

MEDICINE

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MATTERS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

JULY 2022



As we head into the summer months, I hope that everyone has some time to enjoy precious time away from work. Never before has time to recharge and refresh been as important. While I recognize that all of you are incredibly dedicated to your patients and colleagues, please make sure that when you do take time away, you are unplugged and focused on yourself, your family, and friends. It will pay dividends.

This edition of Medicine Matters focuses on the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, one of the premier divisions in the country with a storied tradition and history of excellence in clinical care, education, and research. I am also very excited that Dr. Andy Wang, a world-renowned endoscopy leader, will be assuming the role of Division Chief on July 1. Dr. Wang stood out among many outstanding candidates after a national search. He will be joined by an exceptional leadership team that is charged with developing a strategic plan that will lead us for the next several years. The demands on providers of clinical care in gastroenterology and hepatology have exploded in recent years, and the innovation in technology and clinical care has evolved rapidly; our Division is leading the way in these endeavors. As you read about the many accomplishments of the Division, I am sure you will be impressed by their research, educational excellence, and highly differentiated clinical care that spans many areas from liver transplantation to inflammatory bowel disease. Please congratulate them on their success.

With best wishes,

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



DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MISSION

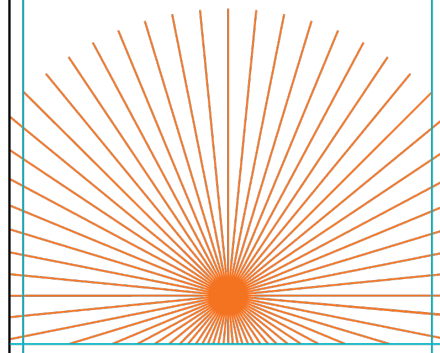
We are dedicated to preventing disease and treating illness, educating and inspiring future leaders in the field of internal medicine, and supporting innovative biomedical research.

VALUES

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

PLEDGE

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



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[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 May 31, 2022

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	\$ Variance YTD
Work RVUs	976,529	981,194	4,665
Clinical Receipts (NPSR)	63,198,121	63,680,003	481,882
Total Revenues	172,703,911	186,584,185	13,880,274
Total Expenditures	171,767,339	182,588,228	(10,820,890)
Net Income	936,573	3,995,957	3,059,384

Summary Explanation of Variance:

For the fiscal year through May 2022 DOM posted a consolidated net gain of \$4.0M and a favorable variance to YTD net income budget of \$3.1M.

Clinical receipts outperformed budget by \$842K due to higher clinical charge volumes.

Total expenditures outpaced budget driven by unbudgeted grant expenditures on new and existing awards.

Total revenues include FY22 CARES Phase 3 Allocations of \$460K, Phase 4 PRF Allocation of \$374K and \$393K Endowment revenue recorded for June.

New studies opened since May 1, 2022

Cellular Therapies

Phase I Study of Tagraxofusp for Post-Transplant Maintenance for Patients with CD 123+ Acute Myeloid Leukemia, Myelofibrosis and Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukemia

HSR210434

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05233618

Sponsor: University of Virginia

Principal Investigator: Ballen, Karen

Study Contact: Ann Brown amb8e@virginia.edu

Study Contact: Cara Hanby clh5ke@virginia.edu 434-243-9900



Mindfulness Matters

A Newsletter from the
UVA Mindfulness Center

Congratulations Dr. Mitch Rosner



The Thomas Jefferson Award

Dr. Mitchell H. Rosner has been presented with the Thomas Jefferson Award for service to the University in recognition of his lifetime of service as Chair of the Department of Medicine and his exceptional work in navigating the University through the vicissitudes of managing Covid-19 testing management and policy throughout the pandemic. The Thomas Jefferson Award is the highest honor given to members of the University of Virginia community.

"Mitch led the infrastructure changes necessary to care for COVID-19 patients, organized and managed for surge capacity, quickly launched a telehealth initiative, and led the creation of community-based testing and vaccination centers.

~ President Jim Ryan

"What he did and how he did it drove the effectiveness of this University's response to a once-in-a-lifetime challenge. He is thoughtful, level-headed, good-humored, invaluable, wise, even-keeled, humane, and humble - consummate servant leader." ~ Provost Liz Magill

DOM UPDATES & NOTES



Mitch Rosner MD



Coleen McNamara MD



Angela Taylor MD



Daisy Zhu, MD



Rebecca Dillingham MD



Aditya Sharma MBBS



Michael Brown, PhD



James Platts-Mills MD



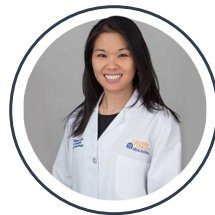
Firas El Chaer MD



Johann Hsu MD MPH



Paul Kunk MD



Louise Mann MD



Matthew Reilley MD

Awards and Achievements

Congratulations to **Dr. Mitchell Rosner**, (Division of Nephrology and Department of Medicine Chair), who has been presented with the *Thomas Jefferson Award* for service to the University in recognition of his lifetime of service. The award is the highest honor given to members of the University of Virginia community. [Read More...](#)

Congratulations to **Dr. Coleen McNamara** and **Dr. Angela Taylor** (Division of Cardiovascular Medicine), who have been presented with the *Leducq Intn'l Network of Excellence Award* as part of an international consortium for a project for Checkpoint Athero that will explore the potential of immune checkpoint therapy for atherosclerosis. [Learn More...](#)

Congratulations to Pulmonary and Critical Care fellow **Dr. Daisy Zhu**, who received an award from the center to investigate the cell signals and pathways that lead to the development of the lung's vascular network.

Congratulations to **Dr. Rebecca Dillingham** (Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health) and **Dr. Karen Ingersoll** (Research and Evaluation) whose mobile platform, designed to support the care of people with HIV, has been recognized as a *National Best Practice*, by the *Health Resources and Services Administration*.

Congratulations to **Dr. Aditya Sharma** (Division of Cardiovascular Medicine) on his promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.

Congratulations to **Dr. Michael Brown** (Division of Nephrology) who received a grant from Commonwealth Health Research Board to study "*Risky Variants in Human Cardiovascular Disease*."

Congratulations to **Dr. James Platts-Mills** (Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health) on his feature in *The Atlantic*, "[Is a Common Virus Suddenly Causing Liver Failure in Kids?](#)"

Congratulations to **Dr. Firas El Chaer** in (Division of Hematology/Oncology) on being named *Inpatient Attending of the Year* by the medical residents.

Congratulations to **Drs. Johann Hsu, Paul Kunk, Louise Man, and Matthew Reilley** celebrated this month for five years with the Division of Hematology/Oncology.

Congratulations to **Dr. Matthew Reilley** who was appointed inaugural Director of the UVA Phase I Program.



THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE CONGRATULATES UVA CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

**Ranked #1 in Virginia for
Second Consecutive Year**

In Memoriam: Kathryn Dort

We are sad and heartbroken to share the loss of Kathryn Dort NP, provider, and friend to so many. Kathryn passed away suddenly on Tuesday, May 17th. Kathryn was in practice caring for patients for 23 years. She was a beloved provider to all in the Department of Medicine, her patients and colleagues, the Division of Infectious Disease, Infectious Disease clinic, the Ryan White Program, and UVA health. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers. A note from one of Kathryn's Colleagues below summarizes Kathryn's devotion and commitment to our patients and our entire UVA Health team.



