

department of
Medicine Newsletter

Fall 2015 Volume 14 Issue 2

THE WARREN ALPERT SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF BROWN UNIVERSITY



BROWN
 Alpert Medical School

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Chairman's Message



Louis Rice, MD

Over the past few months, we have all been engaged in the process of implementing a new electronic medical record at the Lifespan hospitals and clinics. In a more graduated fashion, our colleagues at Care New England are also implementing new systems. The Epic EMR is by all accounts a highly sophisticated and (relatively) user friendly instrument for documenting clinical information about our patients. I myself was on the MedB service shortly after it was introduced and found it to be reasonably easy to navigate, find the information I needed and document my findings in the chart.

As electronic medical records go, Epic is clearly top-of-the-line. Everything you need is at your fingertips and there are several ways to accomplish any one goal. It is relatively easy to construct notes, with particularly sophisticated users taking full advantage of templates and smart phrases to allow them to accomplish their objectives in considerably less time. There are also documentation and billing prompts that help to make sure we are providing the proper documentation for the work we do, which will be especially useful as we move into the world of ICD-10. As we learn to use the system better, there is also the promise that it will allow us to perform more sophisticated aggregate analyses of our patients and practices, which will help with our quality initiatives and ideally promote the growth of important clinical research.

It is important to note, however, that Epic, or any electronic medical record comes with a price. The most obvious price is the enormous financial investment made by our hospitals just to acquire the system. There was also a significant cost in time spent by physicians and other health care providers in configuring and preparing for Epic. Another related price comes in the form of lost income that inevitably comes with slowdowns in patient care during the time we were accommodating ourselves to the system. These are unavoidable or fixed costs that will, to some degree, be balanced by the fact that Epic will allow us to succeed more readily in the changing health care system.

My focus in writing today, however, is on those hidden, avoidable costs that come when powerful new technology is applied in a manner that loses sight of our core mission – the care of our patients. First and foremost, we must strive to make sure that the EMR enhances, rather than degrades, professional communication. The EMR has provided us with the ability to instantaneously retrieve labs, x-rays, discharge summaries and consultant notes, allowing us to update our knowledge of critical data virtually anywhere. The EMR is also highly effective in reminding us to perform certain tasks and including these tasks and the resulting data in the final note automatically. All of

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Chairman's Message *continued*

this increases convenience for the note writer. However, it often has the effect of confusing or distracting the reader of the note. It is not unusual to have to scroll through several screens before encountering something that has verifiably written by a physician. In this cacophony of data, important messages can be lost.

When I read a note, I am not looking for the results of a lab or an x-ray. I can go to a separate tab for that. What I most want to know is what the note writer is thinking. What does the author of the note think is going on with our patient? Why did she arrive at a particular diagnosis, and what are her plans for diagnostic confirmation or management? What did the bedside examination reveal at a specific point of time so that I may assess a possible change or progression of symptoms? This physician-generated, qualitative communication is critical to

our ability to clarify our own thoughts about a case and for the facility with which we can communicate our plans to our patients and their loved ones. It is also critical for our teaching mission that we are able to see how our trainees are thinking.

At the risk of revealing my baby boomer biases, it is important to remember that face-to-face conversations still have a place in medical communication and that the telephone is not an extinct instrument. There remain details and questions best communicated in person, or at the very least by voice, in ways that allow for real-time back and forth exchange and banter to clarify the meaning of statements or findings. Personal conversations are also mercifully free of the mounds of irrelevant data so often automatically woven into our EMR written communications.

Finally, it is worthwhile to remember that while the care and feeding of the computer system is an important objective, it is not the reason we all became physicians or other health care providers. They are simply a powerful tool, a means to an end, rather than the primary focus of our efforts. We are here to care for people, a practice best performed while standing or sitting next to the patient at the bedside or in your office. For trainees in particular, there is no substitute for seeing a lot of patients as a means to learn the recognition of sick from well, serious from not—so-serious, or the sadness of appropriate grieving from that of clinical depression. Taking a pulse requires one to hold a patient's hand, establishing a connection that holding a mouse cannot hope to replace. I highly recommend it.

Office of Research Integration Funds Four Applications in FY15

The Office of Research Integration was created to design support systems to increase program project research grants with Medicine faculty serving as principal investigators and to encourage collaboration with multiple life science departments in Rhode Island.

The Office issued two RFAs in FY15: TASK which provides funding to Department of Medicine investigators at all faculty levels for generation and/or refinement of preliminary data in preparation for re-submission of an unfunded grant and; FAST FORWARD which provides funding for preparation and development of targeted program projects. FAST FORWARD recipients are **Samuel Dudley, MD, PhD in Cardiology** and **Curt Beckwith, MD in Infectious Diseases**. TASK recipients are **Patrycja Dubielecka-Szczerba, PhD** and **Laura Goldberg, MD both in Hematology/Oncology**. Dr. Goldberg's re-submission of her Ko8 entitled "Re-evaluating the hematopoietic stem cell pool to enhance the transplantable population" has been funded with a start date of 9/1/15.

In FY16, the office will continue to focus on collaborations within the Department of Medicine but also will be focusing on strengthening collaborations between Departments.

The Office will also assess the state of clinical and basic science research in the Department of Medicine, disseminate opportunities and develop a strategic plan that will ensure the continued excellence of the Department in its mission of providing state-of-the-art medical care to individuals in Rhode Island and surrounding communities.

