

MEDICINEMATTERS

MARCH 2025

NEWSLETTER

Medicine Matters is a monthly newsletter published by the University of Virginia, Department of Medicine. Inquires may be sent to the editor, Kim Kelley-Wagner, at kak2cj@uvahealth.org



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.

WELCOME TO THE MARCH EDITION

This month, we highlight the research and educational accomplishments of the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care, led by Dr. Imre Noth.

We'd welcome you to read, watch, or listen to the many articles, papers, podcasts, and media appearances in which our department members appear.

If you have news to share, you are encouraged to do so at kak2cj@uvahealth.org

Thank you for all you do!



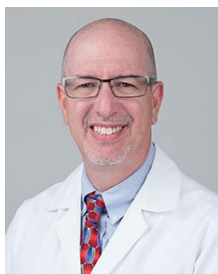
Dr. Mitch Rosner Writes on UVA Leadership Transition

"I understand that any change comes with uncertainty, but I also know that I won't be able to do this role without the support of all of you across our great health system."

[Read more...](#)



~ SUBMIT NEWS ~



"I've had the opportunity to be on the cutting edge in the development

of treatments in pulmonary fibrosis, and diagnosis of categorization."

~ Imre Noth, MD

GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE
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Women's History Month



UVA Health

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OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

DOM Financial Update

Department of Medicine Summary of Consolidated Financials

FY25 as of

January 2025

	Budget YTD	Actual YTD	\$ Variance YTD
Work RVUs	806,717	794,983	(11,734)
Clinical Receipts (NPSR)	52,713,858	50,255,819	(2,458,039)
Total Revenues	146,173,300	145,346,781	(826,519)
Total Expenditures	146,517,137	147,763,884	(1,246,747)
Net Income	(343,837)	(2,417,103)	(2,073,267)

Summary Explanation of Variance:

1. For the fiscal year through January 31, 2025, DOM reported a consolidated net loss of \$2.4M and an unfavorable variance to YTD net income budget of \$2.1M.
2. Clinical receipts underperformed budget by \$2.5M primarily due to impact of lower conversion factor, changes in third party agreements, unrealized budgeted revenue cycle efficiency, budgeted risk withhold for transplant posted to miscellaneous revenue, lower MIPS payments, accrual model adjustments and CrowdStrike software outage, inclement weather interruptions and Community Oncology transitioning to Community Health.
3. Total revenue includes \$3.4M MC clinical deficit and APP gap coverage revenue accrual, \$1.7M unbudgeted gifts and \$2.2M endowment revenue for the remainder of the fiscal year.
4. Total expenditures are impacted by unbudgeted hires, extra clinic shifts, unbudgeted merit increases unbudgeted sign on bonuses and unrealized budgeted personnel reduction contingencies.

**FOLLOW WOMEN IN INTERNAL
MEDICINE NETWORK**

**FOLLOW SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

CONGRATULATIONS TO US!

UVA Health University Medical Center
Named The Top Hospital In Virginia In
Recent Newsweek Ranking

**MINDFULNESS
MATTERS NEWSLETTER**

**Is Your Division's Website Content Up-to-Date?
Need a Team or Research Lab Photo Shoot?**

Contact Kim Kelley-Wagner to get started at
kak2cj@uvahealth.org or 434.328.0680

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**FOLLOW UVA
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NEPHROLOGY**

FOLLOW GASTRO

FOLLOW CARDIO



Thomas Loughran MD



Kate McManus MD



William Petri MD PhD



Jie Sun PhD



Mami Taniuchi PhD



Rachel Kon MD



Margaret Plews-Ogan MD



Shrirang Gadrey MD

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to **Drs. Thomas P. Loughran, Kathleen McManus, William A. Petri, Jie Sun, and Mami Taniuchi**, on being honored at the School of Medicine Faculty Honored at the University of Virginia Outstanding Research Awards for receiving the highest amount of funding at UVA for FY24. [Read more...](#)

Congratulations to **Drs. Rachel Kon and Margaret L Plews-Ogan** and colleagues on their publication of her paper "*Stimulating Medical Student Professional Identity Formation Through Mentored Longitudinal Partnerships With Patient Teachers*" in the Journal of the Association of Medical American Colleges.

Congratulations to **Dr. Shirang Gadrey**, who has been awarded \$4 Million to Study the physiological signatures of labored breathing. [Read more...](#)

Welcome To The World



Congratulations to residents Zoya and Nabeel Mirza, who welcomed baby Rafay Shakeel Mirza on February 10, 2025.

Are You a UVA Researcher? An Innovator?



Licensing & Ventures Group

Where research gets *real*

We partner with faculty, researchers, and investors to bring innovations discovered at UVA to the marketplace.

UVA Resources for Team Members

support for dealing with crisis and how to stay informed.

FOLLOW UVA IM RESIDENCY

INIMEDIA

DEPARTMENT

Discussing Barriers, Concerns Key for Getting Older Adults Vaccinated

A recent study by the University of Virginia School of Medicine is finding a new approach to boosting vaccination rates for older adults. “One thing that we did in the study was we created a shared decision-making tool. This was a sheet of paper that on the front had recommended vaccines, had spaces for people to write about their health conditions, their questions about their vaccines, and then to start that conversation. So, a tool like that to be informed as to what vaccines you need is an important first step. We also found that once patients were informed, they were then empowered to start that conversation and to ask their clinicians,” said UVA Health geriatrician and lead author of the study, Dr. Laurie Archbald-Pannone.

[READ MORE](#)
[WATCH ON WBDJ7](#)



Dr. Kyle Enfield talks with WRIC in Richmond to dispel the myth that you'll catch a cold by going outside during winter.

“Everyone’s grandmother probably has said something like that,” said UVA Professor of Medicine, Dr. Kyle Enfield in an interview with 8News on Wednesday.

