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## Chairman's Message



Louis Rice, M.D.

“Change is the only constant in life”. This quote is attributed to the Greek philosopher Heraclitus. Although the quote was originated centuries ago, it remains quite relevant today, especially in the health care field. The medical literature is replete with studies examining practices that may or may not have a firm basis in good evidence, and we must always be willing to alter our practices in the light of carefully derived and confirmed new evidence. Even on an individual level, we must always be careful not to fall prey to confirmation bias that can prevent us from fully considering the different diagnoses that may be responsible for a given patient’s symptoms. As I have suggested before in this space, humility is an essential component to being a good physician. Winston Churchill said, “To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often.” As physicians, we are always striving to improve our performance, to approach perfection in our work. Change is the vehicle by which we achieve such growth.

Change is also constant on an organizational level, so it is important that we all become more comfortable with the transitions inherent in academic medical center operations. This past year has been particularly rich with change. At the Medical School, we have welcomed Dean of Medicine and Biological Sciences Mukesh Jain as well as several Associate Deans, including Pat Poitevien, formerly Director of the Pediatric Residency Program at Lifespan, as the Inaugural Senior Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Brittany Star Hampton, former Interim Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, as the Senior Associate

Dean for Medical Education. Timothy Babineau has stepped down as the CEO of the Lifespan Health System and Jim Fanale has announced he will be stepping down as CEO of Care New England. Within our own program, we have welcomed a new Internal Medicine House Staff Program Director, Rachel Simmons, replacing long-time Director Dom Tamaro, who will be taking a broader view of our Departmental Educational Programs as the Vice Chair of Education. I am also thrilled that Karen Tashima of our Infectious Diseases Division has taken on the responsibilities of Vice Chair of Faculty Affairs. Our Fellowship Directors have seen several recent changes in their roster — our new directors include Marcella Aquino in Allergy & Immunology, Kate French in Cardiology, Omar Hyder in Interventional Cardiology and Jency Stafford in Palliative Care. And of course, we have welcomed five new Chief Residents, a new group of interns, and have bid farewell to last year’s group of senior residents.

Whew! How are we to manage in the face of all this change?

First, it is important to understand that all our institutions have their own cultures that tend to persist despite changes in leadership. Institutions with positive cultures can take comfort in the fact that cultural change is difficult to accomplish. It is my view that we have a very positive culture within the Department of Medicine. Our faculty are deeply committed to education, research and providing the highest quality of care to our patients. Our house staff share these attributes and add a remarkable eagerness to teach and support each other, a feature that is a hallmark of our program. I have often said that learning to become a physician is necessarily hard — it is hard physically, intellectually,



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## Tashima Appointed Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs



**Karen Tashima, M.D.** was recently appointed as the Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs in the Department of Medicine.

Dr. Tashima is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of Infectious Diseases at the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University. She received her undergraduate degree in Biochemical Science at Harvard-Radcliffe University and her medical degree from Columbia University School of Physicians and Surgeons. She trained in Internal Medicine at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and in Infectious Diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1995, she joined the Infectious Disease Division at Brown. She has directed the HIV Clinical Trials program since 1998, helping to establish modern day highly effective and well tolerated HIV therapy. She serves as Chair of Lifespan IRB at The Miriam Hospital. Dr. Tashima was the ID fellowship director

from 2005-2012 and is Director of HIV Research in the Division. She has served on the Department of Medicine's Promotion Committee since 2017, and was awarded the Charles CJ Carpenter Physician of the Year Award by The Miriam Hospital Medical Staff Association in 2021 for her efforts in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Her duties as Vice Chair for Faculty Affairs will include chairing the Departmental Promotions Committee as well as focusing on a range of areas important to the growth and retention of our faculty. These will include developing and updating standards and practices for recruitment of new faculty, orienting new faculty after their arrival, monitoring, and advising faculty on progress toward and timeline of promotions, faculty development/mentoring/engagement, overseeing Departmental programs in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, all in close association and collaboration with leadership and relevant committees at the Warren Alpert Medical School. ■

*Chairman's Message, continued from page 1*

and emotionally — but it does not have to be obnoxious. The support I see our house staff offering each other and their student trainees is immensely gratifying to me, and an essential characteristic of our program that I believe should never change. I am confident that all the new leaders who have joined our programs share this view and all those existing faculty who remain in their educational roles will continue to have a positive influence on our training community.