For more information about the Office of Research Integration, contact: Jennifer Hyde (JHyde@Lifespan.org) or Bharat Ramratnam (BRamratnam@Lifespan.org)

The Fourteenth Annual Alpert Medical School Department of Medicine Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching



Front row L to R: Dr. Jerry Larkin, Dr. Kate Richman, Dr. Matthew Brumbaugh, Dr. Henry Changers (Guest Speaker); Back row L to R: Dr. Louis Rice, Dr. Lynn McNicoll, Dr. Jason Aliotta, Dr. Adam Olszewski, Dr. Antony Chu; Not pictured: Dr. Linda Nici of the VAMC was out of country and was not there to accept her award.

The Beckwith Family Research and Education Fund has been established at Brown Medical School through generous gifts to endowment from the Beckwith Family Foundation.

The endowment Fund is used to support the education and research mission of the Department of Medicine, with an emphasis on the education and training of medical residents.

Each year the Fund supports the presentation of the Annual Brown Medical School Department of Medicine Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching. This award is to recognize superb teaching by its faculty. The recipients are nominated and chosen by students, residents, physicians, program and course directors in the Brown Medical School Department of Medicine. Each winner is presented with a plaque and a cash prize.

Jason Aliotta, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Matthew Brumbaugh, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

Antony Chu, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Jerome Larkin, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine (Clinical)

Lynn McNicoll, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine (Clinical)

Linda Nici, MD
Professor of Medicine (Clinical)

Adam Olszewski, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Katherine Richman, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Besdine to lead new effort in co-management of geriatrics hip fractures



Dr. Richard W. Besdine, of the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine, is the Principal Investigator for a newly announced \$400,000, 1-year Phase I grant to develop an interdisciplinary

approach to co-management of geriatrics patients with hip fractures.

Supported by The John A. Hartford Foundation, the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) and the Association of Directors of Geriatric Academic Programs (ADGAP) will develop a national dissemination plan for an innovative

program to improve care for older adults hospitalized with hip fractures. The interdisciplinary geriatrics-orthopedics co-management intervention positions geriatrics professionals as co-leaders in the pre- and post-operative management of older adults with fragility fractures. With geriatrics principles at its core, the program holds promise for improving person-centered care outcomes and decreasing healthcare spending.

The Co-PI is Daniel Mendelson, MD, Professor of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics at the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry and Associate Chief of Medicine at Highland Hospital.

The work conducted by the AGS and ADGAP will include identifying potential sites for the co-management intervention and refining specific models and tools to integrate geriatrics and orthopedics care delivery.

With additional support under a possible second phase of collaboration (Phase II, ~\$1.5 M), the AGS and ADGAP ultimately will create a sustainable business enterprise to market and disseminate the co-management intervention to more than 100 leading health facilities, health systems, and academic training hospitals over the next three years.

New Director of Endoscopic Ultrasound Named



University Medicine has announced that **Sarah M. Hyder, MD** will join the Division of Gastroenterology and has been named Director of Endoscopic Ultrasound. The announcement was made by Louis B. Rice, MD, president and CEO of University Medicine.

In her role, Dr. Hyder will lead the use of endoscopic ultrasound equipment to detect and treat cancers of the digestive tract for University Medicine patients. Dr. Hyder specializes in this area of focus as well as in general gastrointestinal health. Her specialty includes conducting therapeutic biliary endoscopic procedures such as endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography or ERCP. University Medicine is one of two locations in the State of Rhode Island to offer

endoscopic ultrasound technology which is less invasive in assessing the internal organs of the chest, abdomen and colon.

Dr. Hyder is an assistant professor of medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Her post-graduate training includes residency with honors at Brown University, Rhode Island Hospital, The Miriam Hospital and Providence Veterans Medical Center. She was a chief gastroenterology fellow at Brown's Alpert School and recently completed an interventional endoscopy fellowship at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH where she was also an instructor of medicine.

Dr. Hyder, who is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine, is a member of the American College of Gastroenterology, American Gastroenterological Association, and American Society of Gastrointestinal

Endoscopy. Awards include the Joseph A. DiMase Brown University Gastroenterology Research Award (2014) and Exemplary Teaching in Gastroenterology at Brown (2013).

"Ever since I was a medical student, I was interested in diseases such as pancreatic and esophageal cancer, and enjoyed the ability to do noninvasive procedures to help with diagnosis, treatment and palliative care," explains Dr. Hyder. "The reason I was drawn to University Medicine was because most mentors I learned from in my gastrointestinal fellowship work for University Medicine. I wanted to pursue an academic career where I could focus on medical education of training physicians and academic medicine. University Medicine's affiliation as the main teaching group for Brown University allows me to both teach future doctors and perform clinical work directly with patients in my specialty."

Division of Endocrinology welcomes New Faculty

Christopher M. Tessier, MD FACP has joined the Division of Endocrinology. Dr. Tessier received his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. He completed both his residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at SAUSHEC, Wilford Hall Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. Since completing his training in 2011, Dr. Tessier has had a distinguished career in the US Air Force Medical Corps. He was deployed to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and was honored with numerous awards for his service including the National Defense Service Award, Afghanistan Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He also served as the Section Chief of Endocrinology at the Keesler Medical Center, Keesler Air Force base in Mississippi and was part of the core teaching faculty in the Internal Medicine Residency training program. A recognized educator, Dr. Tessier was recruited to lead the Division's teaching efforts at Alpert Medical School. His clinical interests span the spectrum of Endocrine disorders including Diabetes, Pituitary, Adrenal, Thyroid and Metabolic Bone Disease.

