

EMORY UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

ALUMNI *news*

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Stopping COVID-19:

*Emory researchers embark on an epic journey to tackle humanity's biggest test**

DR. ANEESH MEHTA STOOD IN THE STILL HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL ROOM WHERE HIS PATIENT LAY DYING.

Just days earlier, Mehta had discussed treatment options with the vital and alert elderly businessman who came in with COVID-19. The patient was interested in Emory's clinical trial of the antiviral remdesivir, which Mehta was leading.

Now he was in intensive care at Emory University Hospital, having taken a rapid turn for the worse. His only companion was a nurse in full protective gear. She held his smartphone in one hand. On the line, his family was saying goodbye, their grief playing out in a room far away. Mehta watched as the man's granddaughter told stories of their life together. It was unclear if the man, who was heavily sedated, understood. He stopped breathing soon after.

Even months later, Mehta gets emotional as he recalls that day in April. An infectious disease doctor and researcher who cut his teeth during the Ebola outbreak, Mehta has seen his share of death. But to watch a man die without his loved ones at his bedside was wrenching.

"No one wants to see a patient die. What is heartbreaking about COVID-19 is that so many patients are dying and they are dying alone," Mehta says.

(continued on page 2)



Anesh Mehta in Emory University Hospital.

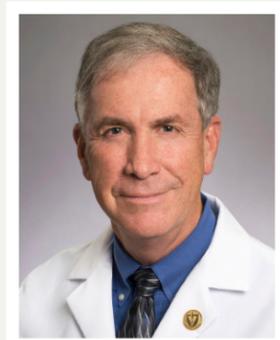
**This story originally appeared in the Emory News Center*

Dear colleagues and alumni,

This fiscal year has been extraordinarily different than any other. The COVID-19 pandemic has altered our lives both professionally and personally and has brought about

unimaginable challenges in each of our Department of Medicine mission areas.

I have been humbled by the ways our faculty, staff, and trainees have responded to this global public health emergency. They have provided outstanding patient care, participated



in groundbreaking clinical research, and continued to educate the next generation of physician leaders all in the wake of a crisis with many unknowns.

The outpouring of support we have received from the Emory community has kept us moving forward in the most uncertain of times. For that, I am incredibly grateful.

This pandemic will continue to shape our lives in ways yet to be seen, but I am certain that it will give us the tools to be better able to serve our Emory Medicine community.

I invite you to share in some of our major developments from the last year. As always, this is just a sampling of the incredible work being done. To keep up with all Department of Medicine news, I invite you to visit our website and follow us on social media.

Sincerely,

David S. Stephens, MD

Chair, Department of Medicine

(continued from page 1)

It also crystallized for Mehta what was at stake. The final trial results for remdesivir, which had failed for this patient, turned out to be so promising that top infectious disease expert Dr. Anthony Fauci hailed it as the new standard of care. It became the first treatment for COVID-19 approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

“It shows that what we do scientifically and medically has a tremendous impact,” Mehta says. “This is research being done to save the lives of our patients in our hospitals right now. This is why we are here.”