We must also be aware that there are aspects of any culture that can inhibit our ability to move forward as an academic medical center and we should be open to changes that will help us to grow. We need to continue our emphasis on improving our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion efforts to make the environment in all our hospitals and practices welcoming and comfortable for individuals of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, and schools of thought. We need to continue to place emphasis on the wellness of all with whom we work, especially after the significant toll taken on us all by the sequential surges of the Covid-19 pandemic. We need to organize our practices in a way that optimizes access, convenience and quality for patients and maximizes the efficiency of our education and research. Efforts are ongoing to bring the research efforts of Brown, Lifespan and Care New England together under one umbrella. It is critical that these efforts are successful, and I urge all parties to be flexible and to be willing to make the necessary sacrifices which will lead to successes that, together, will be greater than the simple sum of the individual parts.

The future of high-quality, tertiary health care in the state of Rhode Island is not guaranteed — a fact which could threaten the well-being, not only of our patients, but of our research and educational missions as well. I urge all of us to be open to the efforts, plans, and ideas of our leaders (new and established) to affect the types of changes that will ensure world class health care for the citizens of Rhode Island for decades to come. It's an honor to serve our organization at such a time of exciting change and opportunity. ■

## Mermel Receives Lifetime Achievement Award



**Leonard Mermel, D.O.**, medical director of Lifespan's epidemiology and infection control department, has received the 2021 Milton Hamolsky

Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Physicians. The award recognizes both his contributions to the field of infection control and epidemiology and his overall excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine.

"I am honored to be the recipient of the Hamolsky Lifetime Achievement Award, and most fortunate to have known Dr. Hamolsky and his tremendous contributions to our medical community," said Dr. Mermel. "During my 30-plus years at Lifespan, my work has been focused on enhancing the quality and

effectiveness of healthcare delivered to the patients who we are honored to serve."

Over the last two years, Dr. Mermel has been a steady public face of Lifespan's COVID-19 response, sharing his expertise with a variety of local and national media outlets. He has co-authored over 350 articles, textbook chapters, and abstracts on infection control and infectious diseases, as well as US guidelines on prevention and management of intravascular catheter infections.

The Milton Hamolsky Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually to a senior College member whose excellence epitomizes the attributes of the award's namesake, Dr. Milton Hamolsky. Dr. Mermel was the 2016 recipient of The Milton Hamolsky Outstanding Physician Award from the Rhode Island Hospital medical staff association ■

## Graff Honored with Innovator Award



**Stephanie L. Graff, M.D., FACP**, of the Division of Hematology and Oncology, received the Woman Disruptor of the Year award, which goes to a woman

in the field who has emerged as a leader and an example to younger women of how a successful career can unfold. The awardee may have a career of positive disruption or more recent advancements through which she has made a positive impact within the specialty.

The award was presented during the ASCO Annual Meeting held in June during a ceremony in conjunction with Healio honoring the inaugural “Healio Disruptive Innovators in hematology/oncology.”

Graff, who serves on Healio’s Women in Oncology Peer Perspective Board, made big moves this year in her career and for the oncology community.

Graff recently moved to Lifespan Cancer Institute at Brown University where she is taking on a more academic role than in the past, while remaining involved in patient care.

Highlights of her career so far include work as a principal investigator on trials that resulted in new approvals — like Impassion130, which led to the first FDA approval of a targeted therapy

and an immunotherapy for breast cancer — and being part of the ASCO Leadership Development Program, during which she worked with a team on a professionalism initiative.

