



ALUMNI NEWS

WINTER 2022



Reconnecting and Rediscovering Community in 2022

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DOM FACULTY RECOGNITIONS



JEFF SANDS, MD, WINS HOMER W. SMITH AWARD



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear colleagues and alumni,

As I return to the position of the Department of Medicine Chair after serving as interim executive vice president for health affairs, I want to congratulate the faculty, staff, and trainees of the department on their extraordinary successes, despite the obstacles that the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic uncertainties have presented.

As we begin a new year, I am excited to share with you the many accomplishments of the Department of Medicine. In this newsletter, you will see this past year's highlights, including faculty awards and recognitions, funding for innovative research, DOM global program rankings, recognition of our work in diversity, equity, and inclusion, clinical accomplishments, and more. Additionally, the DOM has remained resilient and creative to address challenges from the past year. Our newsletter will showcase some of the extraordinary efforts that took place to bring our community together.

I invite you to keep in touch with us [via social media and our website](#) to stay up-to-date on Department of Medicine news and information.

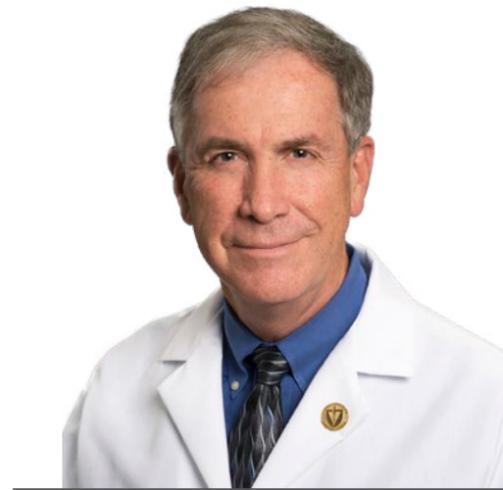
Success would not be possible without your support, and we thank our generous alumni for their continued contributions to the Department of Medicine and Emory University. I would also like to thank all faculty, staff, and trainees for their dedication to research, patient care, and education—because of their efforts, our department continues to excel.

It is an honor to serve as your chair, and I look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

David S. Stephens, MD

Chair, Department of Medicine



**DAVID S.
STEPHENS, MD**

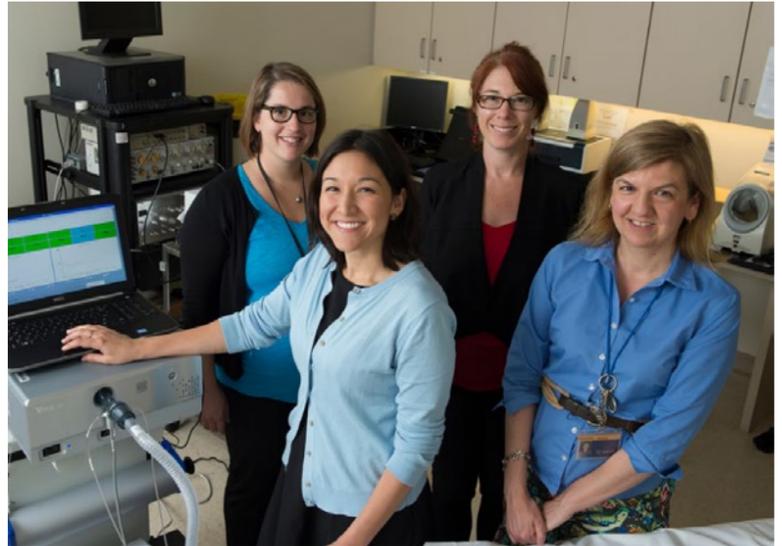


Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance receives \$73.7 million to accelerate research across Georgia

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded \$58.6 million over the next five years to the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance (Georgia CTSA) to continue its efforts to advance the quality of clinical and translational research and transform research results to impact health in the state of Georgia and beyond. In addition to NIH funding, the Georgia CTSA will receive \$15.1 million in institutional support from its academic institutions.

Georgia CTSA is a collaborative research alliance that accelerates clinical and translational education, research, workforce development, and community engagement. Emory University, Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM), Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), and the University of Georgia (UGA) form the Georgia CTSA, with partners that include Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

"We're excited to continue this long-standing Georgia-wide partnership providing an environment where clinical and translational research can flourish," says W. Robert Taylor, MD, PhD, contact principal investigator at Emory University.



