

Department of Medicine

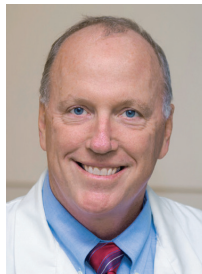
Fall 2023



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Chairman's Message



LOUIS RICE, M.D.

"We'll talk about a day off for you in early October, if we think you are ready." These are the only words I remember from the Internal Medicine Residency Program Director at Bellevue Hospital on July 1, 1983, my first day of internship. We had an orientation that lasted approximately an hour, after which we were shown to our wards to begin our duties. There was not much to orient us on, since there was no electronic medical record to speak of, no HIPAA, no BRIM or any of the other many things we now spend several days orienting new interns about. There was no socializing, presumably since the administration knew we would have no time or energy for a social life. We would be on call all night every third night and on those nights would cover the inpatient wards and three different ICUs (there were not separate ICU rotations back then). Once it was deemed safe to give us a day off (it was October, in fact) we would have every third Sunday off. Ten months per year were spent on the inpatient wards, with one month for elective (most of us took Chest radiology, where there was little expectation of attendance) and one month of vacation.

The work itself was intense. We drew most of the morning bloods ourselves (and any stat bloods we ordered during the day or night) and walked the vials to the lab. Once the results were ready, we returned to the lab to retrieve the results on slips of paper. We placed all peripheral IVs and central lines and drew all blood gases. These practices were not ideal for patient comfort or infection control. Moreover, this was 1983-4, when the number of AIDS patients was exploding and more were being seen at Bellevue Hospital than anywhere in the world. We had no test for this new, universally fatal disease running rampant through our community. I am not sure if any of us escaped poking ourselves with needles from AIDS patients, but I remember several personal such instances - very scary. If our patient needed to go down to Radiology for an x-ray, we found a gurney and a couple of sheets and transported the patient ourselves. If a patient had chest pain, you found an ECG machine on the floor and performed it yourself (with a lot of yucky goo to make sure the suction apparatus would stick). Many house officers lamented the amount of such "scut work" we were expected to do.

That was then, this is now. We now have clear limitations on the number of hours house staff are expected to work, defined numbers of days off and considerably more elective time. It is possible for house officers to complete their residencies without having inserted an IV catheter, performed a lumbar puncture or a thoracentesis. There are more academic conferences and faculty take their teaching responsibilities more seriously. It is a much better world for patients and trainees. As always, however, change results in loss as well as gain. For all the difficulties associated with the prior "scut work", they were all activities that put the house officer at the patient's bedside. I think we learned a lot of retail medicine in those moments. Nowadays, modern medicine has replaced much of that effort with the care and feeding of the computer. I truly believe that physicians being trained today become as good or better doctors than my generation, but I also believe it takes them longer to develop confidence in their abilities, along with the experiential learning that promotes such confidence. Medicine is a practice, and the more patients you see, the better you become.



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Future Gen Cancer Scholars Program Launches

The Lifespan Cancer Institute hosted its first class of the new Future Gen Cancer Scholars program over this past summer. The 20 minority students, from Providence, Central Falls and Pawtucket, shadowed oncologists, hematologists, surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, geneticists and scientists at Rhode Island Hospital, the Miriam Hospital, Hasbro Children's Hospital and the oncology research labs on CORO 5. The program aims to address the lack of physicians of color in a state with strong populations of Black and Hispanic residents. This disparity leads to reduced cancer screening and increased cancer mortality among Black and Hispanic residents.

The goal of the FutureGen Cancer Scholars Program is to reduce racial disparities in cancer treatment in the Providence area by developing the Future Generation of Cancer Scholars from young students within our community.

After receiving their stethoscopes and white coats – embroidered with their name and the school they attend – high school scholars began the program in earnest on July 17. Each Monday, they spent a few hours in a classroom setting, focused on a specific theme, from physician and guest speakers. Topics ranged from cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, screening and survivorship. Students then joined oncologists at the bedside observing discussions on cancer treatment options; viewed and identified cancer cells beneath high-powered microscopes; and engaged in specialized sessions on things such as unconscious bias and managing difficult conversations. Students also benefited from time spent with Lifespan's workforce development team led by Alexis Devine. There, they took part in work readiness workshops covering professional and resume writing and interviewing.