However, according to experts like Dr. Enfield, that’s not necessarily true. Each winter, cases of covid, flu and RSV spread at heightened rates as people hide indoors.

“There’s shared meals and shared family gatherings that allow us to be more likely to get sick during those times of year, because, rather than being outside, riding bikes, running outside, we’re inside with our families, sharing our germs,” Dr. Enfield explained.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

UVA Health cardiologist, Dr. Kanwar Singh, says a new procedure could be the answer for people dealing with high blood pressure.

Renal denervation is a minimally invasive procedure that targets nerve tissues that control blood pressure in the body.

There have been trials on this procedure over the last decade, and FDA approval in 2024 could make it a more common option for treating high blood pressure.

“The types of patients who currently we would say are appropriate for consideration of renal denervation are ones who have a medication-resistant high blood pressure. Namely on two or three or sometimes more medications and despite that unable to maintain adequate blood pressure control,” UVA Health Cardiologist Doctor Kanwar Singh said.

[WATCH ON 29NEWS](#)





Community Conversation: Dr. Patricia Rodriguez-Lozano with UVA Health

Speaking with women's heart specialist, Dr. Patricia Rodriguez-Lozano, on Wear Red Day about the importance of heart health in women.

Heart disease in women can look different—awareness and early detection save lives. Watch the full interview.

WATCH ON 29NEWS



Dr. Emily McGowan is featured in Medscape discussing new guidance on treating esophageal dysfunction.

"Many different disorders can lead to esophageal dysfunction, which is characterized by symptoms including dysphagia, odynophagia, chest pain and heartburn. These symptoms can be caused either by immune or infectious conditions and can either be localized to the esophagus or part of a larger systemic process," co-first author Emily McGowan, MD, PhD, said in an AGA podcast.

READ ON MEDSCAPE



Dr. Nisha Hosadurg and Dr. Kelly Wingerter featured locally, across Virginia, and on TV stations nationally discussing women's heart health.

Heart disease is the No. 1 cause of death among women, according to UVA Health.

"Often, women are diagnosed with conditions like high blood pressure or gestational diabetes during pregnancy. Once the pregnancy ends, their blood pressure normalizes or they no longer have gestational diabetes, and people assume the risk is gone. However, there is long-term cardiovascular risk," said Dr. Kelly Wingerter

"Women may tend to have a tendency to just not think that will get better you know kind of sweep things under the rug," said UVA Health Doctor Nisha Hosadurg.

WATCH ON CBS19

WATCH ON 12OnYourSide

WATCH ON WBDJ29

WATCH ON WVIR



Women In Internal Medicine Network would love to hear from you!



Please share your ideas with us here.

CLINICAL TRIALS - Hematology/Oncology Clinical Trials, opened since 01/01/2025

BREAST

ComboMATCH Treatment Trial: Palbociclib and Binimetinib in RAS-Mutant Cancers
IRB #301823
CT. Gov. ID: NCT05554367
Sponsor Protocol: NCI-2022-07266
Sponsor: Alliance
Principal Investigator: Reilley, Matthew
Study Contact: Kate Skoczylas ks5jk@virginia.edu

NRG-BR009: A Phase III Adjuvant Trial Evaluating the Addition of Adjuvant Chemotherapy to Ovarian Function Suppression plus Endocrine Therapy in Premenopausal Patients with pN0-1, ER-Positive/HER2-Negative Breast Cancer and an Oncotype Recurrence Score = 25 (OFSET)
IRB #301980
CT. Gov. ID: NCT05879926
Sponsor Protocol: NRG-BR009
Sponsor: NRG
Principal Investigator: Brenin, Christiana
Study Contact: Grace Patsche rne7sd@uvahealth

CALM: Chronic & Acute Leukemia/MDS & MPN

A Phase 1/2, Open-Label, Dose-Escalation, Dose-Expansion Study of DSP 5336 in Adult Patients with Acute Leukemia and Other Selected Hematologic Malignancies, with and without Mixed Lineage Leukemia (MLL) rearrangement or Nucleophosmin 1 (NPM1) Mutation
IRB #301112
CT. Gov. ID: NCT04988555
Sponsor Protocol: DSP-5336-101
Sponsor: Sumitomo Pharma Oncology Inc.
Principal Investigator: El Chaer, Firas
Study Contact: Abigail Hertz ywp9xr@uvahealth. 919-614-4592

A Phase 3, Randomized, Open-label, Active-Comparator-Controlled Clinical Study to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Bomedemstat (MK-3543/IMG-7289) versus Best Available Therapy (BAT) in Participants With Essential Thrombocythemia who have an Inadequate Response to or are Intolerant of Hydroxyurea.
IRB #301644
CT. Gov. ID: NCT06079879
Sponsor Protocol: MK3543-006
Sponsor: Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp
Principal Investigator: El Chaer, Firas
Study Contact: Abigail Hertz ywp9xr@uvahealth. 919-614-4592

DEVELOPMENTAL THERAPEUTICS

A Randomized Phase II Study of AMG 510 (Sotorasib) with or without Panitumumab in Advanced Solid Tumors
IRB #301824
CT. Gov. ID: NCT05638295
Sponsor Protocol: EAY191-E5
Sponsor: ECOG-ACRIN
Principal Investigator: Reilley, Matthew
Study Contact: Verity Rogers cq8jhh@uvahealth. 434-243-6152

A Randomized Trial of Neratinib, A Pan-ERBB Inhibitor, Alone or in Combination with Palbociclib, a CDK4/6 Inhibitor, in Patients with HER2+ Gynecologic Cancers and Other Solid Tumors
IRB #301825
CT. Gov. ID: NCT06126276
Sponsor Protocol: NCI-2023-09270
Sponsor: NRG
Principal Investigator: Reilley, Matthew
Study Contact: Laura Livingston ll9te@uvahealth.