Joanna Miragaya, MD, PhD has joined the Division of Endocrinology. Dr. Miragaya received her medical degree from Faculdade de Medicina de Valenca in Brazil where she ranked first place in the national medical exam. She subsequently relocated to the United States and received a Doctorate Degree in Foods and Nutrition from the University of Georgia. She continued her post graduate training and completed her residency in Internal Medicine at Henry Ford Health System and fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Miragaya joined the staff at Newport Hospital in 2012 and developed a thriving Diabetes and Endocrine practice. Dr. Miragaya was recruited to the Hallett to enhance our clinical, research and teaching programs. She will lead the Division's patient education and operations efforts.

Ricardo Correa Marquez, MD will join the Division of Endocrinology in January of 2016. Dr. Correa Marquez received his medical degree from the University of Panama in 2006. He completed a two-year internship in Internal Medicine followed by a fellowship in

Epidemiology and Tropical Diseases in Panama. He subsequently joined the faculty at the University of Panama as an Assistant Professor in the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Department. In 2010, he relocated to the United States and completed his residency in internal medicine at Jackson Memorial Hospital at the University of Miami in 2013 and fellowship in Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism at the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD in 2015. During his time at the NIH, he has been a leader in medical education serving on the Executive Board of the Clinical Fellowship Committee at the NIH, on the Residency Review Committee for Internal Medicine at the ACGME and serving as the President of the Young Physicians Section at the National Board of Physicians and Surgeons. Dr. Correa Marquez was recruited to enhance the clinical trials program and to lead curriculum development for scholarship/research within the Endocrine Division.

New Hires in the Division of General Internal Medicine

Ross Hilliard, MD hails from Oak Ridge TN, and joined the Division in July. He will be working as an attending on the teaching service of the inpatient general medicine wards, as well as precepting in the Center for Primary Care. Dr Hilliard will also be seeing primary care patients at the UMAP/111 Plain St. office. He will also be working as part of the LifeChart team, after playing a key role in the hospital's implementation of the new system this past March. He completed medical school at the University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine in Columbia, SC. He completed his Internal Medicine residency and also served as a Chief Resident at Rhode Island Hospital. This past spring, he was among those trainees honored with *The Haffenreffer Family House Staff Excellence Award*. His professional interests include patient safety and healthcare quality improvement, particularly the overlap of these topics with medical informatics.

Jael Rodriguez, MD joined the Division in July. He will be working as an attending on the teaching service of the inpatient general medicine wards, as well as precepting in the Center for Primary Care. He grew up in Moca, Dominican Republic and the Bronx in

New York City, and attended medical school at the University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa, FL. He completed his Internal Medicine Residency training at Rhode Island Hospital. His main areas of interest are primary care, end-of-life care and advanced planning, and sociocultural aspects of healthcare for minority populations. As a medical student, he was involved with the Latino Medical Student Association at USF and helped to establish the first mission trip to deliver regular care to underserved communities in Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic.

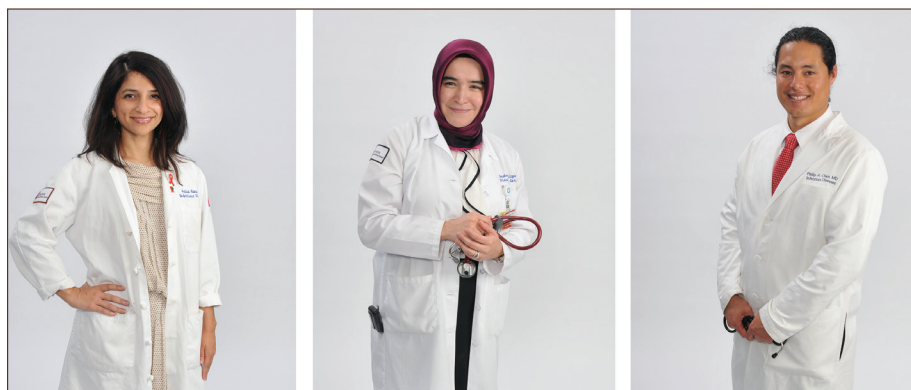
Kasey Claborn, PhD joined DGIM in July. Kasey is a clinical psychologist with a strong research background in substance abuse treatment and HIV medication adherence. She received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Oklahoma State University where she investigated technology-delivered interventions in heavy drinking and HIV-infected populations. She also trained at Brown University's Center for Alcohol and Addiction Studies, where she examined potential mechanisms and the temporal association of HIV adherence and substance use. In July, she was awarded a 5-year K23

award worth \$890,193 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse which aims to develop and test a medication adherence intervention tailored to HIV-infected drug users.

Resident Presents Research Abstract

Congratulations to **Michael Brunt, MD** (Internal Medicine PGY 3 resident) for presenting his research abstract at the recent American Society of Nuclear Cardiology Annual Meeting in Washington DC. He worked with Dr. James Arrighi, Director of Graduate Medical Education at Rhode Island Hospital, on the work, Titled "Utilization of a Scoring Tool to Predict Patient Suitability to Undergo Stress-first Myocardial Perfusion Imaging" to investigate whether screening patients with a scoring tool designed to predict those with a high likelihood of having a normal stress test, would increase the number of low dose stress-first studies and lower patient radiation exposure at our institution.