The program was initiated following a grant from the Papitto Opportunity Connection awarded to Dr. Howard Safran. The FutureGen Cancer Scholars Program is dedicated to Patrice Tarantino and her life's work of creating opportunities for the BIPOC community. Students comprising the first group of Future Gen scholars were chosen through an application process, and the program was coordinated by Dr. Tom Ollila, with Dr. Anthony Mega serving as the education director. The administrative leadership of the program was provided by Paula Salisbury and Annabelle Neville. Please see the website futuregenri.org for more information. ■

I think the time between when we graduate from medical school to when we feel truly competent in our clinical abilities is the most stressful time in our careers. Long hours and sleep deprivation are stressful, for sure, but there is nothing more stressful, in my opinion, than having an MD after your name, a beeper on your belt and the dread of getting a phone call that will confront you with a situation you are not sure how to manage. That is why I believe that today's house officers, while being better rested than we were back in the 1980s, are no less (and possibly more) stressed than we were, which is why it is so important that we focus on physician wellness in our hospitals and practices. On the attending physician and advanced practice provider level, levels of stress can be equally high, especially in the aftermath of all the disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. As in the Internal Medicine Residency and Fellowships, significant efforts are ongoing in many Divisions to provide resources to providers to promote clinician wellness. Stephanie Catanese, a member of the Division of General Internal Medicine who serves as the Brown Medicine wellness director, lists a number of different initiatives within GIM and in some cases throughout the Department designed to promote wellness, including:

1. Reworking and revising the CME and vacation policy for DGIM (flexibility)
2. Incorporating a 15 minute "desktop" slot for Brown Medicine Academic Practice providers once per week to allow for flexibility, catch-up, phone calls, etc. (flexibility)
3. Periodic division-sponsored healthy breakfast/snacks (health)
4. Periodic movement challenges (health)
5. Free health, wellness, and professional coaching (health, productivity)
6. Maintaining a wellness committee to whom faculty can bring concerns (responsiveness)

Steph is now working with Dr. Kelly Holder, the Chief Wellness Officer for the medical school, who has assembled a group of wellness leaders from other departments (EM, peds, psych). They are hoping to develop a shared mental model for wellness and plan to hold a symposium in the Spring so that we may learn from each other and provide for a better environment in which to practice our craft.

My rationale for choosing this important theme for our newsletter is not based on a yearning for the "good old days". It is to highlight the reality that now, as was the case back then, learning to become a doctor or advanced health provider and continuing to practice high quality medicine is hard - physically, intellectually, and emotionally. That the patients entrust us with their health and their lives makes that unavoidable. We owe it to each other to share that burden and support each other through difficult times so that we may not only survive, but truly thrive in the service of our patients, a goal that we share, regardless of the dates on our diplomas. ■

New Hires from the Division of Cardiology



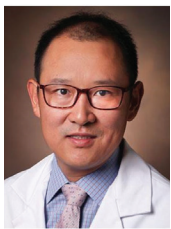
Christina Al Malouf, MD earned a medical degree from University College Dublin. She completed an internal medicine residency and internship at Pennsylvania Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. She was a geriatric medicine fellow at New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and a cardiovascular diseases fellow at The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City. She is a member of the American College of Cardiology, the American Geriatrics Society, the American College of Physicians, and the American Medical Association.



Susan McIlvaine, MD earned a medical degree from Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia. Prior to joining Lifespan, she was a general cardiovascular disease fellow at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, where she also completed an internal medicine internship, residency, and an additional year as chief resident. She has a clinical focus on women's health and cardio-obstetrics.



Kayle Shapero, MD received her medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston and her doctorate degree in Biomedical Engineering from Boston University. She completed her residency in internal medicine at Yale University School of Medicine. Before coming to Lifespan, she completed her cardiovascular disease fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Dr. Shapero is a member of the American Heart Association and the American College of Cardiology. She has a clinical focus on cardio-obstetrics and women's cardiology. Given the limited data in the field of cardio-obstetrics she is interested in creating registries involving pregnant and postpartum patients. She is particularly interested in those patients with hypertensive disorders of pregnancy, and how interventions addressing both activity and blood pressure control can impact cardiovascular outcomes and subsequent pregnancies.



