

MEDICINE

MATTERS

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

JANUARY 2024

 UVA Health | DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

MISSION

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

VALUES

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

PLEDGE

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



Happy New Year to all, and I wish you a very happy and healthy New Year. The Department of Medicine is excellent because of its people, which is evident in this issue of Medicine Matters. We celebrate two of our colleagues, Karen Finke and Janet Tillage, both winners of the Leonard Sandridge Award. Their selfless dedication to their patients and colleagues

for several decades is at our culture's core. We are honored to work with them; their stories are inspiring and serve as examples of our values. In addition, as you read about the many accomplishments of the Division of Infectious Diseases, I am sure you will be impressed by the depth and breadth of their impact locally and globally. I am so proud of the culture we have and the amazing people who devote themselves to making the world a better place every day. Thank you all!!

With best wishes,

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

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**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**
EXCELLENCE
UVA DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

DOM Financial Update

Department of Medicine Summary of Consolidated Financials FY21 as of November 2023

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	\$ Variance YTD
Work RVUs	488,333	512,740	24,407
Clinical Receipts (NPSR)	31,320,824	33,500,049	2,179,226
Total Revenues	92,547,901	99,418,566	6,870,664
Total Expenditures	89,831,114	96,811,829	(6,980,716)
Net Income	2,716,788	2,606,736	(110,051)

Summary Explanation of Variance:

For the fiscal year through November 2023, DOM reported a consolidated net gain of \$2.6M and an unfavorable variance to YTD net income budget of \$110K. Clinical receipts surpassed budget by \$2.2M primarily due to unbudgeted Community Oncology and APP charge volumes. Total revenues include \$2.9M Endowment revenue recorded for December through June and \$2.6M clinical deficit coverage revenue accrual. Total revenue is missing \$1.6M in delayed clinical agreements. Total expenditures variance is unfavorably impacted by timing of \$3.6M expenditures related to grants and commitments, \$1.4M unbudgeted CommOnc Expenses. \$354K under accrued prior year faculty incentives and \$1.4M unrealized budgeted expenditure reduction contingencies.

In Media

Winter Illness This Year Is a Different Kind of Ugly (The Atlantic)

Facing down simultaneous surges of flu, COVID, and RSV, most Americans still aren't getting the vaccines that could temper the worst effects.

Dr. Taison Bell speaks with The Atlantic's Kathrine J. Wu on what we're seeing and how to stay safe.

[READ MORE](#)



Listen to Dr. Neeral Shah on NPR Morning Edition. "One week into Dry January and counting ..."

(NPR Public Radio)

"People have shown beneficial effects of taking a break from alcohol: Better sleep hygiene, lower blood pressures, clearer complexion in their skin, weight loss and recovery of the liver," says Dr. Neeral Shah.

And when the month is over, he adds, some may realize it wasn't that hard and decide to continue or at least cut back on drinking. For those who are struggling, he says, it's helpful to change social patterns. Instead of meeting friends at a bar, plan to take a walk or meet for coffee. Order non-alcoholic drinks at restaurants, and if cravings are a problem, talk to your doctor.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



WELCOME NEW FELLOWS!

DOM UPDATES & NOTES



John Kim MD



Imre Noth MD



Jeanne Kamal MD



Helmy Siragy MD



Antonio Abbate MD PhD



Andrew Wolf MD

Awards and Achievements

Congratulations to **Dr John Kim** (Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care) and team on the publication of their paper [“Commensal Oral Microbiota, Disease Severity and Mortality in Fibrotic Lung Disease”](#) in the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

Congratulations to **Dr. Imre Noth** (Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care) on his research’s recent highlight, “The Road to \$532 Million: Can a Supplement Save Patients From Deadly Lung Scarring?” [Read more...](#)

Congratulations to **Dr Jeanne Kamal** (Division of Nephrology) who was recently highlighted as a member-at-large by the Community of Practice (COP) executive committee of the American Society of Transplantation (AST).

Congratulations to **Dr Helmy Siragy** (Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism), who is serving as guest editor for the International Journal of Molecular Sciences’ special issue “The Angiotensin in Human Health and Diseases.” The special issue will focus on the evolving knowledge about the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system’s (RAAS) activities in human health and disease. Dr. Siragy invites members of the faculty to submit original research or review manuscripts. [Read more...](#)

Congratulations to **Dr Antonio Abbate and team** (Division of Cardiovascular Medicine) on the publication of [“Interleukin-1 Blockade Inhibits the Acute Inflammatory Response in Patients With ST-Segment–Elevation Myocardial Infarction”](#) in the Journal of the American Heart Association ([JAHA](#)).

Congratulations to **Dr Andrew Wolf** (Division of General Internal Medicine) for his work as the lead author of the [American Cancer Society’s updated advisory on lung cancer screenings](#). In this update, he and colleagues recommend expanding screening to include former heavy smokers currently excluded from screening. This will lead to screening an additional 5 million people in the U.S. each year and will have a huge impact on the early identification and treatment of lung cancer.

Have News To Share
on Medicine Matters?
Contact kak2cj@virginia.edu
434.328.0680

FOLLOW
UVA ID

FOLLOW
UVA ENDO

FOLLOW
UVA CARDIO

FOLLOW UVA
NEPHROLOGY

FOLLOW UVA
PULMONARY

Welcome To The World



Congratulations to John Vitarello (Cardiology Fellow) and wife Clara who welcomed daughter Ellia Maeve Vitarello on November 29, 2023.

Research in Motion

**Michael E. Williams,
MD Professor, Division of
Hematology and Oncology**

“My work is focused on lymphoma; specifically, understanding the molecular underpinnings that drive these cancers, and also employing and testing in clinical research novel targeted agents and immunotherapies that are improving survival and cure, while minimizing the traditional use of chemotherapy and radiation therapy.”

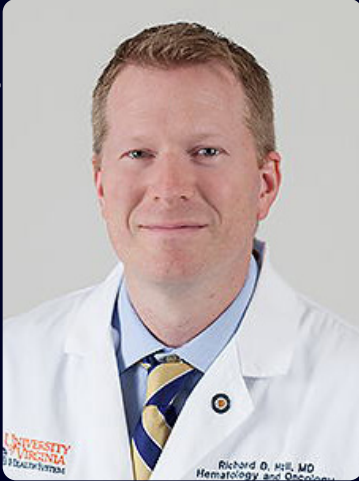
WATCH VIDEO

In Media

Can Immunotherapy Cure Lung Cancer? A UVA Health Expert Weighs In [Q&A] (UVAHealth)

Advanced lung cancer can be tough to beat. You might need chemotherapy, surgery, radiation, or some combination of treatments. Facing cancer and the road to recovery can feel overwhelming.