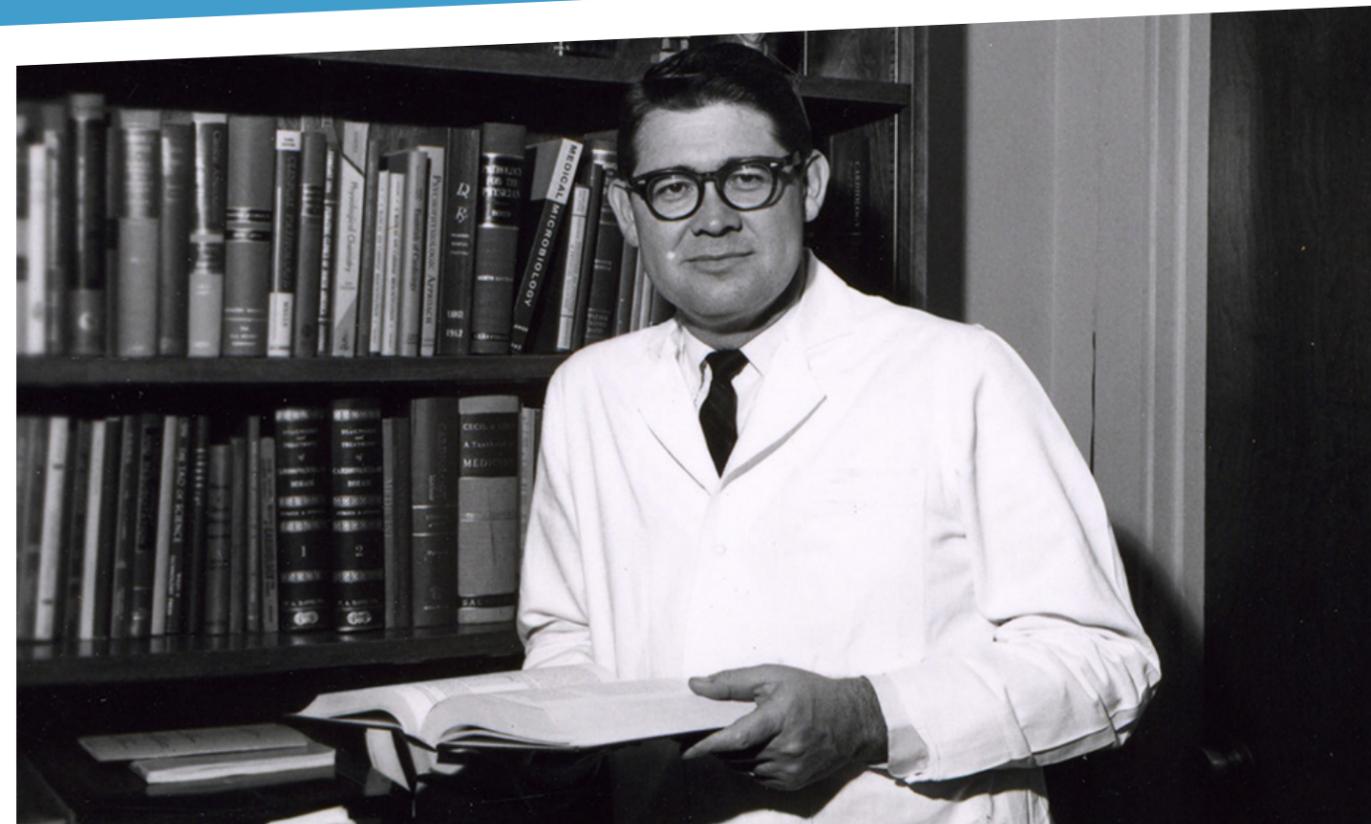
Emory ranks **NUMBER THREE** nationwide in NIH awards for COVID-19 among universities.

Since the pandemic began, federal funding agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) have ramped up their support, entrusting academic research institutions such as Emory to do what they do best: help solve big challenges.

In response, Emory mobilized its discovery enterprise to safely and quickly accelerate research, emerging as a national leader in coronavirus-related research; in a span of months, its investigators had launched 177 studies, including more than 30 clinical trials, and published more than 350 papers on COVID-19.

When the fiscal year closed at the end of August, Emory had earned a record \$831 million in research funding. More than 10 percent of the total (\$88.3 million) was for COVID-19 research, a testament to the ability of researchers to shift course rapidly to tackle the world's biggest public health crisis in more than a hundred years. ■

Visit <https://bit.ly/stopping-covid-19> for more on Emory's COVID research funding, the Emory difference, COVID-19 and beyond, and next steps.



Happy 100th Birthday, J. Willis Hurst, MD! (1920-2011)

ON OCTOBER 21, 2020, we celebrated what would have been J. Willis Hurst's 100th birthday. A legend in cardiovascular health care and department chair for more than 30 years, Hurst paved the way for hundreds of physicians at both Emory and beyond.

“I think teaching is the greatest profession there is. I've always found it exciting to try to create an environment where young trainees, students, house officers, and fellows can learn.

That's what I've tried to do.” – J. Willis Hurst

Hurst was appointed professor and chairman of the Emory University Department of Medicine in 1957 at the age of 36 and remained in that position for 30 years. In the early 1960s, he established Emory's continuing medical education program in cardiology, which secured the school's reputation in teaching,

attracting cardiologists from around the world to learn how to do procedures being pioneered and perfected at Emory. Hurst was also a founding architect of the Emory Clinic.

Throughout his 55-year career at Emory's medical school,

Hurst taught more than 5,000 medical students and 2,500 residents and fellows – roughly a fifth of all doctors currently practicing in Georgia. He received the highest teaching awards from the American College of Cardiologists and the American College of

Physicians. He was also a recipient of the Crystal Apple teaching award, and in 2002, the residency training program in medicine was named in his honor. ■

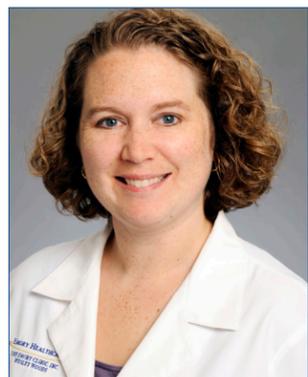
Visit <https://bit.ly/hurst-birthday> to read more about Hurst's legacy.