Wenliang Song, MD is the Director of Lipid Research. He is a physician-scientist specialized in Cardiovascular Disease and Clinical Lipidology. He graduated from Shandong University School of Medicine. He completed his internal medicine residency at Yale University Bridgeport Hospital and his cardiology fellowship at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Song did a postdoc research fellowship on bioactive lipids at the University of Pennsylvania, where he received training as a translational researcher.

His clinical interests include consultative and general cardiology, with a particular focus on preventative

cardiology and lipid disorders. Dr. Song is board-certified in Internal Medicine, Clinical Lipidology, and Cardiovascular Disease. He is a Fellow of the National Lipid Association (FNLA) and served as the co-Chair of the Early Career Development Committee of the NLA from 2017 to 2022.

Before joining Lifespan/Brown University, Dr. Song was an Assistant Professor on the tenure track at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, where he established and led an independent laboratory. His previous work characterized two novel classes of oxidized bioactive lipids from omega-3 fatty acids, EPA, and DHA. His ongoing research is dedicated to exploring the intricate interplay of bioactive lipids and lipoprotein particles, including HDL and lipoprotein (a). His lab also has a focus in investigating the mechanism of supplementation with omega-3 fatty acids on the cardiovascular system. His research program has been funded by the American Heart Association and the National Institute of Health. Dr. Song is an KO8 and RO1 awardee.



Saraschandra Vallabhajosyula, MD will be joining the Division of Cardiology in the role of Director of Cardiology Critical Care and will oversee the coronary care units at Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals. As an interventional cardiologist he will be performing invasive and interventional procedures and consultative care. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Medicine, Interventional and Critical Care Cardiologist at the Wake Forest School of Medicine. He has several years experience as the Medical Director of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at the Congdon Heart and Vascular Center and Associate Medical Director of the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit at the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Heart and Vascular Center. He is an outcomes researcher whose work encompasses the fields of cardiogenic shock, acute myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest, high-risk percutaneous coronary intervention, percutaneous mechanical circulatory support, non-cardiac organ failure, septic shock, septic cardiomyopathy, and circulatory shock and has over 200 peer-reviewed publications. He is active in several national organizations and has lectured widely in his areas of expertise.



Aaron Weisbord, MD is a non-invasive cardiologist with interests in Sports Cardiology, Valvular Heart disease and Cardiac Amyloid. His other areas of interest include Quality Improvement and cardiac nursing education. He attended medical school at the University of California, Los Angeles, completed his residency at Beth Israel-Deaconess Medical Center in Boston and his cardiology fellowship at Brown. Dr. Weisbord is a Rhode Island native and prior to becoming a physician he worked on Capitol Hill for Rhode Island Senator Jack Reed. He has practiced in a community setting for the past 15 years in Southern Rhode Island where he served as Past President of the Medical Staff and as a member of the Board of Trustees at South County Hospital. ■

Honors and Awards in the Division of Infectious Diseases

Dr Leonard Mermel participated as an invited member of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Guideline Development Group working on guidelines for the prevention of bloodstream infections and other infections associated with intravascular catheters. In addition, he was selected to give the keynote lecture at the International Conference on Prevention and Infection Control (ICPIC) in Geneva entitled – Space, The Final Frontier. In the keynote address, Dr. Mermel will discuss his work as a consultant for NASA regarding prevention of infection during prolonged human space flight and future Mars Missions (see https://www.huffpost.com/entry/humans-on-mars_b_2326979). The meeting organizers' selection is a recognition of Dr. Mermel's deep experience and knowledge in infection prevention and control, and shows the high regard he enjoys in the international medical and scientific community. ■

Natasha Rybak Honored as Outstanding Physician of the Year



Natasha Rybak MD, who serves as the Medical Director of the RISE Tuberculosis (TB) Clinic at The Miriam Hospital, is the recipient of the 2023 Charles C.J. Carpenter, M.D., Outstanding Physician of the Year at The Miriam.