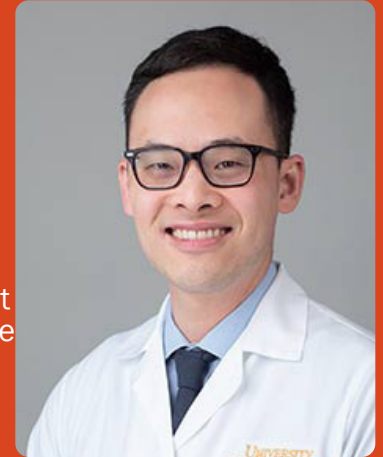
Immunotherapy offers new hope for patients with certain types of lung cancer, Richard Hall MD, a lung cancer specialist at UVA Cancer Center, answers a few questions about this promising treatment.



[READ MORE](#)

Healthy Omega-3 Fats Could Slow Deadly Lung Disease, Research Shows (UVAToday and CBS19)

UVA Health pulmonary researchers looked at the association between blood plasma levels of omega-3 fatty acids – the heart-healthy fats found in foods such as salmon and flaxseeds – and the progression of pulmonary fibrosis, as well as how long patients could go without needing a transplant. The researchers found that higher levels of omega-3 were associated with better lung function and longer transplant-free survival.



[READ MORE](#)

[WATCH ON CBS19](#)

Affordable Nutritional Supplement Could Counter Deadly Lung Disease (NPR)

Dr. Imre Noth is an expert on pulmonary fibrosis or scarring of the lungs. We don't know what causes it, but he says it's a miserable way to go.

"It's a scarring disease, so the lung gets stiffer and smaller. It's a lot harder to breathe, and if you can't breathe, nothing else matters."

Fortunately, he and his colleagues report that in about a quarter of patients with the disease – people who have a certain genetic variant – treatment with a common nutritional supplement – N-acetyl cysteine – is not only effective but affordable.



[LISTEN HERE](#)

Discussion with Dr. Tison Bell (News Nation)

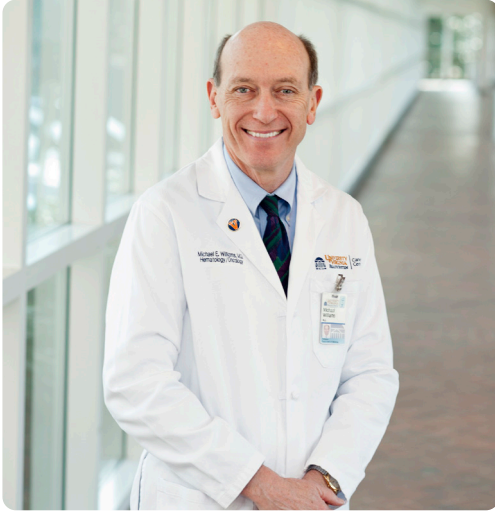
Dr. Tison Bell discusses some of the latest health headlines with

They cover Stiff Person Syndrome, weight loss medications in children, and some promising results from a breast cancer vaccine trial.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



Excellence Illuminated



From: UVA Health Leadership

January 11, 2024

Subject: Heartfelt Thank You to Dr. Michael E. Williams for His Leadership and Expertise at UVA and UVA Health

As **Dr. Michael E. Williams**, a luminary in the field of hematology and oncology, looks to take a step back from his day-to-day responsibilities as Service Line Lead for Oncology to focus more on mentoring and research, we at UVA Health take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude for his remarkable contributions. As the Byrd S. Leavell Professor of Medicine and Professor of Pathology, Dr. Williams has been an invaluable contributor to our institution.

Dr. Williams is renowned for his expertise in blood cancers and disorders, particularly chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), lymphoma, and Waldenstrom macroglobulinemia. His dedication to developing novel therapeutics for lymphoma, CLL, and other hematologic malignancies, specifically focusing on mantle cell lymphoma, has significantly advanced the field.

Dr. Williams has demonstrated exceptional vision and guidance in his leadership roles as Physician Lead for the Cancer Service Line at UVA Health System and Associate Director of Clinical Affairs at UVA Cancer Center. Before his leadership in the cancer service line, Dr. Williams was the Chief of Hematology and Oncology in the School of Medicine at UVA. These positions have allowed him to significantly influence cancer care and research, benefiting patients and the medical community.

Dr. Williams' commitment to medical education and research is evident from his participation in national and international programs focused on lymphoma, CLL, and hematologic malignancies. His leadership extends beyond UVA Health, as seen in his service on the Lymphoma Research Foundation's scientific advisory board, involvement with the European Mantle Cell Lymphoma Network, and membership in the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group Lymphoma Core Committee.

His accolades, including the Mantle Cell Lymphoma Leadership Award from the Lymphoma Research Foundation and recognition as one of America's Top Cancer Doctors, reflect his profound impact on cancer care. Dr. Williams's consistent presence on the 'Best Doctors in America' list and repeated honors in the 'Best Bedside Manner Awards' speak to his clinical excellence and compassionate approach to patient care.

As Dr. Williams now focuses on his efforts as a researcher and educator, we celebrate his distinguished career and thank him for his leadership, expertise, and unwavering commitment to his patients, UVA and UVA Health. Your legacy of excellence will continue to inspire us all.

Sincerely,

Blake Herring, MSN, RN
Administrator Cancer Service Line
UVA Comprehensive Cancer Center

Karen Ballen, MD
Chief, Hematology/Oncology

Thomas P. Loughran, Jr., MD
Director of the University of Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Center

Reid Adams, MD
Chief Medical Officer
University Medical Center



Karen Finke & Janet Tillage Honored with Leonard Sandridge Awards

The Leonard Sandridge Outstanding Contributor Award is the highest honor achievable by non-faculty at the University of Virginia. Two members of the Department of Medicine make up this year's honorees: Karen Finke from the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and Janet Tillage from the Division of Oncology and Hematology. Congratulations, Karen and Janet, on this prestigious award!



Karen Finke, is a Physician Assistant in Gastroenterology and Hepatology, where she has been for 24 years. Her supervisors describe her as dedicated, compassionate, and a valuable contributor to her team. She consistently exhibits qualities far exceeding the University's mission and values, making her a standout contributor to the practice. She manages a thriving general GI clinic, and the feedback from her patients is consistently filled with praise and gratitude for their exceptional care.

One of Karen's most significant contributions to her Division is her outstanding leadership in creating and sustaining the Nutrition Support and Gastrostomy Tube Clinic. This invaluable clinic supports our oncology patients before and during cancer therapy. Her efforts have fostered a multidisciplinary approach to patient care for those with complex needs. Karen helps UVA succeed in providing patients with cutting-edge, comprehensive care in digestive health, cancer, and neurology. Karen has also profoundly impacted our Division by providing thoughtful mentorship and teaching to new Physician Assistants (PAs) joining our practice. Karen's guidance and mentorship have created a highly supportive environment for new graduates and PAs/clinicians to learn and develop their skills early in their careers. Karen instills in these team members—and all of her colleagues—her outstanding commitment to high-quality

patient care and communication, making her a role model and sought-after clinician from primary care providers and specialists throughout UVA Health.