MYELOMA

A Randomized Phase II Study of CHO(E)P Versus Duvelisib-CHO(E)P In Previously Untreated CD30 Negative Heral T-Cell MP Homas
IRB #301621
CT. Gov. ID: NCT04803201
Sponsor Protocol: A051902
Sponsor: Alliance
Principal Investigator: Marchi, Enrica
Study Contact: Adreana Hailu zjv2qg@uvahealth. 434-924-7820

GASTRO-INTESTINAL (GI)

Phase II Single-Arm Study of Durvalumab and Bevacizumab Following Transarterial Radioembolization Using Yttrium-90 Glass Microspheres (TheraSphere) in Unresectable Hepatocellular Carcinoma Amenable to Locoregional Therapy
IRB #301080
CT. Gov. ID: NCT06040099
Sponsor Protocol: D933GC00002
Sponsor: AstraZeneca
Principal Investigator: Le, Tri
Study Contact: Amanda Neider aln4k@uvahealth.

Phase 2 Study of Paclitaxel + Ipatasertib in Taxane-Refractory Participants with AKT-Altered Advanced Non-Breast Solid Tumors.
IRB #301562Z
CT. Gov. ID: NCT05554380
Sponsor Protocol: EAY191-S3
Sponsor: SWOG
Principal Investigator: Reilley, Matthew
Study Contact: Amanda Neider aln4k@uvahealth.

A phase 1/1b/2 study evaluating the safety, tolerability, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and efficacy of AMG 193 alone and in combination with docetaxel in subjects with advanced MTAP-null solid tumors
IRB #301566
CT. Gov. ID: NCT06346392
Sponsor Protocol: D9802C00001 / Clarity GC01
Sponsor: AstraZeneca
Principal Investigator: Le, Tri
Study Contact: Amanda Neider aln4k@uvahealth.

MELANOMA

A Phase 3 Study of Fixed Dose Combinations of Fianlimab and Cemiplimab Versus Relatlimab and Nivolumabin Participants with Unresectable or Metastatic Melanoma
IRB #301422
CT. Gov. ID: NCT06246916
Sponsor Protocol: R3767-ONC-22122
Sponsor: Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Principal Investigator: Gaughan, Elizabeth
Study Contact: Samantha Schaeffer sms6wn@uvahealth.

SARCOMA

A Phase 1 Study of Peposertib (M3814) and Low-Dose Liposomal Doxorubicin in Patients with Metastatic Leiomyosarcoma and Other Soft Tissue Sarcoma
IRB #301582
CT. Gov. ID: NCT05711615
Sponsor Protocol: 10563
Sponsor: ETCTN
Principal Investigator: Cavalcante, Ludimila
Study Contact: Zoe Hemmer zh7jf@virginia.edu

THORACIC

A Phase 1 Open-Label, Multi-Center, Safety and Efficacy Study of PRT7732, an Oral SMARCA2 Degradar, in Patients with Advanced or Metastatic Solid Tumors with a SMARCA4 Mutation
IRB # 301577
CT. Gov. ID: NCT06560645
Sponsor Protocol: PRT7732-01
Sponsor: Prelude Therapeutics
Principal Investigator: Gentzler, Ryan
Study Contact: Francis Bagley fb9up@uvahealth.
Gracie Hockenberry mgt4n@virginia.edu 434-297-7784

NOT SPECIFIED

ARV-110 sIND
IRB #Not specified
CT. Gov. ID: Not specified
Sponsor Protocol: ARV-110 sIND
Sponsor: Arvinas, Inc.
Principal Investigator: Devitt, Michael
Study Contact: Francis Steven H Goff wrs9hw@uvahealth.
434-297-4126

UPDATE

DIVISION

Message from Dr. Imre Noth, Division Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care



I am so happy to share our continued growth this past year and moving forward. Exciting things are happening in all aspects of our classic academic endeavors of teaching, research, and clinical excellence. Last year, we started our new service offering bedside procedures such as paracentesis and thoracentesis, which have been met with great enthusiasm and continued growth. We also want to thank our hospitalist colleagues for helping out in staffing this service. As of January, we have added a third attending to the medical ICU who will focus on staffing our APPs to provide top-notch service to our sickest patients. This will help to provide more educational time by attending for residents and medical students.

We also continue to grow our outpatient efforts, most notably by adding Dr. Katie Waybill to the faculty, who is splitting time between us and palliative care. She recently completed an

additional year of palliative medicine in Boston after her pulmonary and critical care fellowship at VCU. (Please see the spotlight for details.) Suffice it to say that Katie's arrival allows the best possible care for our sickest outpatients.

The last arena of clinical growth can be appreciated in the spotlight on Dr. Ellen Volker. Ellen comes to us with a national reputation as a leader in the field after years of experience building an Interventional Pulmonology Program at the National Jewish Hospital in Colorado. She joined Dr. Pandey, and we are excited that a third IP physician, Cole Burks, coming to us from UNC, will join the group in August 2025. This threesome establishes UVA as a regional and national leader in IP.

Last year was no less exciting on the research front. Several recruits to the division, including Tania Velez PhD, Christine Nelson PhD, and Anny Zhou PhD. Professor Zhou will run a new Center for Translational Genomics Initiative for Respiratory Diseases. This year, several new grant awardees were selected for junior and senior-level faculty, practically doubling the research portfolio alone.

Lastly, on the education front, we matched our first fellow for our new sleep medicine fellowship, directed by Eric Davis. This fellowship fills a gap in the state as no other active sleep fellowships exist in Virginia. We also did very well in the pulmonary and critical care match, with no small thanks to our Program Director Tim Scialla, and Associate Program Director Cathy Bonham. Additionally, Drew Harris has been appointed Assistant Dean to oversee continuing medical education.