Dr Rybak oversees the RISE TB Clinic and the evaluation and treatment of persons with latent TB infection. She provides highly expert and timely care for active TB patients referred from throughout the state. She works closely with infection control at all RI hospitals and RI Department of Health.

Dr. Rybak exemplifies Dr. Carpenter's commitment to excellence in care by providing the best TB care to people who are underserved. She advocates for many patients in this setting who have unique needs as immigrants or are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

She is also the Co-Founder and Co-Director of "Friends of Ukraine RI", a crowdfunding collaboration to raise money to provide medical supplies and urgent cash assistance to Ukraine, which has raised more than \$120,000.

Dr. Rybak graduated from the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in 2007, and completed a residency in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics here at Brown and the Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatric Infectious Disease Fellowship in 2012-2016. She has been on faculty in the Division of Infectious Diseases since 2017 as an Assistant Professor of Medicine. ■

Garland Honored by AIDS Project RI

AIDS Project RI awarded the Hope Harris Award to **Dr. Joseph Garland** in 2023 for his commitment to the community. He is the Medical Director of the Infectious Diseases and Immunology Center at The Miriam Hospital, which cares for over 2000 people living with HIV.

Hope Harris was an AIDS Project Rhode Island Board Member and leader who was passionate in her outreach to the African American community to fight the stigma around HIV. Named after Hope, this award recognizes persons or organization exemplifying service to the communities APRI serves and dedication to the fight against HIV/AIDS. ■

New Hires in the Division of Infectious Diseases



Leah Harvey, MD, MPH joined the ID Division this summer as an Assistant Professor, Research Track. Leah came from Boston Medical Center where she was an attending in Infectious Disease and General Internal Medicine after completing fellowship training in Infectious Disease and Addiction Medicine.

Leah obtained her BA and MPH (Infectious Disease Epidemiology) from Johns Hopkins University and her MD from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. She completed an Internal Medicine Residency at Boston Medical Center. Dr. Harvey's interests are in HIV, harm reduction, overdose prevention and healthcare inequities. She will work closely with the faculty in the Providence Boston Center for AIDS Research and the COBRE on Opioids and Overdose to develop her areas of research. In addition to her primary role as a researcher, she will attend on the ID services and enjoys teaching



Kevin Gibas, MD, MPH, is a new member of the infection prevention team at RIH serving as Associate Medical Director, and he will also serve as infectious diseases attending physician on the RIH Infectious Diseases consult service. Dr. Gibas did his Internal Medicine Residency at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, followed by a

Resident Training Program in Global Health at BI Deaconess. He did his Infectious Diseases Fellowship at Vanderbilt University Medical Center where he was the Chief Infectious Diseases Fellow and where he also received an MPH focused on implementation science and outcomes research. Dr. Gibas was elected to membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and Gold Humanism Honor Society, in addition to numerous awards throughout his medical school and post-graduate training.

Calli Dogon, MD will join the Division of Infectious Diseases in February 2024. Calli received her medical degree from the University of Cape Town (UCT), South Africa and completed her internal medicine residency at Pennsylvania Hospital, University of Pennsylvania Health System. Calli went on to complete her infectious disease fellowship, followed by an advanced HIV / TB fellowship at Brown University. With her home country close to heart, Calli has a focus and passion for global health and aims to create an educational partnership between Brown and UCT, with a paramount focus on improving patient care. ■

Lifespan to Launch Center for Lung Health

The Center for Lung Health (CLH) will serve as a destination referral center to provide comprehensive care for individuals with complex or advanced lung and cardiopulmonary disease or unexplained dyspnea. The overarching mission of the CLH is to provide state-of-the-art quality care to patients, informed by cutting edge clinical and translational research, and to enhance the academic mission across Brown and Lifespan with additional advanced training opportunities. The CLH will integrate and grow the existing Pulmonary Hypertension Center (PHC) and Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) Centers, both of which are established centers of excellence with national prominence and a wide referral base. Additional destination programs will include the Chronic Thromboembolic Pulmonary Hypertension (CTEPH) Program and an Advanced Asthma and Airways Disease Program. ■

Honors and Accomplishments for General Internal Medicine Faculty

Brandon del Pozo, PhD, MPA, MA was elected as a member of the National Council of Criminal Justice. Dr Del Pozo was also appointed a LEADS Academic scholar by the National Institute of Justice.