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The Department of Medicine announces the formation of the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology led by Camille Vaughan, MD, MS



THIS FALL, THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE'S SECTION OF GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY, A PART OF THE DIVISION OF GENERAL MEDICINE AND GERIATRICS, BECAME THE DIVISION OF GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY. THE DIVISION OF GERIATRICS AND GERONTOLOGY JOINED THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE'S NINE OTHER INTERNAL MEDICINE DIVISIONS AND IS LED BY CAMILLE VAUGHAN, MD, MS, SECTION CHIEF SINCE 2017.

The Section of Geriatrics and Gerontology boasted a collaborative and innovative group of 11 MD and PhD investigators focused on clinical/translational, health services, and qualitative research aiming to improve health care for older adults. Given the rapid increase in this segment of the nation's population – 46 million over 65 now, 64 million by 2030, and 90 million by 2050 – the impact on medicine and healthcare is enormous. The disproportional impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on this population is one example.

Under Vaughan's leadership, the new division continues to provide geriatrics clinical services at Emory Healthcare/ The Emory Clinic, Grady, and the Atlanta VA; perform innovative research at the School of Medicine and the Atlanta VA; and develop the next generation of geriatric medicine specialists through the Department of Medicine's geriatric medicine fellowship program. The division was being carved out to recognize its enhanced profile in all three of its mission areas, especially its growing research

portfolio and expanding clinical footprint. Emory's geriatrics and gerontology program has a history of strong leadership. Ted Johnson, MP, MPH, current director for the Division of General Internal Medicine, was named geriatrics division chief in 2009. Nathan Flacker, MD, AGSF

Vaughan has been a School of Medicine faculty member for 10 years and is currently an associate professor of medicine.

was the first geriatrics section leader appointed in 2012. Since Vaughan assumed the position in 2017, Johnson and Vaughan have worked strategically to ensure that the geriatrics program is consistently recognized as one of the top 25 in the country. Johnson retained his roles as Paul W. Seavey Chair in Medicine, director of the Division of General Internal Medicine, chair of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, program director for Georgia Gear, and Atlanta Site clinical site lead at the Birmingham/Atlanta Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center (GRECC). He and Vaughan are continuing

to collaborate to ensure the continued success of both the general internal medicine and geriatrics divisions.

Vaughan has been a School of Medicine faculty member for 10 years and is currently an associate professor of medicine. She is the Atlanta site director for the Birmingham/Atlanta VA GRECC and an investigator in the Atlanta VA Center for Visual and Neurocognitive Rehabilitation. Her clinical appointments include serving as the physician lead for the Continence Clinic at the Atlanta VA and The Emory Clinic Geriatrics Continence Clinic. Her research funding from the VA, NIH, and AHRQ focuses on the areas of continence care and safe prescribing practices for older adults in the emergency room setting. She has been an

integral member of the Enhancing Quality of Prescribing Practices in the Emergency Department (EQUIPPED) team, which has received nationwide recognition as a quality-improvement initiative. She teaches medical students, residents, and fellows through various programs at the School of Medicine.

Vaughan earned her MD from Emory University in 2003, followed by an internal medicine residency (2006), a fellowship in geriatric medicine (2007), and a VA fellowship in advanced geriatrics. She received an MS in clinical research from Emory in 2009. ■

OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Match Day 2020: The Department of Medicine welcomes 55 incoming residents

The Department of Medicine was thrilled to welcome the incoming 2020-2021 J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency program interns to our program this past summer. This rising class of 55 candidates begin their residencies July 2020.

Match Day is the culmination of our annual recruitment season and celebrates a defining moment in these young physicians' careers.

This year, we received more than 4,900 applications for approximately 500 interview spots to recruit a class of highly talented trainees.

This year's Match Day in-person event was cancelled. Students celebrated at home with their loved ones and shared their excitement on video chat and social media. The SOM Student Affairs Office sent students personalized emails at noon to inform them of their match.

