Announcements

Lisa A. Tedesco, Dean of Laney Graduate School, Stepping Aside
After 15 years, Dr. Tedesco will be stepping aside as dean of Laney Graduate School. Some of her major contributions during her tenure include: fully funding competitive five-year stipends for doctoral students and establishing full health coverage for them; institutionalizing metrics for program evaluation and accountability; greatly increasing the school’s diversity and inclusion programs; expanding a suite of dissertation completion fellowships; creating opportunities for public scholarship for students; redesigning professional development and career planning programming; and shepherding, with faculty governance, the creation and launch of innovative interdisciplinary graduate programs. Read more

Discovery Phase Research Mentors and Projects
Deadline: Wednesday, November 18
We are looking for research active faculty to participate in the Discovery Phase of the Medical School Curriculum by mentoring a medical student research project. Topics in clinical, translational, or basic science, or in the medical humanities, including creative writing, medical history, business, or law, as they pertain to medicine, are all potential areas as long as they lead to a scholarly product. Discovery is a required five-month phase of the curriculum during which students do full-time research under the direction of their chosen mentor. Students have no responsibilities during this time other than research, so projects should be substantial enough to merit five months of full-time effort, but also should be feasible for what is not a long period in research terms. If you have a project in mind and would like to act as a mentor, please complete this survey.

DOM Faculty Development and Research Call for Committees
Deadline: Tuesday, December 1
The Department of Medicine’s Office of Faculty Development provides support programs and developmental opportunities to ensure the success of our faculty. This is a challenging, yet exciting, task, as we currently have more than 700 faculty who contribute daily to our outstanding patient care, research, and teaching activities. The Office of Faculty Development is able to accomplish this important work in large part through our committees. We are currently looking
for new members for four committees. Remember, committee service counts toward promotion! Learn more | Submit your interest | Questions

Georgia Tech's BME Capstone Virtual Expo
Monday, November 23 | 4 - 7 p.m.
The Capstone Design Expo is one of the largest student design expos in the U.S. It is a showcase of Georgia Tech’s graduating seniors as they present their innovative projects designed and built during the Capstone Design Course. Register by Sunday, November 22.

BME Capstone Spring 2021 Call for Projects
Deadline: Friday, December 4
During GT BME Capstone, each Capstone team works over 500 man-hours per project to ideate, design, and prototype real solutions that address unmet clinical needs. Our award-winning teams are focused on delivering value and results to project sponsors in order to ultimately benefit impact patient care. Submit your idea | Learn more | Questions

2020 Holiday Toy Drive
Let’s make this holiday season special for 100 children in the Fulton County CASA program! Fundraising goal is $3,000+ by Wednesday, December 2. Thank you for your support!
Georgia Department of Public Health Daily Status Report
Here you will find information on COVID-19 in the State of Georgia cases, ICU admissions, hospitalizations, and deaths. Charts present the number of newly confirmed COVID-19 cases over time and are meant to aid understanding whether the outbreak is growing, leveling off, or declining to help guide COVID-19 response. Check it out

Highlighted Resource
Data Analytics and Statistics Core The Data Analytics and Biostatistics (DAB) Core seeks to provide high-quality biostatistics and IT Data management services to the Department of Medicine by leveraging existing services in the Rollins School of Public Health and the Information Technology Department. The Data Analytics and Biostatistics Core offers 10 hours at no charge for Department of Medicine faculty, however the requestee is responsible for time exceeding 10 hours.

RAS News
The School of Medicine deadline to Certify Effort Forms is Sunday, November 29.

Please log into Effort Reporting

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your Division Administrator or Post Award Administrator.

Remember to notify the team of any upcoming applications at least 45 days in advance.

Contact the RAS Pre-Award Team
A searchable **External Funding Opportunities Database** has been compiled from FOAs in the weekly *What's Up in DOM Research* newsletter. *Emory credentials required to view.*

**SOM Bridge Funding Program**

**Applications are due December 15 and April 15**

The purpose of the School of Medicine Bridge Funding Program is to assist investigators who have temporarily lost significant federal research funding, and to facilitate carefully planned changes in research direction. [Learn more](#)

**Collaborative Program Grant for Multidisciplinary Teams (RM1 – Clinical Trial Optional)**

**Deadline: Thursday, December 17 (internal); Thursday, May 27 (organization)**

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is designed to support highly integrated research teams of three to six PDs/PIs to address ambitious and challenging research questions that are important for the mission of NIGMS and are beyond the scope of one or two investigators. Collaborative program teams are expected to accomplish goals that require considerable synergy and managed team interactions. Project goals should not be achievable with a collection of individual efforts or projects. Teams are encouraged to consider far-reaching objectives that will produce major advances in their fields. [Learn more](#)

