residency program celebrated an outstanding match on March 18th! The program welcomes 30 categorical interns, three primary care interns, and three preliminary interns, who matched from twenty-two different medical schools. This was an outstanding match of interns who have demonstrated an excellent track record of academic success and incredible potential in our missions of patient care, education, research, diversity, equity, and community engagement.

This is our second year doing intern interviews virtually, and it coincided with the challenge of managing the winter's Omicron surge. Many thanks to our residents, faculty reviewers and interviewers, admin team, and especially our chief residents—Izzy Budnick, Rebecca Clemo, Jamey Cutts, and Athidi Earasi—for all their work welcoming, interviewing, and teaching more than 600 interviewees (again we saw an increase in our applications, this year to 3,500!).

Please help me welcome our new residents to the University of Virginia this summer!

~Brian Uthlaut, MD, Residency Program Director

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

DOM STAFF PROFILE - Kim Kelley-Wagner



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I grew up and attended school in Ohio but moved to Virginia after graduating from college with a fine arts degree in which I had focused on metalwork. I had landed a job as a silversmith at Colonial Williamsburg - yes, in Colonial costume and everything! I have now lived in Virginia for far more years than I have spent in Ohio, so I consider myself a Virginian.

I am a single parent to two daughters, my eldest a senior at Sweet Briar College, and my youngest a high school student in Louisa. We currently have an American Shepherd (mini Aussie) and a tuxedo cat, but we have had potbelly pigs that lived to old age. We plan to add chickens soon, as we have had them in the past and miss the fresh eggs.

I have been with the University of Virginia since 2018, maintaining the Department of Medicine websites, social media and creating the Medicine Matters Newsletter that you are now reading. Before joining UVA, I have worked directly for or contracted mostly with museums and educational institutions. Some easily recognizable include The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, The Corning Museum of Glass, The Smithsonian Institution, General Electric, NASA, and several private and public school systems. I am thrilled to be working in the Department of Medicine at UVA!

Why Healthcare?

I have and could create/maintain websites for any subject or institution, but working with those in medicine has been unique in my career. Though I have always tried to make a positive difference through my work at whatever organization I belong to, working within the Department of Medicine has been distinctive in its capacity to enrich my workday with incredible and knowledgeable co-workers to learn from and help support. I've gotten to attend the 'Mini-Med School Program, which is brilliant, and volunteer at the COVID-19 testing sites during a pandemic. I am grateful for these opportunities to learn and be helpful beyond my day-to-day tasks.

What excites you about your work?

I enjoy problem-solving and improving situations. The web is constantly evolving; some people don't like change, I like that my job tasks aren't stagnant and allow for creativity. I also enjoy photography and have gotten an opportunity to add more visuals to the department's websites.



What is your proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?

I know it's what every parent says, but the answer is raising my daughters. I am a single, inter-racial, international, adoptive parent. I'm not very fond of paperwork, and I joke that the paperwork for international adoption, times two, was the hardest part. Honestly, it probably was; my daughters are the best part of my life—times two bazillion.

Next life?

I would like to make movies. I wrote, directed, filmed, and edited a small, parody film for a project several years ago and adored the process. I would love to create visual stories.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?

Making never-ending repairs to my house. It took two years, but my daughters and I finally finished gutting and redoing both bathrooms, including new fixtures, tiling, drywall, electrical, and plumbing. We learned a lot, but there is still so much to do. When my girls were little, it was all I could do to keep up with them and work; the poor house got somewhat neglected, now the postponed repairs are coming back to haunt me!

Most admired person, and why?

My children. Both have special needs; both have been asked their entire lives why their mom doesn't look like them, and they had to learn early in life how to advocate and stand up for themselves. I have never seen either one of them spend a minute feeling sorry for themselves or complain or utter the words, "why me?" They are both loving, thoughtful, intelligent humans with great senses of humor. Never mind that they don't pick up their stuff around the house. If they did, what would I have to trip over?

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

My mother, who has a master's degree in early childhood education, told me when my first daughter was small that every time I gave in to her after telling her "no," I would then have to hold the line fifty (yes, 50) times after that to get back to where I started. So, I needed to make sure that I stood by my decisions and be true to my words. I reminded myself of this advice each time I was tired and just wanted to give in to one of my children's demands because it would be easier at that moment. It proved true. My children are now young adults, and they know that not only do I mean what I say and will follow through, but that I am always truthful with them. By the way, it works with adults as well.

What about you would surprise us?

I have illustrated thousands of ancient and historical artifacts (including Thomas Jefferson's toothbrush), and the illustrations appear in more than sixty books. My photographs as well supplement hundreds of magazine articles and publications. (Examples of some of my artifact illustrations appear at right - Native American engraved stones from the New England area)

What is a talent or skill you don't have that you wish you did?