Left to right: Jessica Alvarez, Erin Millson, Wendy Hermes, and Elizabeth Ivie

As the only NIH-funded Clinical and Translational Science Award in the state, Georgia CTSA has served as a hub for innovation and scientific discovery across Georgia and the southeast region since its inception in 2007. This latest funding award will allow researchers to continue providing support and new tools in bioinformatics and biostatistics, piloting grants to fuel new research, and helping train the next generation of clinical and translational science investigators.

"As in so many industries, Georgia is proud to lead the way in developing healthcare solutions that improve outcomes for

"We're excited to continue this long-standing Georgia-wide partnership."

— W. Robert Taylor, MD, PhD



Vin Tangpricha, MD, PhD, Georgia CTSA Investigator and Clinical Research Centers Scientific Advisory Committee Chair



all,” says Brian Kemp, Governor, State of Georgia. “This funding award is just the latest recognition of the importance and cutting-edge position of the Georgia Clinical & Translational Science Alliance. I want to congratulate its members on this achievement and the positive impact it will have across our state and far beyond.”

To ensure Georgia CTSA’s emphasis on improving treatments reaches the communities and populations at highest risk for poor health outcomes, Georgia CTSA will establish its central theme aimed at addressing health disparities amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Health equity will be incorporated as a core component of all Georgia CTSA’s proposed work over the next five years.

“The renewal of the Georgia CTSA provides critical support for our institutional alliance as we work together to tackle the major health issues facing the citizens of Georgia,” says W. Robert Taylor, MD, PhD, contact principal investigator at Emory University. “We will continue our focus on reducing the tragic health disparities that exist across our state.”

Georgia CTSA will establish its central theme aimed at addressing health disparities amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Lauren Collins, MD, MSc, KL2 scholar, former TL1 trainee, MSCR graduate



Georgia CTSA Principal Investigators: Henry M. Blumberg, MD, KL2 and TL1, Emory University; Bradley G. Phillips, PharmD, University of Georgia; Elizabeth Ofili, MD, MPH, Morehouse School of Medicine; Andrés J. García, PhD, Georgia Institute of Technology; and W. Robert Taylor, MD, PhD, Contact Principal Investigator, Emory University

One example of how Georgia CTSA can leverage its resources to advance health equity is by creating opportunities to increase representation of ethnic or racial minority groups in clinical trials and other clinical studies. The Integrating Special Populations program focuses on extending research testing and discovery to all populations in Georgia, with emphasis on rural health concerns. These types of measures can advance health equity, but more will need to be done to sustain progress.

Elizabeth Ofili, MD, MPH, principal investigator at MSM says, “Our stated goal of enhancing health equity across the state of Georgia will require a sustained effort to address diversity and inclusivity in collaborating with impacted communities and mentoring diverse early-stage investigators across the Georgia CTSA.”

Over the next five years, Georgia CTSA plans to build on the resounding impact it has already made on statewide research efforts. Through the first four funding cycles, the alliance has awarded 472 pilot grants, contributed to more than 4,000 scientific publications, and assisted over 2,500 investigators.

“We are thrilled to continue our innovative and impactful partnership accelerating



Successful MSCR graduates focused on HIV-related research and women's health (left to right): Drs. Cecile Lahiri, Igho Ofotokun, Lauren Collins, Caitlin Moran, and Anandi Sheth

clinical and translational education, research, and community engagement with a focus on enhancing health equity across Georgia and addressing the needs of the rural, poor, and underserved populations statewide," says Andrés J. García, PhD, principal investigator at Georgia Tech.

Additionally, Georgia CTSA will address the critical need to train a new generation

of clinical and translational science investigators. Trainees will be equipped to lead scientific teams that are urgently needed to generate new discoveries and translate discoveries from the laboratory to the bedside and into the community to improve health for all, including underrepresented communities. These mentored research training activities are supported by the KL2 and TL1 research training components of the Georgia CTSA led by multiple principal investigators Henry M. Blumberg, MD; Igho Ofotokun, MD, MSc; and Vasiliki Michopoulos, PhD, MSc.

"The Georgia CTSA has achieved so many great milestones in research, outreach, education, and workforce development," says Bradley G. Phillips, PharmD, principal investigator at UGA. "With amazing faculty, students, and communities across the state, I am confident that the best is yet to come." ■

About Georgia CTSA

Georgia CTSA is one of over 60 Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA) Program hubs at medical research institutions across the country supported by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences of the National Institutes of Health.