Karen says that her GI colleagues are the best work family a person can have. "I work with an amazing group of providers, nurses, techs, and support staff. We support each other professionally and personally. Our work is hard, and having a group of people you can lean on, laugh with, and sometimes cry with helps me be the best possible provider I can be for my patients. Ultimately, I am here to care for my patients; they are the most important part of this mission." She also said she was completely surprised by the award, "I feel so honored to be thought of so highly by the people I work with every day. It's the kind of impact you hope to make in your job, with your patients and colleagues, and to know that you have made that impact feels great!"

Congratulations Karen Finke!



Janet Tillage has worked at UVA for 37 years and as a Medical Office Supervisor with Oncology/Hematology for 14 years. Her nomination letter explains that she has a level of accountability and productivity in her work that exceeds expectations and embodies our ASPIRE values. During COVID-19, when most administrative members were working from home, Janet provided necessary coverage in the office, coming in nearly daily to assist our team and Division in helping to care for patients by continuing operations. She provided extraordinary service by regularly coming on-grounds to manage tasks that could not be performed remotely. Janet volunteered to take on these tasks for the benefit of the team. She is efficient in multi-tasking, is a team player, and always has a pleasant and positive attitude.

Janet's commitment to her professional growth and development resulted in completing her MHA/MBA. In recognition of her talent and the value of maintaining our talent, Janet was promoted to a supervisory position earlier this year. This has allowed the mitigation of recognized gap issues in our Division related to significant faculty, staff, and research growth. We appreciate the dedication, excellence, and work ethic that Janet brings to the office each day. Her supervisor and Division Chief say that she is a tremendous asset to the Division as a critical member of the administrative team and

one who has contributed to the overall effectiveness and progress of the department.

Congratulations, Janet Tillage!

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

DOM Education Team Gatherings

The DOM Education Team met for several gatherings to celebrate and enjoy each other's company in December. Thanks to all the education faculty who contributed to make the annual luncheon such a success.



(from left, front row) Lisa Mackey, Javanov Barksdale, Joy Hilton Early, Brittany Davis, Lizzie Daniels, Cheryl Etelvari, Kara Watts (from left, back row) Fawad Sohail, Terry Bennett, Monte Parsons, Caleb Martin, Tony Brinkman, Erin Zimmerman (missing, Karen Ward)



Kara Watts and Cheryl Etelvari at the Boar's Head Winter Wonderland



(from left) Lisa Mackey, Javanov Barksdale, Lizzie Daniels, Brittany Davis, and Fawad Sohail at the GME Coordinator's Holiday Huddle



Cheryl Etelvari, Erin Zimmerman, and Kara Watts at the GME Coordinator's Holiday Huddle



Monte Parsons and his gingerbread house at the GME Coordinator's Holiday Huddle

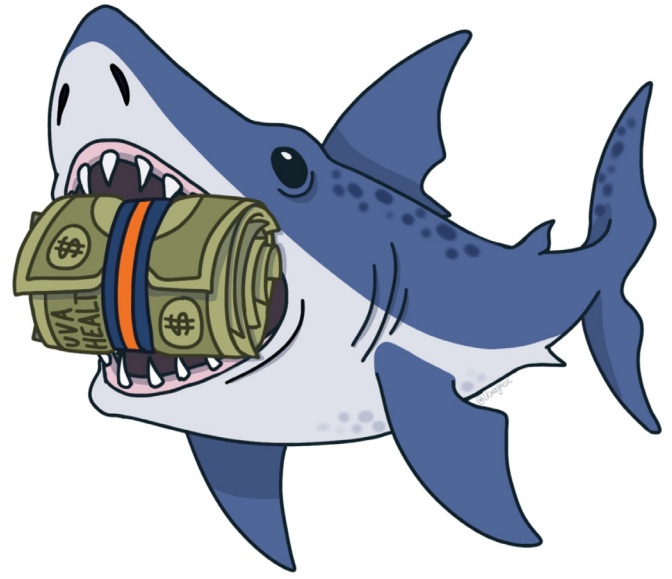
DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Shark Tank For 100K and 50K Research Grant Development Awards!

Researchers, do you want a chance to win a bite out of a \$150,000 grant funding award allocated by Dean Kibbe? Then dive into the School of Medicine “Shark Tank” Research Competition!

Here’s what you need to know:

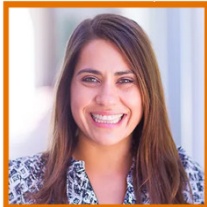
- Plan to develop a team to pitch your idea for an NIH U or P equivalent grant submission to the audience at the 2024 School of Medicine Research Retreat.
- Teams will develop a persuasive short pitch to present on stage, answer “biting” questions about their idea, and submit to audience polling/voting to select the winner in Shark Tank format.
- 1st place team receives 100K and the 2nd place team 50K to submit a U or P grant; all teams receive consultation with other UVA investigators that have previously received these awards; the winning team receives grant administration assistance from the administrator with prior U/P experience.
- Multidisciplinary teams are encouraged.



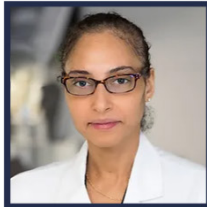
Save the Date: Feb 2-3 at the Forum Hotel, School of Medicine Research Retreat (all faculty and staff welcome)

For more information contact [Scott Heysell MD MPH](#)

iDRIV: Inspiring Diverse Researchers in Virginia



Chelsea Marie, PhD



Francine Garret-Bakelman, MD, PhD



Ileana Mauldin, PhD



Cherise Green Brackett, BS, MD



Ana Karina de Oliveira, PhD



Eunice Odiase, MD



Nicolas Ortiz, MD

Cultivating Research Excellence Through a Career Building Program

The integrated Translational Health Research Institute of Virginia (iTHRIV) seeks to promote diversity and excellence at UVA by offering an innovative career mentorship program “inspiring Diverse Researchers in Virginia” (iDRIV). iDRIV provides education, coaching, mentoring, and sponsorship for underrepresented early-career investigators in medicine and biomedical science. In the past 3 years, iDRIV has graduated 24 scholars across three cohorts. Participants have been predominantly female (92%), with 33% identifying as Hispanic/Latinx, 29% as Black, and 13% Asian. Notably, 38% of scholars have subsequently achieved at least one significant accomplishment, such as receiving a local research honor or award and an extramural funding award from a foundation or federal agency.

For the 2024 cycle sessions will be held every other Tuesday from 2-3:30 pm from January 16th, 2024-June 4th, 2024 and is open to all school of medicine departments.