Kathryn Dort NP

We are truly without words when it comes to the loss of Kathryn. I have known her for over twenty years. She was a compassionate provider of care, colleague, and friend. She cared so much for her patients and truly went above and beyond to meet their needs. She never rushed them and made them feel that they were most important at that moment. She has a great way of making them feel included in every step of care. She simply cannot be replaced, but her legacy of committed care can, must, and will be carried forward as she would want no less.



The Division of Hematology/Oncology gathered at the Colonnade Club for a Spring celebration in June.

**Follow DOM
on Twitter.
Visit us
Here**



Save the Date!

2022 Michael J. Weber Symposium

The second annual Michael J. Weber Symposium to honor Dr. Weber's life and achievements will be held on October 14, 2022. The central theme will be "Multi-Omics Precision Oncology"

More information here: [2022 Michael J. Weber Symposium](#)



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

**UVAHS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
FOR UVA COVID-19
COMMUNITY TESTING PROGRAM**

SIGN UP HERE

UVA Aims to Save Kids from Dangerous Infections Using a Single-Celled Amoeba

Dr. Shannon Moonah, from the Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health who uses innovative research to use a harmless amoeba to protect children from dangerous gut infections has won critical financial support from The Hartwell Foundation. Read more... (UVA Today, Photo Dan Addison)



The Role of Post Transplant Maintenance Therapy in AML

Dr. Firas El Chaer, from the Division of Hematology/Oncology, discusses the role of post-transplant maintenance therapy in acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and recent advances in acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL) in two separate videos - click on title. (YouTube)

Advances and Unmet Needs in APL



FRIDAYS AT NOON via Zoom
Click for details and schedule.

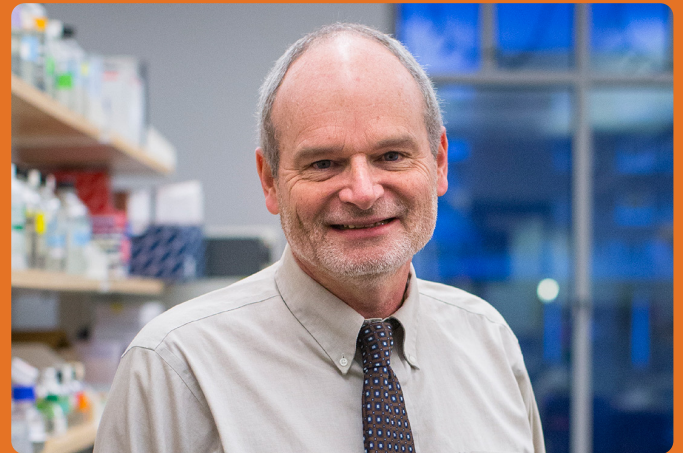
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Dr. Petri Reflects on His Experience with COVID-19 & Testing Positive with the Virus

(Daily Progress)



Stay up-to-date with the Podcast, "This Medicine Life" with Dr. Taison Bell

In addition to working with the School of Medicine Faculty Development Office and other groups within UVA medicine, Department of Medicine senior leadership team Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs, Taison Bell, MD Dr. Bell's podcast called "This Medicine Life," interviews those both inside and outside of UVA to connect and share stories and tips for success and growth as a community. Click to listen.



Amid Mid Headlines About Disease, Important Progress in the Global Battle Against TB

Dr. Scott Heysell and Dr. Stellah Mpagama are heading up the partnership to train Tanzanian postdoctoral researchers to work specifically on the intersection between malnutrition and tuberculosis. They are making important progress in their longstanding efforts to better understand, prevent and treat tuberculosis, and they've received a \$1.25 million boost for a partnership with colleagues in Tanzania to train the next generation of front-line soldiers in the war against the disease. Read More... (UVAToday)



Committee Member Dr. Michael Nelson Weighs in on the Authorization by the FDA of Novavax's Covid-19 Vaccine (CNN)

Vaccine advisers to the US Food and Drug Administration decided in June that authorizing Novavax's Covid-19 vaccine – which uses different technology from the three vaccines currently in use in the US – for emergency use in adults would be beneficial.



Welcome To The World



Congratulations to Caleb and Jen Shervinskie who welcomed daughter Emory on June 16, 2022.

Fact check: Claim Misinterprets Data from a 2021 Pfizer Report (USAToday)

Dr. Patrick Jackson debunks false claims.



Department of Medicine Education Update

By Eric Houpt MD

Every year, May brings a flurry of education activities and honors as one class of residents and chief residents close out the academic year.

Mulholland Department Teaching Award

Each year, the outgoing medical students select a clinical department to recognize for providing the best educational experience. For the seventh straight year, the Department of Medicine was honored by our students with this award. This is the first time in the 35-year history of the Mulholland Department Award that a department has won this many consecutive awards. It is a testament to the daily commitment to education and inclusion of our students in the variety of experiences they rotate through in our Department. It is truly an award that takes all of us--staff, residents, fellows, and faculty. Thank you, and congratulations!

MAY 20- Chief Resident Grand Rounds and Residency Program Awards

Outgoing chief residents—**Dr. Jamey Cutts, Dr. Athidi Earasi, Dr. Rebecca Clemo, and Dr. Izzy Budnick** — did a phenomenal job teaching and leading the program through the second year of the pandemic. Their Grand Rounds encapsulated the year in residency program curriculum and clinical care with remarkable achievements despite the constant pivots and distractions of the pandemic.

We honored many residents, faculty, and staff in our year-end awards:

Outpatient Nurse of the Year: **Melissa Warren, UMA**

Inpatient Nurse of the Year: **Jessica Dix, 3Central**

Case Manager of the Year: **Becky Monteith, 3West**

Emergency Medicine Resident of the Year: **Tatum Lemly MD**

Most Outstanding Fellow: **Patrick Stafford MD, Cardiology**

Most Outstanding Inpatient Attending: **Firas El Chaer MD, Hematology-Oncology**

Most Outstanding Outpatient Attending: (tie) **Rachel Kon MD and Joel Schectman MD**

John Dunn Award: **H. Reed Davis MD**

Leadership Service and Advocacy Award: **Zach Boggs MD**

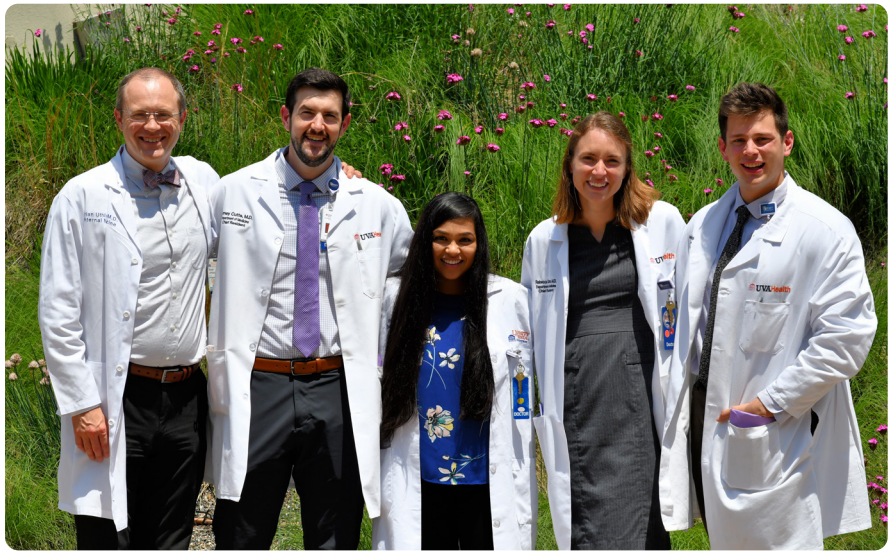
Intern Professionalism Award: **Daniel Patterson MD**