This year, Graff gave talks on collaborating with community providers for program success and how Implicit Bias impacts our teams and our patients. Her published work this year included data on sexual harassment in the oncology workplace.

She is committed to creating a culture of inclusion and equity in medicine; driving and designing clinical research that better represents the faces of persons at risk and/or diagnosed with cancer; and continuing to improve access to care.

“Change is always good,” Graff told Healio. “If it feels easy or too accessible, maybe it’s not enough of a challenge.”

For women in oncology considering career moves, she said that “doors are always open.”

“Women in general can sell themselves short and think opportunities are out of their reach,” she said. “I would encourage them to think bigger of themselves and to look for opportunities that will be a challenge and cause them to step into something that will present opportunities for growth.” ■

## Recent Faculty Awards and Honors

**Don Dizon, M.D.**, Division of Hematology & Oncology, was recently recognized by Cancer Health 25 as a “Remarkable individual helping people affected by cancer live their best lives.” He was also named to the Council of Medical Subspecialties-National Academy of Medicine-World Health Organization Collaboration Advisory Panel on Phase 2: Identifying Credible Sources of Health Information in Social Media.

**Thomas E. Sepe, M.D.**, Division of Gastroenterology, was the physician honoree at The American Liver Foundation’s 45th New England Legacy Gala.

**Katherine Sharkey, M.D.**, Medicine and Psychiatry and Human Behavior, was named Woman Physician of the Year by the Rhode Island Medical Women’s Association. ■

## News from the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Care

### New Hires



**Ashna Rajan, M.D.**, graduated from Chengalpattu Medical College in India and completed Internal Medicine residency at Saint Vincent Hospital in Worcester, MA. She completed

Geriatric Medicine Fellowship at Brown University in 2021, and subsequently completed Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship at Northwell Hofstra/Zucker School of Medicine/Long Island Jewish Medical Center in Manhasset, Long Island, NY in 2022. Dr. Rajan joined the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine in July 2022.

**Iva Esparza, AGNP-BC**, graduated from Yale University in New Haven, CT and completed the Institution’s Coach 4m - APRN Geriatric Fellowship. She is a board certified Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner, joining the Division of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine in September 2022.

### National Recognition and Faculty Honors

**Nadia Mujahid, M.D.**, was elected AGS Geriatric Surgery Co-management SIG Chair in June 2022.

**Edward Martin, M.D.**, was nominated to represent hospice physicians by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine and has been appointed to serve on the panel.

## News and Honors from the Division of Infectious Diseases



**Anu Shobayo, M.D.**, joined the Division of Infectious Diseases in September as an attending after completion of her Infectious Disease Fellowship at Brown.

She attended St. George’s University School of Medicine and did her internal medicine training at Maimonides Medical

Center in Brooklyn, New York. She hails from Nigeria and enjoys life in Rhode Island with her husband and young son. Please welcome her! She will be attending on the consult service at The Miriam Hospital, Rhode Island Hospital and Newport Hospital.

**Alan Tunkel, M.D.**, was appointed as Deputy Editor of ACP MKSAP, and was also appointed Co-Editor of State-of-the-Art Reviews Section of Clinical Infectious Diseases.

**Timothy P. Flanigan, M.D.**, was honored with a Founders Lifetime Achievement Award from RISE (Rhode Island Sponsoring Education). Dr. Flanagan also received a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition in honor of Receiving the Rhode Island Sponsoring Education's Lifetime Achievement Award.

## News from the Cardiovascular Institute

**J. Dawn Abbott, M.D.**, played a vital role in the development of CathSAP by contributing as an author of chapters on catheter-based management of noncoronary disease. Working with ACC staff, she has created high-quality educational materials that make ACC SAPs such a highly regarded resource. Dr. Abbott was also promoted to Deputy Editor of *Circulation: Cardiovascular Interventions*.

**Gaurav Choudhary, M.D.**, has been selected as a recipient of a Brown Midcareer Research Achievement Award.

**Philip Haines, M.D.**, was invited by TomTec to be an official speaker/educator for TomTec Academy speaking about LA Strain analysis.