Matthew Murphy, MD, MPH was named Scientific Director of GAIA Vaccine Foundation, a global health non-profit working primarily in Mali.

Ju Park, PhD, MHS joined the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Drug Policy.



Maggie Salinger, MD, MPP, MPH (she/her) has joined the Division of General Internal Medicine. Her research and teaching interests are focused on improving healthcare quality and access for people with disability or serious illness. She earned her BA as a Robertson Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her MD as a Robert J Woodruff Fellow at Emory

University School of Medicine, her MPP at Harvard's John F Kennedy School of Government, and her MPH at Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Maggie completed her residency training at Duke University. She then spent two years as a Fellow in General Internal Medicine and Primary Care at Harvard Medical School and The Massachusetts General Hospital before joining faculty at Brown. ■

Community Engagement Efforts in the Division of General Internal Medicine

Health & Ramadan: A Collaborative Initiative

In Spring 2023, faculty members from the General Internal Medicine Department collaborated with residents and students from The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University to design and deliver interactive workshops to foster a dialogue surrounding Ramadan and health, focusing primarily on diabetes and other co-morbidities. Our workshop occurred in English and Arabic at Dorcas (a local refugee resettlement agency) and then at a local mosque. These workshops expanded on connections made in 2022 when residents joined an Eid celebration outside at a local mosque near RIH to celebrate the end of Ramadan and welcome families from Afghanistan. Additionally, for internal medicine residents, we had a pre-clinic conference to review the management of diabetes while fasting for Ramadan. These initiatives were aimed at assisting the Muslim immigrant population in Rhode Island and underscore the need for continuous dialogue, collaborative learning, and mutual understanding to address the unique healthcare needs of diverse populations.

Reproductive and Gender Clinic Launches

In July, **Dr. Mindy Sobota**, along with Internal Medicine resident **Drs. Manasa Srivillibhuthur** and **Zain Alfaneq**, launched the RIH Center for Primary Care's Reproductive and Gender Clinic whose aim is to provide full-spectrum, gender-inclusive care including trauma-informed pelvic examinations, gender-affirming care, pre-conception and contraceptive care including IUDs and implants, and pregnancy options counseling including medication abortion.

Expansion of the Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) curriculum within the Internal Medicine Residency

The utilization of POCUS continues to grow within the field of internal medicine. Our comprehensive POCUS education begins with an introduction to POCUS lecture series during intern year. Then as PGY2s, residents participate in an intensive day long workshop to acquire fundamental

POCUS image acquisition and interpretation skills followed by POCUS rounds at all three hospitals. These experiences allow residents to consolidate what they have learned and utilize POCUS to make real-time patient assessments and to optimize patient care. Our curriculum enables residents to efficiently acquire essential POCUS skills so that they can easily integrate POCUS into everyday patient care. ■

Faculty Mentorship Program Lauches in GIM Division

Based upon the 2022 DGIM Faculty Retreat, **Drs. Dominick Tammaro** and **Kelly McGarry** have created a new Mentorship Program designed to formally engage senior faculty in helping junior faculty navigate professional development and academic advancement milestones. Published studies show that faculty, both senior and junior, who participate in such programs, report higher Career satisfaction and fulfillment. The program consists of four major components:

- **Faculty Development Skills Series** – led by **Dr. Missy McNeil**, faculty development seminars are held 1-2 times per month covering skills such as education scholarship, teaching skills, giving feedback and other important topics for medical educators.
- **Mentor-Mentee pairings** – nationally, there is wide variation in the “formality” of such mentor-mentee pairings, ranging from use of “mentor committees” to very loose associations. The DGIM program fits comfortably in the middle, providing both accountability and flexibility. Senior and junior faculty are paired and meet regularly to discuss ways to meet the junior faculty member’s career goals.
- **Annual Division Director Meeting** – already underway in all divisions, the new mentorship program will help prepare faculty for these annual meetings to improve the effectiveness of pursuing the member’s goals.
- **New Video Advancement and Promotion Curriculum** – this new component is the product of a year of professional production by Main Street Media, resulting in 18 video modules posted on the new Faculty Affairs website. These modules are publicly accessible at brownmedicine.org on the faculty Affairs page. They cover a wide range of topics such as mentoring skills for senior faculty, techniques for engaging in scholarship activities, keeping your CV complete and current, and include a detailed review of Brown promotion criteria. The modules feature faculty from throughout the Department of medicine, other Departments and the Dean’s office. They are applicable to and provide benefit for faculty throughout the Department of Medicine in all divisions.