I hope you'll enjoy reading about these new programs and people!

~ Imre Noth MD

DIVISION CLINICAL

Pulmonary Palliative Update

We were excited to officially launch our pulmonary-palliative care clinic, a joint effort between PCCM and Palliative Care, in September 2024. This clinic is located in Emily Couric Cancer Center under Palliative Care. It is aimed at patients with end-stage lung disease. It includes multidisciplinary support from nursing (Kim Mechling, RN, and all Palliative Care RNs), social work (Michelle Niesen), chaplaincy, and other interdisciplinary team members.

The clinic is open to patients with end-stage complications or symptoms from COPD, ILD, bronchiectasis, lung transplant, pulmonary hypertension, and other pulmonary diagnoses. The pulm-pall staff work on symptom management (dyspnea, chronic cough), dyspnea-anxiety cycle, pulmonary cachexia, advance care planning, and hospice transitions for patients with end-stage lung disease.

Interventional Pulmonology Update

The Interventional Pulmonology (IP) Program at UVA has been exceedingly busy over the past year. Dr. Subodh Pandey has been working to accommodate all the patients with procedural needs while taking over as Bronchoscopy Director and deftly instructing our fellows in advanced diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Dr. Kat Egressy has been adroitly seeing lung nodule patients wherever possible. Dr. Charles Malpass has been greatly missed.

Dr. Ellen Volker joined the division in October 2024 as Section Chief of Interventional Pulmonology. She has been partnering with leaders at the hospital, the Emily Couric Cancer Center (ECCC), and within the Department of Medicine to expand procedural time and space for the IP program. In January 2025, Interventional Pulmonary also started Multidisciplinary Thoracic Oncology Clinics in the ECCC to better streamline the care for our lung cancer patients.

DIVISION EDUCATION

PCCM FELLOWSHIP

2024 was another wonderful and successful year for the PCCM Fellowship Program!



Graduation 2024 was held at The Rotunda in the Dome Room. From left: Drs. Eric Polley, Frank Papik, Ibrar Islam, and Naima Farah. Our fifth graduate, Dr. Joe Russo (not pictured), completed a 2-year pulmonary fellowship with us.



Our fellows spend quality time together outside of work! From left: Drs. Harold Cedeño, Shane Kaski, John Popovich, and Caroline Chessare.



From left: Drs. Matthew Freedman, J. Christian Widere, Ryan Sessums, John Popovich, and Mustafa Ali.



From left: Drs. Ryan Sessums, John Popovich, and Nelson Mandrell.



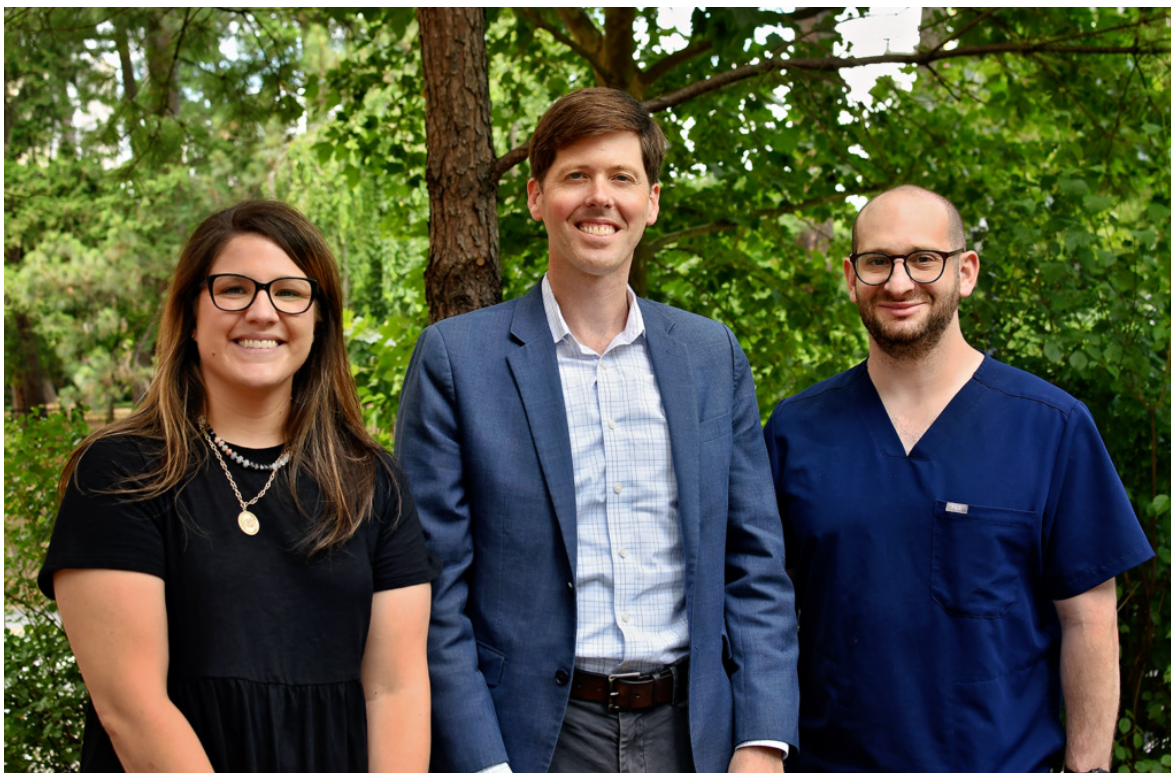
During orientation our fellows attended a Bronchoscopy course at Duke University. From left: Drs. Caroline Chessare, Francesco Moroni, Shane Kaski, and John Popovich. Front row: Dr. Harold Cedeño.



And of course, our first years took part in the yearly Orientation Hike at Humpback Rock! Front row, seated: Dr. Harold Cedeño. Back row, from left: Drs. Francesco Moroni, Shane Kaski, Caroline Chessare and John Popovich.