**Tasnim Imran, M.D.**, was awarded PI on COBRE Research Project titled "Phenotyping Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction Using Non-Invasive Biomarkers".

**Nishant Shah, M.D.**, was chosen as this year's recipient of the ASNC Rising Star Award. This award is given annually to one ASNC early career physician who has demonstrated academic excellence,

contributed to the field of nuclear cardiology, and has provided substantial service to ASNC.

**Peter Soukas, M.D.**, was invited to serve as a member of SCAI's Vascular Disease Council from 2022-2025.

## New Hires



**Jessica Guidi, M.D.**, received her medical degree from the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and completed her residency at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

After working in the medical intensive care unit at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, she completed her general cardiology and advanced heart failure and transplant fellowships at the University of Michigan, where she served as chief fellow. Dr. Guidi's research interests include quality improvement and optimizing guideline-directed medical therapy in heart failure. She is a member of the American College of Cardiology.



**Rachna Kataria, M.D.**, received her medical degree from the Seth G.S. Medical College in Mumbai, India. She completed her residency in internal medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine.

She earned fellowships in both adult clinical cardiology from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, NY and advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology from Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Kataria's research interests include management of cardiogenic shock with a focus on temporary mechanical circulatory support, myocardial recovery, and building collaborative networks of cardiogenic shock care, as well as patient selection and management of durable mechanical circulatory support in advanced heart failure. She is also passionate about improving uptake of guideline-directed medical therapy for patients with heart failure and access to equitable care.

She is a member of the American College of Cardiology, the American Heart Association, the Heart Failure Society of America, and the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation.



**Matthew Kluge, M.D., M.A.**, earned both his master of arts in medical sciences and medical degree at Boston University and completed his residency in

internal medicine at Boston University Medical Center.

Dr. Kluge worked as a hospitalist at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, as well as an instructor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. Before coming to Lifespan, he completed his general cardiology fellowship at the University of Vermont Medical Center and served as an instructor of medicine at the University of Vermont Medical School.

Dr. Kluge's research interests include inflammatory marker analysis, silk-based vascular grafts, and erectile dysfunction in the trajectory of cardiovascular disease.



**Fahd Nadeem, M.D.**, completed his medical degree at the University of Toledo College of Medicine in Ohio and his residency in internal medicine at Case Western Reserve University, where

he also completed a cardiovascular medicine fellowship. He completed a fellowship in clinical cardiac electrophysiology at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Dr. Nadeem's research interests include implantable electronic devices, machine learning algorithms, and identifying heart failure risk factors.

He is a member of the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, the American College of Cardiology, and the Heart Rhythm Society.



**Verity Ramirez, M.D.**, completed her medical degree at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine in Rochester, MI, and her residency in internal medicine at the Maine Medical Center in Portland, ME. She completed a cardiology fellowship at the University of Connecticut.

Dr. Ramirez's research interests include infective endocarditis, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, coronary artery dissection, and behavior modification and cardiovascular disease.

Her work has been featured in such publications as the Journal of the Maine Medical Center and the Encyclopedia of Cardiovascular Research and Medicine.

She is a member of the American College of Cardiology, the American Medical Association, the American College of Physicians, and the American Medical Women's Association.

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## New Hires and News from the Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism

**Daryl Selen, M.D.**, has joined the faculty of the Endocrinology Division. She graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Neuroscience from Wellesley College in 2010. She received her medical degree in 2016 from the University of Vermont College of Medicine. She completed her Internal Medicine Residency training at Rhode Island Hospital, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University in 2019 followed by fellowship training in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism in 2022 at Massachusetts General Hospital. Her academic focus is in the area of Women's Health and Reproductive Endocrinology.

**Amanda Fernandes, M.D.**, and **Geetha Gopalakrishnan, M.D.**, have been awarded 4 industry grants to evaluate novel treatments for Classic Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia and Cushing's

syndrome as well as to study the efficacy of a new blood glucose testing and insulin delivery device. Dr. Gopalakrishnan has also been awarded a CDC-AACE grant to assess and improve vaccination rates in individuals with Diabetes.