Take a closer look below at our new class:

- 44 Categorical track residents
- 8 Primary care track residents
- 2 Combined internal medicine/psychiatry track residents
- 1 research track resident

REPRESENTING:

- 34 Medical schools from across the country
- 12 Candidates from Emory University School of Medicine



Class of 2021 Fellowship Match Results

Please join the Department of Medicine in congratulating our Internal Medicine Residency Class of 2021 on another successful Internal Medicine specialties match. The success of our trainees is a direct reflection of our faculty's dedication to mentoring, teaching and supporting our residents in their scholarly endeavors. View our fellowship match results below:

CARDIOLOGY: 10 residents	INFECTIOUS DISEASES: 5 residents
DIGESTIVE DISEASES: 11 residents	PULMONARY/CRITICAL CARE: 7 residents
HEMATOLOGY AND ONCOLOGY: 3 residents	RHEUMATOLOGY: 1 resident

In addition, our divisions successfully matched 12 residents in **cardiology**, three residents in **critical care**, five residents in **digestive diseases**, two residents in **endocrinology**, six residents in **infectious diseases**, six residents in **palliative care**, seven residents in **renal medicine**, three residents in **rheumatology** and four residents in **sleep medicine**.

Thank an Emory Health Hero!

At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Medicine launched a "Thank an Emory Health Hero" campaign to share positive stories and recognize the incredible selflessness and lifesaving work performed by faculty, staff, trainees, and all healthcare workers on the front lines of the pandemic. To date, the campaign has received more than 500 entries!

Please join the Department of Medicine in extending our gratitude and appreciation to all working tirelessly to combat COVID-19. To view all Health Hero notes or submit a note, visit www.bit.ly/emoryhealthhero.

To: All Health Heroes

"Thank you to all the essential workers for their continued care of the community. You all are doing an amazing job and my family is so grateful for the continued sacrifices that your team is making. We are committed to doing everything we can to flatten the curve!"

- Anonymous, Decatur, GA



To: All Health Heroes

"To all the heroes who are working through this pandemic at Emory and other hospitals, thank you for everything you do for us! We would not be where we are or even advancing in science for this virus if it wasn't for you all. You work so hard and deserve as much love as possible! I hope you all stay safe and keep fighting this virus!"

- Flora Heydari, Atlanta, GA

"I am in awe of the work you are doing to help Georgia in this pandemic."

To: All Health Heroes

"To the true warriors on the front lines, who risk their own lives to save others on a daily basis, I don't know how to thank you, but know we are all out here cheering you on and sending love and light. Our gratitude and admiration is immense. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

- Meg, Sandy Springs, GA

To: All Health Heroes

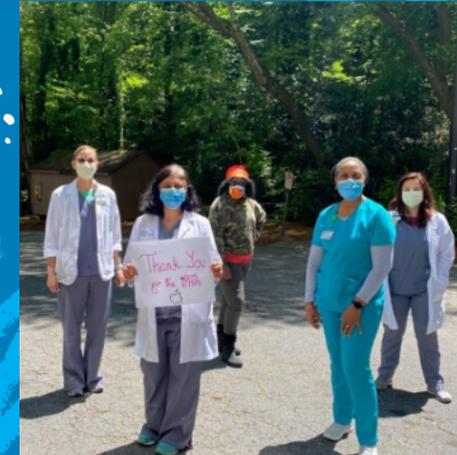
"I am in awe of the work you are doing to help Georgia in this pandemic. When you are tired or discouraged, please know that there are so many people like myself who thank you in our prayers every day."

- Melissa Kinard, Gwinnett County, GA

To: All Health Heroes

"Thank you so much for being on the front line in this COVID-19 pandemic. I'm sure many of you were/are still scared yet you all fearlessly continue fighting for us. You all are very special and I can't imagine the bravery you guys display during this time. Thank you for all that you do."

- Kathleen Romero, Alpharetta, GA



To: All Health Heroes

"Emory leads the way! To all of those who are fighting this pandemic directly and those who continue to provide us with care throughout this troubling period, thank you, thank you, thank you! Without you, we would be lost. Stay safe, be well, and again, thank you."

- Michael O'Byrne, Cumming, GA

"Thank you so much for your incessant care, comfort, and love shown to all of the patients"

To: All Health Heroes

"Thank you so much for your incessant care, comfort, and love shown to all of the patients. We don't tell you near as often as we should, but I promise those of us at home think about and pray for you all every day. Lots of virtual hugs!"

- Anonymous

To: The janitors in Emory hospital

"Thank you so much for keeping the hospital clean. Your work is so important that without it the hospital cannot do its job of healing sick people. Thank you! Sending each of you virtual hugs!"

