



WLA SPOTLIGHT

A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows

Summer 2016 – Volume XXVII

Accomplishments, Appointments, Awards...

Volkan Adsay 2012 has been elected President of the 10,000+ member United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP). The USCAP has been the largest and most prestigious provider of continuing medical education (CME) for pathologists globally for more than a century, superbly integrating CME into the process for improving professional practice and patient outcomes by reducing the gap between evidence-based practices and adoption of those practices into clinical care.

Mary Galinski 2003 is the principal investigator for a project from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Army Research Laboratory (ARL). They are supporting the research through a \$6.4 million contract. Mary said “malaria is a potentially lethal disease, but resilience in some people and non-human primates allows them to control the disease and avoid adverse outcomes, so that the infection is not incapacitating. Our goals are to identify host features associated with resilience, thinking beyond the host’s immune response into the realms of physiology, biochemistry and pathogenesis, and develop interventions that could enhance that resilience.” Check out the link below for more information.

http://news.emory.edu/stories/2016/05/galinski_darpa_hammer_contract/index.html

The American Medical Group Association (AMGA) appointed **Deena Gilland 2009** as its newest member of the AMGA Public Policy Committee (PPC). The PPC sets the advocacy and policy agenda for AMGA and works closely with AMGA’s Public Policy Department to develop policy and to advocate for multispecialty medical groups and integrated delivery systems.

Chad Ritenour 2005, has assumed the role of Chief Medical Officer for EUH. Many of you have had the pleasure of working with him and know he is a thoughtful leader who is dedicated to supporting staff and physicians in delivering optimal care.

Stacy Higgins 2010 received the Evangeline Papageorge Teaching Award, the highest teaching award given by the School of Medicine. This is one of the most prestigious awards presented by the School of Medicine or Emory University.

Michelle Kegler 2006 received the Thomas Sellers Award. This award is presented to the faculty member of the Rollins School of Public Health who exemplifies the ideals of public health and who serves as a role model and mentor to his or her colleagues. The award is given to an individual who, like the man for whom it is named, represents the best qualities of collegiality.

Patrick Sullivan 2016 was sworn into the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) on May 25th at their 59th Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS Meeting in DC. The White House asks PACHA to provide, on an ongoing basis, recommendations on how to effectively implement the Updated National HIV/AIDS Strategy, as well as monitor the Strategy's implementation. This is a highly prestigious accomplishment and a testament to the fact that Patrick is revered as an expert in the HIV community.

Pat Capes 2012 was recently elected to the Board of Directors, Georgia College of Emergency Physicians.



Earlier this month, **Sandi Dunbar 2006** was an invited speaker to the British Cardiovascular Society in Manchester, UK.

Russ Price 2014 was elected Secretary of the International Society of Renal Nutrition and Metabolism (ISRNM).

Mary Jo Lechowicz 2011 was named Vice-Chair of Education for the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology. She was also named Outstanding Young Alumnae of the State University of New York at Syracuse for 2016.

Kimberly Rask 2004 has been named to the Steering Committee for the National Quality Forum's newly launched Measure Incubator, which aims to accelerate the development of quality measures by matching stakeholders with measure concepts to measure development experts, data resources, and funding.

Amy Chen 2010 was appointed Vice Chair for Faculty Development in the Department of Otolaryngology.

Haian Fu 2015 and his team were selected as one of the 15 specialized centers in the NCI Experimental Therapeutics Program's Chemical Biology Consortium.

The Atlanta Business Chronicle has selected these Emory health sciences physicians and researchers as winners or finalists in its annual Health Care Heroes Awards competition:

Wendy Armstrong 2011, MD, winner in the *Physician* category, is medical director of Grady Health System's Ponce de Leon Infectious Disease Clinic and a professor of medicine at Emory University School of Medicine. She is at the forefront of efforts to combat the HIV/AIDS crisis and provide affected populations with the treatment and knowledge they need to prevent the spread of the virus. She directs the care of nearly 5,000 AIDS patients who come to the center for medical care and mental health, substance abuse and dental treatment.

Amelia Langston 2010, MD, finalist in the *Physician* category, is medical director of the Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant Program at Winship Cancer Institute and professor of hematology and medical oncology at Emory School of Medicine. Langston leads a team of specialists who treat the most complicated cases of blood cancer, and they will soon celebrate the 5,000th bone marrow transplant at Emory University Hospital. Langston joined the Winship team in 1998. She is known for her passion and enthusiasm in working with both patients and colleagues and for her keen understanding of the science behind transplant medicine and how to relate that to clinical care.

