

Department of Medicine

Spring 2025



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Chairman's Message



LOUIS RICE, M.D.

I would like to stipulate at the outset of this communication that I am fully cognizant of and empathetic toward my fellow physicians for the challenges we continually face in continuing to practice medicine. These challenges include the changing work environment, increased corporatization of practices into for-profit ventures to benefit shareholders, frustrations of dealing with insurance companies, large amounts of student loan debt and the burden of helping people confront their chronic and acute illnesses (as well as their emotional and psychological trauma). These can all be overwhelming and are major risk factors for the growing problem of burnout among our ranks.

Still, I cannot escape the notion that we are truly privileged to be physicians. I am not speaking of the high-minded and noble privileges of being entrusted with peoples' health and welcomed into their lives, though those are real and meaningful in all of our work. I am talking of more mundane advantages. The geographic mobility that we have that may be unparalleled in our society. The comfortable financial compensation for our important work that the vast majority of physicians can expect. The social respectability that is virtually guaranteed in most circles. The constant intellectual challenge that comes with practicing our profession and remaining current with the rapidly progressing scientific advantages. Finally, those of us in academic medicine have the added advantage of being able to work with the younger generations, to watch them grow in the profession the same way we had. It is not difficult to imagine other lines of work that might offer better advantages than medicine in some of these areas, but not in all of them.

Another major advantage in medicine is the huge variety of specialties that allow each individual the opportunity to practice a type of medicine they really love. For my part, I still remember my delight when I arrived for the first day of my Infectious Diseases fellowship and realized that EVERY patient to whom I was assigned had a fever. To get up in the morning and really want to do the type of work that will occupy your day is truly a blessing.

The growth of specialization comes with risks, however. One of these risks is that we become less and less familiar with each other's lives. When we do not understand the challenges that our colleagues face, we tend to create our own scenarios about their lives. I think this is especially true in academic settings. Having passed through several academic medical centers in my career, I have yet to encounter one in which there are not these internecine skirmishes that arise from misunderstanding and, frankly, ego. Medical house staff are prone to complaining about the fact that patients are incompletely worked up in the emergency department (even though complete workouts are our job, not theirs) while emergency medicine physicians seem to think that medical house officers hold onto patients to avoid new admissions (I have never met a medical house officer who was not eager to discharge a patient when that patient was ready to go and had a home or a rehab bed to go to). Medicine v. Surgery; Medicine v. Psychiatry; Medicine v. our own sub specialists or primary care doctors! This list goes on.

One medical setting where I did not observe these sorts of behaviors was while I was moonlighting at the New England Baptist Hospital during my fellowship. I had a growing family and needed money, so I moonlighted a lot. One job was as a medical house officer covering the hospital and ICU overnights and on weekends. The other was as coverage for the Infectious Diseases practice that covered the hospital (every third weekend). At that time the NEBH had some academic affiliations but was largely a private community



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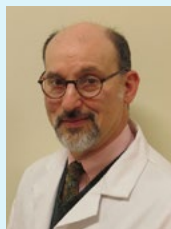
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Dr Rich Honored with Hamolsky Outstanding Physician Award



Harlan Rich, M.D., of the Gastroenterology division, was honored with the Milton W. Hamolsky Lifetime Achievement Award, Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Physicians at the ACP RI annual meeting at Kent Hospital on April 12, 2025. This award is one of the Chapter's two highest honors.

Dr. Rich received his MD at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, performed his Internal Medicine Residency at Boston City Hospital, and his Fellowship Training at Brown Medical School. He has served as Chief of the Gastroenterology Section at the Providence VAMC, Director of Endoscopy and Director of the GI Clinic at Rhode Island Hospital, Clinical Director of the Division of Gastroenterology at Brown Medicine, and Medical Director of the Brown Medicine Endoscopy Center.

This award is a College-authorized laureate award and is given to a senior physician "in recognition of academic, clinical, research and administrative excellence to a physician who epitomizes the attributes of the award's namesake, Dr. Milton Hamolsky."

The late Milton Hamolsky, M.D. was an endocrinologist who came to Rhode Island Hospital in 1963 and served as the first full time physician-in-chief. Hamolsky served as the chief administrative officer of the Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline and was a noted pioneer of medical education in Rhode Island. ■

Chairman's Message, continued from page 1

hospital. Physicians there behaved differently than at the academic centers I had been. Surgeons would sometimes scrub out of the OR to come see a patient if I felt it was urgent. For my part, I was happy that the surgeons consulted me as soon as the patient was admitted. That way I could be sure that the antibiotics were thoughtfully chosen. I am not sure why things were different there. Maybe it was because their mutual dependence was more obvious than it is in academic centers. Maybe it was because they frequently sat and had lunch together in the cafeteria. Whatever the reason, it was a fun way to practice.