Resident Teaching and Mentorship Award: **John Popovich MD**

Esprit de Corps Award: **Kara Harrison MD**

Mulholland Teaching Award: **Laura Mitchell MD**

Brodie Resident Clinician Award: **Erin Baldwin MD and Sean Dougherty MD**



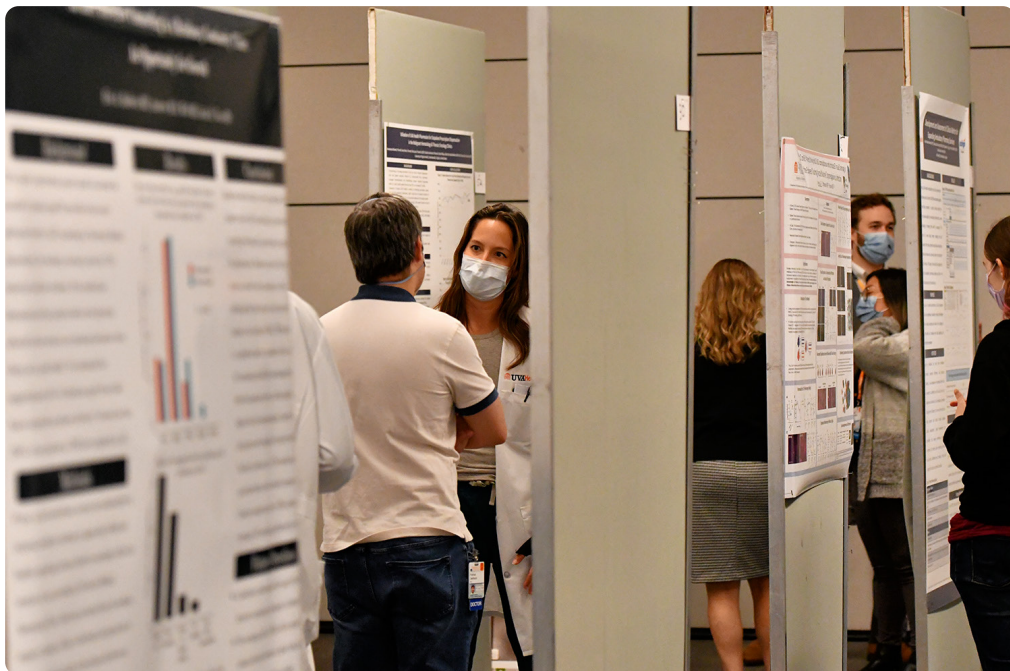
From left: Drs. Eric Houpt, Jamey Cutts, Athidi Earasi, Rebecca Clemo, Izzy Budnick

Follow UVA Cardiology Fellowship Twitter

Department of Medicine Education Update

MAY 24 and 27: Carey, Marshall, and Thorner Scholars' Week

The Department of Medicine's Carey, Marshall and Thorner Research & Scholar's Day was held in the Education Resource Center on May 24 and 27, 2022. This annual research celebration of the Department of Medicine included more than 60 presentations as well as 60 publications by trainees. Discoveries spanned all of the disciplines of Medicine, including allergy, immunology, endocrinology, nephrology, pulmonology, general medicine, gastroenterology, cardiology, infectious diseases, hematology and oncology, and rheumatology. Presenters included residents and interns, subspecialty fellows, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and undergraduates. The titles of the presentations by the 12 award winners are given below, as a sample of the exciting science that is being conducted by members of the Department of Medicine.



Shyr-Te Ju Award

Glenda Canderan - *"Survivors of Severe COVID-19 with Long-Haul Respiratory Symptoms Display Enhanced Activation of Circulating T Cells."*

Oral Presentation Awards

Christian Widere - *"Single-cell transcriptomic landscape of Leukotriene A4 Hydrolase modulation in Klebsiella pneumoniae infection."*

Brian Peterson - *"A tool for formative assessment of clinical reasoning during urgent clinical care."*

Poster Presentation Awards:

Fabian Bolte - *"Association of Sarcopenia with Survival in Advanced NSCLC Patients Receiving Concurrent Immunotherapy and Chemotherapy."*

Shipra Maheshwari - *"Comparison of overall survival in patients with HPV+ Oropharyngeal carcinoma with Urban or Rural residence."*

Joe Mort - *"Real-world analysis of the risks of thrombotic and bleeding events in patients receiving pegylated asparaginase for treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukemia."*

Aspen Robinson - *"A Secretory Phenotype Associated with Engulfment and Cell Motility Protein, ELMO1."*

Jessica Annis - *"Cmv5s induces splenic tissue damage and myeloid population changes during acute murine cytomegalovirus infection."*

Patricia Rodriguez-Lozano - *"Enhanced Cardiovascular Risk Assessment in United States Subjects for Deployment to Antarctica."*

Publication Awards

Sean Dougherty - *"IgA Nephropathy secondary to Ipilimumab Use. Case Reports in Nephrology and Dialysis."*

Toral Patel - *"Assessing Cardiac Remodeling in Aortic Regurgitation Using Indexed Extracellular Volume: More Than Meets the 'i'?" * J Am Coll Cardiol Img. 2021 Nov, 14 (11) 2183-2185."*

Sayo McCowin - *"Protein Kinase C-α is a gatekeeper of Cryptosporidium sporozoite adherence and invasion." Infect Immun. 2022 Jan 31;iai0067921."*

Department of Medicine Education Update

JUNE/JULY Transitions

Our PGY3 graduates finish up in June 2022 and are heading to places near and far for jobs in general medicine or continuing in subspecialty fellowships. This has been a great class that throughout the pandemic has stepped up time and time again into the challenges of residency training during the pandemic. We held a wonderful graduation celebration in the Dome Room of the Rotunda on May 27, honoring our graduates and having a time of fellowship with them and many of their families. To our class of 2022, congratulations and thank you!



**Thank you
Chiefs and
Class of
2022**



**Welcome
New Chief
Residents!**

Our new chief resident class is off and running in their first month. We are excited for the accomplishments, teaching, and leadership that awaits us with Dr. Sean Dougherty, Dr. Sam Konkol, Dr. Chelsea Lau, and Dr. Laura Mitchell.

July first marks the transition of an incoming intern class. We look forward to the accomplishments that lie ahead for this group as they enter into the life and work of the Department this year. Please welcome them as you meet them to the DOM family.

From left: Laura Mitchell, Sam Konkol, Chelsea Lau, Sean Dougherty



**Link to
New Intern
Roster**

Early Career Faculty Retreat

The Department of Medicine held an Early Career Faculty Retreat at Morven Farm on Friday June 24th. It was the first in-person retreat held since 2018! The event featured a discussion on promotion, tenure, and career development by Dr. Sue Pollart as well as finance and retirements talks from Greg Switzer (TIAA) and Jeff Burton (UPG Board). Finally, an inspiring keynote was delivered by Dr. Kemi Doll, a Gynecological-Oncologist and career development coach at the University of Washington.