Eligibility: Participants must meet the following:

1. Fellows, Clinical Instructor, Assistant Professor, Early Associate Professor (<5 years) and Post-Doctoral Fellows
2. Committed to a career in clinical, basic, or translational research
3. Meet the NIH definition of underrepresented persons in biomedical research NIH Definition

[APPLICATION](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)

In Memorial



Dudley F. Rochester MD

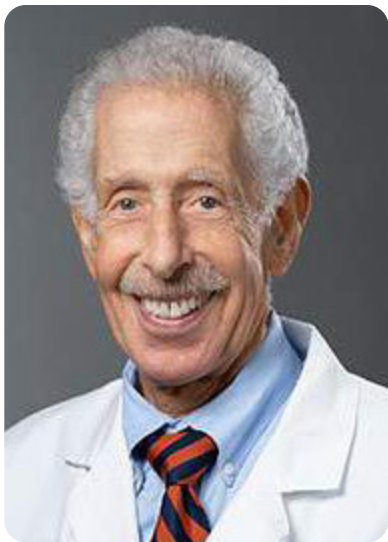
It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of **Professor Dudley Rochester**, a legendary figure in the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Rochester received his medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons in 1955. Dr. Rochester then did his internship and residency training at Presbyterian Hospital in New York, followed by a research fellowship in Cardiopulmonary Physiology in Dr. Andre Cournand's laboratory at Bellevue Hospital. He served on active duty in the US Army Medical Corps near Orleans, France. He was on the faculty of Columbia University at Bellevue Hospital (1962-68) and Harlem Hospital (1968-76).

In 1976, Dr. Rochester became the E. Cato Drash Professor of Medicine and Head of the Pulmonary Division at the University of Virginia. 1978-84, he was also the Medical Director of Tuberculosis Service at Blue Ridge Hospital. He researched the strength and endurance of muscles used for breathing in health and disease and authored numerous scientific papers, chapters, and review articles. He was elected to membership in the distinguished American Clinical and Climatological Association.

After retiring in 1994, Dr. Rochester volunteered for the American Lung Association. The American Thoracic Society presented him with an award for scientific excellence in 1996. Dr. Rochester had a particular interest in the environment and clean air and worked with the Commonwealth of Virginia on many initiatives to improve public health.

A memorial service will be held at Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge in Charlottesville, VA, on January 27th, 2024, at 2 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Endowment Fund, St. Paul's Memorial Church, or to the [Westminster-Canterbury of the Blue Ridge](#) (WCBR) Foundation.



Lewis C. Lipson MD

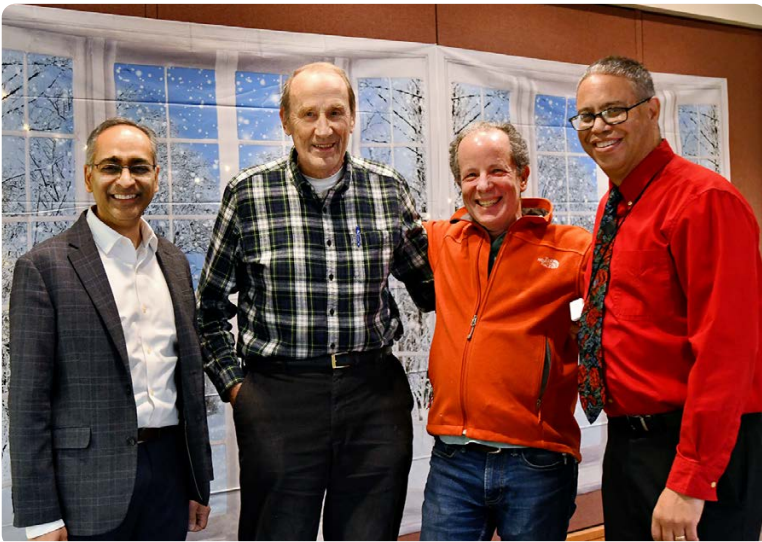
It is with great sadness that we note the passing of **Professor Lewis Lipson** after a long illness with lymphoma. A graduate of Harvard Medical School, Dr. Lipson was drawn to a career in medicine because of a desire "to do something that could improve the quality of people's lives," as he stated in his bio. For those who had the honor and privilege to work with Lew, he was known as an outstanding clinician, educator, and role model. He was tireless in his clinical care and worked throughout his illness, not wanting to disappoint his patients or colleagues. Lew simply did not know the word "no."

Dr. Lipson completed his internship and residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. He went on to complete cardiology training at the Cardiology Branch of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). After working in a private cardiology practice in Chevy Chase, MD., from 1981 to 2003, Dr. Lipson joined UVA Health. At various times, he held medical and education director positions within the Cardiology division. He will be remembered for his calm and dignified demeanor, his focus on the patient at the core of our work, and his constant striving to learn and teach others. He truly embodied the very best qualities, and we will miss him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and wife of fifty years, Marcia. A memorial gathering will follow at a later date.

Expressions of sympathy may be made as gifts in his memory to [Doctors Without Borders](#).

The Department of Medicine *Annual Holiday Party*

On December 21st, 2023, the Department held its holiday party. The food was delicious, the company exceptional, and smiles all around! Here's to every member of the University of Virginia Department of Medicine, and a Happy New year to all!



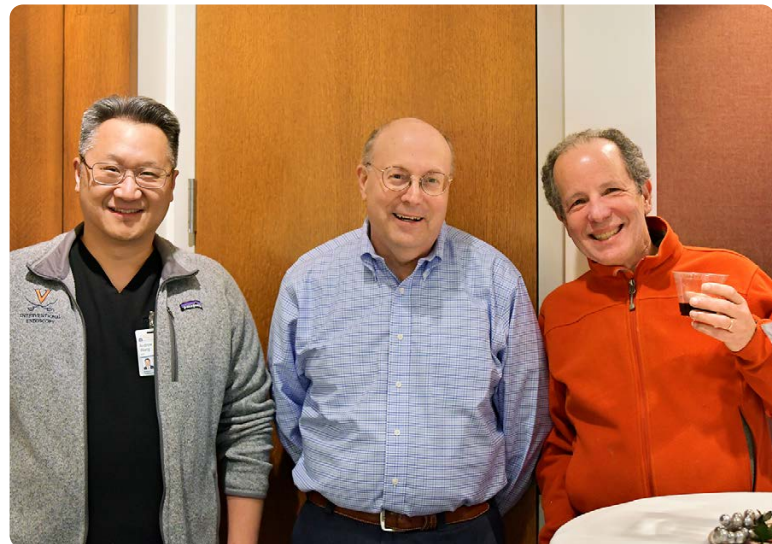
Amit Patel, Thomas Platts-Mills, Larry Borish, and Michael Nelson



Igor Shumilin, Bill Petri, Anuradha Illendula, and Andrea Joyner



Tushar Chopra, Igor Shumilin, and Alden Doylan



Andrew Wang, Mitch Rosner, and Larry Borish

DOM UPDATES & NOTES



Tushar Chopra, Thomas Platts-Mills, and Queen Naumanga



Brigitte Binard, Mo Nadkarni, Kim Blowe, Andrew Bowen, and Lindsey Danburg



Kim Blowe and Courtney Shelton



Franklin Herbert, Venugopal Gunda, Alicja Kuzniewska, and Bushra Mehkri



Molly Hughes and Eric Houpt



Monte Parsons, Larry Borsih, and Terri Washington

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

New clinical Trials (opened since 12/1/2023)

BREAST

A Randomized, Open-label, Phase 3 Study of Adjuvant Sacituzumab Govitecan and Pembrolizumab Versus Treatment of Physician's Choice in Patients With Triple Negative Breast Cancer Who Have Residual Invasive Disease After Surgery and Neoadjuvant Therapy

IRB # HSR230088

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05633654

Sponsor Protocol GS-US-595-6184 / ASCENT-05 Sponsor: Gilead Sciences, Inc.