- M.N., Decatur, Georgia

To: Emory IM residents!

"I will be joining you as an intern this summer and I am so excited to meet you all. I know you are all working so hard and I am honored to soon be apart of your team. Stay strong and remember how amazing you are!!! <333"

- Deanna Gill, Philly, PA

"Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our patients and the organization"

To: All Health Heroes

"Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our patients and the organization. Your resilience and passion have shown so many patients the depth you are willing to go to save their lives and assure them that we will get through this. May God bless you and continue to provide you strength and endurance on the front line. #ThankYou #WeAreEmory!"

- Tereon Anderson

To: Our hardworking IM residents

"I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the hard working IM residents caring for patients on ward teams, ICUs and critical consult services across our sites. I am amazed and inspired by your dedication to your patients and each other in this challenging time. I am proud to work alongside you."

- Robin Klein, Emory @ Grady

To: All Health Heroes

"Thank you to all of the Emory Health Heroes for your continued work during such an unprecedented time in our country. Your amazing work has inspired me, and keeps me hopeful for my future. No matter how hard times may get, realize the lifesaving work you have done, and how there are so many people supporting you from all over the country. I have tremendous respect for you all. The hours spent at hospitals tending to patients is just incredible. So thank you again. We are all so proud to have such great heroes on the front lines."

- Anonymous, NY

To: EHC Custodial Crew

"To the people who clean and sanitize: You are heroes. You are on the frontline of the frontline. Do you know that you are appreciated for EVERYTHING you do?? You are. You make it possible to treat people who are sick with this virus. We are #emorytogether because of you."

- Michelle Hiskey, Emory 1762 Clifton Rd.

To: All Health Heroes

"Thank you sincerely for your intentional efforts to heal and improve medicine. As a senior I am very fearful of contracting the virus. The idea of being incubated is debilitating to me. Thank you for working to improve care and to develop a vaccine. Your efforts will be marked in history! God bless each of you."

- Anonymous, Atlanta Independent Living Community

To: All Health Heroes

"A very special thanks to all health heroes throughout the United States for your dedication, hard work, long work hours, and support during this virus pandemic. Keep up the good work!"

- Sandra M. Smith, Pathology at Emory University Hospital

To: All Nurses

"Dear Nurses, Thank you for risking your lives to help, and assist, the saving and protecting of people during this pandemic. You are the backbones of any hospital, and without nurses, a hospital would not run smoothly. Thank you for being brave, and always fighting. I appreciate your hard work. I intend to become a nurse, so thank you for being my biggest role models during this time."

- Samuel, Fairfax, VA



THE TWO TRAUMAS: *At the collision point of health and social justice**

WHEN THE BRUTAL DEATH OF GEORGE FLOYD STIRRED NATIONAL PROTESTS IN THE MIDST OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THESE ALUMNI PHYSICIANS FOUND THEMSELVES AT THE COLLISION POINT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.

**This story originally appeared in the Emory News Center*

ON THE LAST SATURDAY IN MAY, after a week in which he helped test dozens of patients for the coronavirus, Kevin L. Gilliam II 09MR, a family medicine doctor at the NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center in Minneapolis, put his well-trained hands to work at another urgent task. He used a power drill to screw sheets of plywood over the windows of his church.

Gilliam attends Liberty Community Church with his wife, Iesha Galloway-Gilliam 10MR, whose parents co-pastor the Presbyterian congregation. Liberty had received warnings that African American churches in the Twin Cities might be targeted for vandalism or worse.

After George Floyd was killed in police custody on a street in south Minneapolis, the city boiled with protest and burned with anger.

Post offices and a police station were destroyed. Government sources told the church that white supremacist groups were filtering into the city to fan the flames. The congregation didn't want to take any chances.

Gilliam and other members had to finish covering the windows in time to get home before the citywide curfew of 8 p.m. The boards stayed up through most of June.

A memorial to Floyd at the corner of 38th Street and Chicago Avenue, near where he was killed, continued to grow as Black Lives Matter protests spread across the nation.

Being doctors, they use medical terminology to describe the public health emergency and the social uprising that dramatically intersected so close to their home, and then spread across the country. “We think of them,” Gilliam says, “as the two traumas.”

RACISM AND A RUNAWAY VIRUS

At first glance, persistent racism and a runaway virus might not seem related.

But to these two doctors—who did their residencies at Emory, who have spent their careers studying the links between health and poverty, between well-being and ethnicity—the momentous events of 2020 bear a telltale resemblance.