~Taison Bell, MD



Attendees broke into discussion groups



Dr Sue Pollart discusses career development



Dr Kemi Doll delivers the keynote faculty



Greg Switzer speaks about personal finance



Jeff Burton talks about retirement

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

Message from the Division Leadership Team: Curtis Argo MD, Andrew Copland MD, Neeral Shah MD, Anne Tuskey MD, and Andrew Wang MD



Curtis Argo MD



Andrew Copland MD



Neeral Shah MD



Anne Tuskey MD



Andrew Wang MD

The Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology has undergone several transitions over the last year, including a transitional leadership team during the national search and interview process for a new division chief. That process came to a very gratifying end in seeing Andrew Y. Wang, MD, Professor of Medicine, Section Chief and Director of Interventional Endoscopy, and Director of the Advanced Fellowship program at UVA, named as our new Division Chief. Dr. Wang assumes his new role on July 1, 2022.

We look forward to working with Dr. Wang to pursue our Division's clinical, educational, and research objectives in exciting and productive directions.

Luminal Section

The Luminal Gastroenterology Section of the Division has remained active and engaged in the clinical and academic missions of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the University of Virginia. Clinical demand for GI services in diagnostic/therapeutic GI and colon cancer screening has been incredibly robust. Some of the niche areas our group focuses on include a cooperative (with Infectious Diseases) complicated C. difficile clinic, providing high-level small bowel care for occult bleeding, a full-service motility diagnostic and therapeutic lab, medical therapy of obesity, a specialty celiac disease clinic, genetic colon cancer/polypoidosis syndromes, and comprehensive care of neurologic and oncologic disease patients with need for endoscopic gastrostomy placement and care. The educational and academic missions of the Division also continue to thrive in our busy section. We maintain a commitment to supporting a robust fellowship program, and Amy Doran recently stepped into a more formal role in the fellowship as assistant program director. Within the medical school, many faculty provide in-class lectures for pre-clinical students. Jeanetta Frye continues her commitment to the medical student Foundations of Clinical Medicine course, while Dennis Kumral manages the gastroenterology and hepatology medical student and resident rotations. Andy Copland conducts hands-on endoscopy education for our fellows as well as serving as an instructor at regional and national hands-on courses. Moving forward, the group plans to continue growing to support our clinical practice. We currently have posted positions to grow through both hires of academic faculty and new advanced practice providers.

IBD Section

The Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) section, comprised of Drs. Brian Behm, Esteban Figueroa, and Anne Tuskey, continues to see patients with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis from across the region. The IBD Program is also a participating site for several Phase 2 and 3 multi-centered treatment trials for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Interventional Endoscopy Section

The Interventional Endoscopy section has actively hired and fostered their clinical and research missions. Drs. Ross Buerlein and Alex Podboy joined the interventional endoscopy team in the summer of 2021. The group expanded its clinical footprint to include another room to perform additional interventional endoscopy procedures. Our section has been very active in clinical research protocols involving the prevention of procedure-related pancreatitis (Drs. Andrew Wang and Dan Strand), EUS-guided measurement of portal hypertension (Dr. Vanessa Shami in collaboration with Dr. Zach Henry from Hepatology), biliary plectin sampling for refining cholangiocarcinoma diagnosis (Dr. Ross Buerlein), and implementing endoscopic bariatric interventions and a gastric per-oral endoscopic myotomy-based (POEM) program aimed at relieving gastroparesis, with a specific focus on post-lung transplant recipients (Dr. Alexander Podboy).

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

Hepatology Section

The Hepatology section has been very active in clinical research, engaging in trials involving NAFLD/NASH, PBC, PSC, alcoholic hepatitis, and liver fibrosis, led by physicians Steve Caldwell and Zachary Henry and lead clinical research nurse coordinator Jennifer Greene. Nicolas Intagliata has successfully formed a multicenter, multi-continent consortium to investigate the relationship between cirrhosis and peri-procedural bleeding risk, with an enrollment of over 1000 patients to date. Zach Henry has headed our Division's quality improvement efforts with the collaboration of Sierra West and team leaders in endoscopy, outpatient clinic, and inpatient medicine. Matt Stotts provided the primary clinical guidance for revising our liver transplant team's approach to transplant candidacy in alcoholic liver disease patients. Feng Su has teamed with Nico Goldaracena to create a new approach to Transplant Oncology with supportive collaborations with medical oncology, radiation oncology, and interventional radiology. Curt Argo and partners Nico Goldaracena and Anita Sites (Liver Transplant) and A.J. Pesch (Radiology) successfully performed 12 living donor liver transplants (LDLT) with continued exceptional outcomes, our program's highest annual output of LDLTs to date. Dr. Argo also assumed the leadership role of medical director of liver transplantation in fall 2021. Dr. Neeral Shah has continued his tradition of excellence in leading the hepatology portion of the GI/Hepatology pre-clinical UVA School of Medicine curriculum and spearheading UVA Health's refresh of the organization's mission statement and vision.

New Hires

Drs. Alex Podboy and Ross Buerlein joined the UVA Interventional Endoscopy group in 2021.

Dr. Brian Wentworth joined the Hepatology group as a clinical instructor in 2021 and completed a Master's degree in health evaluation sciences. He will begin a tenure-track position as an Assistant Professor in the summer of 2022.

Highlights

Dr. Amy Doran was awarded a *Department of Medicine Award for Excellence in Teaching* and was inducted into the *Academy for Excellence in Education*.

Dr. Curtis Argo was awarded a *Department of Medicine Award for Clinical Excellence* for the achievements of the living donor liver transplant program, which reached its highest volume in program history (12 transplants in 2021-2022) with continued excellent outcomes in cooperation with his co-director Nico Goldaracena.

Dr. Zachary Henry was awarded a *Department of Medicine Award for Excellence in Teaching* related to his educational efforts in the inpatient hepatology consult service, hepatology outpatient clinic, and endoscopy.

Dr. Nicolas Intagliata was awarded a *Department of Medicine Award for Clinical Excellence* based on high productivity and patient satisfaction in his inpatient and outpatient hepatology practice.

Dr. Neeral Shah was awarded a *Department of Medicine Award for Excellent in Mentorship* for his continued efforts at providing multi-level mentorship to UVA medical students, medicine residents, GI/Hepatology fellows, and faculty colleagues across divisions.

Several luminal GI faculty fulfill important roles through service on various national committees, including *ASGE Technology Committee* (**Dr. Andrew Copland**), *ASGE Practice Operations Committee* (**Dr. Amy Doran**), *ACG Training Committee* (**Dr. Jeanetta Frye**).

Dr. Andrew Wang served as *Chair of the ASGE International Clinical Symposia Committee* and *Chair of the AGA Clinical Practice Updates Committee*.

Dr. Cindy Yoshida was recognized this year for her outstanding work with colon cancer screening outreach and the program here at UVA by receiving the 2021 80% *In Every Community National Achievement Award* from the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable.

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

Andrew Wang MD Named As Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology



Andrew Wang MD

After a national search, Dr. Andrew Wang, Professor of Medicine at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, has agreed to serve as the next Chief for the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. In this role, Dr. Wang will lead a nationally and internationally recognized faculty in expanding gastroenterology and hepatology services and continuing to build scholarly activities and collaborations. He will build on the considerable strengths of the Division and continue its tradition of excellence as we develop new programs and enhance operations and existing research, educational, and clinical programs. As you will read below, Dr. Wang is an accomplished clinician and scholar, and we are fortunate to recruit him for this critical role.