Principal Investigator: Dillon, Patrick

Study Contact: Olena Glushakova oyg2n@uvahealth.org

CELLULAR THERAPIES

A phase 2 open-label, multicenter study evaluating the safety and efficacy of axicabtagene ciloleucel concomitant with prophylactic steroids in subjects with relapsed or refractory large b-cell lymphoma in the outpatient setting

IRB # HSR230125

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05459571

Sponsor Protocol KT-US-482-0137, ZUMA-24 Sponsor: Kite Pharma

Principal Investigator: Varadarajan, Indumathy

Study Contact: Danyelle Coley jcs6rz@uvahealth.org 434-982-5027

Global registry for long term follow up of patients participating in clinical trials with Posoleucel (ALVR105)

IRB # HSR220405

CT. Gov. ID: Not specified

Sponsor Protocol P-105-401 Sponsor: AlloVir Kirby Grove

Principal Investigator: Varadarajan, Indumathy

Study Contact: Sara Casana Granell qna7wg@uvahealth.org 434-924-5254

GENITO URINARY (GU)

A Phase 2 Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of NKT2152 in Combination with Palbociclib (Doublet) and with Palbociclib and Sasanlimab (Triplet) in Patients with Advanced or Metastatic Renal Clear Cell Carcinoma

IRB # HSR220311

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05935748

Sponsor Protocol NKT2152-202 Sponsor: NiKang Therapeutics, Inc.

Principal Investigator: Dreicer, Robert

Study Contact: Steven H Goff wrs9hw@uvahealth.org 434-297-4126

A dose-escalation and expansion study of the safety and pharmacokinetics of XB002 as single-agent and combination therapy in subjects with inoperable locally advanced or metastatic solid tumors

IRB # HSR220397

CT. Gov. ID: NCT04925284

Sponsor Protocol XB002-101 Sponsor: EXELIXIS, Inc.

Principal Investigator: Dreicer, Robert

Study Contact: DeJuana Coleman evq9yw@uvahealth.org 434-924-9199

New clinical Trials (opened since 12/1/2023)

HEAD AND NECK

A Phase I/II Study of TheraT® Vector(s) Expressing Human Papillomavirus 16 Positive (HPV 16+) Specific Antigens in Patients with HPV 16+

Confirmed Cancers

IRB # HSR220352

CT. Gov. ID: NCT04180215

Sponsor Protocol H-200-001 Sponsor: Hookipa Biotech GmbH

Principal Investigator: Kaur, Varinder

Study Contact: Olusegun Adelaja oba4e@uvahealth.org

PBT: PLASMA/BENIGN/T-CELL

A Phase 3 Randomized Study Comparing Talquetamab SC in Combination With Daratumumab SC and Pomalidomide (Tal-DP) or Talquetamab SC in Combination With Daratumumab SC (Tal-D) Versus Daratumumab SC, Pomalidomide and Dexamethasone (DPd), in Participants With Relapsed or Refractory Multiple Myeloma who Have Received at Least 1 Prior Line of Therapy

IRB # HSR230148

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05455320

Sponsor Protocol 64407564MMY3002 Sponsor: Janssen Research & Development

Principal Investigator: Foster, Laahn

Study Contact: Theresa Leak tol3w@uvahealth.org 434-243-4308

CALM: Chronic & Acute Leukemia/MDS & MPN

Venetoclax In Combination with ASTX727, an All-ORal Therapy for Chronic Myelomonocytic Leukemia and Other MDS/MPN with Excess

Blasts (VICTORY-MDS/MPN): a Randomized, Phase 2 trial

IRB # HSR230204

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05600894

Sponsor Protocol 10538 Sponsor: ETCTN

Principal Investigator: Reed, Daniel

Study Contact: Cory Caldwell cjc2p@uvahealth.org 434-297-4182

THORACIC

A Phase 3, Open-Label, Randomized, Multi-Center Study of DZD9008 versus Platinum-Based Doublet Chemotherapy as First-Line Treatment for Patients with Locally Advanced or Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Harboring Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Exon 20 Insertion Mutation

IRB # HSR230066

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05668988

Sponsor Protocol DZ2022E0005 Sponsor: Dizal Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd

Principal Investigator: Gentzler, Ryan

Study Contact: Gracie Hockenberry mgt4n@virginia.edu 434-297-7784

Not specified

A Dose-Escalation and Expansion Study of the Safety and Efficacy of XL092 in Combination with Immuno-Oncology Agents in Subjects with Unresectable Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors

IRB # HSR230092

CT. Gov. ID: NCT05176483

Sponsor Protocol XL092-002 / STELLAR-002 Sponsor: EXELIXIS, Inc.

Principal Investigator: Dreicer, Robert

Study Contact: Alexandra Cash aec5gn@uvahealth.org 434-243-4305

DOM UPDATES & NOTES

Happy Therapy

Hank, our Medicine Team Therapy Dog, shared some holiday cheer with the medical students during their *Pause to Paws* event in December. It was a fun break for everyone, students and dogs alike. Thank you to our furry friends owners for lending your time and pups for this happy event.



Do You Have News You'd Like To Share on Medicine Matters?

**Contact Kim Kelley-Wagner kak2cj@virginia.edu
434.328.0680**

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



UVA Resources for Team Members

support for dealing with crisis and how to
stay informed.

Message from Eric Houpt MD, Infectious Diseases Division Chief



Happy 2024! It is great not to have to talk so much about COVID. Ironically, however, as I write this, I sit at home with COVID, having previously dodged it for nearly four years. Not a trivial illness! COVID has joined the pantheon of endemic respiratory viruses like influenza and RSV, which have a winter peak season and will surely be with us for a while.