It's one they've learned to recognize, and made efforts to rectify, over the course of their lives and careers.

Galloway-Gilliam decided she wanted to be a doctor when she was six years old. Born in Minneapolis, where her father has roots, she moved with her family to Atlanta at a young age so her parents could pursue their seminary education at the Interdenominational Theological Center. When a younger sister, Iyana, was born with severe, life-threatening jaundice, they took Iesha to visit her in the hospital.

“Iyana had tubes in her head and her arm, and that really made an impression on Iesha,” says their father, the Rev. Ralph Galloway. “She could sense our fear and grief, and she was powerless to do anything about it. She announced right then that she wanted to be

of Cincinnati College of Medicine, where they met at a picnic with an opening line worthy of a romantic comedy: “He came up to me and said, ‘You’re tall. I like tall girls.’” Galloway-Gilliam remembers, “and he had this big smile on his face.”

They began studying together and have been a couple ever since, marrying after they graduated from med school 13 years ago. They did their residencies at Emory, Gilliam in family medicine (2009) and Galloway-Gilliam in internal medicine (2010), splitting their time between various hospitals around Atlanta. The experience that left the deepest mark was at Grady Memorial Hospital, where they came face-to-face with the reality of health care inequalities.

Galloway-Gilliam remembers one patient, an indigent African American woman who had to be hospitalized with pneumonia. “When we sent her home with antibiotics, she started to cry and said, ‘I get medicine? You mean I can have some medicine?’ I’ve never forgotten that. Some people in the United States don’t know what it is to have medicine. That’s the effect of poverty closely tied to racism. I saw that sort of thing day-to-day at Grady.”

After their residencies, the couple moved to Minneapolis,

But to these two doctors—who did their residencies at Emory, who have spent their careers studying the links between health and poverty, between well-being and ethnicity—the momentous events of 2020 bear a telltale resemblance.

a doctor. We thought she’d grow out of it, but she stayed focused.”

Gilliam had a more casual early brush with his future profession. His mother, Jackie Gilliam, worked as a medical assistant and took him to her hospital for bring-your-child-to-work day. Just nine years old, he donned a lab coat and stethoscope. But he didn't seriously consider medicine until he was in high school and took part in an Upward Bound program at Howard University in Washington, D.C., near his family's home outside the district in Maryland. “I like working with my hands, and I like teaching, and doctors do both,” he says.

Both were exemplary students in high school, winning scholarships to attend historically Black colleges in the South—Tennessee State University in Nashville for him, Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, for her. They went on to the University

where Gilliam became a family doctor at NorthPoint, a county clinic that treats mostly minority patients, and Galloway-Gilliam landed a position at Hennepin County Medical Center, a downtown safety-net hospital not unlike Grady. She runs an integrative medicine primary care clinic and is codirector of the Comprehensive Weight Management Center.

They live close to Gilliam's clinic in a 1926 house on the Near North side. They're not too far from Galloway-Gilliam's parents' church, where Gilliam serves as an elder and they help in outreach ministries. They have an eight-year-old daughter who was in the second grade when the pandemic struck earlier this year, suddenly disrupting their busy lives. ■

Visit <https://bit.ly/two-traumas> to read more.



OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Research Funding, Major Grants, and Publications

- The **DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE** received \$163.2 million in research funding for FY20. This number includes Emory University, Yerkes, Georgia CTSA, FAVER, and the VA.
 - Approximately \$54 million of research funding came from the NIH for COVID-related research.
- **DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE** faculty members had 1,070 publications in FY20.
- In FY20, **DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE** faculty had 21 active NIH K awards and 52 active R01s.
- The **DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE** had 497 active clinical trials with 8,121 enrollees.

Clinical Highlights >>

- In **2020, DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE** faculty were responsible for 1,014,104 ambulatory encounters and 621,403 inpatient encounters at Emory Healthcare hospitals and Grady affiliates.
- **U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT** nationally ranked these medicine specialties in 2020:
 - Cardiology & Heart Surgery (Emory University Hospital) 45th; (Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital) 50th
 - Diabetes & Endocrinology (Emory University Hospital) 14th
 - Gastroenterology & GI Surgery (Emory University Hospital) 46th
 - Geriatrics (Emory University Hospital) 22nd
 - Nephrology (Emory University Hospital) 28th
- **THE DIVISION OF ENDOCRINOLOGY, METABOLISM, AND LIPIDS** expanded its practice at Emory John's Creek Hospital and transitioned to telemedicine upon onset of COVID-19 pandemic.
- **THE DIVISION OF GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE, DIVISION OF GERIATRICS**, and Georgia State University faculty have been awarded \$600,000 by the AHRQ (Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality) ECHO National Nursing Home COVID-19 Action Network to provide training and mentorship to nursing homes in the metro Atlanta area to increase the implementation