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## News from the Division of General Internal Medicine

### Brandon del Pozo Hired as Research Scientist



**Dr. Brandon del Pozo, Ph.D., MPA, MA**, joined the Division of General Internal Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital as a Research Scientist in May of 2022, with corresponding appointments at Brown

University as an Assistant Professor of Medicine, and Health Services, Policy, and Practice (Research). Dr. del Pozo conducts NIH-funded research at the intersection of public health, public safety, and justice, focusing on substance use and the overdose crisis. Prior to research, he served as a police officer for 23 years. Nineteen were spent in the New York City Police Department, where he started on patrol in East Flatbush, Brooklyn, went on to command two patrol precincts, and served in the police commissioner's office. He also spent four years as Chief of Police of Burlington, Vermont, where he directed the city's interdisciplinary response to the opioid crisis. His efforts were associated with a substantial and sustained reduction in opioid overdose deaths. He was the 2016 recipient of the Police Executive Research Forum's Gary Hayes Award for excellence in police leadership, and his popular writing has been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and the New York Daily News. Dr. del Pozo's book, *The Police and the State: Security, Social Cooperation, and the Public Good*, is in production at Cambridge University Press. He earned a PhD from the City University of New York Graduate Center, an MPA from Harvard University, an MA from John Jay College, and a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth.

### Matthew Murphy Named Director of Resident Research

**Matthew Murphy M.D., MPH**, (he/him) is an Assistant Professor of Medicine with a secondary appointment as an Assistant Professor of Behavioral and Social Sciences in Brown's School of Public Health. In May 2022, Dr. Murphy was also named Director of Research for Brown's Internal Medicine Residency Program. His research focuses on preventing HIV acquisition among populations returning to the community after a period of incarceration. He earned his BA and MD degree at Loyola University Chicago and a dual MPH degree in Health Policy from the Andalusian School of Public Health and the French National School of Public Health. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Brown before joining as faculty.

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## New Hires in the Division of General Internal Medicine



**Quratul-ain Kaiser, M.D., MPH**, joined the Division in July after graduating from the Griffin Hospital Internal Medicine Program, Derby, CT in 2022.

Dr. Kaiser is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Public Health in 2019 and the Rawalpindi Medical College, Pakistan in 2015. Dr. Kaiser will be Teaching Faculty on our Med B Service and will be an ambulatory preceptor at the Center for Primary Care. She will be practicing out of the East Providence BMAP office.

**Anita Kaul, M.D.**, joined Brown Medicine in July after working at the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at New York Medical College at Westchester Medical center in 2014. Dr. Kaul is a graduate of the Govt. Medical College, Amritsar/Baba Farid University of Health Sciences in India 2015. Dr. Kaul is a Primary Care Provider at the East Providence Primary Care Center.



**Julio Blasco Jimenez, M.D.**, joined the Division in August after graduating from Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, MI. Dr. Blasco is a graduate of Pontificia Universidad Catolica Madre y

Maestra Medical School in Santiago, Dominican Republic in 2017. Dr. Blasco will be Teaching Faculty on our Med B Service and will be an ambulatory preceptor at the Center for Primary Care.



**Ibrahim Yusuf Abubeker, M.D.**, joined the Division in August after graduating from our own Internal Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Abubeker is a graduate of Marmara

Üniversitesi Tıp Fakültesi, Turkey in 2008. He will join our Med B Teaching Faculty and serve as a Preceptor in the Center for Primary Care. He will be co-directing our POCUS (patient of care ultrasound) curriculum for residents.

**Lynn Bowlby, M.D.**, joined the Division of General Internal Medicine in August. Dr. Bowlby completed her Internship and Residency at Brown Medical School, Department of Medicine and received her medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. Prior to joining the Division, Dr Bowlby worked as the Medical Director at Duke Outpatient Clinic Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC. She will be full-time at the Center of Primary Care where she will serve as the Assistant Medical Director.



