A Message from the Outgoing Division Director

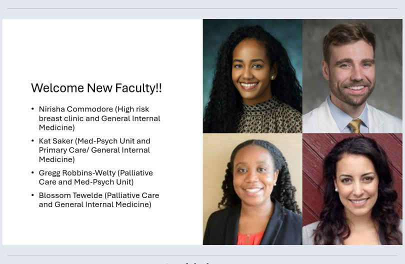
Ted Johnson, MD, MPH

As announced by the Department of Medicine yesterday, I am stepping down as Division Director of General Internal Medicine. Dr. Jada Bussey-Jones will be taking over that role, effective today. I feel tremendous appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to have served as your GIM division chief. I am inspired by your passion for your work and the people you serve.

In thinking back to 2012 when I started as GIM Chief, I recognize I likely seemed an atypical choice. My clinical, teaching, and research work were VA based. I was not yet a member of the GIM division. The prior chief Dr. Bill Branch was a Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) founder who literally wrote the book about ambulatory primary care. I acknowledge the warm reception I received and I grew into the role helped by your graciousness.

If I was an unlikely GIM division lead in 2012, the exact opposite is true of our next chief Dr. Jada Bussey-Jones. Her background and accomplishments make her a perfect fit to lead. She's a nationally recognized leader in academic general internal medicine, health equity, and faculty development. She's received multiple Emory awards for teaching and just recently completed a term as SGIM President. I'm so pleased to have her as our new Chief! I will still be involved in the GIM research, education, and service missions as the Director of the Emory Academic Internal Medicine Center (AIM). I look forward to engaging with you through AIM.

Cheers to you, Jada, and to us all!



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SGIM, Emory, and SOM Resources

- Check for direct messages on the SGIM All-Member Forum on GIM Connect.
- Updates on federal government directives impacting Emory
- Managing Difficult Times resources from Emory Faculty Staff Assistance Program
- Zoom security guidelines and instructions
- DOM and GIM logos, PowerPoint and poster templates, and email signature blocks

2025 Policy on Spending

As of March 19, 2025, the Division's policy on spending has been updated. Please submit a request before making any purchases. This goes for all SOM operational, discretionary, and professional development spending. This does not include clinical CME or grant spending.

The Expense Request Form can be found here: https://forms.office.com/r/xmSKDBSuvZ.

Once the form is submitted, we will communicate the outcome of the review within 48 hours.

If an expense is purchased on a corporate card or submitted for reimbursement without prior approval, we cannot guarantee that it will be covered by the Division.

Please reach out to Jason Freiji with any questions.

Virtual Headshot Opportunity

Did you know DOM Communications now offers a quick and easy way to get a new headshot? There is no need to come in person, you can take a photo from work or home! We encourage you to consider a virtual headshot option.

First, review the **photography best practices and tips** and take your photos.

Next, submit your photos via the **Qualtrics form.**

Then, a member of the DOM Communications team will add our standard grey background to your photo, make any slight photo edits you requested, and send it back to you!

Once you've received your new headshot, don't forget to update your **Emory First Faculty Profile!**

Save the date!
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

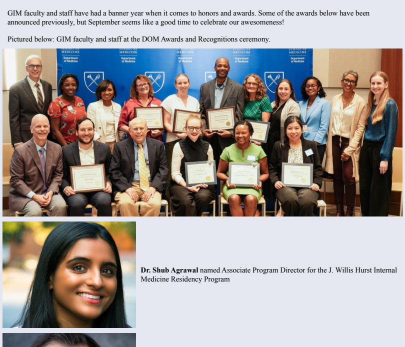
- **Oct. 3 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m. GA State Campus or via Zoom.** Frontiers in Advanced Emergency Care Conference. Register.
- **Oct. 10 | noon-1 p.m. via Zoom.** Same Problem, New Stakes: Addressing Health Inequity in Today's Climate. Register.
- **Oct. 21 | 9–10 a.m. | SOM Lawn.** SOM Yoga on the Lawn for SOM Staff. Register.
- **Oct. 24-25 | 8 a.m.–5 p.m. | Hilton Atlanta.** Cardiology Update for the Non-Cardiologist. Register
- **Oct. 27-31:** SOM Faculty Recognitions Week
- **Oct. 30 | 7:30 a.m.–5 p.m. | HSRB & HSRB II Department of Medicine David S. Stephens Research Day.** Register
- **Dec. 12 | noon-1 p.m. via Zoom.** How to Pivot Your Research in a Time of Upheaval. Register.
- **Jan. 9 | noon-1 p.m. via Zoom.** Promotion Readiness. Register.
- **March 23-27, 2026:** Together We Thrive Week