Dr. Wang currently serves as Chief of the Section of Interventional Endoscopy in the UVA School of Medicine and Director of Interventional Endoscopy at the UVA Medical Center. He graduated from the UVA School of Medicine and completed his medicine residency at the McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University and his GI fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Wang returned to UVA in 2007 to complete an advanced endoscopy fellowship, and he has been on the UVA School of Medicine faculty ever since.

Dr. Wang has been a pioneer in advanced GI endoscopy and has held various leadership roles in Endoscopy at UVA since 2009. He has successfully directed the UVA Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship Program for over a decade and continues to mentor graduates, many of whom have become

leaders in academic medicine nationwide. Dr. Wang has been honored with numerous awards, including the Dean's Award for Clinical Excellence (2012) and faculty induction into the UVA Chapter of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (2021).

Dr. Wang's academic passion has been to care for patients by performing advanced endoscopy and fostering endoscopic interventions' safety and efficacy through education and clinical research. Dr. Wang participates in NIH-funded trials, has delivered more than 100 presentations in the U.S. and internationally, and co-authored over 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts. Dr. Wang is a Fellow of the AGA, ACG, and ASGE and the immediate Past-President of the Virginia Gastroenterological Society. He serves as Chair of the AGA Clinical Practice Updates Committee, is on the Editorial Review Board of Gastroenterology, and just completed a term as Chair of the ASGE International Clinical Symposia Committee.

Andy, his wife Esther, a graduate of the UVA McIntire School of Commerce, and their three children enjoy traveling, spending time at the beach, fishing, hiking, trying new restaurants, and visiting family and friends.

Please welcome Dr. Wang into this role, which he assumes as of July 1, 2022. We are grateful for his service and look forward to working with him.

FELLOWSHIP EDUCATION Gastroenterology & Hepatology Training Programs

CLINICAL AND RESEARCH UPDATES

Luminal Section:

Dr. Cynthia Yoshida has headed the UVA Comprehensive Cancer Center's CRC screening program, which was recently awarded the Hoos Building Bridges Award for their "commitment to combat colorectal cancer by working diligently to develop screening programs, research projects, and community engagement opportunities." Over the last year, the CRC screening team upgraded the non-invasive CRC screening options at UVA to a higher sensitivity/specificity Polymedco FIT. It facilitated Cologuard® ordering/results and combining CRC screening modalities into a single order set in EPIC to improve the ease of ordering CRC screening. We improved the UVA CRC screening website for patients and providers and began a program to educate nurses in ordering CRC screening to expand the CRC screening education team. Our team received funding from the American Cancer Society to evaluate CRC screening in two academic primary care clinics: Internal Medicine (UMA) and Family Medicine (PCC), to survey practitioners about current practices, implement clinic-directed evidence-based interventions, and measure their effect on screening rates. These interventions resulted in a >200% increase in CRC screening orders at the University Medical Associates Clinic. Commitment to community outreach and engagement is paramount to UVA's Comprehensive Cancer Center mission. Our team was also awarded a Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission (TRRC) Grant to provide uninsured patients with positive stool-based (FIT) CRC screening with a fixed rate colonoscopy performed at UVA at no cost to the patient. To date, over 1,500 stool-based CRC screening (FIT) tests have been provided, and at least 44 colonoscopies have been performed. In addition to this grant project, during March CRC Awareness Month, the team has represented UVA in print and media (radio/television/social media) to promote this initiative. Finally, we created a "concierge" CRC screening service advertised to all UVA employees during March CRC Awareness month. Over 100 employees requested CRC screening in March 2022. The UVA employees who participated came from all over grounds and were able to connect with UVA clinicians who provide the care to help personalize the screening process.

Dr. Dennis Kumral has been developing a celiac disease specialty practice in the DHC clinic in partnership with our registered dietician, Mallory Foster, RD. We have applied for the Society for the Study of Celiac Disease (SSCD) Unit Recognition and, if accepted, would be one of two celiac disease centers in the region. Additionally, we plan to be a clinical trial site for new non-dietary pharmaceutical therapies for managing symptoms in celiac disease patients on a gluten-free diet. Dr. Kumral was recently interviewed by [NewsRadio WINA](#) to raise awareness about the diagnosis and management of celiac disease.

IBD Section:

The IBD Program participates in Qorus, a national initiative sponsored by the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation focused on improving the quality of IBD care by tracking performance and outcomes using patient-centered metrics.

Dr. Brian Behm leads UVA's multidisciplinary Complicated C. difficile Infection (CDI) Clinic and Dr. Cirle Warren (Division of Infectious Disease). UVA's clinic is one of two referral centers for FMT for CDI in Virginia. The group has been active in NIH studies and industry clinical trials evaluating microbiome-based therapies. They have also developed an inpatient FMT protocol for fulminant C difficile patients.

Hepatology Section:

Dr. Brian Wentworth has been investigating the clinical phenomenon of adrenal gland dysfunction in patients with cirrhosis. Under the mentorship of Dr. Zachary Henry and Dr. Helmy Siragy (Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism), Dr. Wentworth was awarded the 2021 AASLD Clinical, Translational, and Outcomes Research Award. He is currently the PI on a prospective study investigating the mechanisms underlying adrenal insufficiency in patients with decompensated liver disease.

Dr. Feng Su has led the development of a Transplant Oncology clinic to help increase liver transplant access for patients with liver tumors.

Dr. Matthew Stotts worked collaboratively with Transplant Social Work and Addiction Medicine teams to update and better specify the UVA Liver Transplant team's approach to transplant candidacy for alcoholic liver disease patients, emphasizing a more individualized, relapse risk-based approach rather than the standard "6 months of sobriety" requirement traditionally used at many centers.

Dr. Nicolas Intagliata is in the closing stage of his multicenter, international prospective study of procedure-related bleeding and transfusion practices in patients with cirrhosis and portal hypertension.

Our hepatology team has implemented an urgent outpatient clinic visit triage mechanism that helps provide general and transplant consultative care on a time-sensitive basis according to the urgency of the request. This has been successful in helping to maintain a manageable wait time for clinic access to hepatology care.

CLINICAL AND RESEARCH UPDATES

Interventional Endoscopy Section

Dr. Ross Buerlein has developed a project assessing cell-surface plectin staining (via immunohistochemistry) in ERCP-directed biliary brushings and biopsies in cases of indeterminate biliary strictures to improve diagnostic capabilities of ERCP for cholangiocarcinoma. Currently, ERCP-directed samples of indeterminate biliary strictures have a very low sensitivity for diagnosing cholangiocarcinoma, deadly cancer typically diagnosed at late stages with limited treatment options. Earlier detection would be a significant advancement in this field, and cell-surface plectin may hold the key to this. Plectin is an intracellular structural protein inside most human cells. Still, work in Dr. Kim Kelly's lab at UVA has shown that malignant cells of hepatopancreatic biliary origin will express plectin on their cell surface. Stains of surgically resected have been positive for this. The cancer center has recently started a drug trial targeting this cell-surface protein in patients with pancreatic cancer.

Dr. Alexander Podboy is interested in expanding access to endoscopic bariatric therapies, which have emerged as non-surgical, minimally invasive interventions with the potential to combat obesity with safe, clinically meaningful weight loss.