**Katie Ann Kozacka, M.D.**, joined the Division in September after graduating from the University of Colorado Internal Medicine Residency Program. Dr. Kozacka is a graduate of

Dartmouth: Geisel School of Medicine in Hanover, NH in 2019. Dr. Kozacka will be Teaching Faculty on our Med B Service and will be an ambulatory preceptor at the Fain Miriam Hospital

resident clinic as well as a provider at the Adult Correctional Institution, as well as the Brown Medicine Academic Practice's Smithfield office.

## New Nursing and Integrated Behavioral Health Providers join Primary Care Practices

**Kristin Foskett, DNP**, joined Brown Medicine Primary Care Center in March after working at the One Community Health FQHC in Oregon. She completed her Doctor of Nursing at Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR in 2016.

**Susan Enck, Ph.D.**, joined Brown Medicine Primary Care Center in December following her previous role as a psychologist at Hanscom Air Force Base, MA. She completed her PhD, Clinical Psychology at Suffolk University in 2010.

**Jennifer M. Oswald, Ph.D.**, joined Brown Medicine Academic Practice in November following completion of her Postdoctoral fellowship at Brown University and the Providence VA Medical Center. She completed her PhD, Clinical Psychology at State University of New York at Albany in 2020.

**Mandy Conrad, Ph.D.**, joined Brown Medicine Primary Care practice in April following completion of her Postdoctoral Fellowship in Anesthesia, Perioperative and Pain Medicine at Stanford University. She completed her PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of Iowa in 2020.

**LaNeir Johnson, APRN, FNP**, joined Brown Medicine in September after working at Brown Medicine as a Nurse Care Manager and originally as a medical assistant. She completed her M.S.N., Family Nurse Practitioner in April. She will be a Primary Care Provider at the Brown Medicine Academic Practice (BMAP) in East Providence.

**Jillian Frasca, MSN, APRN, FNP-C**, joined Brown Medicine in September following her previous role at Accent Care in Westwood, MA. She completed her Nurse Practitioner training at Rivier University, NH in 2022. She practices at East Providence Primary Care.

## 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. This year's recipients were honored in a virtual ceremony that featured guest lecturer Yul Ejnes, M.D.

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:

**Charles L. Cronin, III, D.O.**  
*Assistant Professor of Medicine,  
Clinician Educator*

**Joanne Cunha, M.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Medicine*

**Andrew Foderaro, M.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Medicine,  
Clinician Educator*

**Vidya Gopinath, M.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Medicine,  
Clinician Educator*

**Nadia Mujahid, M.D.**  
*Associate Professor Medicine,  
Clinician Educator*

**Vijairam Selvaraj, M.D.**  
*Assistant Professor of Medicine,  
Clinician Educator*

## New Hires in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine

**Caitlin Butler, M.D.**, joined the Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine Division as an attending on August 1st. Dr. Butler comes to us from the Boston Medical Center, where she recently completed her Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas, Lawrence KS, and her medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine. She completed her residency at the University of Florida College of Medicine.

**Maya Cohen, M.D.**, and **Navneet Singh, M.D., MBA**, have joined the Pulmonary, Critical Care, and Sleep Medicine Division on the T32 Grant. Dr. Cohen recently completed her fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care at Brown University. She received her undergraduate degree at Cornell University and her MFA at the University of Wyoming. Dr. Cohen received her medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine and completed her residency at Temple University Hospital.

Dr. Singh recently completed his fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care at Brown University. He received his undergraduate degree and then went on to receive his MBA at Stony Brook University, New York. Dr. Singh received his medical degree from St. George's University, Grenada, West Indies and completed his residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY.

## Recently Awarded Grants

**Peter Bronk, Ph.D.**, Cardiovascular Institute, was awarded a 1-year study by Rhode Island Foundation for project title "Novel Therapy to Prevent Drug-Induced Sudden Cardiac Death."