The initial feedback has been quite positive and additional suggestions for new modules will result in this program being able to grow and adapt to the needs of our faculty, helping to make us all better educators and doctors. ■

40 Under 40 Winners Announced



Each year, Providece Business News, the region’s weekly business news publication, recognizes 40 local professionals under the age of 40, for their career success and involvement within their communities. Once again, the Department of Medicine is represented among the honorees.

Dr. Ankur Shah is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, where he is the associate program director of the nephrology fellowship. He completed residency in internal medicine at Temple University Hospital, followed by fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, where he served as chief fellow and received advanced training in medical education. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Nephrology and the National Kidney Foundation. Dr. Shah is a graduate of the Nephrology Social Media Collective internshipship as well as a current American Society of Nephrology Public Policy Intern and Renal Physicians Association Public Policy Fellow. His primary interests are peritoneal dialysis, home hemodialysis, and medical education. ■

Faculty Honored with Beckwith Family Award for Outstanding Teaching

The Beckwith Family Research and Education Fund has been established at The Alpert Medical School through generous gifts to the 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.

The Beckwith Family Award recipients are:

Sarah Freeman, MD
Assistant Professor of
Medicine, Clinician Educator

Drew Nagle, MD
Assistant Professor
Medicine, Clinician Educator

Dana Guyer, MD
Assistant Professor of
Medicine, Clinician Educator

Anthony M. Reginato, PhD, MD
Associate Professor of
Dermatology, Associate
Professor of Medicine

Jennie E. Johnson, MD
Assistant Professor of
Medicine, Clinician Educator

Natasha Rybak, MD
Assistant Professor
Medicine, Clinician Educator

Alisa J. Merolli, MD
Clinical Assistant Professor
of Medicine

Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research Awarded \$9.2 Million NIH Renewal

The Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research (Prov/Bos CFAR) has received a five-year \$9.2 million award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) (P30AI042853) to further its work promoting multi-disciplinary clinical, behavioral, translation, and basic science HIV research. Their research is particularly focused on marginalized populations including men who have sex with men (MSM), people who use substances, justice-involved persons, women, gender minorities, and at-risk youth.

Originally funded in 1998 as the Lifespan/Tufts/Brown CFAR, a new partnership with Boston University/Boston Medical Center was established in 2015 and was formally funded by NIH in 2018 to create the Providence/Boston CFAR. The Prov/Bos CFAR is one of the 19 NIH-funded Center for AIDS Research programs throughout the nation.

Since Boston Medical Center and Boston University joined efforts with Lifespan and Brown University to create the Prov/Bos CFAR, total funding for HIV/AIDS research has averaged almost \$31 million annually and over 600 peer-reviewed publications have cited the Prov/Bos CFAR. Over this time, the Center has awarded over 50 developmental grants to investigators totaling roughly \$2 million. This has allowed for community engagement both in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, as well as with partnerships in other high-priority areas of the United States, including southern states (Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee), and international collaborations, including successful research programs in Kenya, the Philippines, South Africa, and Ukraine, among others.

The Prov/Bos CFAR is led by Principal Investigator and Director, **Susan Cu-Uvin, MD** (Brown University/The Miriam Hospital) and a leadership team comprising Associate Directors **Curt Beckwith, MD** (Brown University/The Miriam Hospital), **Debbie Cheng, ScD** (Boston University), and **Andrew Henderson, PhD** (Boston University/Boston Medical Center), and Administrative Director **Lauri Bazerman, MS** (The Miriam Hospital).

"I am thrilled that NIH has refunded the Providence/Boston CFAR, ensuring our ability to conduct cutting-edge HIV research through 2028. We will continue our mission of reducing the impact of HIV and related co-morbidities among the most vulnerable and disenfranchised populations in Providence, Boston, and beyond" comments Beckwith on the new award.