of evidence-based infection prevention and safety practices to protect residents and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **THE DIVISION OF PULMONARY, ALLERGY, CRITICAL CARE, AND SLEEP MEDICINE** responded aggressively to the COVID-19 pandemic across all Emory sites and expanding ICU services, transitioned outpatient services to telehealth while maintaining the ability to provide 'face-to-face' services within weeks of the pandemic onset, created a new post-COVID clinic, and expanded non-surgical 'ECMO' into the Emory University Hospital ICU.

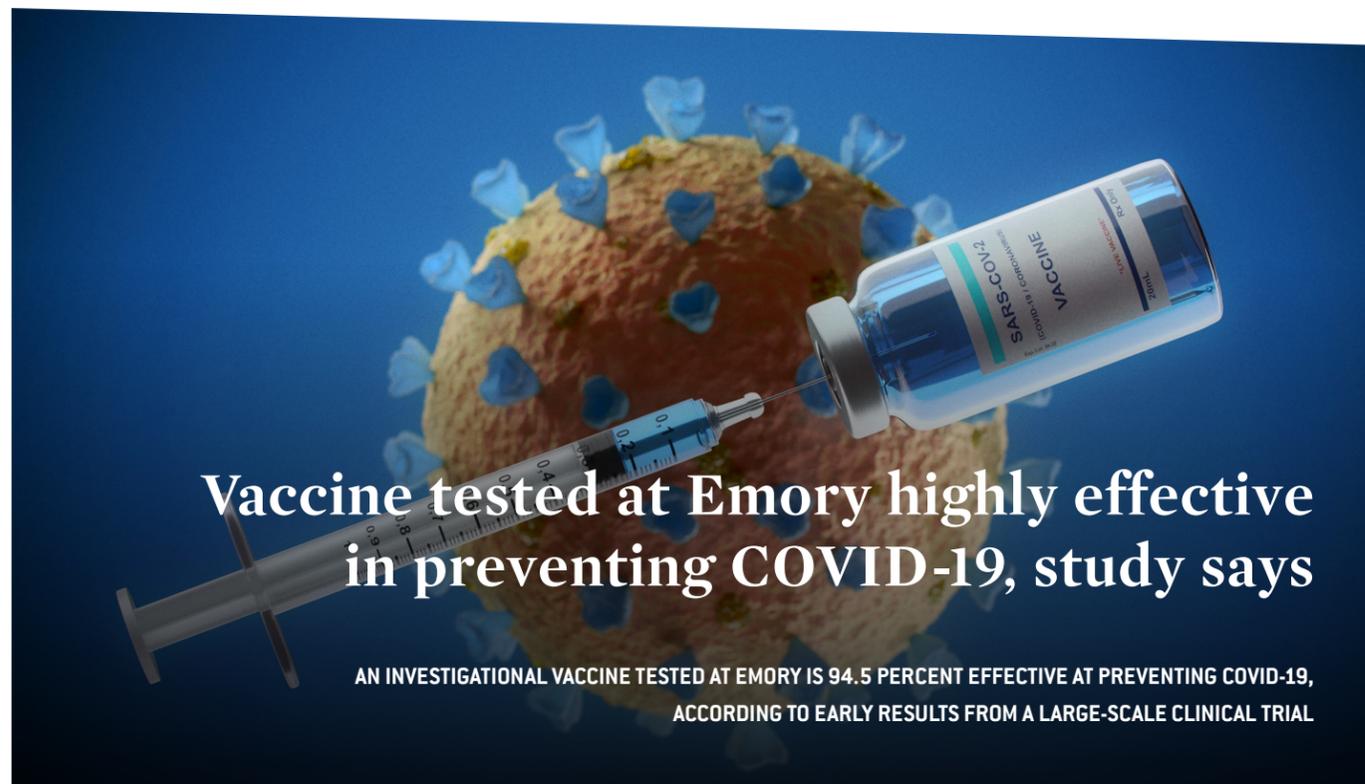
- **THE DIVISION OF HOSPITAL MEDICINE** worked on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, caring for more than half of the patients admitted to Emory with COVID-19, and acquired impressive experience and expertise in managing this new disease. Division scholarship and research capacity also grew substantially during FY19-20, more than doubling the number of peer-reviewed publications (from 25 to 56) compared to the previous year.
- **THE DIVISION OF RENAL MEDICINE** partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to create COVID-19 protocols for Emory Dialysis facilities and rapidly transitioned from in-person to telehealth office visits in March 2020.