A special ceremony to plant the 5,000th flag representing patients who have received a bone marrow transplant is tomorrow, June 21st, at 9:30 on the lawn in front of the School of Medicine.

Emory's TAVR Team, including Vasilis Babaliaros, MD, Peter Block, MD, Robert Guyton, MD and **Vinod Thourani 2011**, MD, are finalists in the *Health Care Innovation* category. Since 2007, this team of Emory physicians has helped revolutionize the treatment of severe aortic stenosis, leading the national effort to study and advance a new nonsurgical procedure called transcatheter aortic valve replacement or TAVR. TAVR is a lifesaving alternative for patients at high risk for open-heart surgery, allowing a physician to replace a failing aortic valve through a catheter inserted through a small incision in the thigh or the side of the chest and delivering a fully collapsible replacement valve to the diseased valve site. Emory physicians laid the groundwork for TAVR years ago, and the team has spent nearly a decade bringing it to critically ill patients, performing approximately 1,500 TAVR procedures to date, publishing numerous studies and amassing the largest body of experience in the Southeast and among the top five U.S. sites.



[Fellows in the News](#)

Pain Medicine News | [Chronic pain guideline adherence examined](#)

March 21, 2016

Anne Marie McKenzie-Brown 2008, MD, associate professor of anesthesiology at Emory University School of Medicine and director of the Division of Pain Management at the Emory University Hospital Midtown, both in Atlanta, also said that while it's good to convey the message of the importance of adherence to guidelines, this research needs to be independently reproduced--including appropriately dealing with all the confounding factors.

Huffington Post | [Patty Duke's death announcement is a milestone for sepsis awareness](#)

March 30, 2016

What's more, sepsis is often thought of as a hospital-acquired infection, making doctors more likely to look for it among hospital patients and the chronically ill. But about two thirds of cases are first documented by the emergency department, which means that they were acquired outside of a hospital setting, explains **Dr. Craig Coopersmith 2012**, professor of surgery at Emory University School of Medicine and the former president of the Society of Critical Care Medicine.

Parent Herald | [Five things parents do that children hate](#)

March 30, 2016

Good intentions aside, there are times that adolescents get annoyed and embarrassed with what their parents do. A psychologist specializing in kids and families at Emory University in Atlanta, **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, PhD, explained that it's part of teen development where adolescents want to be apart from their parents, resulting in parent rejection.

Reuters via Fox News | [Less invasive heart valve implant outperforms surgery in study](#)

April 3, 2016

A minimally invasive procedure to replace the aortic heart valve is superior to open surgery for patients with an intermediate risk of complications, according to a study that could pave the way for wider use of the approach. "It seems likely that TAVR will become the new benchmark for the treatment of severe aortic stenosis in intermediate-risk patients," Dr. **Vinod Thourani 2011**, professor at Emory University School of Medicine and a lead investigator for the study, said in an interview. [MD Magazine](#) | [Medpage Today](#)

The Telegraph | [Drop of blood can reveal deadly stress levels](#)

April 2, 2016

"We've always believed that stress can be harmful to cardiac health," said lead study author Dr. **Arshed Quyyumi 2012**, professor of medicine at Emory University School of Medicine. "We now show that this harm is also reflected by elevated levels of circulating troponin in the circulation. With this study, for the first time doctors have a way to measure that impact with a high sensitive troponin test."

Atlanta Journal Constitution subscription required | [Encore for Bruce](#)

April 10, 2016

Emory neurologist Dr. **Stewart Factor 2011** recommended Deep Brain Stimulation to patient and pianist Bruce Gilbert after Gilbert had exhausted his pharmaceutical options. Surgeon Dr. Jon T. Willie performed the procedure at Emory University Hospital using a relatively new technology in which much of the procedure occurs while the patient is inside an extra-wide MRI machine, allowing him to map Bruce's brain to accurately guide the wires to the target area.

CNN | [Conquering the 'ewww' factor of the public potty](#)

April 10, 2016

"Basically, everybody is fearful of public restrooms," said Dr. **Lisa Bernstein 2010**, assistant professor at Emory



University School of Medicine. Recent bathroom additions like automatic hands-free faucets and paper towel dispensers diminish contact between your hands and bathroom items that may bear bacteria, Bernstein said.

WXIA-TV | [Schumer to 'Glamour': I'm not plus-size](#)

April 6, 2016

Emory professor and chief psychologist at Grady **Nadine Kaslow 2004** discusses the "plus-size" label and whether it is empowering or alienating.