The Division now consists of about 150 faculty, staff, and fellows. Some of us continue working in COVID, while others have resumed our usual work on the wards, clinic, lab, antibiotic stewardship, hospital epidemiology, or other areas. Our consult services have expanded and are now staffed by at least three attendings, fellows, and nurse practitioners. The Division had an outstanding year in FY23 in research, with over \$22 million in research expenditures. Read below about newly hired faculty Justin Taylor PhD, and Josh Colston PhD. It is truly an honor to work alongside such impressive colleagues.

A sad reminder: in 2023, the Division lost its former Chief, Dr. Jerry Mandell. Some of you may remember him. He was memorable. He arrived in Charlottesville in 1969 to start the Division. His career and impact on the field of infectious



Gerald "Jerry" Mandell MD

diseases was magnificent. He served as Chief of the Division his entire career, authored over 300 scientific publications and book chapters, and was the lead editor of "Mandell, Douglas, and Bennett's Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases." He was President of IDSA in 1994, a member of the Institute of Medicine, and served on numerous national advisory boards on infectious disease threats. He held numerous NIH grants including an NIH Merit award, and started the UVA Infectious Diseases Training Grant, now in its 47th year. He was a gifted clinician with a sharp wit, high standards, brutal honesty, and great clarity of thought. As Bill Petri says, he led with a self-confidence that allowed him to be generous and, at the same time, a critical thought leader. We learned a lot from him, and our Division remains committed to the principles of academic and clinical rigor that he set.

I hope everyone got some rest with family and friends over the holiday, and I wish you all the best productivity and a Happy New Year.

~ Eric Houpt MD

Scott Heysell MD and team, Awarded \$3.7 Million to Improve Treatment of Tuberculosis Effort (Medicine In Motion)

Scott Heysell, MD, MPH, the Thomas H. Hunter Associate Professor of International Medicine and director of University of Virginia's Center for Global Health Equity, was awarded a 5-year R01 grant renewal for more than \$3.7 million from the NIH to improve treatment outcomes for children and adults with tuberculosis.



[READ MORE](#)

EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS



Patrick Jackson MD

**By Patrick Jackson MD
Fellowship Director**

Program Director Patrick Jackson and Associate Program Directors Stacy Park and Chris Moore lead the University of Virginia’s Infectious Diseases Fellowship. The ID fellowship is a three-year training program that aims to produce excellent clinicians, researchers, and educators. The program has been supported by NIH T-32 training grants for more than four decades and emphasizes rigorous clinical medicine and research training. The program has a unique structure in which first-year fellows dedicate their time exclusively to research. The second and third training years are divided between clinical and research time. During the clinical years, fellows see patients on the general and immune-compromised/transplant inpatient consult services. There are also opportunities to participate in outpatient HIV, general, transplant, mycobacterial, Clostridium difficile, travelers, and musculoskeletal infectious diseases clinics.

Fellows and their faculty mentors work one-on-one in a wide array of scientific projects encompassing basic, translational, clinical, and epidemiologic research at UVA and around the globe. UVA fellows have been recognized for their excellence this year in various forums. Ghassan Ilaowy received one of the 2023 Burroughs Wellcome Fund/ASTMH Postdoc Fellowships in Tropical Infectious Diseases. Ghassan is the 3rd fellow in our program to receive the prestigious honor, after Yosra Alkabab in 2020 and James Platts-Mills in 2014. Jacqueline Hodges was selected for the HIV, Infectious Disease, and Global Health Implementation Research Institute to study mobile health interventions. Catherine Bielick serves on the HIV Medicine Association Board of Directors and the IDSA Coordinating Council and as the chair of the Fellows Community of Practice. Idu Meadows received the inaugural Dick and Nancy Guerrant ID and International Health Equity Award to support her work on TB in Tanzania.

This year, we had another very successful match. We look forward to welcoming Daniel Bailey (University of Vermont), Ben Fuller (UVA), and Matthew Willis (Virginia Commonwealth University) to the fellowship program in July 2024.

We welcome hearing from residents and students interested in learning more about ID or being connected to research projects in the Division. Please contact Patrick Jackson (pej9j@uvahealth.org) to learn about ID training opportunities.

Current Fellows	Residency	Research	Mentor
Bielick	Boston U	HIV associated opportunistic infections	McManus
Flynn	Cleveland Clinic	Diagnosis of acute febrile illness in Peru	Kosek
Geba	UVA	STI/Anal pap screening in HIV	Thomas
Hicks	UVA	Hospital-acquired infections	Eby
Hodges	UVA/ABIM Research Pathway	TB & HIV linkage to care in Tanzania	Heysell
Ilaowy	Georgetown	TB biomarkers/diagnostics	Thomas
Lehman	Inova	Stewardship/MDROs	Mathers
Meadows	Baptist Health/University of Arkansas	Tuberculosis therapy	Heysell
Oakes	LSU	Antimicrobial stewardship and perioperative prophylaxis	Mathers
Rigo	UNC/New Hanover	C difficile immunity	Petri/Madder



FOLLOW ID

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UVA Infectious Diseases Researchers Seek to Save Children From Deadly Diarrhea in New International Effort

Josh Colston, PhD, and James Platts-Mills, MD, will lead UVA Health's contributions to the new SPRINGS consortium, which is spearheaded by the Amsterdam Institute of Global Health and Development and Amsterdam UMC, a leading medical center. They have joined a new international consortium that will work to understand how climate change could affect dangerous diarrheal diseases, a leading cause of death for children under 5 years old.

Consortium researchers fear that climate change threatens the fragile progress made in reducing childhood diarrhea in the past decades. Floods and droughts could have dire effects on the countries and communities most stricken by childhood diarrhea, which contributes to more than a half-million deaths of young children each year, mostly in tropical and lower-income regions of the world.

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UPCOMING EVENTS



David M. Aronoff, MD, FIDSA, FAAM

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND GLOBAL BIOTHRREATS RESEARCH DAY

Monday, February 12th, 2024

Pinn Hall Conference Center

Keynote speaker David Aronoff, MD, John B. Hickman Professor of Medicine and the Chair of the Department of Medicine at Indiana University's School of Medicine

Agenda for Infectious Diseases and Global Biothreats Research Day:

10:30 am – 11:30 am	Introduction and Career Forum	Pinn Auditorium
11:30 am – 12:00 pm	Lunch and Poster Set-Up	Pinn Hall Auditorium/Lobby
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Poster Presentations	Pinn 2ABC, Pinn G1/G2
1:45 pm – 3:00 pm	Oral Presentations	Pinn Auditorium
3:00 pm – 3:15 pm	Break	
3:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Keynote Address <i>“Host-microbial interactions in Group B Streptococcus infections during pregnancy”</i>	Pinn Auditorium
4:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Awards, presented by Dr. Petri	Pinn Auditorium

**Read more about the
Ryan White Center**

RECENT EVENTS



Administrative group outside of Monticello – from left: LaMoria Alexander, Samantha Alleman Moreau, Charlotte Lewis, Kobby Hoffman, Lisa Cook, Emily Kozik, Wendi Foster, Serhiy Vitko

Administrative Staff Retreat

The first ID Administrative Staff Retreat was held in October. Because we all work in so many different places – 100% remote, hybrid in-office, all on different days, or even just the difference of working in the division offices vs. the clinic offices – we don't often get to catch up with each other in person. The retreat focused on boosting our team's morale by connecting outside of Zoom meetings on things not work-related. We started the afternoon with lunch at Bebedero on the Downtown Mall, followed by being local tourists (or, for our out-of-state-based grants admins able to make the trip, actual tourists) by taking a guided tour of Monticello and after enjoying the view from the mountain onto Charlottesville below (and spending money in the gift shop), the day ended with a dinner at Sedona

Taphouse. Team members opted into the activities that fit within their schedule, so even if someone couldn't make the entire retreat, they could join us for a small bit.

