

# DAILY NOTED | MARCH 2023

## News from the Department of Surgery

### NEWS



#### Emory Healthcare Presented with GHA Patient Safety and Quality Awards

The Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) Partnership for Health and Accountability recently presented nine of its prestigious Patient Safety and Quality Awards to Emory Healthcare. These annual awards recognize Georgia healthcare organizations for achievements in patient safety, quality, and medical outcomes.

Emory University Hospital Midtown won first and second place in the Hospitals with Greater Than 300 Beds category. Its first-place winning project, "*The Heart-Brain Connection: Implementing Strategies to Reduce the Rate of Perioperative Stroke for Patients Undergoing Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery*," reduced the risk of stroke after surgery for patients undergoing a coronary artery bypass graft. Its second-place winning project, "*Operationalizing an Enhanced Recovery Protocol After Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery*," helped to enhance recovery for bariatric surgery patients.



#### Rachel Patzer named President & CEO of Regenstrief Institute Inc.

After over a decade at Emory University's School of Medicine, Rachel Patzer, PhD, MPH, has been named the new president and CEO of the Regenstrief Institute Inc., a local, national, and global research institute in Indianapolis dedicated to empowering people to end disease and realize true health. Dr. Patzer will also serve as the Leonard Bentley Chair and will hold a faculty appointment as a tenured professor with the Indiana University School of Medicine Department of Surgery. She will have a secondary appointment at the Indiana University Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health.

We thank Dr. Patzer for all the wonderful work she has contributed to Emory's Health Services Research Center, Department of Medicine, Department of Surgery, and Rollins School of Public Health over the last decade. We wish her the best in her future endeavors at the Regenstrief Institute Inc and IU's School of Medicine!



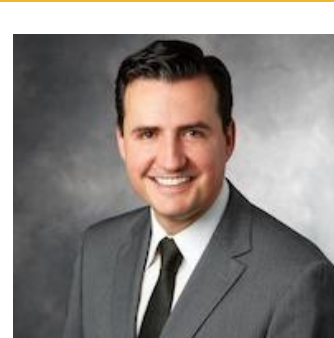
#### William Jordan, Jr. Completes Term as SAVS President

This past January, Dr. William D. Jordan, Jr., Director of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy in the Department of Surgery, completed his service as President of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery. During the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery (SAVS) Annual Meeting, Dr. Jordan delivered his presidential address, titled "Anatomy and Physiology 2.0".

### General Surgery Residency 2023 Match Day Results



### APPOINTMENTS



#### Manuel Garcia-Toca Appointed New Chief of Vascular Surgery at Grady

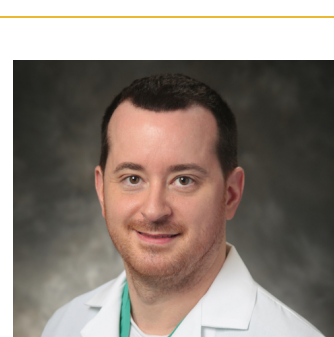
After a national search that generated incredible interest in the position, we are pleased to announce that Dr. Manuel Garcia-Toca has been appointed Chief of Vascular Surgery at Grady Memorial Hospital. Dr. Garcia-Toca joined Emory after six years at Stanford University. He completed his general surgery residency at Brown University, his vascular fellowship at Northwestern University, and his master's degree in Health Policy at Stanford. Most recently, he was the Chief of Vascular Surgery at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center. While his interests are broad, Dr. Garcia-Toca's research interests focus on cost-effective treatment strategies for the management of vascular trauma, dialysis access, and limb salvage. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Garcia-Toca to this new role!



#### Olamide Alabi Named Assistant Section Chief for Atlanta VAMC Vascular Surgery

Congratulations to Dr. Alabi for being named Assistant Section Chief of Vascular Surgery at The Atlanta VA Medical Center (VAMC). This Medical Center is dedicated to serving thousands of enrolled veterans living across Northeast Georgia and their healthcare needs. Dr. Alabi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery's Division of Vascular Surgery and Endovascular Therapy at Emory School of Medicine.