I wish I could play the fiddle.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

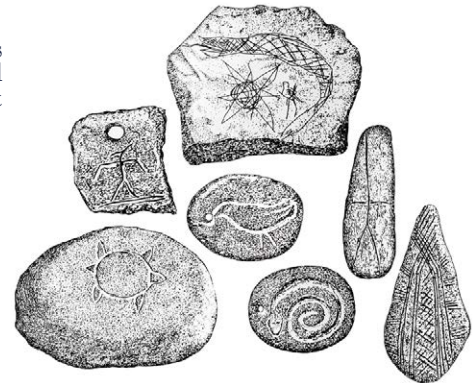
"The Parable of the Sower" followed by "The Parable of the Talents" by Octavia Butler

What's the most unusual thing you have ever eaten?

Fried scorpion. Tasted like crab.

Do you collect anything?

Anyone who knows me well would say I collect everything. But the most extensive collection would be books. A conservative estimate is that I have/had at least eight thousand. Yes, excessive. And being that my house is not large, I decided it was time to pare down. I have successfully sold/given away/traded some 2,000—still a ways to go. And the public library's spring book sale is this month! ⑥



DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

Message from Hematology & Oncology Division Chief, Karen Ballen, MD



Karen K. Ballen, MD

Despite the pandemic's obvious challenges, the Hematology/Oncology Division has had another fantastic year in clinical care, research, and education. The year's highlight was our UVA Cancer Center's designation as a National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center. This is the highest designation of the NCI; we are the only Comprehensive Cancer Center in Virginia and one of 52 in the United States. Under the guidance of our Cancer Center Director, Thomas Loughran, MD, this effort took many years and the hard work and expertise of hundreds of research and clinical team members.

We recruited four new Clinical faculty: Gwen Garcia, MD, in Community Oncology in Augusta joined us this past summer. In May, Dr. Mary Helen Witt will be joining our Augusta Community Oncology practice. We eagerly await the arrival of Drs. Paul Skelton and Paul Viscuse in GU Oncology this summer. We are delighted that Dr. Charles Chalfant has joined our research team.

We are currently interviewing for new faculty in GI Oncology, Stem Cell Transplant, and Lymphoma. We also welcomed Rachel Crespi, Kelli Hughes, Tammy Tedsen, Mary Faith Dudley, and Isabel Burgess to our team as Advanced Practice Professionals. Congratulations to Jessica Kassay-McAllister as our inaugural APP lead. Susie Herndon joins us later this month as our second APP lead.

Our providers continue to provide outstanding care in both inpatient and outpatient settings. For the second year, the Couric 3rd floor West Clinic, where many of our faculty practice, received the highest honor from Press-Ganey: The 2021 Press Ganey Pinnacle of Excellence Award. The award is based on three years of excellent patient experience results and is the only clinic that received this award at UVA. We are proud that nineteen of our providers were recognized for achieving Press-Ganey scores above the 90th percentile in FY 21, including Drs. Richard Hall, Michael Douvas, and Varinder Kaur received perfect scores. Twelve physicians were recognized for three years in a row.

In the area of research, we have 133 open clinical research trials. Partnering with the University of Virginia Cancer Center Community Outreach and Engagement, we work hard to ensure clinical trials are available to all of our patients throughout Virginia. A goal this year is to increase our investigator-initiated studies. Our division boasts over seven million dollars in grant support and Drs. Charles Chalfant, Thomas Loughran, Lawrence Lum, and Owen O'Connor all have RO1 grants. The grants cover leukemia treatment, novel lymphoma strategies, cell therapy, and lipid signaling.

- iPLA2beta mediated alternative splicing and (square) cell death in type 1 diabetes Dr. Charles Chalfant
- Genomic Architecture of LGL Leukemia Dr. Thomas Loughran Jr.
- Neuroblastoma with armed T cells Dr. Lawrence Lum
- A Randomized, Phase IIB, Multicenter, Trial of Oral Azacytidine Plus Romidepsin versus Investigator's Choice in Patients With Relapse or Refractory Peripheral T-cell Lymphoma (PTCL) Dr. Owen O'Connor

In education, our fellowship program, under the leadership of Drs. Richard Hall, Laahn Foster, and Trish Millard, continue 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, which will bring our total to twelve for the three-year combined Hematology/Oncology fellowship. 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.

In administration, Dr. Christiana Brenin assumed the leadership role of Medical Director of the UVA Breast Center. Dr. Firas El Chaer is the new Medical Director of the infusion center at the Couric building. We are delighted to welcome Rachael Boston, as our new Division Administrator.

Although it was a challenging year for celebrations and in-person meetings, we held a socially distant retreat at Darden, focusing on wellness, teamwork, and education. And we enjoyed each other's company at our family events at King's Family Polo and Critzer's Farm.

It is wonderful to see our team's accomplishments. Of course, we are most grateful for the opportunity to work with such fantastic colleagues in other divisions and Departments, nurses, research coordinators, division staff, and other team members. You all contribute to making the University of Virginia Health such an exceptional place.