Over the course of the last cycle, the Prov/Bos CFAR emphasized its significant investments in enhancing HIV education, prevention, treatment, and research activities that adequately respond to the interests and needs of community members. They have done this through the creation and

preservation of the CFAR Community Engaged Research Council (C-CERC) led by Paul Goulet and Ray Joseph.

"The C-CERC is proud to be an integral part of the community engaged research process and of its role in incorporating lived-experience and community insights into research design, implementation and dissemination to the research of the Providence/Boston CFAR" says Goulet. The C-CERC has helped to build greater trust between academic researchers and communities, which has led to many new collaborations, including those between researchers and members of underrepresented and underserved populations. "We look forward to the next five years, as we build capacity and expertise to ensure that the voices of the community are heard and included in all research proposals" continued Goulet.

The Prov/Bos CFAR also remains committed to cultivating the next generation of scientists from backgrounds underrepresented in biomedical research, demonstrated by the growth of the Diversity, Equity, Belonging, and Accessibility (DEIA) initiative led by Kaku So-Armah, PhD (Boston University/Boston Medical Center), Timothy Flanigan, MD (Brown University/ The Miriam Hospital), Martha Sanchez, MD (Brown University/The Miriam Hospital).

"Our goal is to equitably support and include a diverse range of trainees and faculty to contribute to ending the HIV epidemic and addressing HIV co-morbidities. We look forward to using this renewal and other funding to contribute to the evidence base on how to achieve this goal," adds So-Armah.

The Prov/Bos CFAR also welcomed its newest Scientific Working Group (SWG), HIV and Oral Health led by Directors Curt Beckwith, MD (Brown University/The Miriam Hospital) and Michelle Henshaw, DDS, MPH (Boston University), and Associate Director Hisashi Akiyama, PhD (Boston University). The HIV and Oral Health SWG emerged out of multiple funded research projects led by Prov/Bos CFAR investigators and will address research gaps in our understanding of how HIV and associated co-morbidities contribute to oral diseases and develop new multidisciplinary research endeavors related to HIV and oral health with a focus on supporting early-stage investigators.

"This is an exciting new time with different challenges in HIV prevention, treatment and dealing with an aging population with co-morbidities. We are embarking in our 25th to 30th year as a CFAR," says Prov/Bos CFAR Director, Cu-Uvin. "We would like to acknowledge the great contributions of Dr. Charles CJ Carpenter, who established our CFAR in 1998 and to Vicki Godleski, our Administrative Director for 19 years. Please join us in continuing our work to prevent HIV and improve the lives of people with HIV". ■



New Faculty Appointments effective July 1, 2022

Care New England Hospitals

- Seema Amin, MD, Pulmonary & Critical Care, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Saikiran Earasi, DO, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
Elisa McEachern, MD, Obstetric Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Nadeem Mohammed, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Isha Shah, MD, Rheumatology, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Purva Sharma, MD, Hematology/Oncology, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Pooja Verma, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator

Lifespan Hospitals

- Yasin Abul, MD, Geriatrics, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Mansoor Arif, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Gurdev Bajwa, MD, General Internal Medicine, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Thomas Bayer, MD, Geriatrics, Assistant Professor
- Anna Chorzalska, PhD, Hematology/Oncology, Assistant Professor (Research)
- Neil Cyr Devoe, DO, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Zack Dale, MD, General Internal Medicine, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Katharine Darland, MD, General Internal Medicine, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Tamara Feingold-Link, MD, Geriatrics, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Sassine Ghanem, MD, Hematology/Oncology, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Jessica Guidi, MD, Cardiology, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Ann-Marie Idusuyi, PharmD, Infectious Diseases, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Rachna Kataria, MD, Cardiology, Assistant Professor
- Nazim Khan, MD, General Internal Medicine, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Matthew Kluge, MD, Cardiology, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Katie Kozacka, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator

Recently Awarded Grants

Erica Hardy and **Cynthia Battle, PhD**, from the Dept of Psychiatry & Human Behavior, were awarded the MPI R21 focused on vaccine hesitancy among perinatal women. This is a 2-year grant from NIH / NICHD. Project Title: COVID19 vaccine hesitancy among perinatal women at risk for health disparities

Brandon del Pozo, PhD, MPA was awarded an R25 from NIDA via Fordham University to engage in a mentored research ethics project "Consent, confidentiality and compensation: the ethics of police as research subjects," and a grant from the Providence/Boston Center for AIDS Research, "Police attitudes toward felony syringe possession and its role in shaping HIV risk."