UM Physicians among the 2015 Top 40 Under Forty Winners



Congratulations to **Dr. Philip Chan** and **Dr Aadia Rana**, both of the **Division of Infectious Diseases** and **Dr. Sevdener Cizginer**, of the **Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine**, for being named to the Providence Business News "40 Under Forty" list for 2015. The 40 Under Forty winners are chosen based on career success and community involvement. Everyone named is committed to making a difference locally, nationally or internationally. An Award Ceremony was hosted in July at Aldrich Mansion in Warwick, RI to recognize this year's recipients.

40 UNDER
FORTY
PROVIDENCE BUSINESS NEWS

New Hires in the Division of Infectious Diseases

Cheston B. Cunha, MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Dr. Cheston Cunha joined the Division of Infectious Diseases in July of 2014. He is an attending in adult infectious diseases at The Miriam Hospital and Rhode Island Hospital. He is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Brown University Alpert School of Medicine. Dr. Cunha obtained his medical degree from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine in Hershey, Pennsylvania. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Brown University at the Rhode Island Hospital and Miriam Hospital. He also completed his fellowship in Infectious Disease at Brown University. Dr. Cunha's clinical and research interests include general infectious diseases, antimicrobial therapy, ancient plagues, fever of unknown origin (FUO), and zoonoses. He serves as associate editor of the book *Antibiotic Essentials*. Dr. Cunha is currently the Coordinator of the Rhode Island Hospital and Miriam Hospital Antimicrobial Stewardship Program.

Erika M. D'Agata, MD, MPH

Associate Professor of Medicine

Dr. Erika D'Agata joined the Division of Infectious Diseases in September 2014. Her research focuses on the transmission dynamics of multidrug-resistant organisms in a variety of healthcare settings, including dialysis units and long-term care facilities. Her research focuses on characterizing and quantifying the most effective prevention strategies aimed at minimizing their spread, using both clinical epidemiological methods and mathematical modeling.

Gerard J. Nau, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Medicine

Dr. Gerard Nau joined the Division of Infectious Diseases in July of 2014. He is a physician-scientist with interests in innate immunity and genetic predisposition to infections. His laboratory studies host-pathogen interactions and bacterial pathogenesis, and is

internationally known for its work on tularemia. The main objective is to translate information from pre-clinical studies into new therapies to treat infectious diseases, especially those caused by antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Francine Touzard Romo, MD

Dr. Touzard Romo completed her Internal Medicine and Infectious Diseases training at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital and Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. She joined as a T32 Postdoctoral Fellow in Infectious Diseases at The Miriam Hospital in 2012 and in January 2015 transitioned to Attending Physician for Infectious Diseases and Hospitalist Departments. Dr. Touzard Romo has expertise in management of HIV and orthopedic devices associated infections. She speaks Spanish fluently and works with the HIV Hispanic community. Her research focus is antiretroviral toxicity and currently participates as a sub-investigator for the HIV Clinical Trial Unit at The Miriam Hospital.

Rebecca Reece, MD

Dr. Rebecca Reece joined the Division of Infectious Diseases in January of 2015. She is an attending in adult infectious diseases at The Miriam Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital, and Newport Hospital. Dr. Reece obtained her medical degree from West Virginia University School of Medicine, in Morgantown, WV. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at West Virginia University at Ruby Memorial Hospital. She then completed her fellowship in Infectious Disease at Brown University. Following her clinical fellowship, she pursued her research interest of HIV adherence and retention to care in resource limited settings under a T32 research fellowship. Dr. Reece's clinical and research interests include tick-borne diseases, HIV adherence and retention, and health disparities. She will serve as the lead physician for the Lifespan Center of Excellence for Tick-borne Diseases at Newport Hospital.

Critical Care Service Receives Center of Excellence Designation

The Extracorporeal Life Support (ECLS) service of Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's Hospital is pleased to announce the ELSO Gold Level Award for Excellence in Life Support. The Adult ECLS program is directed by Corey E. Ventetuolo, MD, MS from the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine with partnership from Christopher S. Muratore, MD in the Division of Pediatric Surgery and collaborative efforts across multiple disciplines including respiratory therapy, critical care nursing, cardiothoracic surgery, vascular and general surgery, and transfusion and coagulation medicine.

A designated Gold Level Center of Excellence has demonstrated remarkable achievement in the following three categories: 1) Excellence in promoting the mission, activities, and vision of ELSO; 2) Excellence in patient care by using the highest quality measures, processes, and structures based upon evidence; and 3) Excellence in training, education, collaboration, and communication supporting ELSO guidelines that contributes to a healing environment for families, patients and staff.

The ELSO Award signifies to patients and families a commitment to exceptional patient care. It also demonstrates to the health care community an assurance of high quality standards, specialized equipment and supplies, defined patient protocols, and advanced education of all staff members. ECLS Centers of Excellence distinguish themselves as leaders in critical care and provide evidence of the commitment of the institution to high quality state of the art healthcare. The ELSO Award of Excellence is recognized by the US News and World Report and Parents magazine as one criterion for top institutions.

Rounds to Chair Observational Study Board

Sharon Rounds, MD, Professor of Medicine, has been named chair of the Pulmonary Vascular Disease Phenomics Program Observational Study Monitoring Board for the NLHBI. The OSMB is responsible for reviewing the progress of this multicenter study and for oversight of safety and good clinical practice.