So as we embark on a new academic year, I have a request. Let's try to see things from our colleagues' point of view. We cannot necessarily walk a mile in their shoes, but we can talk to them (not via SecureChat!) and find out about their lives, their challenges. Knowing them a bit better may allow us to give them the benefit of the doubt and, who knows, they may even return the favor, for in the process they will likewise learn about us. As the teacher in the movie "Wonder" said as his final precept: "Be kind, for everyone is fighting a hard battle. And if you really want to see what people are, all you have to do is look." ■

News from the Infectious Diseases Division



Dr. Josiah "Jody" Rich has become one of only eight people to receive the Alumni Distinguished Service Award from the UMASS Chan Medical School for his dedicated work on drug treatment access, carceral health, and his commitment to educating the next generation of researchers. Dr. Rich received his MD from the UMass Chan Medical School in 1987. He has been an attending physician, professor, and researcher with Brown University and Brown University Health since 1994. During his 30+ years here he has received continuous NIH funding and has dedicated his career to studying the overlap between addiction and infectious diseases and helping disadvantaged people, including advancing access to drug treatment and reducing overdose deaths for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people, as well as the wider community in Rhode Island. He spends much of his time educating and inspiring the next generation of clinicians and researchers to further advance the health and care of disadvantaged people, particularly those impacted by addiction, incarceration, HIV, and other infectious diseases in Rhode Island and beyond. Dr. Rich is honored to receive this recognition from his alma mater.

Dr. Jana Jarolimova Joins Division



Jana Jarolimova, M.D. MPH, joined the Division of Infectious Diseases in April 2025. Dr. Jarolimova received her medical degree from Harvard Medical School in Boston and completed Internal Medicine/Global Medicine residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and Infectious Diseases fellowship in the combined Massachusetts General Hospital/Brigham and Women's Hospital program. She is an early career physician-investigator with a focus on disparities in sexual health and HIV. Her goal is to use implementation science and clinical epidemiology to improve access to care and clinical outcomes for sexually transmitted infections and to strengthen HIV prevention in high HIV prevalence settings. She has received NIH and institutional funding for research studies based in South Africa and in the U.S. Dr. Jarolimova is excited to join the Brown Infectious Diseases division to continue her clinical practice and research. ■

Antoun Kamel Joins the General Internal Medicine Division



Antoun Kamel, M.D.

We're thrilled to announce that Dr. Kamel will be joining the Division of General Internal Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital in July 2025. In his new role, he will serve as an attending physician on the inpatient consult service and provide care at The Center for Primary Care.

Dr. Kamel earned his medical degree from Cairo University Faculty of Medicine in 2010. He began his career with a year-long internship at Kasr Alainy Hospitals, followed by two years as a general practitioner serving a rural community through the Egyptian Ministry of Health. He then completed a cardiology residency at Shoubra General Hospital in Cairo, working across both cardiac ward and intensive care settings.

Dr. Kamel's medical journey continued in Doha, Qatar, where he completed a four-year internal medicine residency at Hamad Medical Corporation, serving as chief resident in his final year. He remained at Hamad to pursue a three-year ACGME-I-accredited fellowship in Pulmonary Medicine.

Currently in the final year of his internal medicine residency at Brown University, Dr. Kamel will graduate in June 2025. He is passionate about patient-centered care and looks forward to continuing his work in both inpatient and outpatient settings. ■

News and New Hires at the Cardiovascular Institute



David Shim, M.D., PhD is a board-certified Electrophysiologist with the Brown University Health Cardiovascular institute. He earned a medical degree and PhD in Neuroscience from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, TX. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at New York-Presbyterian – Columbia University Medical Center in New York, NY as well as fellowships in

both general cardiology and electrophysiology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA. His clinical and research interests are in complex ablation techniques, inherited arrhythmias, cardioneuroablation for vasovagal syncope, and lead extraction. In his free time he enjoys exploring food options, traveling and spending time outdoors, especially hiking and camping.