**Gaurav Choudhary, M.D.**, Cardiovascular Institute, was awarded NIH SBIR grant as a co-PI in the amount of \$3 million over 3 years for project titled "Deep learning for algorithmic detection of pulmonary hypertension using a combined digital stethoscope and single-lead electrocardiogram."

**Sevdener Cizginer, M.D.**, Geriatrics, was awarded a Category 2 Brown Physicians Incorporated Academic Assessment Grant, "Optimizing care for older surgical patients: a theory-guided implementation science approach."

**Brandon del Pozo, Ph.D., MPA, MA**, General Internal Medicine, was awarded a K01 grant "Police Diversion to Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder: A Mixed Methods Study" and an R21 grant "Evaluating the Decriminalization of Non-Prescribed Buprenorphine in Rhode Island," both from NIDA.

**Gideon Koren, M.D.**, Cardiovascular Institute, was awarded Principal Investigator on R21 grant for project titled

"Atrial Fibrillation in Aging Heart: Role of Senescent Atrial Cells."

**Mitchell Levy, M.D.**, Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, was awarded a \$3.4 million grant by NHLBI, Assessment of Implementation Methods in Sepsis (AIMS study).

**Nadia Mujahid, M.D.**, Geriatrics, received a Category 3 Brown Physicians Incorporated grant, "Geriatric Teaching for the Surgical Nurses at RIH". This will be a lunch and learn series over the next 12 months.

**Matthew Murphy, M.D., MPH**, General Internal Medicine, was awarded a K23 grant "An Intervention to Improve HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Initiation, Adherence and Linkage to Care for Recently Incarcerated Men who Inject Drugs" from NIDA.

**Susan Ramsey, Ph.D.**, General Internal Medicine, was awarded an R21 grant "Alcohol Use, Intimate Partner Violence, and ART Adherence among Men Living with HIV who Have Sex with Men" from NIAAA.

**Natasha Rybak, M.D.**, Infectious Diseases, received a grant from the AIDS Clinical Trials Group (ACTG) for a Phase 3,

multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, trial of the clinical and antiviral effect of S-217622 in non-hospitalized high-risk participants with SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 Symptoms. She also received a grant from ACTG for Adaptive Platform Treatment Trial for Outpatients with COVID-19.

**Elena Salmoirago-Blotcher, M.D., Ph.D., FAHA**, Cardiovascular Institute, was awarded a one-year study from 8/25/22 to 8/31/2023 by National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute titles "Stress and Resilience in Women with Takotsubo Syndrome: Admin Supplement". She was also awarded 5-year study by National Institute on Aging titled "Targeting Cognitive Function and Interoceptive Awareness to Improve Self-Management in Patients with Co-Morbid Heart Failure and Cognitive Impairment", and was also awarded Principal Investigator on R01 grant, a MPI collaboration with HMS/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center/Miriam "Tai Chi Exercise and Wearable Feedback Technology to Promote Physical Activity in ACS Survivors."

**Sarita S. Warrior, M.D.**, General Internal Medicine, received \$288,500 for "AHEC Point of Service Maintenance and Enhancement (POSME)" from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

## Faculty Appointments | January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022 | Lifespan Hospitals

**Brandon del Pozo, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor (Research), General Internal Medicine

**Ronan Farrell, M.D.**, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator, Gastroenterology

**Cecilia Fix, M.D.**, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator, General Internal Medicine

**Galina Lagos, M.D.**, Assistant Professor, Hematology/Oncology

**Melissa McNeil, M.D.**, Professor, Clinician Educator, General Internal Medicine

**Benjamin Murphy, M.D.**, Assistant Professor, Clinician Educator, General Internal Medicine

**Anchela Rajeshwaran, M.D.**, Clinical Assistant Professor, General Internal Medicine

**Nagendran Tharmalingam, Ph.D.**, Instructor (Research), Infectious Diseases

**Estelle Torbey, M.D.**, Assistant Professor, Cardiology