FOLLOW UVA PULMONARY

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
MEDICINE GRAND ROUNDS
 UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



Lizzie Daniels MA - Sleep Medicine Fellowship Program Coordinator
Dr. Eric M Davis - Sleep Medicine Fellowship Program Director
Dr. Scott Schecter - Sleep Medicine Fellowship Associate Program Director.

Sleep Medicine Fellowship

We are happy to report that we have started a new [Sleep Medicine Fellowship Program](#). Our program is the 102nd Sleep Medicine Fellowship in the United States and the only new program this year. We have nine faculty members at UVA with sleep expertise spanning multiple departments. It was a collective effort to pursue GME approval for ACGME accreditation and to partner with the hospital to launch this program. More than 60 applicants applied for our inaugural year, and we are thrilled that Dr. Kiara Cerda will join us as our first fellow in July 2025. Given the great need for clinical and academic pursuits in sleep medicine across Virginia, we anticipate expanding the fellowship program in upcoming years.

DIVISION RESEARCH

Research Updates

Select publications this year spanned the breadth of pulmonary and critical care medicine. Some highlights include publications by our cystic fibrosis (CF) and bronchiectasis team led by **Dr. Dana Albon** and **Dr. Lindsay Somerville**. They published the real-world impact of cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator modulator drugs for several aspects of general health in CF patients. Along with **Dr. Andrew Barros** and CF pharmacy team member **Kevin Lonabaugh PharmD**, they demonstrated improved iron levels but elevated total cholesterol levels. As CF patients utilizing these breakthrough drugs live longer and healthier lives, attention to these long-term health effects is warranted.

Our interstitial lung disease (ILD) research group includes multiple clinical, translational, and basic scientists, including **Drs. Imre Noth, Shwu-Fan Ma, Yong Huang, John Kim, Cathy Bonham, Sam Konkol, Jeffrey Sturek**, and **Anne Sperling**. **Dr. John Kim** demonstrated an association between plasma Omega-3 fatty acids and progression and survival in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, which generated interest among our patients. In a high-impact publication, **Drs. Yong Huang** and **Imre Noth** reported on a plasma proteomic classifier discovered via machine learning methods that discriminates between different forms of ILD. **Dr. Bonham** collaborated with UVA biomedical engineers to develop a computational method for how environmental changes and treatments affect microvascular remodeling in fibrotic disease and headed UVA's offering of the RESOLVE-Lung clinical trial, the largest multicenter clinical trial for patients with sarcoidosis to-date. We are proud of our active ILD and sarcoidosis clinical trial group led by **Drs. Tessy Paul, Imre Noth, Hannah Mannem, Numaan Malik**, and **Cathy Bonham**, the group is pushing the envelope to discover new treatments for these devastating pulmonary diseases.

Not to be outdone, **Dr. Alex Kadl**, our MICU director and co-founder of the post-COVID ambulatory clinic, published her work on insomnia after COVID-19, collaborating with **Drs. Eric Davis** and **Kyle Enfield**. **Dr. Sturek** co-authored the results of several large multicenter clinical trials in COVID-19 and published analyses of NIH funding for the COVID-19 pandemic response together with **Dr. Taison Bell**. **Dr. Sturek** is also an expert in B cell biology and oncopulmonary disease, with a thriving lab celebrating first-time NIH R01 funding this year.

Additional seasoned investigator teams are led by **Dr. Anne Sperling**, a celebrated T-cell immunologist with expertise in asthma and fibrotic lung disease, and **Dr. Mike Shim**, leader of our obstructive lung disease clinical and basic science research programs. In 2024, the division was thrilled to recruit **Christine Nelson PhD.**, an expert in T-cell immunity to mycobacterial infection, and **Tania Velez PhD.**, an expert in T-cell regulatory responses in fibrotic lung disease. We look forward to expanding and enhancing our research portfolio in 2025 and thank all those who have collaborated and supported the division in our research efforts.

New Research Faculty

Dr. Tania Velez PhD, joined the PCCM division at UVA as a postdoctoral fellow and was promoted to research assistant professor in the Sperling Lab in May 2024. In her independent role, she is focused on determining the dichotomy of regulatory mechanisms in human and animal models of interstitial lung disease and lung injury. Dr. Velez has identified a specific subset of T regulatory cells that have detrimental roles in lung injury responses and is actively working to reveal their role during fibrosis.

Dr. Christine Nelson PhD, joined the PCCM division research faculty in July 2024. Dr. Nelson’s lab studies the immune response to Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb) and other non-tuberculous mycobacteria (NTM). The Nelson Lab explores how the immune response in the lungs can be either protective, like during vaccination, or pathogenic, and lead to post-infection lung disease. The lab is leveraging its research to design novel vaccines and therapies for mycobacterial infections. Some of the projects in the lab are examining 1) the role of co-stimulation in determining T-cell protective capacity, 2) how the cytokine IL-26 can influence T-cell differentiation, 3) T & B cell interactions in granulomas, and 4) developing an animal model of NTM infection that better model human disease. Dr. Nelson was selected for the 2024-2026 cohort of iTHRIV Scholars for her project “Degree and timing of T-cell co-stimulation determine protective immunity to M. tuberculosis infection”. The Nelson Lab welcomed its first members, Danielle and Maryam, in January 2025.

Dr. Anny Xiaobo Zhou’s PhD and her research group has recently joined the PCCM division at UVA from Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School in Boston. Dr. Zhou’s research aims to decode the function of the non-coding variants associated with lung diseases in Genome-Wide Association Studies (GWAS) through multidisciplinary and integrative approaches. These translational genomic discoveries will likely pinpoint novel pathways, mechanisms, and potential drug targets for COPD, pulmonary fibrosis, and asthma. Her team has pioneered the identification of functional variants, assigning causal genes to non-coding GWAS loci, including the most significant GWAS loci at 4q31 for COPD and 17q22 for asthma. Dr. Zhou will also serve as the inaugural Director of the Center for Translational Genomics Initiative to identify novel therapeutic targets implicated by human genetic discoveries in complex lung diseases.