**Using syndemics to understand HLBS disease emergence and progression in people with HIV (PWH) (R01 clinical trial not allowed)**

**Deadline: Monday, January 11, 2021**

This funding opportunity announcement is intended to support research project grant (R01) applications that propose to utilize a syndemics (synergistic epidemic) framework to elucidate the role of social, economic, environmental, behavioral, structural, psychological factors in promoting the synergistic interactions and clustering of heart, lung, blood, and sleep (HLBS) comorbidities among people with HIV at the population level. The ultimate goal is to identify strategies that foster holistic approaches in the clinical management of people living with HIV who have HLBS comorbidities, and to utilize existing data to assess the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of such approaches. [Learn more](#)
Society for Surgery on the Alimentary Tract Career Development Award
Deadline: Tuesday, January 19
This award for young faculty members is to assist in the establishment of investigators, basic or clinical, in digestive diseases. Learn more

Boerger Research Fund for Alzheimer's Disease and Neurocognitive Disorders
Deadline: Tuesday, January 19
The purpose of this FOA is to support investigators at every professional stage and is specifically designed to help talented young scientists establish careers in Alzheimer's imaging research. Learn more

Paul B. Beeson Emerging Leaders Career Development Award in Aging (K76 Clinical Trial Required)
Paul B. Beeson Emerging Leaders Career Development Award in Aging (K76 Independent Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
Deadlines: 30 days prior (LOI); February 3, 2021 (Full application)
This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) invites early-stage physicians and other health professional investigators with a commitment to aging and/or aging-related diseases to apply for this award to advance their research and leadership skills in their specialty and in the broader field of aging and geriatrics research.

Understanding the Role of the *M. Tuberculosis* Granuloma in Tuberculosis (TB) Disease and Treatment Outcomes (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
Deadlines: January 22 (LOI); February 22 (Full application)
To support research to better define the role of the granuloma, the hallmark structure of pulmonary tuberculosis (TB), in TB disease and disease outcomes. Improved understanding of the granuloma will provide a much-needed knowledge base for the development of improved therapeutic approaches. Learn more

GA CTSA KL2 Program: Clinical and Translational Research Career Development Program for Junior Faculty Member
Deadline: March 1, 2021
The purpose of this FOA is to support and enhance career development for junior faculty (MD, PhD, MD/PhD, or PharmD) committed to a career in clinical and/or translational research. Learn more

Notice of Intent to Publish a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Nutrition for Precision Health, powered by *All of Us* Research Program
Deadline: April 6, 2021
The Office of Strategic Coordination (Common Fund) intends to publish a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) to support one Metabolomics and Clinical Assays Center for the NIH Common Fund supported Nutrition for Precision Health, powered by the *All of Us* Research Program.
Metabolomics and clinical assays center (U24)
Collaborative teams combining expertise in large scale targeted and non-targeted metabolomic profiling and clinical assays from multiple human biospecimen types will be crucial to the
Dietary Assessment Center (U24 Clinical Trial Optional)
Collaborative teams combining expertise in diet assessment, diet assessment technology(ies), nutrition, energy balance (including doubly-labeled water), measurement error, biostatistics, and nutrition epidemiology will be crucial to the success of the studies. Learn more

Congratulatory Corner

Zanthia Wiley (Infectious Diseases) received a 2020 COVID-19 CURE Award for a project entitled, “Clinical characteristics, outcomes, and predictors of readmission in hospitalized COVID-19 patients at eight Atlanta hospitals."

Ijeoma Isiadinso (Cardiology) received funding from Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation for a project entitled, “Multi-center cross-sectional epidemiological study to characterize the prevalence and distribution of liporotein(a) levels among patients with established cardiovascular disease.”

Arezou Khosroshahi (PI) (Rheumatology), David Tong (Hospital Medicine), Sam Lim, Ignacio Sanz (Co-PIs) (Rheumatology) received funding from Pfizer Inc. for a project entitled, “Retrospective study of outcomes of standard of care treatment in patients with Lupus Nephritis.”

Rebecca Levit (Cardiology) received funding from Corami LLC for a project entitled, “Therapeutic hydrogel and hydrogel delivery device for prevention of post-operative atrial fibrillation.”

Have you or a colleague recently received an award or grant funding?