~Karen Ballen, MD

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

Division Faculty on National and International Committees and Boards

Dr. Karen Ballen

- Chair, Cord Blood Advisory Group, National Marrow Donor Program
- Chair, Scientific Planning Committee, Cord Blood Connect
- Chair, Public and Professional Affairs, 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. Thomas Loughran

- Board of Directors, AACI

Dr. Matthew Reilley

- 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 & ONCOLOGY

Medical Oncology



Robert Dreicer, MD

Update from Robert Dreicer, MD

The past academic year has seen some notable accomplishments highlighted by the University of Virginia Cancer Center achieving NCI Comprehensive status, supported broadly by the efforts of multiple section faculty in support of the clinical research program.

Selected notable faculty achievements include Dr. Christiana Brenin's appointment as the Medical Director of the UVA Breast Center, Dr. Paul Kunk's appointment as the Medical Director of the Cancer Center's Office of Clinical Research, Dr. Ryan Gentzler's appointment as Chair of the UVA Cancer Center's Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee, Dr. Tri Minh Le's appointment as Director of the GI Medical Oncology Program and Dr. Matthew Reilley's appointment as Director of GI Medical Oncology research.

The section will add two new GU medical oncologists at the beginning of the next academic year, Dr. Paul Viscuse from MD Anderson Cancer Center and Dr. Paul Skeleton from the Moffitt Cancer Center.

Melanoma/and related disorders

Drs. Liz Gaughan

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

APP: Emily Stubbs

Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology and Unknown Primary Neoplasms

Drs. Tri Le, Paul Kunk, and Matthew Reilley

APP: Jenna Ally

APP: Jenna Campo

Genitourinary Medical Oncology

Drs. Michael Devitt and Robert Dreicer

APP: Jennifer Eccles and Katie McGrail

Sarcoma

Drs. Michael Douvas and Johann Hsu

Infusion/Urgent Care

APP: Rachel Crespi, Kelli Hughes, and Melody Noble



UVA Health

Stem Cell Transplant

Update from Karen Ballen, MD

The Stem Cell Transplant and Cellular Therapy Program is ten years old. We have completed over 880 transplants to date and likely will celebrate our 1000th transplant later this year. We receive referrals from all over Virginia, including Virginia Beach, Northern Virginia, and Appalachia / SW Virginia, and have two outreach clinics. We perform transplants for hematologic malignancies, including multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, acute leukemia, myelodysplastic syndrome, and myeloproliferative disorders. Our chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T research program is growing rapidly, and we have both FDA approved and researched CAR T in lymphoma and leukemia. We are a core center with the Blood and Marrow Transplant Clinical Trials Network (BMT CTN) to open cooperative group clinical trials at UVA for our patients. 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.

Stem Cell Transplant

Drs. Karen Ballen, Indumathy Varadarajan, and Leonid Volodin

APP: Hania Bushnaq-Aloul, Jessica Kassay-McAllister, and Christine Mazimba

APP Inpatient: Isabel Burgess, Mary Faith Dudley, Erin Harr, Joshua Humphrey

Hematologic Malignancies

Update from Craig Portell, MD

The Hematologic Malignancy Program continues to grow in both inpatient and outpatient care. The cutaneous lymphoma clinic (Drs. Enrica Marchi, Alejandro Gru, and Thomas Cropley) receives referrals from all over the state. Dr. Emily Ayers received national attention at the American Society of Hematology with her work on COVID in hematologic malignancy. Drs. Craig Portell and Michael Williams continue to lead the field of mantle cell lymphoma, with Dr. Williams receiving a prestigious award from the Lymphoma Research Foundation. Dr. Michael Keng has expanded our quality program and is an international figure in cancer quality. Drs. Firas El Chaer and Michael Douvas have opened several investigator-initiated trials for leukemia. Dr. Francine Garrett-Bakelman is studying epigenetics and older patients with Acute Myeloid Leukemia. In myeloma, Drs. John Densmore and Laahn Foster focus on novel strategies for this population, with many new treatment options for these patients, including cellular therapy.



Craig Portell, MD

Lymphoma and CLL

Drs. Emily Ayers, Enrica Marchi, Craig Portell, and Michael E. Williams

APP: Kim Conrad and Tammy Tedsen

Myeloma

Drs. John Densmore and Laahn Foster

Leukemia

Drs. Michael Douvas, Firas El Chaer, Francine Garrett-Bakelman, and Michael Keng

APP: Kim Conrad and Amelia Hodson

Hematology

Update from Kelly Davidson, MD

Our classical hematology team has had another productive year, treating patients from around the Commonwealth with a broad spectrum of complex, non-malignant hematologic disorders and collaborating with numerous groups within the medical center to improve education and patient care. Dr. Louise Man continues to lead our Adult Comprehensive Hemophilia Center, a grant-supported collaborative effort with Pediatrics, to serve adult patients with bleeding disorders. She leads a bi-monthly multi-disciplinary Thrombosis Conference with colleagues in Vascular Medicine and Interventional Radiology. She has continued to work on guidelines for UVA Health for VTE prevention and management in hospitalized patients with COVID-19. Dr. Hilary Maitland and the VTE coalition continue to decrease year-over-year peri-procedural thrombotic events; they had zero events in January 2022. She is currently working on a quality initiative to improve patient mobility throughout hospitalization. Dr. Kelly Davidson continues her work to expand our Comprehensive Adult Sickle Cell Disorders Program. She and partners in Nephrology have created a multi-disciplinary conference to discuss complex cases involving hematologic and renal diseases. She is collaborating with Obstetrics and Gynecology to improve the management of iron deficiency anemia and reduce the transfusion burden in pregnant women and those with heavy menstrual bleeding.