Emory SOM Faculty Development Calendar

GIM Awards and Honors

GIM faculty and staff have had a banner year when it comes to honors and awards. Some of the awards below have been announced previously, but September seems like a good time to celebrate our awesomeness!

Pictured below: GIM faculty and staff at the DOM Awards and Recognitions ceremony.



Dr. Shub Agrawal named Associate Program Director for the J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program

Dr. John Deppe was selected as the new Neuromodulation Director at Grady through the Dept. of Psychiatry

Dr. Marshall Fleurant received the DOM Community Impact Award

Mr. Jason Freiji received the DOM Leadership Excellence Award

Dr. Lauren Gensler received the DOM Nanette K. Wenger Distinguished Service Award - Assistant Professor

Dr. Maura George promoted to Professor.

Dr. Katie Gielissen promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Saria Hassan promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Tracey Henry received the 2025 Dr. Edmond and Rima Cabbabe Dedication to Profession Award, one of the American Medical Association's Excellence in Medicine Award.

Dr. Anna Kho named Distinguished Physician

Dr. Sarah Koumtouzoua named Senior Physician

Dr. Jennifer Lom was named GIM Division Gem.

Dr. Britt Marshall named Senior Physician

Dr. Lesley Miller named Eminent Physician

Dr. Kajal Patel named Senior Physician and selected for the 2025 Class of the Emory Alumni Association's 40 under Forty recognition program.

Dr. David Roberts received the DOM Nanette K. Wenger Distinguished Service Award - Professor

Dr. Francois Rollin promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Michael Saenger named Eminent Physician

Dr. Jason Schneider elected President-Elect of USPATH (United States Professional Association for Transgender Health).

Dr. Dheepa Sekar named Medical Education Distinction Lead for the J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program

Dr. Stan Sonu promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. Mehul Tejani promoted to Associate Professor and invited to join the Sustainable Healthcare Leadership Institute.

Dr. Natasha Travis named Distinguished Physician

Dr. Tracy Vettese received the DOM Shanthi V. Sitaraman Silver Pear Mentoring Award - Clinical Educator

Dr. Pam Vohra-Khullar promoted to Associate Professor and named Distinguished Physician.

Dr. Tiffany Walker received the DOM Team Science Award (Long COVID Clinic) and promoted to Associate Professor.

Reseachers' Day Recognition

Dr. Dylan Baker leads research on Long-Acting PrEP (LAP) implementation to prevent HIV in underserved communities. As Associate Medical Director of the Grady PrEP Clinic, he launched one of the Southeast's largest LAP programs. His work demonstrates high adherence and low discontinuation, offering a replicable model for HIV prevention in resource-limited settings. Read more about this researcher's publications and impactful work.

Dr. Rosette J. Chakkalakal leads translational research aimed at reducing type 2 diabetes in high-risk populations. In 2024 alone, she directed four federally funded projects totaling over $5 million. With more than $10 million in career grant support and 31 peer-reviewed publications, her work – especially through Emory collaborations – is making a national impact on diabetes care and prevention.

Dr. Meredith Lora leads research in HIV prevention and implementation science, directing Grady's comprehensive PrEP program. She evaluates patient-centered delivery models, including one of the nation's first Cabotegravir Long-Acting Injectable PrEP programs. Her work has trained over 300 staff and initiated PrEP for more than 500 patients, with adherence rates far exceeding local benchmarks. Her research guides replication of successful models in other health systems.