Let Us Know
Recent Notable Publications

**Emad Qayed (Digestive Diseases)**

**Matthew Topel, Viola Vaccarino, Charles Searles, Arshed Quyyumi (Cardiology)**

**Ted Johnson (Geriatrics)**

**Michele Paine, Nadine Rouphael, Jay Schamel, Yunmi Chung (Infectious Diseases)**

**Michael Connor (Pulmonary)**

Division Research Seminars

Thursday, 11/19 at 8 a.m. [Zoom] **Pulmonary Division Research Seminar**: “Can BCG-mediated trained immunity be enhanced?” (William Bishai MD, PhD)

Friday, 11/20 at noon [Zoom] **Clinical Cardiology Research Conference**: “Community randomized trial in the Cherokee Nation: A multi-level intervention for preventing drug misuse among older adolescents” (Kelli Komro)

Monday, 11/30 at 5 p.m. **Endocrine Conference**: Francisco Pasquel
Morehouse School of Medicine RCMI Program 6th Annual Core Day/Open House - A Virtual Experience  
**Wednesday, November 18 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Please join the MSM RCMI Program for its 6th Annual Core Day/Open House - A Virtual Experience to learn more about the Research Core Facility and what resources it has available to the MSM research community.

Dr. Nahed Ismail, Director, MSM Clinical Analytical Chemistry Laboratory will be presenting: "Molecular and Immunological Diagnostics for COVID-19: Process and Challenges" - A background and clinical presentations of COVID-19 which will provide an overview of current molecular and immunological platforms used for COVID-19 diagnostics. Dr. Ismail will also discuss validation process in the clinical laboratories and key considerations for implementation and clinical utilization.  

**FAALI Lecture Series: Leading through challenging times and crisis**  
**Thursday, November 19 | noon – 1 p.m.**

Speaker: Ken Keen, LTG, U.S. Army (Retired) Associate Dean for Leadership Development, Goizueta Business School

On January 12th, 2010, Army Lieutenant General Ken Keen, was visiting with the U.S. Ambassador at his residence in Port-au-Prince, Haiti when a 7.0 earthquake struck the nation. It killed over 220,000 people, injured another 300,000 and left over 1.2M homeless. Thrust into a sudden crisis, LTG Keen was charged with leading a military Joint Task Force of over 22,000 service men and women in a humanitarian assistance mission to save lives and mitigate the suffering of the Haitian people. Since March 2020, all of us have been experiencing the challenges of dealing with a global pandemic and what it takes to lead during these challenging times. What are the common lessons we can learn from Haiti and our experiences during the global pandemic?  

**Thursdays at 3 | Research Webinar Series**  
**Thursday, November 19**

"Race Equity and Social Justice Research Opportunities" Speakers: Dr. Deborah Bruner, Senior VP for Research; Dr. Andrea Gillespie, Director James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference; Dr. Shivani Patel, Assistant Professor, Hubert Department of Global Health; Ms. Kristin Anderson, Executive Director of the Emory Office of Foundation Relations; Dr. Kimberly Eck, Associate Vice President for Research
COVID FORCE (Feasibility and Optimization of Research at Children’s) Collaborative Seminar Series

Friday, November 20 | noon – 1 p.m.
Topic: “POC, Ct, and SARS: Oh, my! We’re Off to See the Wizard...
Join us to hear about how COVID 19 tests are chosen, how they’re used, and how to clarity what can be drawn from confusion.” Speakers: Beverly B. Rogers, MD, Chief of Pathology, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Robert Jerris, PhD, Director of Microbiology, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Mark Gonzalez, PhD, Associate Director of Microbiology and Director Infectious Disease Serology, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

Learn more | Register

Rigor and Reproducibility Seminar Series: Rigor and reproducibility at eLife
Friday, November 20 | 2 p.m.
Presenter: Ronald L. Calabrese, Senior Editor for the journal eLife, Senior Associate Dean for Research Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Biology, Emory College of Arts and Sciences

Register

DOM Divisional Research Faculty Huddles
All DOM researchers are welcome to attend Divisional Research Huddles to discuss COVID-19 related updates.

Geriatrics and Gerontology | Tuesday, November 24 | 3 – 4 p.m.
Geriatrics and Gerontology will offer these huddles on the fourth Tuesday of each month through January 2021. Please contact Naquia Mitchell for Zoom link.

1st Annual Workshop on How to Incorporate Sex as a Biological Variable (SABV) in Your Research
Wednesday, December 2 | 8 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
In 2015, the NIH released a mandate requiring consideration of sex in all human subject and vertebrate animal research studies that utilize study subjects and/or materials (blood, tissues, cell lines) from them in order to strengthen research leading to the development, design, and testing of preventive and therapeutic interventions for both men and women.