He anticipates expanding the endoscopic bariatric practice here at UVA by offering various novel weight loss procedures such as endoscopic sleeve gastropasty (ESG), intragastric balloon therapy, and transoral endoscopic reduction therapy (TORe). Additionally, gastroparesis after lung transplantation is a significant problem as gastroparesis complications may promote the occurrence of episodes of graft rejection. Recent advances in endoscopic tunneling techniques have led to the development of a novel treatment entitled gastric per-oral endoscopic myotomy (G-POEM), a minimally invasive treatment for post-lung transplant-induced gastroparesis that involves endoscopically tunneling between the layers of the stomach and cutting the pyloric muscle ring to help alleviate delayed gastric emptying. In concert with the lung transplantation team, Drs. Alexander Podboy and Andrew Wang are developing the G-POEM program at UVA and currently perform the procedure in post-lung transplant patients with severe gastroparesis.



Dr. Sauer with cytosponge

Dr. Bryan Sauer's current clinical and research interest is in the field of eosinophilic esophagitis. Clinically, he founded a multidisciplinary Eosinophilic Esophagitis Program with Dr. Emily McGowan (Division of Allergy & Immunology) in 2016, which has seen extensive growth over the past five years. In 2020, the EoE Program was awarded an American College of Gastroenterology Clinical Research Award Grant that has been used to understand the pathophysiology of EoE, particularly related to IgG4 levels. The program is currently one of the only institutions in the United States who use a cytosponge for mucosal assessment of the esophagus for EoE. Dr. Sauer also is the team leader for the American College of Gastroenterology GRADE team and has been involved in numerous ACG Practice Guidelines as a GRADE methodologist, including guidelines on Barrett's Esophagus, Management of Anticoagulants and Antiplatelets in Endoscopy, Colorectal Cancer Screening, Chronic Pancreatitis, and Ulcerative Colitis. ([See Dr. Sauer demonstrate the cytosponge](#))

Dr. Vanessa Shami brought to UVA a novel use for EUS-FNA to assess portal hypertension using direct, transenteric, intravascular pressure measurements of the portal vein and hepatic vein to calculate hepatic vein pressure gradient in evaluating portal hypertension. This innovation also allows for transenteric liver biopsies and esophageal and gastric variceal surveillance to be performed all in one procedure session. Mark Radlinski presented their initial clinical experience as an oral presentation at Digestive Diseases Week 2022 in San Diego, CA.

Dr. Daniel Strand has continued to lead the UVA National Pancreas Foundation (NPF) Center for Pancreatitis care and successfully renewed UVA's status as an NPF Center. Additionally, Dr. Strand obtained a UVA designation as an NPF Center for Pancreatic Cancer care.

Dr. Andrew Wang has continued to serve as an adjudicator for the NIH-funded Stent vs. Indomethacin for Preventing Post-ERCP Pancreatitis (SVI) trial and as the UVA site PI for the NIH-funded SpHincterotomy for Acute Recurrent Pancreatitis (SHARP) trial.

Additional Research-Related News and Highlights:

The GI/Hepatology, Clinical Research section, consists of a core of eight Clinical Research Coordinators now working on twenty-three different therapeutic and diagnostic protocols overseen by twelve faculty Physicians. The work is self-sustained under the direction of CRC Manager Jennifer Greene RN, BSN, and Dr. Stephen Caldwell, Director. Current clinical trials include therapeutics for fatty liver, autoimmune liver disease, cirrhosis (Caldwell, Henry, Argo, Shah), inflammatory bowel disease (Tuskey, Figueroa, Behm), prevention of procedure-related pancreatitis (Wang, Strand), and EUS-guided measurement of portal hypertension (Shami, Henry). There are several new clinical studies in development for a wide variety of potentially severe Liver and GI diseases, including cutting-edge studies of gene therapy for Wilson disease and hyperbaric therapy of refractory Ulcerative Colitis as well as immunomodulatory therapy, which offers a potential cure for PBC (an autoimmune liver disease) and celiac disease (Kumral). Investigator-initiated studies include an international consortium started at UVA (Intagliata), which focuses on bleeding risk in liver disease patients undergoing various procedures involving over 1000 patients from centers in North, South, and Central America, a consortium of centers with a focus on strategies in managing gastric variceal bleeding (Henry) and studies of disordered cholesterol and hepatic lipoprotein metabolism in patients with more advanced liver disease (Wentworth). Almost 100 patients are involved in current treatment trials, and nearly 200 additional patients are engaged in ongoing observational studies.

Important interdisciplinary collaborations include work with Interventional Radiology in Hepatocellular Cancer therapy, Allergy and Immunology in the care of Eosinophilic Esophagitis (Sauer), and the Division's work in supporting innovative trials in Liver Transplantation, especially for organ preservation (Argo, Pelletier, Goldaracena) as well as Basic Science collaboration with colleagues in Pharmacology (Schulman, Caldwell) studying advanced models of disordered liver fat metabolism.

Historically, clinical research in the GI/Hepatology division has been sustained for over 35 years. Early studies included gut motility, biliary diseases, therapeutic interventions, inflammatory bowel disease and therapeutics for viral hepatitis C and B, and work with gastric variceal bleeding and hepatitis B prevention after liver transplantation. Early work also closely involved extensive studies of *Helicobacter pylori* which contributed to the Nobel Prize awarded to our Alumnus Dr. Barry Marshall.

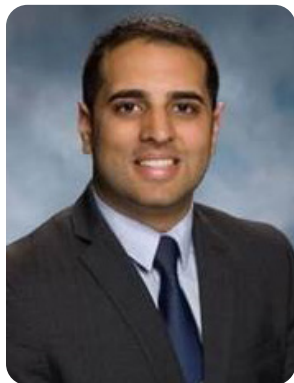
EDUCATIONAL UPDATES

2022 - 2023 Incoming Fellows



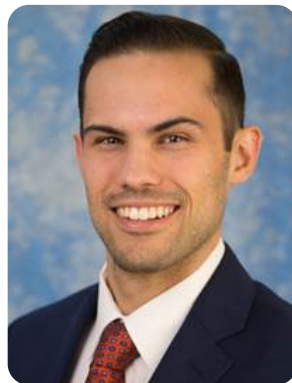
John Hickman

John is a former UVA medical student returning to UVA for fellowship. He has thrived at Washington University in St. Louis and is currently a chief resident. He has been very active in education and is one of the current co-editors of the Washington Manual. John and his wife (also a former UVA student) are looking forward to returning to the area with their kids.



Sahil Khanna

Sahil completed medical school in New Jersey at Robert Wood Johnson. He is currently finishing his residency at Northwestern. He has been active in his research efforts with NAFLD and liver disease patients transitioning to palliative care. He has won two awards in residency – one for excellence in teaching and another for professionalism. We are excited to welcome Sahil to Charlottesville!



Anthony Rainho

Anthony completed medical school at the University of Florida. He is currently finishing his residency at UVA, and we are excited that he will be joining us in fellowship. Anthony has done a lot of education work; he has been leading clinical teaching sessions for MD/PhD students re-entering clinical clerkships. He also led the teaching for all the internal medicine clerkship students at UVA upon their re-entry from a COVID hiatus. We are excited that Anthony will be staying in Charlottesville with us!