Since 2007, the Georgia CTSA hub has served as an integrated research and training environment for translational and clinical science to develop, demonstrate, and disseminate methods and technologies that improve efficiency and quality across the translational research spectrum. The overall purpose of the Georgia CTSA is to deliver scientific and systems change that solve the many outstanding problems limiting the efficiency, effectiveness, and reach of clinical translational research, and thus get more treatments to more patients more quickly across the country. The Georgia CTSA hub functions as the statewide center of innovation in translational science and operations. They join the national collaboration of hubs to facilitate innovation in multi-center research, harmonization of standards and best practices, enhancement of translational training

through sharing curricula and online training modules/courses, and provide opportunities for cross-hub and sector research training and career development opportunities, both within and outside of the CTSA Program.

Through FY2022, Georgia CTSA has directly supported or contributed to 2,500 investigators, assisted with over 5,500 instances of program support — including 1,500 from Georgia CTSA Clinical Research Centers (GCRCs), 1,000 from Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Research Design (BERD) consults, and 500 from Informatics — 472 Pilot Grants awarded with \$21 million in pilot grant funding and over \$137 million in follow-on funding — a 7:1 return on investment with 12 patents issued — and 431 future clinical and translational scientists trained (MSCR, CPTR, KL2, and TL1 scholars or trainees). Direct support has also contributed to over 4,000 scientific publications with 170,000 citations which is 2.5 times the average citation rate for comparable papers. By delivering scientific and systems changes to solve problems limiting the efficiency, effectiveness, and reach of clinical and translational research, Georgia CTSA helps to deliver more treatment to all people more quickly.

This story originally appeared in the Emory News Center.



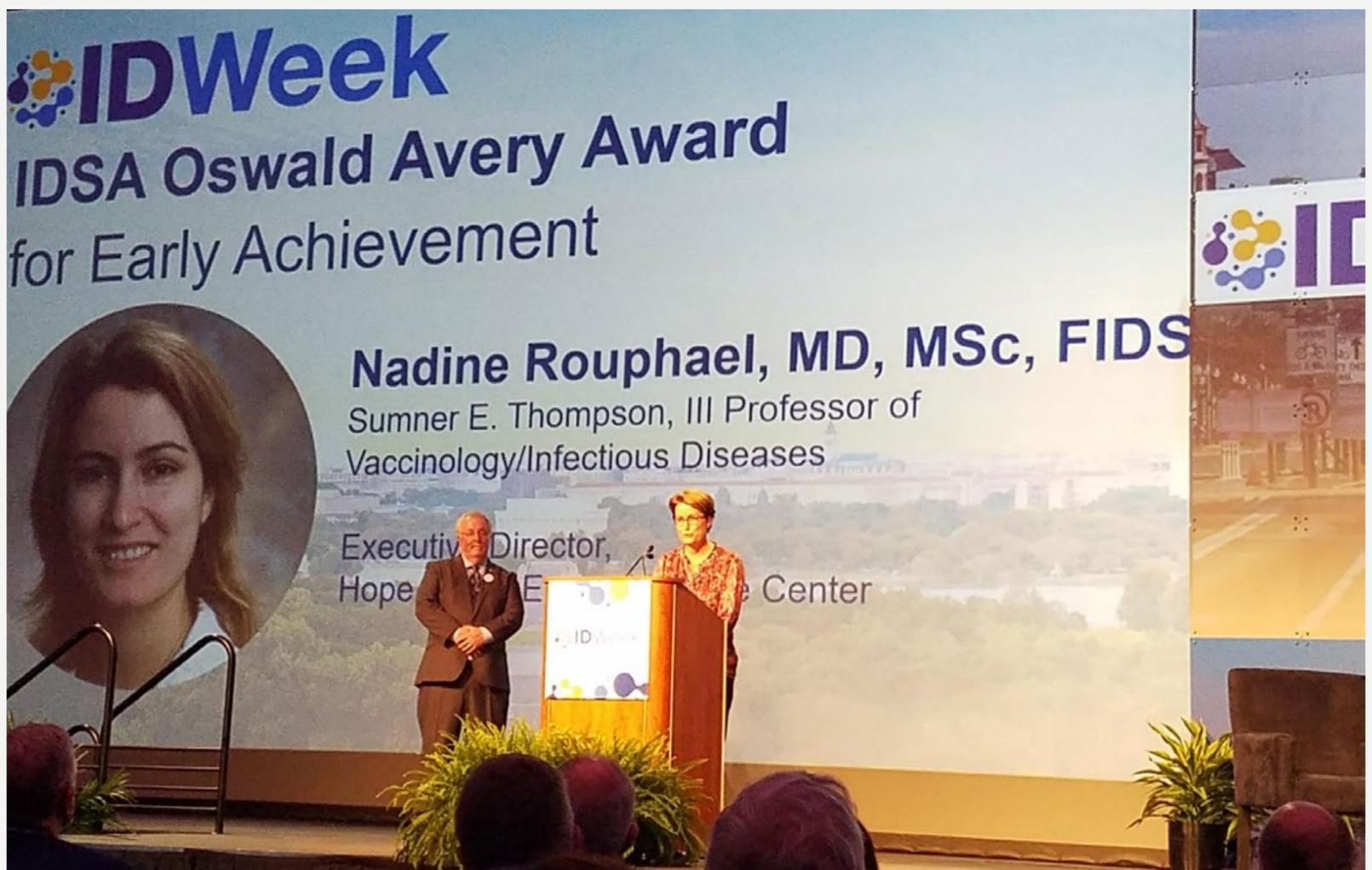
Department of Medicine Faculty Recognitions