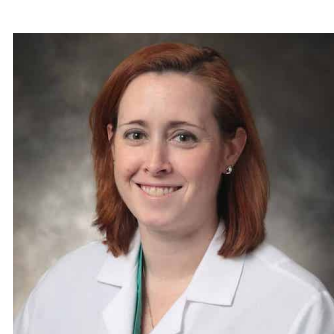
### NEW FACULTY



#### Philip Ramsay, MD, FACS Assistant Professor, Trauma/Surgical Critical Care at Grady Memorial Hospital, Department of Surgery

Dr. Ramsay received his MD from Mercer University School of Medicine in 2004. He completed General Surgery Residency and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at the University of Tennessee College of Medicine at Chattanooga in 2010. He served as a General Surgery Residency Program Director for over ten years. His articles have been published in a number of leading journals including *The American Surgeon*.

[SOM PROFILE](#)

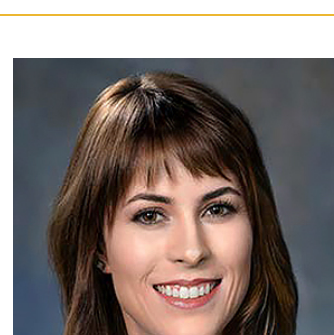


#### Katherine Kohler, MD, FACS Assistant Professor, Trauma/Surgical Critical Care at Grady Memorial Hospital, Department of Surgery

Dr. Kohler received her MD from the Medical College of Georgia in 2008. She completed a General Surgery Residency at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center and a Trauma and Surgical Critical Care Fellowship at Emory University School of Medicine. She has been published in *The American Surgeon*.

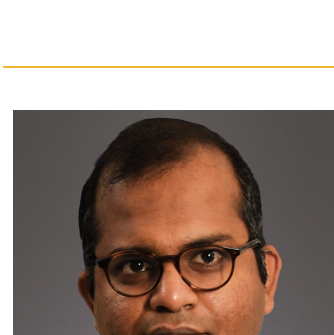
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### AWARDS & RECOGNITION



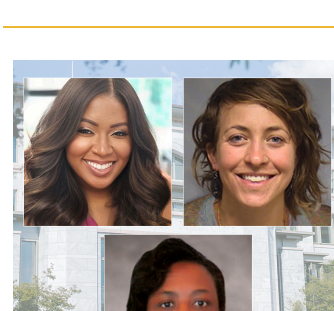
#### Emilie Warren Awarded Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation Research Fellowship

Emilie Warren, MD, has been awarded a 2023 Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation Research Fellowship. Her project is entitled, "*CD4+CD26+ tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes represent a novel strategy to improve efficacy of adoptive immunotherapy for patients with cholangiocarcinoma*." This is the third grant that Dr. Warren has received in her short time with Emory School of Medicine. She is co-mentored by Chrystal Paulos, Greg Lesinski, and Shishir Kumar.



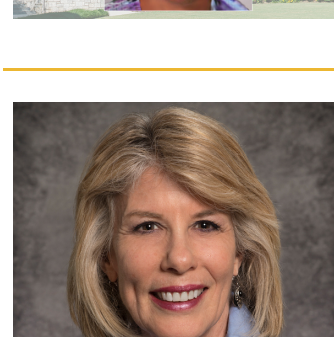
#### Nyra Medical Awarded Emory's Significant Event of the Year

Each Spring, Emory University's Office of Technology and Transfer hosts a "Celebration of Technology and Innovation" to honor remarkable achievements from the past year. This year, the Significant Event of the Year is awarded to Nyra Medical, a medical device company that is reimagining transcatheter heart valve repair to make it simpler, and tailored to each patient, achieving reproducible correction of valve regurgitation. The award will be accepted during a ceremony on March 23rd by Dr. Murali Padala, CEO and co-founder of Nyra and Associate Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery in Emory's Department of Surgery.