Ju Park, PhD was awarded a COBRE on Opioids and Overdose pilot grant "Feasibility and Evaluation of a Novel Drug Checking Program in Rhode Island" from NIGMS.

Timothy P. Flanigan, Medicine, received \$1,829,052 for "Emerging Infectious Disease and HIV Scholars Program at Brown University" from the NIAID. he also received a renewal of the T32 grant "HIV and Other Infectious Consequences of Substance Abuse" for 5 years.

Alexander G. Raufi, Medicine, received \$100,000 for "ONC201 for Chemoprevention of Colorectal Cancer." The grant is a subaward through Rhode Island Hospital from Brown Physicians, Inc.

Rahul Vanjani, Medicine, received \$250,000 for "Building and Expanding Social Medicine Education and Practice in Rhode Island" from the Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation.

Ju Park, PhD, MHS received funding for a Research Project Lead grant from the COBRE on Opioids and Overdose, entitled "Feasibility and Acceptability of Technology-Assisted Overdose Response Interventions in Rhode Island."

Susan Ramsey, PhD received funding for Improving Social Connectedness through Digital Health to Enhance Recovery from OUD among the Justice Involved Population (R34 DA058299, K. Langdon MPI).

Wen-Chih "Hank" Wu (VA Medical Center) John McGeary (Dept of Psychiatry) and Dr Qing Zeng from George Wash University, were awarded a Dept of Defense grant for 4 yrs, \$1.62M, to study long term cardiometabolic effects of anti psychotic medication use.

- James McDonald Atkinson, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Fahd Nadeem, MD, Cardiology, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Ashlyn Norris, PharmD, Infectious Diseases, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Ari Pelcovits, MD, Hematology/Oncology, Assistant Professor
- Sanjay Poudel, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Quratul-ain Qaiser, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Olimpia Radu, MD, Geriatrics, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Ashna Rajan, MD, Geriatrics, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Verity Ramirez, MD, Cardiology, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Daryl Selen, MD, Endocrinology, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Yiyun Shi, MD, General Internal Medicine, Clinical Assistant Professor
- Anuoluwapo Shobayo, MD, Infectious Diseases, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Michelle Tang, PharmD, Infectious Diseases, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Rohit Tyagi, MD, Geriatrics, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Li Wang, MD, Gastroenterology, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Jeremy Warner, MD, Hematology/Oncology, Professor, Research Scholar
- Mitchell Wice, MD, Geriatrics, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Edelva Williams, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Ibrahim Yusuf Abubeker, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Cara Zimmerman, MD, General Internal Medicine, Clinical Assistant Professor

Providence VAMC

- Margaret Hayes Baker, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Jacob Joseph, MD, Cardiology, Professor, Research Scholar
- Komal Loporchio, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Daniel McCall, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator
- Edgar Pollak, MD, General Internal Medicine, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator

Faculty Promotions effective July 1, 2022

Lifespan Hospitals

- Curt Beckwith MD, Infectious Diseases, Professor, Research Scholar
- Benedito Carneiro, MD, Hematology/Oncology, Associate Professor, Research Scholar
- Yul Ejnes, MD, General Internal Medicine, Clinical Professor
- Paul Gordon, MD, Cardiology, Professor, Clinician Educator
- Susie Hu, MD, Nephrology, Professor Teaching Scholar
- Daniel Levine, MD, Cardiology, Clinical Professor
- Philip Stockwell, MD, Cardiology, Associate Professor, Clinician Educator

Providence VAMC

- Katherine Faricy-Anderson, MD, Hematology/Oncology, Associate Professor, Clinician Educator
- Alan Morrison, MD, PhD, Cardiology, Associate Professor, Research Scholar
- Lidia Vognar, MD, Geriatrics, Associate Professor, Clinician Educator