2022 was an extraordinary year for Department of Medicine faculty members. Many were recognized on a local, national, and global level for their innovative work and contributions to the field of medicine.



▶ **MAURA GEORGE, MD** (General Internal Medicine) received the 2022 Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism in Medicine Award at the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) annual meeting.

Her compassionate approach to patient care, mentoring, and teaching has earned her this well-deserved recognition.



▶ **NADINE ROUPHAEL, MD** (Infectious Diseases) named 2022 winner of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) Oswald Avery Award for Early Achievement.

Dr. Rouphael presented award at ID week 2022

This award honors achievements in infectious disease research by a member of IDSA who is 45 or younger.



▶ **JADA BUSSEY-JONES, MD**, Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (General Internal Medicine) and **KIMBERLY D. MANNING, MD**, Associate Vice Chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (General Internal Medicine), selected as recipients of the 2022 AAMC Group on Diversity and Inclusion (GDI) Exemplary Leadership Award.

Dr. Bussey-Jones and Dr. Manning were recognized for their innovation in leadership and impactful diversity, equity, and inclusion programming.

Left to right:
Jada Bussey-Jones, MD,
Kimberly D. Manning, MD



▶ **CARLOS DEL RIO, MD** (Division of Infectious Diseases) named the Infectious Diseases Society of America's (IDSA) new president in October 2022.

Dr. del Rio leads IDSA's ongoing commitment to promote excellence in patient care, education, research, public health, and prevention relating to infectious diseases.



▶ **VANDANA NIYYAR, MD** (Renal Medicine) elected president of the American Society of Diagnostic and Interventional Nephrology (ASDIN).

Dr. Niyyar leads ASDIN, the leading organization for dialysis access, whose mission is to improve outcomes for patients with kidney disease.



Jeff Sands, MD, wins Homer W. Smith Award from the American Society of Nephrology

Dr. Jeff Sands, division director for the Division of Renal Medicine, has been honored with the prestigious 2022 Homer W. Smith Award from the American Society of Nephrology.

The Homer W. Smith Award is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions which fundamentally affect the science of nephrology — broadly defined, but not limited to, the pathobiology, cellular and



Sands presented with award at Kidney Week 2022

molecular mechanisms, and genetic influences on the functions and diseases of the kidney. Established in 1964, Dr. Sands is now among 59 individuals who have received this award for their groundbreaking work.

Dr. Sands receives this honor for his major contributions to the understanding of the mechanism of urine concentration. Dr. Sands' research focuses on the molecular physiology of urea transporters, aquaporins, and the urine concentrating mechanism. His research group has worked to translate these basic research findings into novel therapies for nephrogenic diabetes insipidus. Their findings showed that vasopressin, a key hormonal regulator, not only affects water transport within minutes but also stimulates urea transport.

His group also investigated whether there are non-vasopressin-mediated pathways that increase urea and water transport as a potential strategy to treat congenital nephrogenic diabetes insipidus. This research led to the discovery of an investigational drug that increases urine-concentrating ability. A startup company was formed and received seed funding to advance work on this drug.

Dr. Sands' outstanding work throughout his career has earned him worldwide acclaim and recognition. He has given nearly 40 invited talks at national and international scientific meetings and more than 110 invited lectures at universities across the globe. He has also received several honors, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Boston University, the Barry M. Brenner Endowed Lectureship from the American Society of Nephrology, and an honorary degree from Aarhus University in Denmark.