Department of Medicine and other Emory University faculty collaborate during the COVID-19 pandemic >>

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Department of Medicine and Emory University faculty members across the university have collaborated on coronavirus research, education, and patient care. From vaccine development, testing, controlling community spread, bedside treatment, and so much more, Emory faculty have been at the forefront of navigating the pandemic.

Visit <https://news.emory.edu/tags/topic/coronavirus/> to read all of the COVID-19 news featuring Department of Medicine and Emory faculty.



Vaccine tested at Emory highly effective in preventing COVID-19, study says

AN INVESTIGATIONAL VACCINE TESTED AT EMORY IS 94.5 PERCENT EFFECTIVE AT PREVENTING COVID-19, ACCORDING TO EARLY RESULTS FROM A LARGE-SCALE CLINICAL TRIAL

The vaccine, mRNA-1273, was co-developed by researchers at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and biotech company Moderna, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass.

Emory enrolled about 700 people as part of the Phase 3 trial, also known as the COVE study.

The mRNA-1273 vaccine is being tested at three Emory clinics under the direction of a trio of principal investigators.

- Hope Clinic: Nadine Rouphael, MD, professor of medicine (infectious diseases) at Emory University School of Medicine, interim director at the Hope Clinic
- Emory Children's Center — Vaccine Research Clinic: Evan Anderson, MD, professor of medicine and pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine, physician at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.
- Ponce De Leon Center/Grady Clinic: Colleen Kelley, MD, MPH, associate professor of medicine (infectious diseases) at Emory University School of Medicine.

The study enrolled more than 30,000 participants in the United States. They were given two shots 28 days apart. Half of the participants were given the vaccine and half a placebo.

In an analysis released by Moderna, 95 participants contracted

COVID. Ninety of those cases were in a placebo group and five in the group that received mRNA-1273. Eleven of the COVID infections were categorized as severe and all of them were in the placebo group.

Emory was the second site in the nation to enroll volunteers in the initial Phase 1 study of the vaccine, which established the dose and looked at whether the vaccine was safe. Researchers said the results showed the vaccine was generally well tolerated and stimulated a robust immune response.

Recently, Emory began enrolling participants in a large trial of another vaccine candidate developed by the Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies of Johnson & Johnson. It is the first Phase 3 clinical trial to assess if a single dose vaccine can protect people against COVID-19.

The COVE study was conducted by Emory's Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit (VTEU), which is part of NIAID's Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Consortium (IDCRC) and the COVID-19 Prevention Network (CoVPN) supporting this trial. Emory has been a VTEU site since 2007. The consortium is co-led by co-principal investigators David S. Stephens of Emory University School of Medicine, and Kathleen Neuzil of the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Stephens is professor and chair of Emory's Department of Medicine and vice president for research of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center. ■



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Department of Medicine launches RYSE brand to honor its commitment to ensuring a climate of inclusion and organizational equity

In FY20, the Department of Medicine's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) council continued to implement critical elements of its strategic plan developed in FY19. A pillar of this strategic plan was to formally launch the diversity, equity, and inclusion brand called RYSE – Represent, (You), Support, and Elevate.

RYSE's commitment to diversity includes being proactive and intentional; encouraging continual learning by creating courageous and psychologically safe spaces; sharing the commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion across all divisions; and imbedding diversity, equity, and inclusion into every departmental function. Under the RYSE brand, the DEI council spearheaded the following activities in FY20:

- Hosted Diversity Recruitment Days for the J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program where they offered students from underrepresented backgrounds a unique opportunity to engage with faculty and residents to learn more about the department, opportunities, and available resources.
- Created the RYSE Virtual Visiting Clerkship Program where they hosted medical students from underrepresented groups who intend to pursue a career in internal medicine or subspecialty. The virtual clerkship exposed them to a thriving academic medical center and underrepresented faculty who have careers in medicine.
- The School of Medicine in collaboration with the RYSE DEI council with support from Health Resources and Services Administration developed a 5-month Underrepresented Minority Faculty Development Career Development Program for 15 underrepresented minority faculty. The longitudinal program provides resources, information and tools important for academic success. The course features didactic sessions from diverse speakers, experiential components, along with peer mentoring and networking. Participants will also be paired with organizational leaders as coaches during this process.



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