New Hires at the Providence VA Medical Center

Won-Kyung Cho, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine and PVAMC staff Pulmonary/Critical Care Physician. She did training in internal medicine and in pulmonary/critical care medicine at Asan Medical Center in Seoul. Dr. Cho then moved to North America where she did 3 years of Respiratory Medicine fellowship at McGill University and subsequently spent 2 years as a Renal research associate at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Cho completed Internal Medicine training at St. Mary's Health Center in St. Louis, MO and Pulmonary/Critical Care training at Yale University School of Medicine, followed by three years as Associate Research Scientist at Yale. She was an Instructor in Medicine at Yale from 2013-2015.

Joanne Szczygiel Cunha, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine and PVAMC staff Rheumatologist. Dr. Cunha received the MD from Albany Medical College and did Internal

Medicine training at the RIH/TMH/VA program. She completed Rheumatology Fellowship at Brown.

Eric Gartman, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine and PVAMC staff Pulmonary/Critical Care Physician. Dr. Gartman received his MD from the University of Rochester and did Internal Medicine training in the RIH/TMH/VA program at Brown where he was also a Chief Medical Resident. After Pulmonary/Critical Care fellowship at Brown, he joined the staff of The Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island and was appointed Assistant Professor of Medicine at Brown in 2011. He will be Director of Pulmonary Physiology at the Providence VAMC.

Amanda Noska, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine and PVAMC staff Infectious Diseases Physician. Dr. Noska received the MD and the MPH degree from the University

of Minnesota. She completed Internal Medicine training at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis and Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Brown.

Nishant Shah, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine and PVAMC and RIH staff Cardiologist. Dr. Shah did his internal medicine training at Baylor and his cardiovascular diseases fellowship at the Texas Heart Institute. He completed cardiovascular imaging research fellowship at the Brigham and Women's Hospital. He completed a Masters of Clinical Science at Baylor College of Medicine and an MPH in Healthcare Management and Policy at the Harvard School of Public Health. He has a research fellowship from the American College of Cardiology. He will be Director of Nuclear Cardiology at the Providence VAMC.

New Fellowship director appointed



Raymond Russell, MD, PhD, joins our group from Yale University, where he has led the fellowship program while also serving as director of the cardio-oncology and nuclear cardiology

programs. He will be serving in both of these capacities with the Cardiovascular Institute.

Undergraduate work was accomplished at Rice University with his MD/PhD at the University of Texas. Residency and fellowship were at Yale, after which, he joined the faculty. Dr. Russell is a member of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology Program Planning Committee, the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology AHA/ACC programming Committee, the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology Education Committee, and serves as Vice-President of the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology.

We look forward to Dr. Russell's leadership with the fellowship program as well as his expertise in the growing cardio-oncology field.

New Faculty at the CVI

Dr. Christopher Song is originally from Albany, New York and received his Sc.B in Biology at Brown University and his MD at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He then completed his residency in internal medicine at New York University School of Medicine followed by fellowship in cardiovascular disease and advanced cardiac imaging at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Harvard Medical School. Dr. Song will join the CVI in July 2015 as a non-invasive cardiologist to attend on the inpatient services at Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals as well as to establish an outpatient practice. He will also be participating in echocardiography reading and teaching medical students, residents, and fellows. His hobbies include running, photography, and traveling. He is also an avid Boston Red Sox fan. Dr. Song's primary practice location will be at The Miriam Hospital

Nishant R. Shah, MD, MPH, MSc joins us after completing a T32 Clinical/Research Fellowship in Non-Invasive Cardiovascular Imaging at Brigham & Women's Hospital/Harvard Medical School. Prior to Boston, Dr. Shah and his wife, Shipra Mehrotra, lived in Houston, TX, where Dr. Shah completed his clinical cardiology fellowship at the Texas Heart Institute and his Internal Medicine residency at the Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Shah is a graduate of Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago, IL. Dr. Shah and his wife have a daughter, Sanavi Ayantika, who was born in April. While Dr. Shah will primarily practice at the Providence Veterans Administrative Medical Center, he will also have clinical responsibilities at The Miriam and Rhode Island Hospitals.

Philip Haines joins us after completing his residency in internal medicine, fellowship in cardiovascular disease, advanced imaging, and T32 research fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Philip is a graduate from Oxford University Medical School and completed an internship and residency in internal medicine in the UK prior to moving to the US. He also spent one year training at Harvard University on a Fulbright Scholarship where he completed the Harvard School of Public Health MPH Program. He moved to the US in 2007 to be with his husband, Dr. Joseph Garland, who is an Assistant Professor in Infectious Diseases at Penn and who will also be joining the Brown medical faculty with Philip in September. Philip has developed an expertise in the use of advanced echocardiography and cardiac MRI to phenotype patients with heart failure and preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF). Philip plans to build imaging programs with a focus on structural heart disease and the subphenotyping of patients with HFpEF. He will also be involved in the inpatient and outpatient cardiology services.

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Meet the Internal Medicine Chief Residents



Laura Black, MD

Hometown: Port Washington, NY
Undergrad: SUNY Geneseo
Medical School: University of Vermont College of Medicine
Why I came to Brown:

I was humbled by the camaraderie among the residents, attendings and program directors. On my interview day, I was so impressed with how smart yet friendly the residents were; my favorite representation of this was morning report. I got the sense I would receive an outstanding training in a program that supports its residents... and this was true in many ways!