Lee Eschenroeder, M.D., FACC is a board-certified cardiologist with the Brown University Health Cardiovascular institute. He earned a medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, VA. He completed an internship and residency in Internal Medicine as well as a cardiology fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle,

Washington. His clinical interests include echocardiography and thoracic aortic disease as well as interests in medical education and the humanities. In his free time, he enjoys cycling, hiking, cooking and travel. ■

Faculty Leadership Roles and Accomplishments

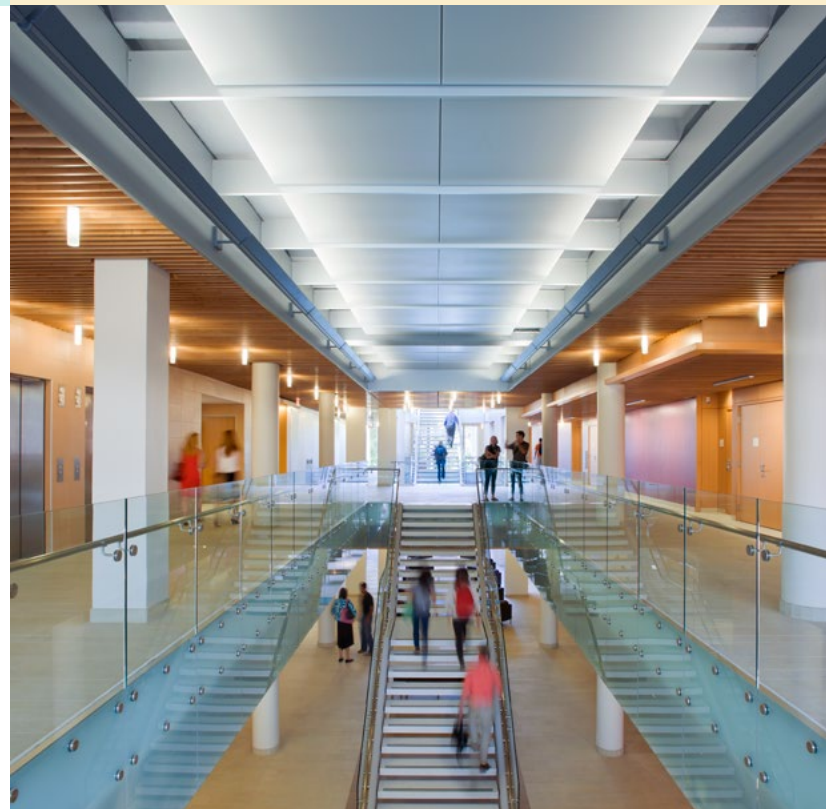
J. Dawn Abbott, M.D. was selected as President Elect of Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions (SCAI) and awarded Master of SCAI (MSCAI) in 2025.

Dan Philbin, M.D. was selected as the Chair of the ACC/AHA Digital Transformation committee.

Athena Poppas, M.D. elected Member of World Heart Federation Board 2025-26 and Co-Editor, Fuster & Hurst's The Heart, 2026

Chris Song, M.D. was selected as a member of the ACC/AHA Digital Transformation committee.

Philip Haines, M.D. was selected as editor of EchoSAP 2025 section.



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:



Gaurav Choudhary, M.D.
Ruth and Paul Levinger Professor of Cardiology



Gerard Nau, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine



Matthew Lorenz, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics



Jennifer O'Brien, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine



Dino Messina, M.D.
Associate Professor of Medicine



Jensy Stafford, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine



Jessica Murphy, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine



Hadeel Zainah, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Recent Research Awards

J. Dawn Abbott, M.D., Cardiology, received \$145,082.00 from MedAlliance for a clinical trial titled "A Prospective Randomized Single-Blind Multicenter Study to Assess the Safety and Effectiveness of the SELUTION SLR 014 PTCA Drug Eluting Balloon in the Treatment of Subjects with De Novo Coronary Lesions in Small Vessels." Dr Abbott also received \$349,338.00 from Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals for a Clinical Trial titled "ARTEMIS - Effects of ziltivekimab versus placebo on cardiovascular outcomes in patients with acute myocardial infarction"

Curt Beckwith, M.D., Infectious Diseases, received a grant for \$1,797,206.00 from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for the project "Collaborative Justice-Involved Research and Training Program on Substance Use and HIV at Brown University Health"

Rimini Breakstone, M.D., Hematology/Oncology Cancer Center, received \$276,348.00 from EMD Serono, Inc for a clinical trial "A Phase I, Two-Part, Multicenter, Open-Label First in Human Study of anti-CEACAM5 Antibody Drug Conjugate M9140 in Participants with Advanced Solid Tumors"