Kelly Davidson, MD

Non-Malignant Hematology

Drs. Kelly Davidson, Hilary Maitland, and Louise Man

APP: Julie Armatas and Katie Strickler

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

UVA Community Oncology



Elizabeth Gaughan, MD

Update from Elizabeth Gaughan, MD

The University of Virginia Community Oncology Section includes five physicians and three advanced practice providers serving patients with the spectrum of hematologic and solid tumor diagnoses in Fishersville, Pantops, and Culpeper. Our team oversees the multi-disciplinary infusion centers at each location that have expanded to include 61 active infusion chairs. In the last year, we emphasized patient access and standardization of staffing models throughout all UVA Oncology sites. Our convenient office locations afford all UVA patients the ability to be seen quickly and close to home. When appropriate, our team participates in tumor boards and facilitates referrals to the sub-specialists and clinical trials at the Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Center. In November 2021, we onboarded the IQueue software in Fishersville and Pantops, thus linking UVA infusion services from the main center to our community sites providing enhanced access and flexibility for all patients and teams that utilize our services. Our team is grateful for the support of our Division colleagues who assisted with Infusion Center coverage during periods of low staffing.

We welcomed Dr. Gwen Garcia to our UVA Cancer Center Augusta team in August 2021, and we look forward to the addition of Dr. Mary Helen Witt in May 2022. Along with Dr. Nick Paphitis and Meera Kumar, PA-C, we now have a four-provider team in Augusta to facilitate Hematology and Oncology patient access and care. The UVA Cancer Center Augusta also welcomed Dr. Linda Martin, Thoracic Surgery, and Dr. Tracey Krupski, Urologic Oncology, to expand our cancer services. They joined Dr. David Brenin, Breast Surgery, to offer UVA surgical oncology expertise to our patients in the Shenandoah Valley. In conjunction with the Telemedicine program and Anesthesia, our team set up remote PETC capabilities to facilitate remote anesthesia evaluation from our Augusta clinic.

At the University of Virginia Cancer Center Pantops, Dr. Johann Hsu leads the Division's Adult Sarcoma program and Tumor Board. Susie Herndon, MSN, RN, AGNP-C, CCRC, AOCNP joined our team in March 2022. In addition to her clinical practice, Ms. Herndon will serve as one of the inaugural APP lead positions within the Cancer Service Line. Clinical trials efforts continue at UVA Cancer Center Pantops, which will be the backbone for expanding these services to our other regional sites in the future. Construction completed in 2021 helped expand our infusion chairs, update our infusion pharmacy and create a UVA retail pharmacy in Pantops.

The UVA Cancer Care Culpeper team consists of Dr. Pranav Patel, Dr. Ali Mahjoub, and Michelle Otto, NP. They run a busy practice out of the Culpeper Medical Center, now part of UVA Community Health. In the last Year, PET capabilities were established in Culpeper, with UVA Nuclear Medicine providing study interpretations. Efforts are underway to purchase a new linear accelerator and the construction of a new vault to continue to offer radiation services for UVA patients. In conjunction with the Telemedicine program, our team set up a connection with the UVA Neurosurgery clinic for Gamma Knife Radiosurgery consultations.

Augusta Location

Drs. Gwenalyn Garcia and Nicholas Paphitis

APP: Meera Kumar

Culpeper Location

Drs. Ali Mahjoub and Pranav Patel

APP: Michelle Otto

Charlottesville/Pantops Location

Dr. Johann Hsu

APP: Susie Herndon

2022 Updates in Hematology and Hematologic Malignancies April 22, 2022

**Charlottesville Omni Hotel
212 Ridge McIntire Road, Charlottesville**

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.

More information at www.cmevillage.com

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

Clinical Updates

Clinical Volumes for FY 21 continued to grow for both Inpatient and Outpatient areas, despite continued COVID-19 impacts as patients and referring providers continued to choose the University of Virginia for care during the pandemic.

Our providers continue to demonstrate perseverance and patience as we continue to deliver world-class, compassionate care as our operations continue to expand and we maneuver through the challenges of COVID-19.