I also appreciated how the atmosphere at Brown values work-life balance and respect toward one another. Upon completion of the program, I feel Brown helped me to become a strong physician capable of handling a high volume and complexity of patients, as well as ready to teach others!

Personal Interest: General internal medicine, primary care

Fun fact most people don't know about me is: I was on the path to becoming a professional cellist until I started studying science in college



James (Jay) Ferguson, MD

Hometown: Worcester, MA
Undergrad: Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA
Medical School: University of

Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, MA

Why I came to Brown: I interviewed while my wife was pregnant with our first son. I knew I wanted a strong academic program that would be close to family support. During my interview day I was impressed by the sense of community and camaraderie between the residents, attendings, and program directors. I knew balancing residency and a young family would be difficult but it was easy to envision myself happy in this environment and I left confident I had found the right place.

Professional Interest: Pulmonary Medicine, Clinical education, health care economics.

Fun fact most people don't know about me is: Big fan of Bruce Springsteen and James Taylor



Patricia Ng, MD

Hometown: Hauppauge, NY
Undergrad: Stony Brook University
Medical School: Stony Brook University School of Medicine
Why I came to Brown:

The people and the General Internal Medicine (GIM) program! After my interview, I was really impressed with how much Brown valued developing general internists and I loved seeing the camaraderie among the residents and faculty. Residency can be a tough couple of years and I can't imagine having survived it without this program supporting me. I would definitely choose Brown if I had to go through the Match again.

Professional Interest: Primary care, preventive medicine, group patient education

Fun fact most people don't know about me is: I performed a rap called "Pattylicious" (that I rewrote from "Fergilicious") in order to clinch the title of Homecoming Queen when I was a senior in college.



Mark O'Connor, MD

Hometown: Norwood, MA
Undergrad: Northeastern University
Medical School: University of Massachusetts Medical School

Why I came to Brown: There are many great internal medicine training programs, but I feel that the Brown program is unique in its ability to blend a very strong and broad academic training experience with a particularly warm and inviting sense of community.

Professional Interest: Cardiology, clinical research, and clinical education.

Fun fact most people don't know about me is: I am an avid jazz trumpet player.



Tom Ollila, MD

Hometown: West Boylston, MA
Undergrad: UMass Amherst
Medical School: Drexel University College of Medicine
Why I came to Brown:

People here go by their first names, including

New Faculty at the CVI *continued*

John Dickey is originally from New Jersey and received his Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Boston University and his MD from UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School in Newark, NJ. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, where he served as Chief Resident and stayed on for his cardiology fellowship. While at UMass he received numerous awards for clinical and teaching excellence. Dr. Dickey will be primarily located at The Miriam Hospital and will cover clinical call as well as noninvasive lab coverage at both Rhode Island and The Miriam Hospitals.

With great pleasure we announce that **Herbert D. Aronow, MD, MPH**, has accepted the position as **Director of Interventional Cardiology** for the Cardiovascular Institute.

Dr. Aronow completed his undergraduate, medical and graduate work at the University of Michigan with his cardiology and interventional training at the Cleveland Clinic. Currently he is a Clinical Scholar/ Clinical Investigator at the Michigan Heart & Vascular Institute and Director of Peripheral Vascular Intervention & Peripheral Vascular Catheterization Laboratory at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor, MI. Dr. Aronow is the Principal Investigator of a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation grant called a Study Of Costs Realized After percutaneous coronary intervenTion Employing Same day discharge (SOCRATES). He is an Editorial Board member for Vascular Medicine, a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Society for Vascular Medicine and a Member of the Board of Governors for the American College of Cardiology Foundation.

Dr. Aronow's clinical expertise is in peripheral interventions. He will practice at both The Miriam & Rhode Island Hospitals and will be appointed the first Miriam Hospital Scholar in Cardiology.

the program directors. It's amazingly non-hierarchical and I thought I would fit in well. Geographically I wanted to be near to Central Massachusetts where I have family. I felt the quality of life as a resident would be fantastic in Providence, which it has been.

Professional Interest: Hematology/Oncology. Academic medicine.

Fun fact most people don't know about me is: My younger sister was born on my fifth birthday. I'm still bitter.

News from Memorial Hospital

Dino Messina Appointed Program Director

Dino Messina MD, PhD, FACP was appointed program director for the Internal Medicine Residency program at Memorial Hospital in July 2015. He is Medical Director of the outpatient Internal Medicine Clinic at Memorial and a Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine at Alpert Medical School of Brown University. As an Associate Program Director in 2014 – his first year at Memorial – he earned a Teaching Achievement Award and the Arthur M. Phillips MD Mentorship Award “in recognition of ongoing dedication to the fostering of residents’ personal and professional growth and development”. His research interests include improving health care for vulnerable populations, teaching safe opioid prescribing to internal medicine residents, and improving chronic disease management and outcomes.

Chief Resident



Yehia M. Naga MD received a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from October 6 University Medical School in Cairo. He completed gastrointestinal Endoscopy training at

Hamburg University in 2005, and was a visiting research scholar at the UCSD Liver Center. He received a Master’s of Science in Internal Medicine from Cairo University, and did his Internal Medicine Residency at Mount Sinai School of Medicine (Bronx) Program in New York, graduating in 2014. In 2015, Dr. Naga continued his Endoscopic Surgery Training at Fudan University in Shanghai which included Endoscopic Submucosal Dissection (ESD), Endoscopic Submucosal Excavation (ESE), Submucosal Tunneling endoscopic Resection (STER), Endoscopic Full-Thickness Resection (EFTR), and Peroral Endoscopic Myotomy (POEM). Dr. Naga has numerous peer-reviewed publications, and has presented posters at both U.S. and international conferences. His interests include tennis, swimming, and reading. He speaks both English and Arabic fluently.