Register

Researcher Survival Skills: Strategies for preparing a competitive research grant submission
Wednesday, December 2 | 1 – 5 p.m.
Learn great writing tips to improve the impact of your proposal, hear about how reviewers critique your science and more. Presented by: Lawrence Boise, PhD; Anita Corbett, PhD; Kathy Griendling, PhD; Gregory Lesinski, PhD, MPH

Register

Lunch with a Leader Series
Want an opportunity to have an informal lunch via Zoom with one of our DOM Vice Chairs? These small group will provide a unique forum to connect with colleagues from across divisions and with departmental leadership. Spots are limited, so registration is required and closes a week prior.

Bob Taylor, MD, PhD – Executive Vice Chair, Department of Medicine
Wednesday, January 27, 2021 | noon – 1 p.m.

Register
Bold Leaders Series: How women in academic medicine can survive and thrive during tumultuous times

Friday, January 29 | noon – 1 p.m.

Speaker: Julie K. Silver, MD Associate Professor, Associate Char & Director of Cancer Rehabilitation Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, Harvard Medical School

In this lecture, Dr. Silver looks at the current state of women in academic medicine through the lens of gender equity, workforce wellness, and pandemic-related challenges. Dr. Silver will describe the 4 key gatekeepers in academic medicine and explain how addressing barriers for each one will accelerate progress overall for women and people across the gender spectrum who identify with underrepresented groups. Register

Researcher Spotlight

Ambreen Merchant
2020 Research Day Award Winner
Clinical Research Coordinator II - Digestive Diseases

What is your professional background?
I received my medical degree from Dow Medical College in Pakistan. I have been involved in several important and exciting research projects at Emory including a national registry project to study digestive manifestations of COVID-19. I plan to apply for medical residency and pursue an academic career in medicine.

In what division do you work, and who is your mentor?
I work in the Division of Digestive Diseases and my mentor is Dr. Field Willingham. I've had the pleasure of working with several other Emory faculty and staff as well. For my septic shock projects, Dr. Andre Holder, Dr. Greg Martin, and Dr. Annette Esper are my mentors. I am also very grateful to Dr. Ahmed Messallam, advanced GI fellow, for all his support and guidance. They are true inspirations. I feel really blessed as I learned a lot from their expertise, and I continue to learn every day!

Briefly describe your research. Why is it important?
Pancreatic cancer is associated with a 5-year survival rate of less than 40 percent for localized
stages (a very aggressive cancer). While a subset may be candidates for resection, many patients are ineligible for surgery. We performed a SEER database analysis to characterize the subset of patients with pancreatic cancer who might be candidates for non-surgical, local ablative interventions (for example, radiofrequency ablation). Radiofrequency ablation uses thermal energy to induce death of tumor cells and has been used to treat tumors in some organs. We are developing a prospective trial here at Emory which will use radiofrequency ablation (RFA) for pancreatic cancer. We are collaborating with Winship Cancer Institute to also study pre- and post-ablation pancreatic cancer biomarkers.

Our COVID-19 national registry project is aimed at having comprehensive understanding of the gastrointestinal and hepatological manifestations of SARS-CoV-2. This will have important implications in the care of affected patients and help inform public health initiatives to understand the infection and combat the pandemic.

**What do you like most about Emory?**
Emory is an institution of great academic opportunities and is symbolic of rich diversity and inclusion. When I came to the USA after graduating from medical school back home, I joined Emory. Through Emory, I learned about the American culture and its people. I am very grateful to many people for being so welcoming to me and my family. Our division has a very pluralistic and collaborative environment with faculty, fellows, admin, staff, and our division director, Dr. Srinivasan, all being so encouraging and supportive.

**What is your favorite movie or TV show?**
'Sherlock Holmes' (binge watched). I also like 'The Secret’ on Netflix (a documentary film based on the role of positive thinking to achieve goals). Another of my favorites is a Hindi movie, 'Taare Zameen Par' (This is based on the story of a dyslexic child).

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**
I love listening to music and playing board games.

**What is a fun fact about you?**
I am a complete foodie but a very bad cook.

"What's Up" is brought to you by Emory University's Department of Medicine.
The Emory University Department of Medicine is a component of the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center of Emory University, which includes the Emory schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Public Health; Yerkes National Primate Research Center; Winship Cancer Institute; and Emory Healthcare.