We thank the Division for the opportunity to build camaraderie in our team and look forward to the next time we meet. (We already have a few ideas for the activities.)

ID Division Holiday Party

This year's Division Holiday Party was on December 13th at Firefly Restaurant. The Door Prize Trivia included holiday-related questions, including one specific to UVA – "What year was the first Lighting on the Lawn?" All faculty, staff, and their families had such a good time that we forgot to take pictures at the event!

We would like to thank everyone for coming out and helping to celebrate another successful year in the Division!

INFECTIOUS DISEASES SEMINARS & LECTURES

- ID Case Conference
- ID Didactic and Fellows Research Conferences
- HIV Lectures
- HIV Case Conferences
- ID and Global Biothreats Seminar Series
- ID and Global Biothreats Research-in-Progress
- ID Clinical Journal Club
- Translational ID and Global Biothreats Journal Club
- Transplant Lecture Series
- Microbiology Seminars
- Beirne B. Carter Center for Immunology Seminars

DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

STAFF PROFILES - ID Clinic

Part of our division includes the Infectious Diseases Clinic. Here are just a few of the members of our hard-working team!



Veronica Ross, Lead Case Manager, Community Health Workers & Retention in Care Team

Veronica has been with the Infectious Disease Clinic and Ryan White Program for 23 years. During her time here, she has held many different roles, starting as a Certified Nursing Assistant, working to support the clinical staff and providers under Drs. Wispelwey's and Townsend's leadership during the early start of the Ryan White program in our clinic for 15 years. She supported the patients and providers during this time, which she has truly enjoyed! Working in this role, which she is so passionate about, allowed her the opportunity to do some non-medical case management. As she continued her work in the clinic to support patients, she picked up volunteering to take patients to dental appointments, which later became part of her regular work and led her to serve as a community health worker for our clinic and program. All these tasks and work have allowed her to grow and build bonds with the patients we serve! She has learned that the most important part of our work here is remembering to meet our patients where they

are and to do what it takes to continue to help the program grow. She has also realized that with every job she takes, the skills learned and the passion to support patients and programs have grown increasingly. Veronica spends much time with her lovely family and her very spoiled Yorkie!

Bridgett Harlow, Lead Case Manager, Medical Case Managers Team

Bridgett's journey at UVA began in 2010 as an Access Associate in Ophthalmology. When an opening became available in the Infectious Diseases Clinic, she was drawn to joining the team, intrigued by the variety of patients served and cases treated. Over the next five years of working with this team, the positive impact and growth of the Ryan White program was brightly apparent. She then spent three years with the Department of Breast Surgery & the ECCC, but when an opening for a Non-medical Case manager appeared, she knew it was time to return to the ID clinic. Now, as a Medical Case Manager, she is focused on growing relationships with her patients to improve their health outlook and foster a beneficial relationship with their care team in our clinic and RW program. Bridgett shares that there is a culture of caring and a range of disciplines, which makes the ID and Ryan White programs unique, and she considers herself fortunate to be a part of such a strong team. Bridgett enjoys spending time with her lovely family and has a beautiful cat that recently surprised her with new kittens!



Morgan Blevins, Lead Case Manager, Non-Medical Case Managers Team & Dental Coordinator

Morgan has been with the Infectious Disease clinic for the last 12 years. Her journey began in 2010 when she started as an Access Associate, working at the front desk supporting our patients and staff, and she would spend the next five years in this position. In 2015, Morgan spent a short time away and worked with UVA Family Medicine but soon found that this was not her passion. Morgan returned to the ID clinic to work as a Non-Medical Case Manager Eligibility Specialist for the Ryan White Program and has been in this role for the last seven years. Since then, Morgan has assisted patients with all their Ryan White program eligibility needs and other services offered within the clinic. While doing this, she has established strong relationships with our patients and focused on ensuring patient needs are met. Her passion for the program and our patients has grown tremendously; she cannot wait to see what the future holds for the Ryan White program. Morgan enjoys her time at home with her amazing family, which keeps her very busy! (22)



DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

STAFF PROFILE -Ning-Jiun “Ninj” Jan



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I have been a research scientist at the University of Virginia for over three years with Associate Professor Chelsea Marie Braun in Infectious Diseases. Before that, I was a PhD graduate student with Associate Professor Ian Sigal at the Ocular Biomechanics Lab at the University of Pittsburgh. I have been doing research since high school, and I love it.

Why Research?

I had my first taste of research at Freehold Borough High School as part of the Medical Sciences magnet program. There was a dedicated class called “research” where we could take on any scientific question, do experiments, and write a report at the end of the year. The problem-solving required for such a task intrigued me. In college, I first thought I would go for medicine and become a doctor. Still, after getting hands-on experience in Professor Bjorkman’s lab at Caltech, I fell in love, changed my major from pre-med to bioengineering, and decided to go to graduate school. I have stayed at the forefront of managing and conducting experiments since then.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

My husband Gaurav Giri is an Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering here at UVA, so I followed him after I finished my PhD. We both felt like Charlottesville was a lovely place and decided to buy a house and have our first child here.

What excites you about your work?

The best (and sometimes worst) thing about research is that you have periods of crunch time with extensive experiments. The quick problem-solving needed for this is what I live for. With all the stresses it adds, it is also delightfully fun a lot of the time.

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

Hot sauce... yum.

What about you would surprise us?

I used to teach singing and dancing.



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

I wish I could snap my fingers. I don't know what I am doing wrong, but I just can't seem to get it right. Mostly, it just sounds like angry hand rubbing.



DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

FELLOW PROFILE - Maria Geba



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I came to the University of Virginia in 2018 for Internal Medicine residency after completing medical school at Boston University School of Medicine. In 2021, I stayed on for fellowship in the Division of Infectious Diseases and International Health.

Why Healthcare?