Associated Press via New York Times | [Report: Third of suicides in US are among middle-aged whites](#)

April 22, 2016

Nadine Kaslow 2004, an Emory University researcher and past president of the American Psychological Association, was interviewed about a new CDC report that provides a detailed look at the latest year's suicide statistics, and a broader look at how much the situation has changed over 15 years. This story was carried in more than 100 additional media outlets.

Associated Press TV | [Study tracks football concussions, resuming play](#)

May 3, 2016

The first concussion study of its kind found youth football players are more likely to return to play less than a day after injury than those in high school and college. Emory University physician **David Wright 2015** says there is no reporting mechanism and that makes it difficult to find epidemiological data to determine how big the problem really is.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution subscription required | [Hospital CEO knows power of therapy dogs from her family's experience](#)

May 5, 2015

When nurses recently approached Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital CEO **Heather Dexter 2015** about expanding the "Happy Tails Pet Therapy" program to the in-patient cancer treatment unit, Dexter didn't hesitate in supporting a move toward incorporating more therapy dogs in the hospital.

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Health-care heroes physician winner: Armstrong works to reduce HIV/AIDS crisis](#)

May 13, 2016

As medical director of Grady Health System's Ponce de Leon Infectious Disease Center, Dr. **Wendy Armstrong 2011** directs the care of nearly 5,000 AIDS patients who come to the center and is at the forefront of efforts to combat the HIV/AIDS crisis and provide affected populations with the treatment and knowledge they need to prevent the spread of the virus. Armstrong is also chair-elect of the national HIV Medical Association, a professor of medicine at the Emory School of Medicine, program director for Emory's Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program and active in the Emory Center for AIDS Research.

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Health-care heroes finalists](#)

May 13, 2016

Physician Finalist: Dr. Amelia "Amy" Langston 2010, director of the Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant Program at Winship Cancer Institute and professor of hematology and medical oncology at Emory University School of Medicine, is known for going the extra mile for her patients.

Innovation Finalist: Since 2007, a team of Emory Healthcare physicians has helped revolutionize treatment of severe aortic stenosis, leading the national effort to study and advance a new nonsurgical procedure called transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR). The Emory TAVR physician team that started this procedure includes cardiothoracic surgeons **Vinod H. Thourani 2011** and Robert Guyton and cardiologists Vasilis Babaliaros and Peter Block.



NBC Today Show | [Midlife crisis: Is it a myth?](#)

May 23, 2016

Nadine Kaslow 2004, vice chair of psychiatry at Emory University School of Medicine, comments on the concept of the midlife crisis and whether or not it exists, what defines middle age, and the relationship between age and happiness.

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Emory, UGA, Georgia Tech researchers win \\$6.4 million](#)

May 25, 2016

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Army Research Laboratory (ARL) awarded a team of Emory University, The University of Georgia, and Georgia Tech researchers a \$6.4 million grant to strengthen resilience following malaria infections. “Malaria is a potentially lethal disease, but resilience in some people and non-human primates allows them to control the disease and avoid adverse outcomes, so that the infection is not incapacitating,” said **Mary R. Galinski 2003**, professor of medicine and infectious diseases at Emory University School of Medicine, Emory Vaccine Center and Yerkes National Primate Research Center,

Denver Post | [When 11 hours aren't enough: The rare disorder of perpetual sleepiness](#)

June 9, 2016

Idiopathic hypersomnia patients sleep for excessively long periods — generally more than 11 hours at a stretch — but even after awakening in daytime hours often find themselves slipping back into slumber. **David Rye 2007**, a professor of neurology in the sleep program at the Emory University School of Medicine, and more than 5,000 other physicians, researchers and experts will converge on Denver for SLEEP 2016, a gathering of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies starting Sunday at the Colorado Convention Center. Rye has identified biological activity that may be the “parking brake” on wakefulness that triggers the disorder in some patients.

The Conversation | [How can hospitals possibly prepare for disasters? With practice and planning](#)

June 14, 2016

Sam Shartar 2013, Senior Administrator, Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response, Emory University, discusses hospital and emergency room preparedness strategies that are effective in responding to catastrophic events such as the recent attack in Orlando.

[Happy Trails](#)

Elizabeth Larkins 2014

SAVE THE DATE – Don't miss this one!

Please save the date for our next WLA Lunch & Leadership.

Many of you have had the pleasure of hearing

TOM BELL

at your WLA sessions and this year on

SEPTEMBER 14th

you can hear him again! This will be held in the WHSCAB Auditorium.