Faculty Honored on Rhode Island Monthly’s ‘Top Docs’ list

Congratulations to the Department of Medicine faculty recently honored as part of Rhode Island Monthly’s “Top Docs” list. The annual recognition highlights physicians from myriad specialties such as neurosurgery, cardiology, gynecological oncology, emergency care and infectious diseases. Those named as “Top Docs” were nominated and voted on by their peers.

Cardiology

Thomas Drew, MD
Michael Gilson, MD
Thomas Lanna, MD
William Levin, MD
Daniel Levine, MD
Joseph Mazza, MD

Critical Care Medicine

Gerardo Carino, MD

Gastroenterology

Paul Akerman, MD
William Chen, MD
Christy Dibble, MD
Neil Greenspan, MD

Geriatrics

Richard Besdine, MD
Lynn McNicoll, MD

Hematology/Oncology

James Butera, MD
Fred Schiffman, MD

Hospitalist

Kwame Dapaah-Afriyie, MD
Sajeev Handa, MD

Infectious Diseases

Glenn Fort, MD
Erica Hardy, MD
John Lonks, MD
Leonard Mermel, DO

Internal Medicine

Warren Licht, MD
Tony Wu, MD

Nephrology

Christopher Cosgrove, MD
Charles McCoy, MD
George Lee, MD
Richard Cottiero, MD

Rheumatology

Edward Lally, MD
Stuart Schwartz, MD

Gastroenterology Case Report Honored at National Gastroenterology Meeting

Two members of the Department of Medicine, collaborating with the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, were honored with an ACG Case Reports Journal Award at the American College of Gastroenterology’s National Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. **Dr. Malorie Simons**, a PGY2 Internal Medicine resident, worked with **Madhu Ouseph, MD** (Pathology resident), **Shamlal Mangray, MD** (Director of Pediatric Pathology at Rhode Island Hospital), **Diana Treaba, MD** (Director of Hematopathology and Program Director of Pathology Residency Program) and **Steven Moss, MD** (Program Director, Gastroenterology Fellowship Program) on a case report titled “A Fatal and Preventable Complication of Celiac Disease: A Call to Action”

This case notes that an underappreciated complication of celiac disease is hyposplenism, which increases the risk for serious infections and even death. Pneumococcal infection is a common complication of asplenia and hyposplenism, leaving many patients with celiac disease at increased risk. The research concludes that it is important for patients to be aware of this risk, and ask their doctors about getting vaccinated to prevent this complication of celiac disease.

The Case Report was selected from the more than 2,000 poster presentations; the ACG presents 36 awards each year for abstracts and case reports. Adding to the honor, the case report was also designated a Presidential Poster, joining a select group of abstracts considered worthy of additional recognition by the meeting Chairs.

Appointments & Promotions

Faculty Appointments

March 1, 2015 – August 31, 2015

THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL

Cardiology

John Dickey, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Christopher Song, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

General Internal Medicine

Erin McKnight, MD

Instructor (Clinical)

Jharendra Rijal, MD

Instructor (Clinical)

Ghaza Hussain, MD

Instructor (Clinical)

Infectious Disease

Rebecca Reece, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Francine Roma, MD

Clinical Instructor

RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL

Gastroenterology

Chiung-Kuei Huang, PhD

Assistant Professor (Research)

Sarah Hyder, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

General Internal Medicine

Kenneth Bishop, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Kasey Claborn, PhD

Assistant Professor (Research)

Ross Hilliard, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Karen Nugent, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Khyati Patel, MD

Clinical Assistant Professor

Kosuke Yasukawa, MD

Clinical Instructor

Hematology/Oncology

Nagib Ahsan, PhD

Assistant Professor (Research)

Infectious Diseases

Dimitrios Farmakiotis, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Kidney Disease and Hypertension

Sairah Sharif, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

PROVIDENCE VAMC

Cardiology

Nishant Shah, MD

Assistant Professor

Infectious Diseases

Amanda Noska, MD

Assistant Professor

Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep

Won-Kyung Cho, MD

Assistant Professor

WOMEN & INFANTS HOSPITAL

Gastroenterology

Diane Ying Wu, MD

Assistant Professor

Obstetric Medicine

Srilakshmi Mitta, MD

Assistant Professor (Clinical)

Senior Faculty Promotions

March 1, 2015 – August 31, 2015

BUTLER HOSPITAL

Geriatrics

Ana Tuya Fulton, MD

Associate Professor (Clinical)

THE MIRIAM HOSPITAL

Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep

Gerard Carino, MD

Associate Professor (Clinical)

RHODE ISLAND HOSPITAL

Cardiology

Ulrike Mende, MD

Professor

Gastroenterology

Thomas DeNucci, MD

Clinical Associate Professor

Miran Kim, PhD

Associate Professor (Research)

Hematology/Oncology

Eric Winer, MD

Associate Professor (Clinical)

Kidney Disease and Hypertension

Susie Hu, MD

Associate Professor (Clinical)

Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep

Kevin Dushay, MD

Associate Professor (Clinical)

PROVIDENCE VAMC

Infectious Diseases

Melissa Gaitanis, MD

Associate Professor (Clinical)

Grant Awards

A team spearheaded by **Sunit-Preet Chaudhry, MD** and including **Siddique Abbasi, MD**, **Wen-Chih “Hank” Wu, MD** and **Samuel Dudley, MD** are initiating a trial of BH-4 (tetrahydrobiopterin) in the treatment of patients with diastolic heart failure. This will be a crossover trial at the Providence VAMC. Dr. Chaudhry has successfully convinced the manufacturer of BH-4 to supply \$3.5 million worth of the drug for the trial.