Clinical Volume Chart FY2019 - FY2021			
	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Inpatient Attending	13,622	13,351	14,182
Inpatient Consults	2,928	2,700	2,733
Inpatient Totals	16,550	16,051	16,915
Outpatient New and Consults	4,380	4,125	4,611
Established Outpatient Visits	42,072	40,721	43,876
Outpatient Totals	46,452	44,846	48,487

Key Infusion Center Initiatives

- January 2021- Operationalization of transition to biosimilar agents
- February 2021- Integration of Infusion Center DOD to emergency responses
- March 2021- Expansion of weekend and holiday hours of operation
- March 2021- Standardization of falls intervention program across all infusion centers
- March 2021- Trial of Infusion Center Concierge (DHC)
- March 2021- The remaining five chairs opened in the infusion center
- April 2021- Launch of early discharge autotransplant program
- May 2021- Support activities of off-grounds sites through provision of day to day leadership, supplemental staffing, and onboarding of new team member
- May 2021- Initiation of transition of aged out pediatric patients for non-oncology infusion treatment (from Battle Building) to ECCCC
- October- November 2021- Support implementation of iQueue at the off-grounds locations
- December 2021- Hired final APP for infusion center
- Throughout 2021 - Continued to provide care for both oncology and non-oncology COVID positive infusion patients

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY GRAND ROUNDS

**First Wednesday each Month, 8 - 9am
Via Zoom**

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

Research Funding Data

All Research Awards		
2020 Calendar Year: \$6,107,000	FY 2021 \$7,107,000	FY 2022 (Projected) \$8,460,587

Trials

Hematology/Oncology faculty serve as PIs on 133 active protocols.
Selected examples across the disease teams are as follows:

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
Principal Investigator: Varadarajan, Indumathy

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
Principal Investigator: Marchi, Enrica

A Randomized Study of Daratumumab Plus Lenalidomide Versus Lenalidomide Alone as Maintenance Treatment in Patients with Newly Multiple Myeloma Who Are Minimal Residual Disease Positive After Frontline Autologous Stem Cell Transplant
Principal Investigator: Foster, Laahn

A Phase 2, Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study to Evaluate Safety, Tolerability, and Efficacy of TAK-079 in Patients With Persistent/Chronic Primary Immune Thrombocytopenia
Principal Investigator: Davidson, Kelly

Breast

A Pilot Study of Neoadjuvant Endocrine Therapy Tolerance to Inform Treatment Decisions for Adjuvant Radiation in Geriatric, Early Stage ER+ Breast Cancer
Principal Investigator: Millard, Trish

CALM: Chronic & Acute Leukemia/MDS & MPN

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)
Principal Investigator: Douvas, Michael

Developmental Therapeutics

A phase I/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
Principal Investigator: Devitt, Michael

Head & Neck

A Phase III, Randomized, Open-label Study to Evaluate Pembrolizumab as Neoadjuvant Therapy and in Combination With Standard of Care as Adjuvant Therapy for Stage III-IVA Resectable Locoregionally Advanced Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (LA HNSCC)
Principal Investigator: Kaur, Varinder

Melanoma

A trial to evaluate the safety and immunogenicity of a helper peptide vaccine plus combination of BRAF inhibition and MEK inhibition (Mel61)
Principal Investigator: Gaughan, Elizabeth

Thoracic

CHIO3 Trial: CHemotherapy Combined with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor for Operable Stage IIIA/B Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
Principal Investigator: Gentzler, Ryan

An open-label multicenter phase Ib study of AN0025 in combination with pembrolizumab in patients advanced solid tumors
Principal Investigator: Reilley, Matthew

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

Pinnacle of Excellence Award Presentation



Bush Bell and Lisa Warner

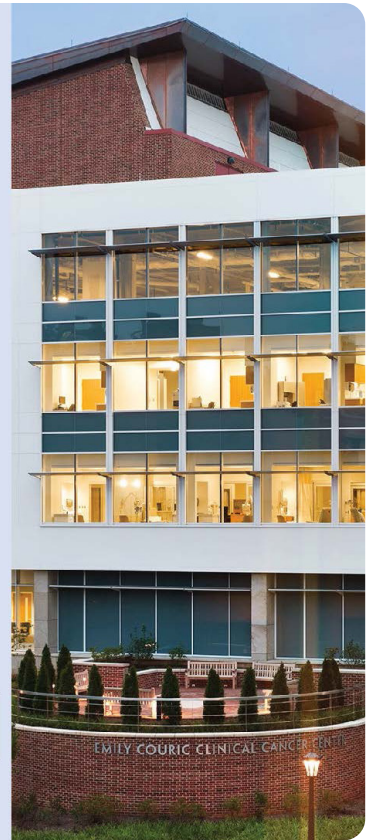
We are proud to announce that the Emily Couric Hematology Oncology West Clinic has been recognized by Press Ganey as a 2021 Pinnacle of Excellence Award winner.



This prestigious award is a reflection of their remarkable work and unwavering commitment to our mission of Transforming Health and Inspiring hope for all Virginians and beyond.

The team is recognized for exhibiting and consistently maintaining the highest levels of standards in the Patient Experience category over three years. This is the second year in a row that the clinic has received this prestigious award and the only clinic at UVA Health to earn this recognition.