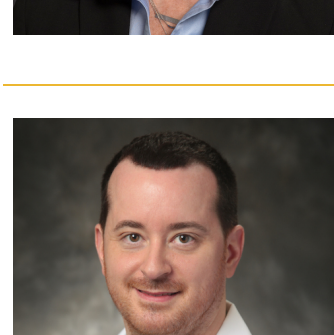
#### 2023 DEI Award Winners

Congratulations to the 2023 winners of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awards! This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate a commitment to diversity and inclusive excellence. Each of these winners has been instrumental in promoting DEI efforts for our patients, faculty, staff, and trainees. Congratulations to DEI Faculty Award Winner **Olamide Alabi**, DEI Resident Award Winner **Dr. Rachel Niehus**, DEI Staff Award Winner, **Mrs. Vertis Walker**.



#### Theresa Gillespie Receives Award for Distinguished Leadership

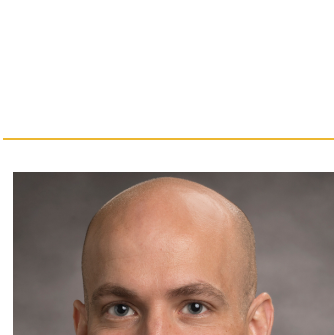
Theresa Wicklin Gillespie, PhD, MA, FAAN, has been nominated for the 2023 Emory Women of Excellence Awards, and has been selected to receive the Award for Distinguished Leadership. The award recognizes any person in the Emory community who has demonstrated outstanding leadership to and/or for women, and whose leadership has helped to elevate the status of women. Dr. Gillespie was honored with her award during the formal awards ceremony on March 2, 2023. Congratulations Dr. Gillespie, and thank you for your leadership!



#### Philip Ramsay Selected to Participate in 2023 Grady Faculty Development Program for Clinical Teachers

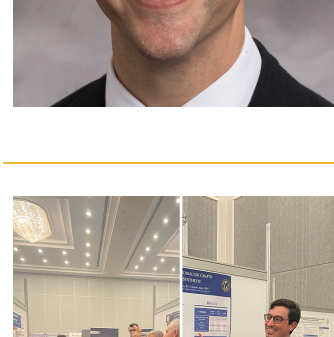
This four-month career development course is brought to you by two Stanford-trained facilitators, Reena Hemrajani and Richard Pittman. Designed specifically for clinical teachers, the goals of each seminar are to enhance teacher versatility, provide educators with an opportunity to analyze teaching, and to foster collegial exchange.

Philip Ramsay, MD, FACS, is an Assistant Professor of Surgery in the Trauma/Critical Care Division at Grady Memorial Hospital. He is board-certified in general surgery and surgical critical care, and has developed a particular interest in acute care robotic surgery. Congrats Dr. Ramsay!



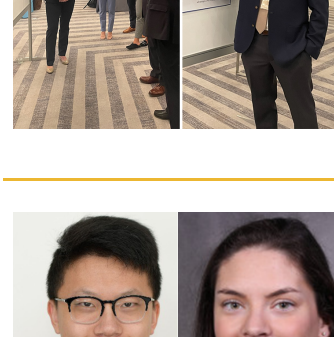
#### John Lyons Selected to Join Editorial Board of "Frontiers in Immunology"

Dr. John Lyons has been selected to join the Editorial Board of *Frontiers in Immunology*. *Frontiers* is the world's third most cited open-access publisher in the world, with *Frontiers in Immunology* being their highest-impact journal with an impact factor of 8.786. As an editor, Dr. Lyons will join a team of experts working to shape the field of immunology research, leveraging his expertise in sepsis.