Center for Translational Genomics Initiative for Respiratory Diseases

With the support of the Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine, and Department of Genome Sciences, the Center for Translational Genomics Initiative for Respiratory Diseases was established to accelerate the translation of human genetics discoveries to the biology of pulmonary diseases. The Center is an organizational platform that fosters collaboration across disciplines, divisions, and departments for multidisciplinary and translational research.

The Center will hold monthly hybrid lectures from renowned speakers within UVA and nationwide. The Annual Summer Symposium in August will highlight advanced research in pulmonary diseases with a strong translational genomic focus. Furthermore, the Center will also provide unparalleled training opportunities for undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral trainees to advance their career goals.

The Center will partner with various departments to improve treatments of respiratory diseases, including ILD, COPD, asthma, influenza, and COVID-19, through integrative approaches. A few research areas will be emphasized and highlighted to determine the function of genetic factors.

- 1) Metabolic regulation, especially roles of mitochondria on alveolar regeneration through intrinsic cellular signaling and cell-niche interaction.
- 2) Function of various RNA modifications in regulating cellular metabolism and alveolar repair/regeneration.
- 3) Cell-matrix interaction in response to environmental stimulation such as viral infection and smoke exposure.
- 4) Cell-type specific isoforms during normal lung repair and/or disease progression.

In addition to traditional NIH grant sources, the Center will actively seek to raise funding from industry and philanthropy with the support and guidance of the UVA Medical School.

PUBLICATIONS

Lonabaugh K, Li G, List R, Huang R, James A, **Barros A**, **Somerville L**, **Albon D**. Real world study on elexacaftor-tezacaftor-ivacaftor impact on cholesterol levels in adults with cystic fibrosis. *Pharmacotherapy*. 2024 Mar;44(3):231-240. doi: 10.1002/phar.2903. Epub 2024 Jan 12. PMID: 38143243.

Huang RL, Snyder MT, Fahmida N, **Albon DP**. Reconsidering the Diagnosis: Abnormal Sweat Chloride Tests in Non-CF Bronchiectasis. *Pediatr Pulmonol*. 2025 Jan 7:e27471. doi: 10.1002/ppul.27471. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39778078.

Huang Y, **Ma SF**, Oldham JM, Adegunsoye A, Zhu D, Murray S, **Kim JS**, **Bonham C**, Strickland E, Linderholm AL, Lee CT, **Paul T**, **Mannem H**, Maher TM, Molyneaux PL, Strek ME, Martinez FJ, **Noth I**. Machine Learning of Plasma Proteomics Classifies Diagnosis of Interstitial Lung Disease. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med*. 2024 Aug 15;210(4):444-454. doi: 10.1164/rccm.202309-1692OC. PMID: 38422478; PMCID: PMC11351805.

Kim JS, **Ma SF**, **Ma JZ**, **Huang Y**, **Bonham CA**, Oldham JM, Adegunsoye A, Strek ME, Flaherty KR, Strickland E, Udofia I, Mooney JJ, Ghosh S, Maddipati K, **Noth I**. Associations of Plasma Omega-3 Fatty Acids With Progression and Survival in Pulmonary Fibrosis. *Chest*. 2024 Mar;165(3):621-631. doi: 10.1016/j.chest.2023.09.035. Epub 2023 Oct 20. PMID: 37866772; PMCID: PMC10925547.

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DIVISION EVENTS

H. Charles Malpass III Memorial Grand Rounds

The inaugural H. Charles Malpass III Memorial Grand Rounds on May 24, 2024, featured Dr. Cynthia Brown from Indiana University in honor of the legacy of Dr. Charles Malpass. This grand round was a joint presentation from the Department of Medicine and the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care following the death of our dear colleague Charlie Malpass. Dr. Brown was on faculty at UVA during Charlie's fellowship, and like Charlie, she is held in esteem for her dedication to fellow education and patient care.

The Malpass Memorial Lecture will be held on June 6, 2025, with our Fellowship Graduation. More details of the event and speakers will come as they become available. Stay tuned for more information about the events surrounding the Grand Rounds as we remember Dr. Malpass and celebrate his enduring impact on the medical community.

End of Summer Barbeque

On August 23, 2024, the division held an End of Summer Barbeque at Pen Park. It was a beautiful day with a great turnout from faculty, fellows, research associates, staff, and their families! Delicious food, such as barbeque chicken with all the fixings, and cookies were served.

Families had a great time with bocce ball, badminton, and football. The division enjoyed a wonderful evening of chatting and catching up with one another.



End-Of-Summer BBQ



End-Of-Summer BBQ

End-of-Year Party

On December 12, 2024, PCCM had its annual EOY Party, this time at Greencroft Country Club, which offered a variety of delicious foods and a warm place to mingle with colleagues. To mix things up, multiple honors were presented during our first annual Pulmy Awards. We had a wonderful turnout of faculty, fellows, and staff to ring in the holiday season.