2021
AWARD WINNER



From left: Wendy Mbugua, Reid Adams, Thomas Loughran Jr., Michael E. Williams, Veronica Brill, Wendy Horton, Sarah Kirby, and Lisa Warner

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

Educational Updates

Message from the Program Director

I am very fortunate to be the program director of the University of Virginia Hematology/Oncology program. Simply put, we have an outstanding fellowship program built around our exceptional fellows.

This year we welcomed four new fellows into our program – **Nate Roberts, MD**, who joined us from Wake Forest, **Chris Thomas MBBS**, who joined us from the University of Kentucky, **Will Thomas, MD**, who joined us from the University of Alabama Birmingham, and **Phil Young, MD** who joined us from UVA. All four of our first-year fellows have done an excellent job assimilating into the program and diving into our clinical and research programs.



Richard Hall, MD

We successfully matched four new fellows into our program in December 2021. **Jenna Schlefman, MD**, and **Shipra Maheshwari, MD**, will join us from our UVA internal medicine program. **Jeffrey Lantz, DO**, will join us from Wake Forest, and **Jack Masur, MD**, will join us from the University of Maryland. We were thrilled with our match this year, and I am grateful for our faculty who participated in our 2021 recruitment season.

We have four graduating fellows who will leave our program, having contributed academically and personally to its growth. All four of our graduating fellows entered fellowship before the pandemic. They were uniquely affected by short interruptions in training and global anxiety of providing care for hematology/oncology patients during the past two years. I have been deeply impressed by their resilience in the face of adversity and their commitment to personal growth and each other since joining our program. We look forward to celebrating their accomplishments in May 2022.

Our program is looking forward to warmer months ahead, growing closer as a team, and building on our success in the coming academic year.

~ Richard Hall, MD

2022 Graduating Fellows

Christian Barlow, MD



Christian has been a regular consumer of pickle chips throughout fellowship, but more importantly, he has been a leader in our program with his overall positive outlook and exceptional patient care. Christian is joining Shenandoah Oncology in Winchester, VA, later this summer.

Lindsey Shantzer, MD



Since joining our program, Lindsey has been a constant source of humor and optimism with a penchant for encouraging others. She has worked on multiple academic projects during her fellowship. She will be returning to the Philadelphia region to practice at Fox Chase Cancer Center, focusing on breast oncology this summer.

Dave Riley, MD



Dave has been our chief fellow this year. He became our resident expert in Qualtrics survey development his first year (and in all seriousness, has helped lead multiple academic projects throughout his fellowship). Dave is joining Sentara Martha Jefferson in Charlottesville, VA, upon graduation.

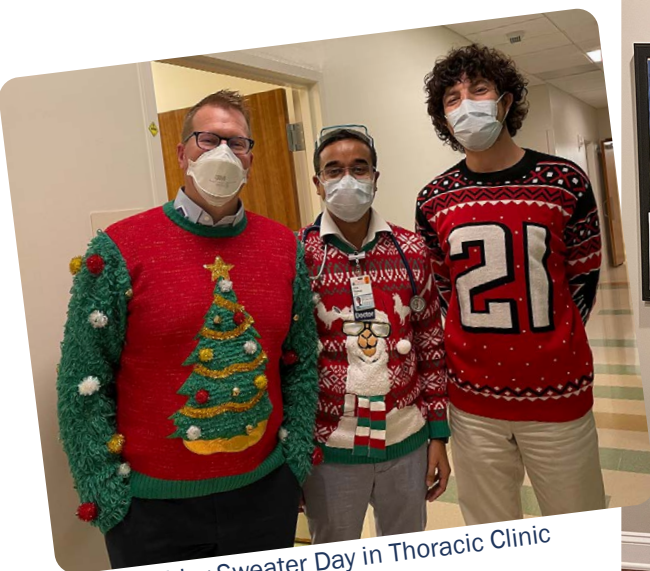
Melissa Yacur, MD



Melissa transferred into our program in January 2021, mid pandemic, and she assimilated so quickly it was almost as if she had been with us from the beginning. Melissa is a new mom, and she will be joining INOVA in Fairfax, VA, with a focus in thoracic oncology upon graduation.

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

Educational Updates



Holiday Sweater Day in Thoracic Clinic



Return of Chili Night with the Halls



Fellow's Monthly Resiliency Conference



King's Family Polo Event

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

Recent Events - The American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting 2021 December 11-13 in Atlanta, Georgia