Won-Kyung Cho, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Providence VA Medical Center, has been awarded a KO8 Clinical Investigator Award from the NHLBI entitled “Interleukin-13-Mediated Mechanisms of Pulmonary Vascular Remodeling” for 5 years with \$665,000 total direct costs. Her mentoring committee includes: **Gaurav Choudhary**, Associate Professor of Medicine, **Dean Jack A. Elias, MD**, Dean of Biology and Medicine; **Chun Geun Lee, MD**, Professor of Molecular Microbiology and Immunology; **Patty Lee, MD**, Associate Professor of Medicine at Yale University; **David Rand, PhD**, Chair of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; and **Sharon Rounds, MD**, Professor of Medicine.

Gaurav Choudhary, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine at the Providence VA Medical Center, has been awarded an R01 research grant from the NHLBI entitled “Nicotinic Acetylcholine Receptors and RV Dysfunction in Pulmonary Hypertension” for 4 years with \$1,049,569 total direct costs. Co-investigators include Edward Hawrot, PhD, Professor of Molecular Pharmacology Physiology and Biotechnology and Ulrike Mende, MD, Professor of Medicine.

Beth Fuchs, PhD of the Division of Infectious Diseases received a Brown DEANS award in the amount of \$26,498 for her project on “The Response of the Microbiome to Narrow vs. Broad Spectrum Antibiotic Therapy”.

James Klinger, MD, Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care, and **Elizabeth Harrington, PhD**, Professor of Medicine, have been awarded an R01 from NHLBI, “The Role of NPR-C in Modulation of Acute Lung Injury”.

Awewura Kwara, MD of the Division of Infectious Diseases received a Fogarty International Center Training award entitled, “Training Program in Tuberculosis and HIV Research in Ghana.” The total award for this year is \$286,838

Eleftherios Mylonakis, MD of the Division of Infectious Diseases received an educational grant in the amount of \$20,000 from T2 Biosystems which will be towards education of trainees in the Division.

Susan Ramsey, PhD, of the Division of General Internal Medicine, has received a 3-year R34 grant worth \$736,996 from the National Institute on Mental Health to develop and test a smartphone app with health coaching components to improve HIV medication adherence.

Harlan Rich, MD of the Division of Infectious Diseases and The Miriam Hospital has received \$70,000 (funded by CVS Health and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island) for a drug-addiction task force for the state of RI which has been appointed by Gov. Gina Raimondo. Dr Rich will co-lead the team of experts with Traci C. Green, a research scientist at Rhode Island Hospital. The group will work to receive timely data about overdose deaths as well as the use of naloxone, a medication to reverse opioid overdoses.

Sharon Rounds, MD, Professor of Medicine at the Providence VA Medical Center, has been awarded a VA Merit Review research grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs, entitled “Mechanisms of Cigarette Smoke-Induced Acute Lung Injury” for 5 years with \$650,000 total direct costs. Co-investigators include Jason Aliotta, MD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, and Qing Lu, DVM, PhD, Associate Professor of Medicine.

Phil Stockwell, MD, of the Cardiovascular Institute is the Site PI for RELAX-II, a randomized controlled trial comparing Seralaxin to placebo in the treatment of hospitalized patients with acute decompensated heart failure

Peter Soukas, MD, of the Cardiovascular Institute is the Site PI for a Prospective, Multicenter, Single Arm, Real-World Registry Assessing the Clinical Use of the Lutonix 035 Drug Coated Balloon (DCB) Catheter in Arteries of the Superficial Femoral Artery (SFA) and Popliteal Artery (PA) (SAFE-DCB U.S. Registry) The study is sponsored by C.R Bard, Inc.

Dr Soukas is also the site PI for the clinical study “Evaluation of the GORE VIABAHN BALLOON EXPANDABLE ENDOPROSTHESIS (VIABAHN BX) for the

Treatment of Occlusive Disease in the Common and External Iliac Arteries;” Sponsored by W.L. Gore

Wen-Chih Wu, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine at the Providence VA Medical Center has been awarded a VA Merit Review research grant from the VA HSRD “GROUP MEDICAL VISITS IN HEART FAILURE TO PREVENT REHOSPITALIZATIONS” for 4 years with \$1,100,000 total direct costs. Co-investigators include Tracey Taveira, PharmD, Professor of Pharmacology at URI and Lisa Cohen, PharmD, Associate Professor of Pharmacology at URI and Sandesh Dev, MD, at Phoenix VAMC. This is a 2 site RCT evaluating group medical visits in heart failure to reduce rehospitalizations.

Caliendo to Serve on Presidential Advisory Council

Angela M Caliendo, MD, PhD, Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine and Executive Vice Chair of The Department of Medicine, has been selected to serve on the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. The Advisory Council is comprised of fifteen experts and representatives from five organizations to provide advice, information and recommendations to the HHS Secretary on programs and policies related to combating antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

department of
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THE WARREN ALPERT MEDICAL SCHOOL OF BROWN UNIVERSITY

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