I have always been drawn to the intersection of science and society. Therefore, choosing to pursue a career in medicine and now infectious diseases came naturally. While the demands of the profession are undeniable, with long hours and the weighty responsibility of patient care, the privilege of serving people as a physician far outweighs the challenges.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

It was clear during my interview day years ago that UVA was the right fit for me. The people here are

smart, collegial, and kind. I felt that I found my people here. As for Charlottesville, it's easy to love it here. Not too hectic but always something fun to do.

What excites you about your work?

The detective work of clinical infectious diseases is always exciting for me. I also really enjoy the research I do in HPV-related cancers and implementation science. It is exciting to know that the work we do can make a difference.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

I love spending time outdoors with the people I love – biking, running, hiking with my husband and some friends is my favorite.

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

Jamon – did I mention I'm Spanish?

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

Don't forget the legacy you leave behind..

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

"Mountains Beyond Mountains" by Tracy Kidder (though if I'm being completely honest, it was an audiobook).



DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

FACULTY PROFILE - Justin Taylor



What about you would surprise us?

I've been at the University of Virginia less than a year, having recently relocated my lab from Fred Hutch in Seattle, WA. I started my lab at Fred Hutch in 2014 after doing postdoctoral research at the University of Minnesota, graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania, and undergraduate research at Rider University.

Why Research?

I was inspired to pursue research after a lab experience with an excellent undergraduate professor. For the lab component of our class, we went into the professor's lab and did an experiment that had never been conducted before, so even the professor did not know what the outcome would be. I enjoyed the idea of being able to answer an important question that nobody else in the world has answered, and this is the driving force behind my research program.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

After interviewing at several institutions across the country, UVA had the best combination of things I was searching for: an engaging research community, supportive and collaborative colleagues, and a great setup for both myself and my partner, who is a researcher who started her lab here at UVA. Charlottesville also allowed me to move closer to where I grew up in NJ/NY, where I have a lot of friends and family.

What excites you about your work?

My lab researches the type of immune cell that makes protective antibodies to understand better why these cells don't always respond in ways that are helpful to us. In parallel, we have also created genetic engineering approaches to generate cells that produce protective antibodies. Both of these research areas are challenging, but I'm excited about the powerful approaches we have developed that make both types of studies routine in the lab.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

My typical weekend involves some home improvement project. I enjoy learning how to do new and challenging things, so I do everything from small touchup painting to complete floor-to-ceiling renovations in my free time.



How did you meet your partner?

We met at a University of Minnesota happy hour when I was a postdoc, and she was a graduate student.

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

Diet Coke.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

I like to experience different cultures and cuisines around the world. We have been to many unique and interesting places, but some of my favorites were the Polynesian Islands, Croatia, and Tanzania.

What about you would surprise us?

A character in a children's book is based on me. The author wanted to write a children's book about the immune system, and she asked me many questions while writing the book. I don't receive any proceeds from the sale of this book, but I sometimes use my cartoon likeness. It's called "*KC and the Battling B Cell.*"



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

I've always wished I had some artistic talent. Most of my family does, but even my stick figure drawings are terrible.

Favorite fictional characters?

Mark Watney.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

"*All Systems Red*" by Martha Wells

Do you collect anything?

I have a collection of mini baseball helmets in my office from many of the MLB games I've attended over the past 15 years.

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

I worked as a laborer for my grandfather's small (2-4 employees) trucking company, loading and unloading trucks beginning around the age of 12 on weekends and during the summers. My first non-family job was as a busser at an Italian restaurant shortly after turning 16.

FACULTY PROFILE - Josh Colston



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at the University of Virginia for over four years, first as a research scientist and now as an assistant professor. I'm an epidemiologist researching infectious diseases and teach an undergraduate epidemiology course. I was born in California to British parents and moved to the UK while still a baby, growing up just outside of London. In 2008, I moved to Washington DC (just before Barack Obama was elected), where I spent five years working for several international development agencies before going on to do a PhD and eventual postdoc in international health at Johns Hopkins University.

Why Research?

I've always loved solving puzzles and making little discoveries, so working in research appeals to that innate curiosity. As an epidemiologist, I'm always looking for patterns in data that only start to emerge when you look at things on a population level. Patterns lead to hypotheses, and the question becomes, "how do you test this?". Designing an epidemiological research study involves trade-offs, where you must balance competing methodological, logistical, and ethical demands. It's not a process for people who like things clear-cut. You must be tolerant of uncertainty and ambiguity and honest about what you can and can't conclude based on your findings. Part of me also loves the hustle – competing for grants, navigating peer reviews,

juggling multiple projects. It's very collaborative, and I get to work with a diverse network of people.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

I came here from DC in 2019 when the opportunity to work in infectious diseases research at UVA came up. My family was a little apprehensive about moving to a smaller town, especially my wife Liane, a big city girl through and through, but my daughter (our second child) had just been born, and our place in DC was starting to feel very small for our growing family. It turned out to be a smart move for all of us. Our kids love their schools and all the greenery, and we enjoy exploring the local businesses and sites around town and surrounding areas. When the pandemic hit, we were especially thankful for the extra space.

What excites you about your work?

I love that my work has an international focus. I get to study health issues of global importance that disproportionately affect families living with limited resources in tropical and lower-income regions of the world. As well as these very broad themes, I contribute to several disease surveillance projects in the Peruvian Amazon, and getting to visit and work with local scientists there is a great privilege. When used right, scientific evidence can bring transformative change to people's lives, even those in the most marginal communities.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

I enjoy swinging in a hammock, reading a book, strumming my guitar, and sipping on a cocktail at weekends. I also love going to live music shows. This year, I saw three of my all-time favorite music acts in concert: The Cure, Tori Amos, and the British alt-rock band *Everything Everything*.

How did you meet your partner?

In true Washingtonian fashion, mutual friends introduced my wife and I at a happy hour in a DC bar. We've now been married for 11 years and have two children.

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

My vegetable garden turned out to be quite an achievement this year. I was able to provide friends and family with homegrown pumpkins for Halloween and try out some recipes for Korean-style pickles using my own cucumbers.

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

Sriracha hot sauce.

What is your favorite vacation spot?

Treasure Beach, a string of fishing villages on the south coast of Jamaica. My wife and I have been there twice, once before we had children and then again with our kids.

What about you would surprise us?

People are always surprised to learn that I can't stand chess and am terrible at it. Also, I once spent a summer working as a singing waiter in Paris.

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

I would love to be able to play the accordion.

Favorite fictional characters? Dr. House

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

I've just finished reading Emily St. John Mandel's excellent second novel, *"The Glass Hotel,"* but the book I read recently that blew me away was *"Piranesi"* by Suzanna Clarke. I've always been an avid reader of both novels and non-fiction.

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

"Chichaworms," a Filipino bar snack consisting of little fried grubs in the style of chicharrones.

Do you collect anything?

I collect guitar effects pedals (notoriously spending more time and energy curating my collection than playing the guitar through them).

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

My first job was washing dishes in an Italian restaurant when I was 16.