Gianna Stoleru

Gianna completed medical school at the University of Maryland and is finishing her residency there. She has done a lot of work with the IBD population and works on adherence to medications and eating disorders. Her peers and co-residents respect her as a great teacher. We are excited to be able to welcome Gianna and her husband and their dog to Charlottesville!

EDUCATIONAL UPDATES

Advancement of First-Year Fellows

With the start of a new academic year comes the promotion of our first-year fellows to second years Christy Gilman, Leland Stratton, Lindsey Bierle, and Rebecca Haug (pictured below left). The fellows all participated in the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Society first-year fellows' simulation program held in Chicago, IL, during the summer of 2021.

New Senior Fellows

Our current second-year fellows will be starting their final year of GI fellowship training this upcoming July – Chris Young, Rob Schenck, Zachary Dickson, and Kelly Diaz (pictured below right). The new chief fellow in the Division will be Chris Young.



From left: Christy Gilman, Leland Stratton, Lindsey Bierle, Rebecca Haug



From left: Chris Young, Rob Schenck, Zachary Dickson, Kelly Diaz

Graduating Fellows

With the end of the academic year, it is bittersweet to say goodbye to our graduating fellows. We are excited to announce their plans for the upcoming year (pictured at right in front row)

- **Interventional Endoscopy:** **Yang Lei** will be joining the faculty of the University of Calgary as an interventional endoscopist
- **Mark Radlinski** will be staying as UVA's 4th-year advanced endoscopy fellow
- **Lauren Evers-Carlini** will be staying at UVA to complete a 4th-year transplant hepatology fellowship
- **Edward Oldfield** will be joining a practice in Virginia Beach, VA, and joining the faculty at Eastern Virginia Medical System (EVMS)
- **Benjamin Robey** will be joining a practice in the Raleigh, NC area practicing general gastroenterology
- **Transplant Hepatology – Jennifer Miller** will be joining the faculty at the VCU Richmond VA as an attending hepatologist



From left front row: Yang Lei, Mark Radlinski, Lauren Evers-Carlini, Edward Oldfield, Benjamin Robey, Jennifer Miller

Some of the 2022 awards from Graduation (voted on by the fellows)

- Fellow MVP award – **Mark Radlinski**
- GI Attending Educator of the Year – **Vanessa Shami**
- GI Endoscopy Educator of the Year – **Daniel Strand**

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

IMPORTANT EVENTS

UVA Regional GI/Hepatology Conference

In March 2022, almost two years from our last in-person regional conference, the UVA GI Division hosted attendees from around the state of Virginia for its annual UVA Regional GI Course at the Boars Head Inn. Drs. Neeral Shah and Dennis Kumral directed the course, and with over 90 attendees, it was a resounding success. (Photos below)



Pictured on left, Dennis Kumral MD, on right, Mallory Foster RD



Infographics for Medicine

In January of 2022, a new resource was released in medical education, "The Infographic Guide to Medicine," edited by Dr. Neeral Shah. This is the first collection of infographics developed for medical trainees. The resource has 600 infographics covering many different areas of medicine. It has been purchased by 98% of medical schools around the United States on the Access Medicine platform. Dr. Shah has worked with the publisher to translate all 600 cards into Spanish, and they are now also available on Access Medicina for medical schools in Central and South America.



**Hepatology &
Gastroenterology
Research**

**GI GRAND ROUNDS
RETURNS IN
THE FALL ON
WEDNESDAYS AT
7:30 AM**

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

DDW 2022 Presentations

With the return to in-person national meetings, many in the GI division attended the international conference for GI in San Diego, CA – Digestive Disease Week – DDW. UVA's GI Division was responsible for 21 oral presentations. The faculty who presented at DDW included Drs. Zach Henry, Vanessa Shami, Cynthia Yoshida, Andrew Wang, Daniel Strand, Ross Buerlein. UVA was also honored to have two fellows provide oral presentations of the research, Drs. Rob Schenck (gastric cancer staging with EUS) and Mark Radlinski (EUS-FNA as an innovative tool to measure hepatic venin pressure gradient and perform transenteric liver biopsies), and one resident with an oral presentation, Matt Schliep (association of age with outcome in transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt (TIPS)).

ACG Regional Course

In September, the American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) and the Virginia GI Society hosted the annual Williamsburg Regional Conference in Williamsburg, VA. The conference was directed by the current ACG Virginia Governor, Dr. Anne Tuskey. The conference was held virtually but had excellent attendance for the exceptional lineup of speakers.

Endoscopy Outreach in Guatemala

Dr. Bryan Sauer has developed an endoscopy outreach program in rural Guatemala with the help of a nonprofit organization, Central America Outreach & Endoscopy (caendoscopy.org). Despite several trips being canceled and/or postponed due to COVID, a team of endoscopy nurses, techs, nurse anesthetists, and gastroenterologists returned to Guatemala for the third time to provide gastroenterology consultation and endoscopy procedures, providing care to over 55 patients during a week in April 2022. A team plans to return in September 2022 and February 2023.



In Memory of Stacey L. White



Stacey Latrice White (December 25, 1980—March 11, 2022) was an integral member of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, in the Department of Medicine, at the University of Virginia.

Stacey White first joined the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology in 2008 as an administrative assistant and quickly became a vital part of our Division and practices. Her friendly, kind demeanor and hard work made her our go-to person, a Senior Administrative Assistant, and an integral part of the Division. Stacey's roles included assisting the Division Chief, scheduling, and serving as Coordinator for the Advanced Endoscopy Fellowship program. Her work touched many people, including patients, administrators, and healthcare workers. She endlessly strived to care for everyone around her, as she did for her adored son, Khamden.

Stacey always spoke of her church, her family, sports, and her son Khamden, who is currently in high school. In honor of her more than ten years in the Division and her more than 18 years at the University of Virginia, a [GoFundMe](#) account to support her son's education was created and is accepting donations.

Stacey was also a devoted member of Shiloh Baptist Church, where she served as a member of the Sunbeam Choir and the director of the Youth Choir. She also served on the Ushers Board. Stacey had a way with the youth; they all naturally loved her.

Stacey is survived by her beloved son Khamden RaShawn Hill, her parents Larry and Mary White, her brother Chad White, sister-in-law Javanov Barksdale-White, niece Meyah Brichelle Barksdale Carter, nephew Chazz Barksdale White, two "adopted" sons Bobbie Gardner and Quentin Spellman, 2 "adopted" nieces Delita and LaTrice Johnson, Khamden's father, Steven Hill. Stacey was a beloved member of our Division. We all admired her kindness, dedication, wonderful attitude, and spirit. Her work touched the lives of many, and we will miss our good friend dearly.

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

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DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

STAFF PROFILE - Lauren Maino



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at the University of Virginia for a year after a 20-year career in Retail, Health and Wellness Management. I started my career at the University of Virginia in the Digestive Health Department. I am currently the Supervisor of the Endoscopy Scheduling Pod. I love the work I am doing and the opportunities I have been given to succeed. One of the things I love most about UVA is all of the options for growth. I love working for an organization that challenges you to be better not only in performance but also through leadership.

I am looking forward to everything we will accomplish together in the future.

Why Healthcare?

It is fulfilling work. I get to spend my day making a difference in others' lives. I couldn't think of a better way to spend my time.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

I moved to Charlottesville when my husband and I got engaged. We bought a home and found jobs and careers that we love. We have since built a nice life here and welcomed our beautiful daughter Evie into the world this past year.