Maya Cohen, M.D., Pulmonary and Critical Care, received a grant for \$25,000.00 from the Rhode Island Foundation, for the project "Multimorbidity Effects on the Endothelium in Critically Ill Patients with Sepsis and ARDS" Dr Cohen also received a \$50,000.00 grant from the Society of Critical Care Medicine for the project "Multimorbidity Phenotypes and Effects on Endothelium in Critically-Ill Patients with Sepsis and Sepsis-induced ARDS"

Joseph Garland, M.D., Infectious Diseases, received a grant for \$2,450,352.00 from the Health Resources & Services Administration for the project "Ryan White Part C Outpatient EIS Program"

Jennie Johnson, M.D., Infectious Diseases, received \$2,075.00 from 60 Degrees Pharmaceuticals, Inc for a clinical trial "Expanded Access Protocol: Use of Tafenoquine for Treatment of Babesiosis in Immunocompromised Patients with Persistent Babesia microti Despite Prior Treatment"

Rami Kantor, M.D., Infectious Diseases, was awarded a 5-year R01 in the amount of \$3,397,262, to investigate HIV drug resistance in the new antiretroviral therapy era in adults cared for at the Academic Model Providing Access to Healthcare (AMPATH) in western Kenya.

James Klinger, M.D., Pulmonary and Critical Care, received \$490,584.33 from 35Pharma Inc. for a clinical trial titled "A Phase I, Multicenter, Open-Label, Multiple Ascending Dose Study Assessing the Pharmacokinetics, Safety, Pharmacodynamics, and Efficacy of HS135 Added to Background Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH) Therapy"

Adam Olszewski, M.D., Hematology/Oncology Cancer Center, received \$127,358.49 from AstraZeneca for a clinical trial "A Phase I/II Open-Label Multi-Centre Master Protocol to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of AZD0486 Monotherapy or in Combination with Other Anticancer Agents in Participants with Mature B-Cell Malignancies"

Ari Pelcovits, M.D., Hematology/Oncology Cancer Center, received \$58,149.93 from ADC Therapeutics SA for a clinical trial "A Phase 1b Open-Label Study to Evaluate the Safety and Anti-cancer Activity of Loncastuximab Tesirine in Combination with Other Anti-cancer Agents in Patients with Relapsed or Refractory B-cell Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma (LOTIS-7)"

Alexander Raufi, M.D., Hematology/Oncology Cancer Center, received \$441,981.00 from Sirtex Medical Limited for a clinical trial, "A phase II pilot study of yttrium-90 in combination with capecitabine and aTezolizumab for oligometastatic colorectal cancer with unresectable liver metastases (METEORITE) - MAIN SIRTEX"

John Reagan, M.D., Hematology/Oncology Cancer Center, received \$62,409.00 from the Hoosier Cancer Research Network Inc for a clinical trial "TAGALONG Trial: Phase II Study of Tagraxofusp and Azacitidine With or Without Venetoclax in Newly Diagnosed Secondary AML after Previous Exposure to Hypomethylating Agents" HCRN-AML20-472,"

Ankur Shah, M.D., Nephrology, received \$804,475.80 from CSL Behring, LLC for the clinical trial "A Phase 2b / 3, Multicenter, Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-controlled, Combined Dose-Finding and Cardiovascular Outcome Study to Investigate the Efficacy and Safety of CSL300 (Clazakizumab) in Subjects with End Stage Kidney Disease Undergoing Dialysis"

Navneet Singh, M.D., Pulmonary and Critical Care, received a \$24,160.00 grant from the Rhode Island Foundation for the project "The Liver is an Inflammatory Mediator of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension"

Peter Soukas, M.D., Cardiology, received \$314,004.00 from Acotec Technologies Limited for a clinical trial "Prospective Multi-Center Randomized Controlled Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of AcoArt Litos™ Paclitaxel Coated Percutaneous Transluminal Angioplasty (PTA) Balloon versus Non-Coated Standard Balloon Angioplasty"

Jie Tang, M.D., Nephrology, received \$103,402.84 from Vera Therapeutics, Inc. for the clinical trial "A Multicenter, Rollover Study to Evaluate the Long-Term Safety and Efficacy of Mature B-Cell Malignancies Atacicept"

Corey Ventetuolo, M.D., MS, Pulmonary and Critical Care, received a \$692,768.00 grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for the project "Pulmonary Artery Endothelial Cell Endotypes and the Role of Anoikis Resistance in Pulmonary Hypertension" ■