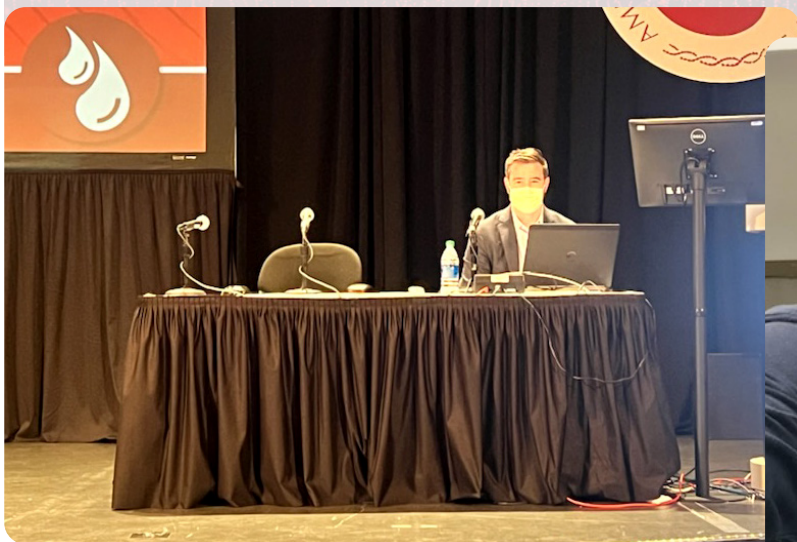
Dr. Emily Ayers, Dr. Firas El Chaer, Amy Morris, Pharm D



Drs. Craig Portell, Michael E. Williams, and Firas El Chaer



Dr. Firas El Chaer & Amy Morris, Pharm D



Dr. Craig Portell moderating a session



(Dr. Firas El Chaer, Amy Morris, Pharm D, Dr. Victor Orellana-Noia)

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

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DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

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Hematology/Oncology Family Event at Critzer Family Farm

October 16, 2021



DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

STAFF PROFILE - Sandra Draper



Sandy with her husband

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at the University of Virginia for 21 years in Hematology/Oncology; before that, I worked in mortgage lending. I live in Fluvanna County with my husband of 36 years, grandson, and two dogs. I have three children and two grandchildren.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

I was born here in Charlottesville at UVA and have lived in Charlottesville and surrounding counties.

What excites you about your work?

I enjoy the people I work with.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?

Last year, my husband and I purchased a camper to enjoy many more vacations with our family.

Next life?

I want to retire and enjoy time with my family.

What are you usually doing in your spare time?

Spending time with my favorite two grandsons, watching sports or attending sporting events, going to car shows with my husband and camping with my family.



Grandchildren and granddogs



Sandy's themed trees

Favorite vacation/activity spot?

Orlando Florida, Disney

The best advice anyone ever gave you?

From my dad, "Do not put off something you can do today, until tomorrow."

What about you would surprise us?

I love holidays and decorating for all of them. I am obsessed with Christmas. I decorate at least twenty or more themed trees each Year for Christmas, including a UVA tree. I am a Redskins fan and UVA fan.

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

APP PROFILE - Joshua Humphries



Hollie and Josh

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at UVA for just over two years with the SCT program. Before this job, I worked as a bedside RN. I live over in Lochlyn Hill with my wife, Hollie, and dog, Milo.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

My wife got accepted to the Anesthesia residency here at UVA, so we came here and made a new home.

What excites you about your work?

I enjoy getting to know the patients I see. They come from so many walks of life, and it is fascinating to hear their stories.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?

Being the highly disputed badminton champion among my college friend group.

Next life?

Recently, Formula 1 driver has become my new dream job. Traveling the world and driving fast cars seems like a nice way to live.

What are you usually doing in your spare time?

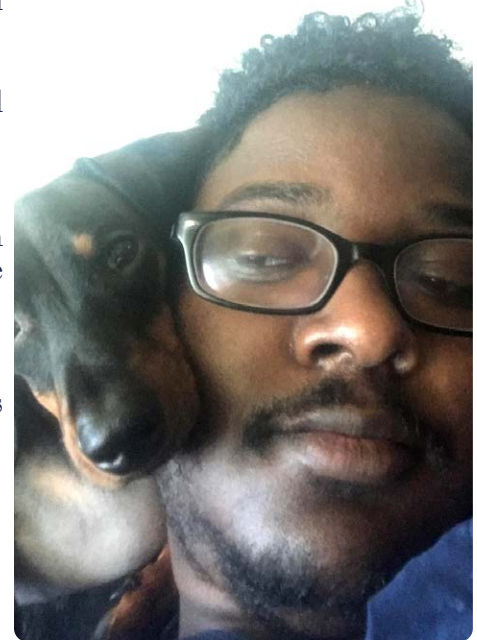
Spending time with my wife, reading/watching tv at home, and trying to learn how to cook without setting off the fire alarm. I recently discovered the difference between flour and corn starch, so I am making progress.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?

I spent a lot of time in Gatlinburg, TN growing up and have a lot of great memories there, so I like to go back when I can.

Most admired person, and why?

My father; he is just an amazing human being.



Milo and Josh



Hollie, Josh's brother, and Josh

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

Speak up.

What about you would surprise us?

I am a huge geek.... but that is not a surprise to anyone!