Please join the Department of Medicine in congratulating Dr. Sands on this momentous achievement. ■



Jeff Sands, MD, and his wife, Abbe



CLINICAL HIGHLIGHTS



U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT GLOBALLY RANKED these programs in 2022:

- #24** in Cardiac and Cardiovascular Systems (tie)
- #21** in Clinical Medicine
- #63** in Endocrinology and Metabolism (tie)
- #87** in Gastroenterology and Hepatology
- #23** in Immunology
- #15** in Infectious Diseases



THE DIVISION OF ENDOCRINOLOGY, METABOLISM & LIPIDS hosted the 4th annual Emory Diabetes Symposium with over 150 participants. This half-day event offered Emory clinical providers and staff updates on diabetes management, standards of care, and new diabetes technology.



THE DIVISION OF PULMONARY, ALLERGY, CRITICAL CARE, AND SLEEP MEDICINE established a clinic to care for patients suffering from post-acute COVID infection, which includes a multidisciplinary approach and cooperates closely with Neurology. In addition, the team is running a clinical trial in post COVID fibrosis, received multiple grants for their research work in immunology of COVID, and published multiple papers, including most recently in *Nature*.



THE INTERVENTIONAL PULMONARY team started a robotic bronchoscopy program at Emory Saint Joseph's campus with Dr. Alejandro Sardi. The ION robotic program expanded to Clifton and Midtown to further their most timely and safest care for all patients with lung nodules. This program increases early detection of lung cancer, aids in the diagnosis of other thoracic diseases, assists interventional radiology to load share diagnostic procedures, facilitates same-day diagnosis and staging, and offers a safer option, especially for emphysema patients, while permitting more patient referrals throughout Georgia.

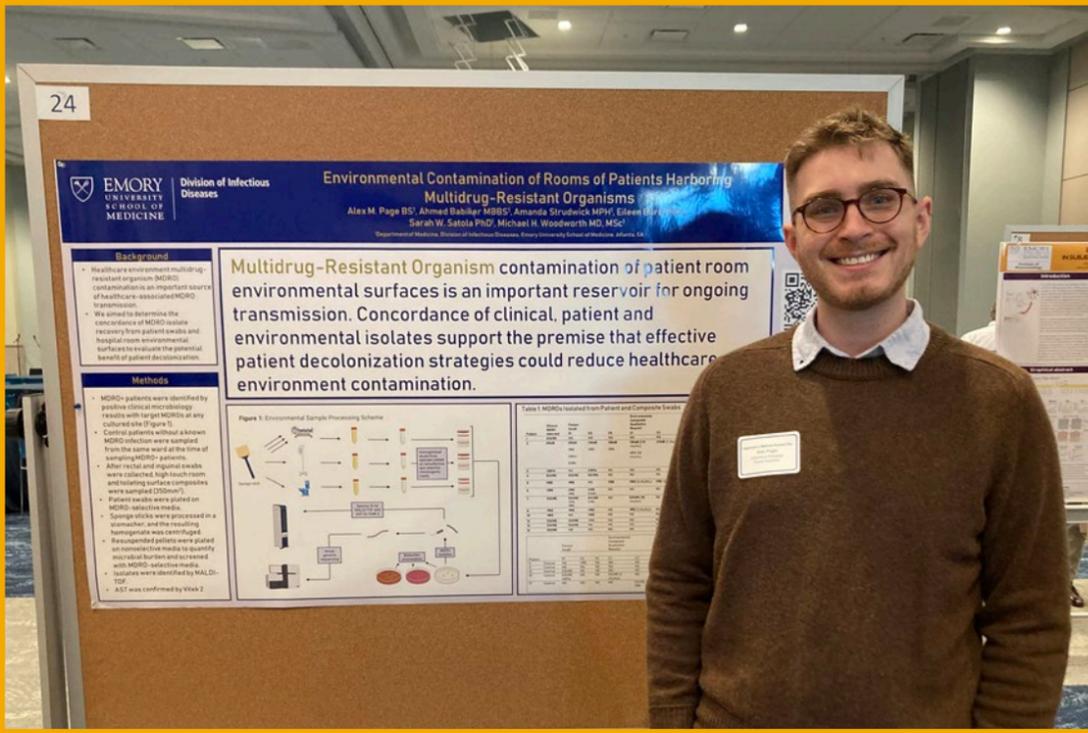


THE DIVISION OF DIGESTIVE DISEASES saw rapid expansion of the practice at Emory Decatur Hospital, seeing over 3,000 clinic visits and almost 1,000 ASC visits. This practice opened in January 2022 and will continue to grow with the addition of an advanced endoscopy room later this winter.