News from the Academic Internal Medicine Center

New Roles for Johnson and Roberts

The Emory Academic Internal Medicine (AIM) Center is pleased to announce that **Ted Johnson, MD, MPH**, currently Co-Director of the AIM Center, will assume the Director's role on September 1, 2025. **David Roberts, MD,** the current AIM Center Director, will assume the Co-Director's duties. As Director, Dr. Johnson will focus on the priorities of engaging the Grady and VA GIM teams and building division-wide research and faculty development infrastructure and support. Dr. Roberts will support Dr Johnson, with a primary focus on the Emory Clinic faculty practices and their academic growth and success. Given his 13-year experience as GIM Division Director, Dr. Johnson is uniquely qualified to lead the AIM Center given his knowledge of the entire division's faculty and programs and skills in all aspects of the academic enterprise. He has been very engaged in all aspects of the AIM program since its formation. Dr. Roberts will continue to bring his decades of experience at the Seavey Clinic to support the expansion of the Seavey Clinic model to all practice sites across Emory from now until the time when he retires.

Read more about these new roles here.

Dr. Ted Johnson | **Dr. David Roberts**

New Roles for Jones and Chakkalakal

The Emory Academic Internal Medicine Center (AIM) is pleased to announce that **Danielle Jones, MD, FACP** is the new Director of Faculty Development and Promotion. Her primary focus will be providing guidance, tools, and encouragement to all GIM faculty for a successful academic promotion journey. In addition to the work that she will be doing with the AIM Center, Dr. Jones will continue her clinical leadership in ambulatory education and career mentorship at Grady in the J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program.

Rosette Chakkalakal, MD, MHS, will assume the role of Rollins Director of Paul W. Seavey Comprehensive Internal Medicine Clinic as of September 1, 2025. Dr. Chakkalakal will continue the mission of Seavey Clinic to provide a clinic that serves as an innovation laboratory for clinical care and education. David Roberts, MD, FACP, will be in the role of Co-Director of Paul W. Seavey Comprehensive Internal Medicine Clinic for the period of September 2025 – August 2026.

Read more about these new roles here.

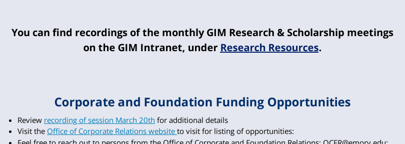
Dr. Danielle Jones | **Dr. Rosette Chakkalakal**

News and Media Appearances

CBS News 📺 | **Emory doctors use AI transcription technology to combat burnout from documentation burden** (Emory research featured, **Dr. Reema Dbouk** quoted)

Medscape | **Healthcare access, geography predict HIV in Black women** (**Dr. Meredith Lora** quoted)

WAGA-TV 📺 | **Tick bites on the rise: Experts warn of increased Lyme disease risk this summer** (**Dr. Neil Winawer** quoted)



The scholarship corner is a space to share opportunities to help further the scholarship interests of our GIM faculty! If you have any ideas of things to include please **contact Dr. Saria Hassan**, Associate Vice Chair for Research!

GIM-wide Monthly Research & Scholarship Meeting

Please join us for our next meeting on October 16, 2025.

You can find recordings of the monthly GIM Research & Scholarship meetings on the GIM Intranet, under Research Resources.

Corporate and Foundation Funding Opportunities

- Review recording of session March 20th for additional details
- Visit the Office of Corporate Relations website to visit for listing of opportunities:
- Feel free to reach out to persons from the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations: OCFR@emory.edu; Hazel Kim (hazel.kim@emory.edu); Sherry Ye (changtian.ye@emory.edu)
- For development, clinical programs (Grateful Patients), please contact Ashley Michaud (ashleymichaud@emory.edu)

Other research support

Please note that at this time we will not be able to continue our small project funding support or our support of MPH student research assistants. Any opportunities for support that may arise through the AIM Center will be communicated.