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

FACULTY PROFILE - Gwenalyn Garcia



Dr. Gwen Garcia

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

After working as a community oncologist in West Virginia for four years, I joined the Community Oncology team seven months ago at the University of Virginia Hematology/Oncology team. I was raised and educated in the Philippines, and it has been a long and exciting journey so far. I completed postgraduate training in New Jersey and New York before moving to West Virginia and eventually to central Virginia.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

My husband accepted a position at UVA and brought me along!

What excites you about your work?

I enjoy supporting my patients during their challenges and celebrating in their successes.

Thanks to scientific breakthroughs, the ability to continually offer new and cutting edge anti-cancer therapies, with the hope of turning what was once a uniformly devastating disease into more controllable and even curable.

Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?
Becoming an aunt to one (soon to be two), little ones!

Next life?

My dream job is to be a world traveler.

What are you usually doing in your spare time?

I have enjoyed traveling, primarily to domestic destinations, these past two years! When not able to travel, I find that trying out different cuisines, either at restaurants or cooking recipes at home, makes for a pretty good substitute.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?

The beach. Every February, I need a beach trip when winter starts feeling a little too long.

Most admired person, and why?

My grandfather was an Air Force veteran who served in World War II. He was imprisoned during his service and survived against all odds. He was up and dancing until age 99 and lived to the ripe old age of 101.



Dr. Garcia and her family

Best advice anyone ever gave you?

The sun will come out tomorrow.

What about you would surprise us?

I began studying French two years ago to communicate better with my mother-in-law. I learned on an iPhone app and can now carry on a basic conversation in French!



Dr. Garcia and her husband

DIVISION OF HEMATOLOGY & ONCOLOGY

FACULTY PROFILE - Charles E. Chalfant



Charles Chalfant, PhD and wife at a local wine festival

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at the University of Virginia for five months, after a five-year stint as Chair of Cell Biology, Microbiology, and Molecular Biology at my former institution. Before that, I served in many capacities at Virginia Commonwealth University - School of Medicine and the VCU Massey Cancer Center for 15 years. I am also a Senior Research Career Scientist in the Veterans Administration (>20 years). My laboratory undertakes research in cancer cell signaling spanning basic science to clinical research. We focus on how signal transduction cascades are dysregulated in disease states to provide novel targets for new and precision-based therapies.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

After ten years in University and Cancer Center Administration, I wanted to get back to just overseeing my research program, which is why I started this career in the first place. UVA-SOM and Cancer Center provide an excellent environment for that purpose, and I am blessed to be here where I can collaborate with the likes of Mark Kester and Tom Loughran.

What excites you about your work?

Solving complex problems and mentoring young scientists is one of the greatest things about biomedical research. There is so much that we still do not know, but every little discovery leads to a new path to explore. It is ever-changing, and in the end, you make a difference to the health of others, even if it is from someone else building upon your research. There is nothing better or more exciting, and every day there is some discovery in the laboratory, which is extraordinary and unexpected!

Proudest/greatest achievement outside the professional realm?

Although cliché, my family. My kids are grown and just amazing people. They are so much more advanced in their maturity and skills than I at a young age. I marvel at them, and it is due to my wife, not me. Also, I am proud that my wife still puts up with me. That is a miracle, and she should have sainthood.

Next life?

Umbrella in my drink, never leave the beach, never write another grant, never write another IRB, IBC, or IACUC protocol (never having to calculate the number of mice born!). Every year another layer of unneeded bureaucracy! I am also thinking, Captain of the Starship Enterprise, if I have to leave the beach and do something.

What are you usually doing in your spare time?

Spare time, what is that? No successful researcher has spare time if they want to keep their laboratory infrastructure and extramural funding. The day you relax is the day that you should retire.

Favorite vacation/activity spot?

It used to be Charleston, SC, but that is now flooding all the time due to global warming and way overpriced and congested now. I think Cape Charles and Chincoteague are our favorite spots now. The coast of Portugal is also nice in Caparica. There is nothing like Sangria and chicken gizzards for 5 Euro in a cabana with your wife while watching the sunset.

Most admired person, and why?

My Father. He worked hard for years to support the family, commuting to Washington, DC every day. He had a great work ethic that I aspire to follow. Few people know all of his actual contributions due to his high-level security clearances. I do know that he is the reason US Customs can communicate with all foreign transportation coming to the US.



Charles Chalfant, Ph.D. with son and daughter on the summit of Old Rag Mountain

Best advice anyone ever gave you?

My research mentor, Dr. Yusuf Hannun, who still denies that he said this, asked me one day why I did all of my assigned experiments. I pulled a Forest Gump and said, "Because you told me to do them, here is the list." He said, "You should just do the experiments you think will answer your scientific questions and further validate your hypotheses. Why are you listening to me?". After that, whenever he gave me a list of experiments (which he made us give him a xerox copy), the original copy never left the xerox machine and went into the trash can. My career took off after that.

What about you would surprise us?

I am not as boring as people would think. For example, I am a certified PADI SCUBA Instructor, and I have had dives in some pretty dangerous places.



Charles Chalfant, Ph.D. and son on Sólheimajökull glacier in Iceland