RECONNECTING AND REDISCOVERING COMMUNITY IN 2022

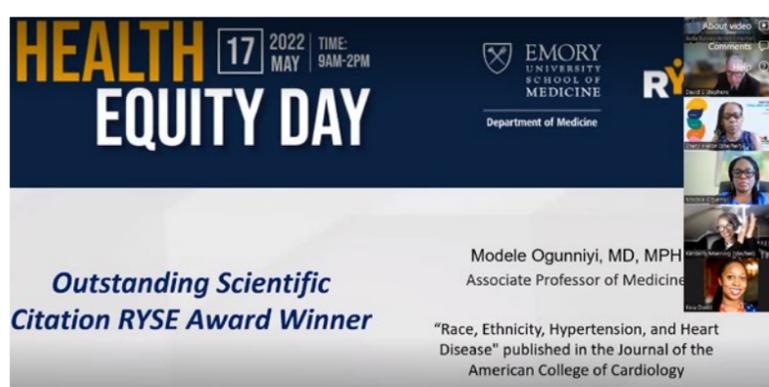






Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Department of Medicine

The Department of Medicine is dedicated to being a destination and model for inclusive care, training, development, and celebration of a diverse patient population and workforce. In the past year, the Department of Medicine's RYSE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Council spearheaded the following activities:



▶ Hosted the 2nd annual **Health Equity Day**, a department-wide event aimed to raise awareness and encourage action around the systemic health disparities that exist across racial, ethnic, cultural, and social groups. More than 230 members of the DOM and Emory community attended to share compelling new findings, facilitate scientific exchange, and identify opportunities for collaboration.



▶ Executed the **RYSE Virtual Visiting Student Mini-Clerkship** for medical students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups who intend to pursue a career in internal medicine or a subspecialty. The clerkship exposed students to Emory's thriving academic medical center and diverse medical faculty.



▶ Coordinated the **Under-Represented in Medicine (URiM) Faculty Development and Leadership Program Graduation Reception** (above). This celebratory event honored the 2020 and 2021 cohort members by commemorating their promotions and other professional accomplishments.

▶ Conducted the **2022 RYSE Minority Fellowship Applicant Experience (#EmoryMFAX22) Virtual Open House**. This special meet and greet offered fellowship applicants from underrepresented groups in medicine a unique glimpse at Emory's culture, allowing them to speak with current URiM (underrepresented in medicine) fellows and faculty, and hear about diversity initiatives within Emory's Department of Medicine.

▶ Launched the inaugural **Emory at Grady Health Equity Advocacy Course** (above). The Advocacy Course is a five-month multi-pronged educational intervention that brings faculty, learners, and community members from several institutions together to advocate for common health-related priorities. This innovative course goes beyond didactic instruction and includes experiential learning that will leverage collaboration and, importantly, have tangible outcomes as a result.

RYSE

Represent, (You), Support, and Elevate

Our 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
- Embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion into every departmental function

To learn more about DEI in the department, [visit our website](#).



OFFICE OF EDUCATION

2022 Residency Match Day by the Numbers



We were thrilled to welcome the incoming 2022–2023 J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program interns to our program this past summer. This rising class of 56 candidates began their residencies in July 2022.

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 4,800 applications for approximately 450 interview spots to recruit a class of highly talented trainees.

2022 MATCH DAY BY THE NUMBERS

2022–2023 J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program class of interns

56 Candidates began their residencies in July 2022

Male: **29** Female: **27**



14 incoming residents are members of AOA

13 incoming residents are members of the Gold Humanism Honor Society

11 incoming residents are from groups traditionally underrepresented in medicine

13 incoming residents have advanced degrees (PhD, MS, MPH, MSc, MBA, MEd)



43 CATEGORICAL TRACK
3,758 applications

8 PRIMARY CARE TRACK
510 applications

2 INTERNAL MEDICINE/PSYCHIATRY TRACK
202 applications

3 RESEARCH TRACK
368 applications



OUR INTERNS REPRESENT:

43 medical schools from across the country

8 candidates from Emory University School of Medicine





MATCH DAY 2022

Fellowship Match

Please join us in congratulating our residents, chief residents, former graduates, and our divisions on another successful fellowship match!