Recent Collaborative Faculty Publications

Dr. Mikhail Akbashev and **Dr. Bhavin Adhyaru** published Evolution of an Electronic Health Record-Based Alert to Optimize Venous Thromboembolism Prophylaxis. *Appl Clin Inform.*

Dr. Dylan Baker and **Dr. Meredith Lora** published PrEP Care Continuum at an Urban Safety-Net Healthcare Program in Atlanta During its First Three Years of Implementation. *AIDS Behav.*

Dr. Reema Dbouk and **Dr. Miranda Moore** published Increasing Pneumococcal Vaccination Rates Using Previsit Planning in Patients Age 65 and Older. *J Healthc Qual*

Dr. Lesley Miller and **Dr. Shelly-Ann Fluker** published Independent assessment of a point of care HCV RNA test by laboratory analytical testing and a prospective field study in the U.S. Lesley Miller and Shelly-Ann Fluker. *PLoS One*

Dr. Sara Turbow and **Dr. Meredith Lora** published Frequent Missed Opportunities for Earlier HIV Diagnosis in a Routine Opt-out Testing Environment in Atlanta. *Open Forum Infect Dis.*

Dr. Jennifer Lom, Dr. Erica Heiman, Dr. Meredith Lora, Dr. Lesley Miller, and **Dr. Robin Klein** published Successful Integration of Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment into a Primary Care Clinic at a Safety-Net Hospital. *J Gen Intern Med.*

Recent Faculty Publications

Dr. Bhavin Adhyaru
- *Piloting a Housing Support Navigator Program at a Safety Net Hospital. South Med J.*

Dr. Rosette Chakkalakal
- Prevalence of Hepatic Steatosis and Fibrosis in Asian Indian Individuals with Type 2 Diabetes. *Diabetes Ther.*

Dr. Paula Dibo
- Efficacy and safety of high-dose intravenous iron in the treatment of iron-deficiency anemia in patients undergoing hemodialysis: a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Ren. Replace. Ther.*

Dr. Reema Dbouk
- Ambient Documentation Technology in Clinician Experience of Documentation Burden and Burnout. *JAMA Netw Open*

Dr. Tracey Henry
- Accreditation and Health Policy and Their Impacts on Quality. *Med Clin North Am.*

Dr. Stacy Higgins
- Coaching Our Learners to Success. *J Gen Intern Med.*

Dr. Terry Jacobson
- Primary Prevention Aspirin, Lipoprotein(a), and Cardiorenal Outcomes in Chronic Kidney Disease: Chronic Renal Insufficiency Cohort. *JACC Adv.*

Dr. Ted Johnson
- Effects of a Workplace Well-Being Program on Professional Quality of Life Among Health Care Personnel. *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf*
- Behavioral Compared With Drug Therapy for Overactive Bladder Symptoms in Parkinson Disease: A Randomized Noninferiority Trial. *JAMA Neurol*

Dr. Robin Klein
- Influence of Race, Ethnicity, and Gender on Clinical Performance Assessments in Graduate Medical Education. *J Gen Intern Med*

Dr. Meredith Lora
- Long-acting cabotegravir/rilpivirine, lenacapavir, and ibalizumab use among persons with HIV-1 viremia at a Ryan White-funded clinic in the urban U.S. South. Clin Infect Dis

Dr. Lesley Miller
- Childhood Household Dysfunction and Low Household Income Associate with Increased Risk of Cirrhosis in Adults. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*
- Short-chain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances associate with elevated alanine aminotransferase: Cross-sectional analysis results from the STRIVE cohort. *Environ Res*

Dr. Dheepa Dekar
- Aligning Competency Committee and Observing Faculty Needs in Pursuit of Useful Written Evaluations of Residents. *South Med J*

Dr. Jennifer Swails
- ICARE: development of an interprofessional telehealth curriculum to promote Care access and Equity. *J Interprof Care*

Dr. Emily Pinto Taylor
- Dying in the hospital: Spiritual-based care at the end of life. *J Hosp Med*

Dr. Antoine Trammell
- Relationship between cellular aging, perceived stress, and cardiometabolic disease risk in Black family caregivers of persons with dementia. *Alzheimers Dement*

Dr. Sara Turbow
- Chronic Conditions, Multimorbidity, and Health Outcomes Among US Adults. Prev Chronic Dis
- Hospital health information exchange participation and heart failure discharges to skilled nursing facilities: a cohort study. *BMC Health Serv Res*

EMORY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Division of General Internal Medicine

You are receiving this newsletter because you are faculty or staff in the Emory School of Medicine's Division of General Internal Medicine.