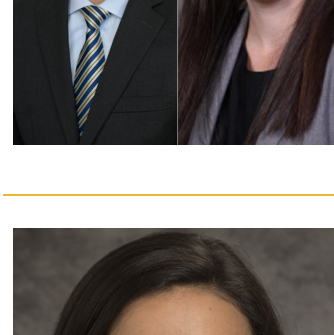
#### Residents Recognized in SAVS Moderated Poster Competition

Congratulations to Dr. Elizabeth Norton and Dr. Anthony Meera for their awards at the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery Annual Meeting! Dr. Norton won first place for her poster, "*Predictors of Rapid Failure of Medical Management in Uncomplicated Acute Type B Aortic Dissection*." Dr. Meena placed in the top three for his project, "*Comparative of Non-Autologous Hemodialysis Grafts: Bovine Carotid Artery Versus Synthetic*."



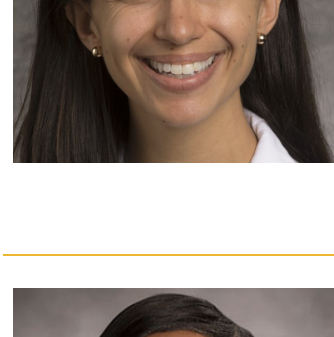
#### Residents Win STS Poster Competition

Congratulations to cardiothoracic surgery residents William Qu and Elizabeth Norton for taking home first prize in the Critical Care and Perioperative Management poster competition at the 59th Annual Meeting of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons! The poster was created by Dr. Qu and presented by Dr. Norton during the conference, outlining the findings for the project: "*A Deeper Dive into Racial Disparities in CABG Outcomes: Failure to Rescue and the Postoperative Phase of Care*" *Qu WW, Wei JW, Binongo J, Keeling WB*.



#### Emma Rooney Receives 2023 SAVS Founders Award

Emma Rooney, MD, is a second-year fellow in Emory University's Vascular Surgery Early Specialization Program. During the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery (SAVS) Annual Meeting in Puerto Rico in January 2023, Dr. Rooney was presented with the prestigious Founders Award for her study which established an association between vascular involvement in non-vascular-led cases and improved patient outcomes. Dr. Rooney's findings showed that vascular surgery improved outcomes in cases in which participation was planned and unplanned, suggesting the specialty's "high ability" to deal with complications.



#### Randi Smith Receives 2023 Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service Award Program, sponsored by the Rollins School of Public Health, the Goizueta Business School, Emory School of Medicine, and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, recognizes and celebrates people and organizations in the greater Atlanta area whose work exemplifies the legacy of Dr. King. This year, the award's celebration theme was "The Sword That Heals: Championing Leaders of Peace, Love, and Justice." Dr. Randi Smith was presented with an award during the Virtual Awards Ceremony on January 19, 2023.

Dr. Smith has been nationally recognized for her commitment and work in hospital-based violence intervention programs and youth violence reduction strategies. In January 2023, she spearheaded the launch of a new violence intervention program at Grady Memorial Hospital that aims to break the cycle of violence by working with members of the community who will serve as advocates for patients and victims, bringing them resources and aid.

### DEI FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



#### M. Andrew Davis, MD. Assistant Professor, Trauma/Surgical Critical Care at Grady Memorial Hospital, Department of Surgery

After nearly six years of building his academic practice at Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Davis returned to his training home at Grady in 2021. In addition to his duties as a trauma surgeon and working to develop quality improvement projects within the trauma program, he serves as director of perioperative medical services at the hospital. His primary clinical focus is trauma and acute care surgery, with a particular interest in damage control surgery, trauma resuscitation, emergency general surgery, and quality improvement in these areas.

As part of his commitment to mentoring Emory trainees and fostering an environment of inclusion, Dr. Davis is currently assisting in coordinating efforts for the Emory General Surgery Residency LGBTQ Faculty Mentoring Program. These efforts are part of the wider initiative from the LGBTQ Faculty Mentoring/Affinity Group in the Emory School of Medicine. Ongoing work includes scheduled mentoring sessions and career and professional development for participants.