We successfully matched:



**ALLERGY/
IMMUNOLOGY**

1 candidate



CARDIOLOGY

14 candidates



GASTROENTEROLOGY

6 candidates



**HEMATOLOGY/
ONCOLOGY**

2 candidates



**HOSPICE/
PALLIATIVE CARE**

2 candidates



**INFECTIOUS
DISEASES**

4 candidates



**PULMONARY/
CRITICAL CARE**

5 candidates



RHEUMATOLOGY

3 candidates

In addition, our divisions successfully matched:



CARDIOLOGY
(including advanced
programs)

20 trainees



**CRITICAL CARE
MEDICINE**

2 trainees



DIGESTIVE DISEASES

5 trainees



ENDOCRINOLOGY

2 trainees



GERIATRICS

1 trainee



**HOSPICE/
PALLIATIVE CARE**

7 trainees



**INFECTIOUS
DISEASES**

5 trainees



**INTERVENTIONAL
PULMONOLOGY**

1 trainee



NEPHROLOGY

3 trainees



**PULMONARY/
CRITICAL CARE**

6 trainees



RHEUMATOLOGY

3 trainees



SLEEP MEDICINE

3 trainees

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. Thank you for helping our residents achieve their career goals! ■



OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Leadership Updates

We are pleased to announce that Reena Hemrajani, MD, has been named program director for the J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program, taking over the position from Karen Law, MD, who has held the program director role since 2016.

Dr. Hemrajani is an associate professor in the Division of Hospital Medicine. A nationally recognized leader in graduate medical education and faculty development, Hemrajani joined the Emory School of Medicine faculty in 2017 as an associate site director and hospitalist at Grady and assistant division director for faculty development for the Division of Hospital Medicine. In 2018, she was named associate program director for the J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program. In 2019, she was named Associate Division Director for Faculty Development.

Prior to joining Emory, Dr. Hemrajani served as an associate program director at Virginia Commonwealth University for four years, where she also completed her internal medicine residency and served as a chief resident. She is highly regarded for her leadership roles in the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) and well-received workshops at the Alliance for Academic



Reena Hemrajani, MD

Internal Medicine (AAIM) meetings, and is a 2021 fellow of the Woodruff Leadership Academy.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Hemrajani on her well-deserved new role and in thanking Law for her dedication and accomplishments during her tenure. ■



OFFICE OF FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Leadership Updates

As of September 1, 2022, Sushma Cribbs, MD, MSc, associate professor of medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine, was promoted to vice chair for faculty development, taking over the position from Kathy Griendling, PhD.

In this new role, Dr. Cribbs leads the Department of Medicine's senior promotion and tenure process; oversees faculty professional development workshops, conferences, mentoring programs, and the DOM Honors and Awards Celebration; leads the faculty development committee; and oversees the processes for faculty Career Conference and Performance Review and Clinical Distinctions.

We are excited to see her build on Dr. Griendling's success and continue to create



Sushma Cribbs, MD, MSc

a community of engaged faculty within the Department of Medicine. Her enthusiasm and creativity are sure to add value to our programs. ■

2022 DOM Awards Celebration

On August 30, the annual Department of Medicine Honors and Awards Celebration was held to recognize the outstanding contributions of our faculty and staff in their divisions, the department, the School of Medicine, and Emory University. Over 120 of our colleagues joined virtually for an evening of celebrating the department-wide accomplishments that took place over the last year.

Let's take a closer look at the honorees:

108 total faculty and staff nominees

25 clinical distinction honorees

32 newly promoted senior faculty

This year is particularly noteworthy as Kathy Griendling, Vice Chair for Faculty Development for the past 17 years, has expanded her role at the School of Medicine as Executive Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs and Professional Development. We want to recognize the groundbreaking and innovative work Dr. Griendling has done in the realm of faculty development for our department. One of those creations is the DOM faculty awards program. During the 2022 celebration, it was announced that the event has been renamed "Kathy Griendling Award Program" to honor her outstanding contributions to the department.



Kathy Griendling, PhD



OFFICE OF RESEARCH

2022 DOM Research Day

The 15th Annual DOM Research Day celebrated another year of research efforts across the department. For the first time since 2019, the event was held in person, with nearly 300 faculty, staff, and trainees in attendance. Presenters from across the department's ten divisions shared the exciting basic, translational, and clinical research currently being conducted.