What excites you about your work?

As cliché as it sounds, everything! My work is challenging, exciting, fast-paced, patient-centric, collaborative, and ideas-driven, and my day flies by. This job embodies everything that I love to do. I feel so fortunate every day for the opportunity to work for UVA.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

I love to go on cruises. Covid has hindered that a bit, but my husband and I cruised three times a year at one point. Anywhere with a beach and beautiful water, I am there. The beach and the ocean are my happy places. When I am there, I am the most at peace. I always say if you listened to the sound of my soul, you would hear the beach.



Evie

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

"Be an advocate for your own life."

"Dreams are worth chasing. Don't let roadblocks deter you. There is always a path. You just have to find the one that works for you."

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

FELLOW PROFILE - Robert Schenck



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I have been at the University of Virginia on and off since 2007. I grew up in Virginia and was excited to go to UVA as an undergraduate, where my brother was two years ahead of me. I graduated in 2011 with a degree in Biochemistry and worked in the emergency room for a year before starting medical school at UVA in 2012. In medical school, I met my wife, and we married just before graduation in May 2016. We went through the couples match and were excited to match at Northwestern University in Chicago. After completing internal medicine training, we were thrilled to return to UVA for my fellowship in gastroenterology.

Why Healthcare?

I was always interested in the sciences and how things work. I decided I didn't want to spend my days in a research lab, so I started exploring medicine as a career possibility. I got a job as a scribe in the Emergency Department and fell in love with medicine.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

When I was a medical student here, I loved the GI division faculty and the supportive/collaborative environment. Additionally, after having our first child, Bennett while we lived in Chicago, we wanted to move back closer to family. I was very excited to match at my top choice for fellowship and come back to UVA!

What excites you about your work?

Gastroenterology is an excellent combination of longitudinal care with your patients and hands-on procedures. Cancer prevention is my passion, and screening colonoscopy is one of the most effective medical screening measures. It is great to feel like you are positively impacting your patients' lives.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement outside the professional realm?

Winning seven intramural basketball championships in my eight years as a student at UVA. We only lost one game in eight years.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?

Weekends are filled with taking walks and the kids to the park. It is great to take advantage of all the nearby vineyards and breweries. I also try to fit in playing basketball with friends whenever I can.



What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

I love vacationing near the water, so my two favorite vacations have been Maui and the Pacific Coast Highway.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

The Psychology of Money by Morgan Housel. It is a book on behavioral finance that is very well written.

Do you collect anything?

I had a coin collection when I was in elementary school; however, nothing more recently.

What was your first job, and how old were you?

I was refereeing second-grade girls basketball when I was in 9th grade. There were some intense parents in that age group!



FELLOW PROFILE - Mark Radlinski



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at UVA for six years after growing up and attending college and medical school in Massachusetts. I am now a PGY-6 fellow in the Division of Gastroenterology (GI). I will be continuing my training at UVA, starting in July, completing an additional fellowship in Advanced Endoscopy. I live in Charlottesville with my wife Julie and son John.

Why Medicine/Gastroenterology?

Admittedly, it was not my first consideration after completing my undergraduate degree in Psychology. I first took a job in finance! But, after spending time as a clinical researcher for a few years, I found I enjoyed medicine's problem-solving and diagnostic side. It was not until medical school and residency that I found a passion for direct patient care and the interventional side of medicine, specifically in GI, and helping patients with pancreobiliary disease. During my training, I have also spent time as a medical educator and plan to continue in academic medicine for that reason.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

I can thankfully say it was matching to UVA for the internal medicine residency. I hadn't spent much time south of New England before moving here in 2016, but I have enjoyed my time both in and out of the hospital.

What excites you about your work?

I am very excited about the field of interventional endoscopy. Even in my short time as a resident and fellow, there has been an incredible advancement in gastroenterology with new and exciting technology. I

love the problem-solving aspect of interventional endoscopy and the opportunity to meaningful impact care for our patients.

I am still learning advanced procedural techniques, but treating patients with a scope instead of surgery seems like an exciting frontier for GI medicine.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement outside the professional realm?

My wonderful family and being a husband and new father. I have a loving, supportive wife and a bright, energetic 11-month-old son who fills our lives with lots of love.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?

My two favorite weekend activities, aside from hanging with the fam, are hiking and golfing.



We have had some fun adventures in Shenandoah, followed by relaxation at local breweries or wineries. As soon as John can walk, he will be handed a golf club – it's never too early! Our newest family "fun" is going to splash in the pool. I expect a lot of the summer to be spent in the water.

How did you meet your partner?

Medicine brought us together! I met Julie in Boston while working at Brigham and Women's hospital after college. She showed me the ropes in my early days as a clinical research coordinator and encouraged me to apply to medical school. Here we are almost 14 years later! We married in Madison, VA, at Early Mountain Vineyards shortly after I started residency.

What is the one thing you always have in your fridge?

Pierogies. I am 75% Polish, and while they were usually a holiday delicacy, my wife and I have taken a Pierogi cooking class together and have them on hand for a quick weeknight meal.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

Our favorite 'local' getaway spot is Asheville, North Carolina. Between the hiking, food, craft breweries, and overall mountain vibes, we have had wonderful trips just a few hours away! We are looking forward to more southeast exploration with our son.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

"The Sympathizer" by Viet Thanh Nguyen

What was your first job, and how old were you?

I was sixteen years old, and my first job was delivering pizzas for Papa Gino's in Andover, MA. I was compensated well with pizza and breadsticks!



DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY & HEPATOLOGY

FACULTY PROFILE - Alexander Podboy

Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I was born in Ft. Myers, Florida, with stops in Atlanta, Georgia, and Greensboro, North Carolina, before settling in a small town outside Youngstown, Ohio.

I completed a seven-year combined BS/MD program at Youngstown State University and Northeast Ohio Medical University before heading to Rochester, Minnesota, to complete my internal medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic. I completed my GI fellowship at Stanford University and an interventional endoscopy fellowship at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. I joined our faculty as an interventional gastroenterologist in August of 2022!

What brought you to Charlottesville?

The opportunity to work at the University of Virginia was second to none. The added benefit of beautiful four-season weather after four years on the west coast was the icing on the cake for my wife and me. We didn't know how much we missed thunderstorms!

What excites you about your work?

The field of interventional GI continues to grow in what seems like leaps and bounds every year, and it's exciting to be a part of that growth. I'm passionate about clinical research and feel blessed to be at an institution that allows me to help expand access to new and exciting procedures for our patients here at UVA



What is your favorite restaurant in Charlottesville?

It's criminal that California hasn't yet discovered the culinary light that is white queso cheese dip and chips. So, Azteca holds a special place in my heart for allowing me to re-indulge.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement outside the professional realm?

Helping establish an NGO program aimed at supporting women's health initiatives in rural Kenya.

What are you usually doing on the weekend?

Exploring with my wife, Keren, and our two Cavapoo puppies, Hamilton and Virginia.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

We have a rural cabin in Hazelhurst, Wisconsin that's been in the family for almost 100 years. The lake and the woods of that place are special and a perfect place to be reminded that the most important things in life aren't things.

Favorite fictional characters?

Atticus Finch

Who is the person you admire most, and why?

My wife, Keren. She is both grace and kindness personified.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

I'm a secret history nerd and love the "Our Fake History" podcasts.