Holiday Party 2024



Holiday Party 2024

Pulmy 2024 Winners:

- **The Little Miss Sunshine Award:** For the person who always brings positivity and cheerfulness to the office. Winner: **Dr. Katie Waybill**
- **The Trend Setter Award:** For forward-thinking and innovation. Winner: **Emily Wells**
- **The Culture Champion Award:** For embodying company values and fostering team culture. Winners: **Dr. Jeffrey Sturek** and **Kristin Miller**
- **Fashion Week Award: Best dressed.** Winner: **Dr. Hannah Mannem**
- **Best Mane: Best hair.** Winner: **Dr. Drew Harris**
- **Funkiest socks:** Best socks. Winner: **Dr. Eric Davis**
- **Loch Ness Award:** Least likely to be found. Winner: **Dr. John Kim**
- **On the Dot award:** Best at meeting tight deadlines. Winner: **Dr. Cathy Bonham**
- **Tech Expert Award:** The person prepared to assist and understand precisely what’s wrong. Winner: **Dr. Andrew Barros**
- **The Gold Medalist:** Everyone at work knows someone who exercises during lunchtime or goes to the gym right after their shift... even though they aren’t Olympians, anyone who can work for eight hours AND exercise deserves a gold medal. Winner: **Dr. Ryan Sessums**

ILD Patient Education Day 2024

Interstitial lung disease (ILD) is a heterogenous group of diseases that range from rheumatoid lung disease to sarcoidosis to the devastating idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), which has a median survival of 2-5 years. The UVA ILD program offers comprehensive, longitudinal, and multidisciplinary care for this complex population.

One of the key aspects of the care of patients with ILD is patient education. In addition to a biweekly patient support group under the leadership of Drs. Tessy Paul and Catherine Bonham, the team held its sixth annual ILD Patient Education Day on September 28, 2024. The theme was “Optimize Oxygen Therapy in ILD” and featured keynote speaker Dr. Daniel Kass, a nationally renowned ILD expert from the University of Pittsburgh.

Additional topics discussed included Latest Advances in ILD Research at the University of Virginia, Recent Advances in Autoimmune ILD, An In-Depth Review of Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis, Navigate Life with Supplemental Oxygen: Essential Tips, Managing Comorbidities in ILD, Progress in ILD Research: A Look at Recent Advances, Mindfulness and ILD. This hybrid event was accessible virtually and in person with support from the PFF and had an overwhelmingly positive response from patients and their caregivers.

DIVISION PROFILE
FELLOW - Harold Cedeño



Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I’ve been at the University of Virginia for six months, following a short career as a hospitalist for about two years after graduating from my internal medicine residency. During my time here, I’ve focused on learning from the pulmonary and critical care housestaff and have enjoyed the vibrant community and the opportunities to contribute meaningfully.

Why Education?
Education helps us grow, stay humble, and give our best daily. Without it, we would remain in eternal ignorance.

What brought you to Charlottesville?
The combination of UVA’s reputation, Charlottesville’s charm, and the opportunity to pursue advanced medical training at the same institution as my partner.

What excites you about your work?
The opportunity to tackle meaningful challenges, collaborate with talented colleagues, and see the tangible impact of my efforts.

Do you travel or have a favorite trip?
Yes, my wife and I travel outside the US at least once yearly, ideally to a new country.

What is a talent or skill you don’t have that you wish you did?
I wish I had an artistic vein.

Do you collect anything?
Yes, I collect coins from the places I visit.

DIVISION PROFILE

STAFF - Shawn Loftis



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at the University of Virginia for almost four months, after moving to Tijuana for one year and three months and working for UCSD and SDSU. I have over 13 years of grants administration and program management experience working for non-profits, universities, and a municipality. This opportunity with UVA has allowed me to move back to Florida, where my friends and support network are.

Why Education?

I started to work in education when I decided to attain a master's degree, but I did not have the funds to pay for it, nor did I desire to take out student loans. I applied for jobs at the University of Miami and was offered a position at the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. During my tenure there, I used tuition remission to pay for my master's classes while working during the day and attending classes at night. During that time, I was introduced to research administration by a PI I worked for, and eventually, I became the grants administrator.



What brought you to Charlottesville?

I work remotely from Florida, but I look forward to meeting my whole team in person soon.

What excites you about your work?

Challenges! Grants administration is full of challenges, and I love it when I accomplish a big one! (or even the smaller ones).



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

I cycled from San Francisco to Los Angeles twice for AIDS Lifecycle.

Describe yourself in one word.

Inquisitive.

What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

It's either the beach, hanging out with friends, or weekend trips.

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

Eggs.

Do you travel or have a favorite trip?

Yes, I have been to 90 countries. Madagascar, Iraq, and Mongolia have been some of my favorite trips.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

I don't have a favorite type of vacation. I had just come back from Egypt exhausted, but I was



able to share many beautiful and ancient sites with my cousin. This was my 10th (I think) trip to Egypt; my first one was in 1988. I can only handle the hectic planning kind of trips once a year or two; otherwise, I want to lay on a beach or immerse myself in a new culture.

What is the best advice anyone ever gave you?

Don't look back, just keep looking forward.

What about you would surprise us?

I went to Iraq as a tourist. I've been three times.

Favorite fictional characters?

It's a toss-up between Rick Sanchez and Morty Smith.

Would you rather do one thing extraordinarily well or ten things admirably well?

Ten things admirably well.

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

Chapulines.

Do you collect anything?

Something from every country I visit. My place is visually stimulating and query-provoking.



DIVISION PROFILE

FACULTY - Eric Nolley



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I've been at the University of Virginia for six months, after a few years working in Baltimore at Johns Hopkins as a transplant pulmonologist and doing community critical care. I completed my pulmonary and critical care fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh and then joined the faculty at Hopkins. COVID happened six months later, so moving was an interesting time. At Hopkins, I split my time between transplant and critical care and created a lung transplant fellowship program. As the pandemic evolved, I transitioned to running the medical intensive care unit at Hopkins Bayview. Eventually, I took a detour out of academia and worked in a community ICU for several years. I'm happy to have re-entered academia and joined the UVA Lung Transplant team this past summer.

Why Healthcare?