12 ORAL PRESENTATIONS

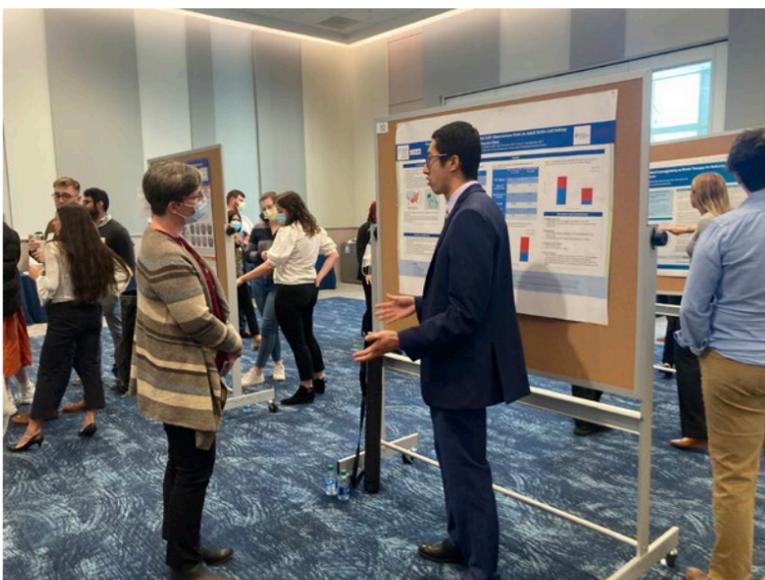
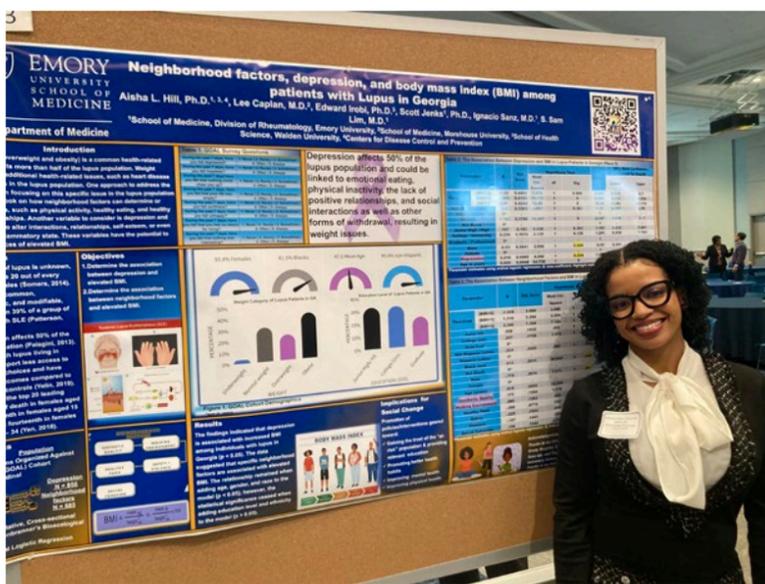
Cardiology (2)
 Digestive Diseases (2)
 Geriatrics & Gerontology
 General Internal Medicine
 Hospital Medicine (2)
 Infectious Diseases (2)
 Pulmonary
 Rheumatology

5 INVITED FEATURED RESEARCH TALKS

Cardiology
 General Internal Medicine
 Infectious Diseases
 Pulmonary
 Renal Medicine

114 POSTERS

Cardiology (14)
 Digestive Diseases (11)
 Endocrinology (7)
 General Internal Medicine (20)
 Geriatrics (5)
 Hospital Medicine (13)
 Infectious Diseases (18)
 Pulmonary (8)
 Renal Medicine (8)
 Rheumatology/Immunology (10)





OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Research, Funding, and Publications

The Department of Medicine received
\$252.9 M
 in research awards
 for FY22

1,209
 unique publications
418
 contributing faculty

428
 active clinical trials
9,526
 enrollees

In FY22, Department of Medicine faculty had

17
 active K awards
62
 active R01s



DOM launches Research Ride Podcast

DOM Research Ride is a podcast that highlights our department's brilliant and passionate researchers and their cross-cutting research programs. This podcast is hosted by Charles (Charlie) Searles, MD, a faculty member in the

Division of Cardiology, Associate Vice Chair for Research and Space Management in the Department of Medicine, and a cardiologist at the Atlanta VA Medical Center.

In 2022, Dr. Searles hosted Nadine Rouphael, MD, Jessica Alvarez, PhD, RD, and Ted Johnson, MD, MPH, as featured guests to discuss their backgrounds, research endeavors, and hobbies. Listen to these episodes and future ones on our YouTube channel playlist, "[Research Ride Podcast](#)."



Charles (Charlie) Searles, MD



Support our Programs

The Department of Medicine relies on gifts and partnerships to support the clinical, research, and educational goals of our ten divisions. Your charitable contributions can impact health care on a local, regional, national, and global scale. There are opportunities at every level of giving.



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