My journey into medicine started when my mother died from kidney cancer. Before her illness, I was considering a research career in neuroscience. Once I began shadowing physicians, I quickly realized that medicine offered a means to have a more direct impact on others. Medicine allows me to combine a love of science, caring for others, and serious illness communication. When at our best, healthcare providers are great communicators, which I strive to be.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

We came to UVA for professional opportunities and proximity to family. My wife is Dr. Kristin Bibee, an MD/PhD MOHS surgeon and a recent addition to the UVA Department of Dermatology. We are both originally from central Virginia, having grown up in Amherst and Lynchburg, respectively, and our family still lives in the area. We have two young boys who are loving seeing their grandparents more often.

What excites you about your work?

Getting to walk alongside patients in their transplant journey is an incredible privilege. I enjoy working with a great group of people who are genuinely passionate about our work. And I take great pride in being part of a truly multi-disciplinary team where everyone's expertise is recognized and valued.



What do you enjoy doing on the weekend?

Sleeping in as much as our two and seven-year-old boys allow, which typically isn't much! Family time is a big focus of our weekends. I became a reasonably avid gardener during the pandemic and plan the vegetable gardens we will put in this spring.

What is your favorite vacation/activity spot?

We enjoy spending time at the beach, often at Bald Head Island.



DIVISION PROFILE

FACULTY - Ellen Volker



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Dr. Volker joined the Pulmonary Critical Care division at the University of Virginia in October 2024 as Section Chief of Interventional Pulmonology (IP). Before becoming a physician, Dr. Volker obtained her Master of Science in Public Health and completed her thesis emphasizing Rural Health Assessment. During that time, she also worked with the Colorado Rural Health Center, evaluating each rural county's health resources and as a grant reviewer for the Office of Rural Health Policy in Washington, DC. Before coming to Charlottesville, Dr. Volker combined her career interests in interventional pulmonology and rural health by setting up a telehealth program for patients in Western and Southern Colorado with IP needs. She saw the patients remotely, brought them to Denver for their necessary procedures and partnered with their local pulmonologists, oncologists, and surgeons for their ongoing treatment. Dr. Volker looks forward to partnering with the Emily Couric Cancer Center and the UVA Telemedicine program to create a robust interventional

pulmonary rural outreach program in Virginia.

In addition to outreach and interventional pulmonary programmatic growth here in Charlottesville, Dr. Volker is active in national organizations. In 2023, she served as the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee for the American Association of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (AABIP). She most recently was elected by her peers to serve on the AABIP Board of Directors. She is also interested in physician education. She is the Co-developer and Co-director of the American Association of Interventional Pulmonology Program Directors (AIPPD) Robotic Bronchoscopy Course. She also serves as procedural faculty for ACCP and ATS.

Dr. Volker is from Englewood, Colorado. She earned her undergraduate degree at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. She earned her Master of Science in Public Health and medical degree from the University of Colorado. After completing her medical education, Dr. Volker moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, to complete an internal medicine residency at the University of Utah. She then completed pulmonary/critical care and interventional pulmonology fellowships at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. After completing her fellowships, she stayed on the medical faculty at Duke University for several years before returning to Colorado. From 2018 to 2024, Dr. Volker was the Director of Interventional Pulmonology at National Jewish Health. She joined UVA Health in 2024.



Outside work, Dr. Volker enjoys spending time with her husband and rescue dog, skiing, fly fishing, Formula 1, and traveling abroad.



DIVISION PROFILE

FACULTY - Kathleen Waybill



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I was raised in Hershey, PA, before coming to the University of Virginia for college, when I fell in love with Charlottesville and the Blue Ridge Mountains! I then spent eight years in Richmond doing medical school, residency, and a chief year at VCU. During my internship year, I met my husband, Zack, and we moved to Boston in 2020 for a Pulmonary/Critical Care fellowship at Tufts. During that time, I recognized a need for palliative care for patients with end-stage lung disease, so I completed an additional palliative care fellowship at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. We moved back to Charlottesville with our 2-year-old in August 2024 and are thrilled to be here!

Why Education/Healthcare?

I was initially drawn to healthcare due to the overlap of human interaction and science. I have stayed in healthcare because of the people. I love coming to work and doing something different every day, but always working with wonderful people who want to take the best care of our patients. I love weeks with the house staff, rounding the ICU, learning physiology and pathophysiology, and talking about people together. I feel lucky to turn around the next week and spend time developing longitudinal relationships with my pulmonary and palliative care patients. I am particularly passionate about providing palliative care to patients with end-stage lung disease and am excited to start a pulm-pall clinic to serve this population.

I was drawn to UVA specifically due to the Department of Medicine's values and the opportunity to

continue educating while practicing clinical medicine. After my chief year, I fell in love with medical education as a medical student and knew that I wanted to work in academic medicine.

What brought you to Charlottesville?

Having gone to undergrad at UVA, Charlottesville has held a special place in my heart for many years. It is a town where people and families can grow and evolve. The beautiful architecture on Grounds, the Blue Ridge Mountains, and food are favorites. After several years in Boston, we were ready to move back south for warmer days and more sunshine!

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

Being a mom! Learning to slow down and see the world brand new every day is such a privilege and a change from the pace of medicine and critical care.

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

I wish I knew how to play an instrument, specifically guitar or cello.

What is the last book you read for pleasure?

"The Women" by Kristin Hannah. I love to read, and every year, I aim to read as many books as the last two digits of the year. We will see if I make it to 25 books this year! I usually read fiction, but I am trying to expand genres this year. If you ever see me walking out of the hospital with headphones in, I'm likely immersed in my latest audiobook.

Do you collect anything?

Magnets from every place I've traveled since age eighteen. The side of my fridge is getting full!

Do you travel or have a favorite trip?

Yes! We love to travel and explore our beautiful world. I love a beach vacation (it's how I get closer to my annual book goal) and adventure trips! We spent two weeks in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks this past summer, and it was an incredible experience.

