



# WLA SPOTLIGHT

## *A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows*

Fall 2014 – Volume XXI

### *Accomplishments, Appointments, Awards...*

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**Chad Ritenour 2005** was appointed as the Associate Chief of Surgical Services for Emory University Hospital effective September 1. In this capacity, he will look for ways to improve operational efficiencies on a day to day basis as well as help provide strategic direction as we move forward

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The Institute of Medicine (IOM) elected **Christian P. Larsen 2003** to its new class of 70 leading health scientists and 10 foreign associates.

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**Arshed Quyyumi 2012** had a very nice article in the Emory Report on his work in cell therapy to treat heart attacks.

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**Monica Farley 2009** was elected to the Emory University Presidential Advisory Committee and will be receiving the Founder's Medal Award from the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation in February 2015 in New Orleans. Also Monica's appointment as Director of the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Medicine has been finalized.

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In September 2014, Professor **Volkan Adsay 2012**, M.D., Vice Chair and Director of Anatomic Pathology, was named Vice President of the U.S.-Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP), putting him on track to become USCAP President in April of 2016. USCAP, with more than 10,000 members is the largest and most distinguished academic professional organization for anatomic pathologists in North America.

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**Costas Hadjipanayis 2014** is the current President of the Georgia Neurosurgical Society. He has also been appointed the Director of the Emory Brain Tumor Center of the Winship Cancer Institute.

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**Karen Shields-Phillips 2013** has a new appointment/promotion. She is the Specialty Director of Peri-Operative Services at EUHM.

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In January, **Greg Martin 2011** will chair the annual International Congress for the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the largest multi-professional organization dedicated to critical care in the world.

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**Larry Sperling 2008** currently serves as President of the American Society for Preventive Cardiology as well as Chairman of the American College of Cardiology's Cardiometabolic Working Group and the National Cardiometabolic Alliance. He also serves as a delegate (leadership committee) of the World Heart Federations Global Alliance for CV Prevention and a consultant to U.S. News & World Report as one of 20 diet experts on the "Best Diets" rankings. Larry recently was Sharma Visiting Professor and gave the Simon Dack Memorial Lecture at Mt. Sinai Hospital in N.Y.

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**Sandi Dunbar 2006** was appointed to the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science (CANS) Specialty Topic Conference Program Committee. The specialty topic is Family Caregiving.

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**Justin Remais 2014** published a paper in the December issue of *Nature Climate Change* examining "[Delays in reducing waterborne and water-related infectious diseases in China under climate change](#)," which was described in [this press release](#) and covered by several media outlets.

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**Pam Cosper 2011** was awarded the March of Dimes Nurse of the Year - Nursing Administration Category. Sponsored by the Georgia Chapter of the March of Dimes, Pam and 3 other Emory nurses were recognized for their tireless efforts to provide exceptional patient care, compassion and service to patients in our community.

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**Jonathan Kaufman 2014** is the new medical director of Winship Cancer Institute's Ambulatory Infusion Centers.

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The American Partnership for Eosinophilic Disorders (APFED), a patient advocacy group based out of Atlanta, announced its support of new federally funded research that will focus on eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases (EGIDs). **Wendy Book 2012** volunteers with this group, and has been actively involved in the application process, and will be an active participant in this collaborative Consortium with our scientific partners at the NIH and eight academic medical institutions.

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**Ted Johnson 2010** has been named physician director of Emory Medicine Primary Care and Population Health and chair of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. He is also Interim Director of Hospital Medicine and Director of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology in the Department of Medicine.

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**Wendy Armstrong 2011** has been appointed to Vice Chair of Education and Integration in the Department of Medicine. As a physician, researcher, and public health leader, she has spent her career studying disparities and barriers in access to care.

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The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has elected **Haian Fu 2015** and **Fadlo Khuri 2003** as 2014 Fellows.

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**Jada Bussey-Jones 2014** received a 2014 Dean's Teaching Award. Recipients are nominated by colleagues and students and chosen by the Teaching Awards Committee for their dedication to teaching and their many contributions as course directors and mentors.

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**Cheryl Day 2015** was recognized as a 2014 award member of the 1% Club, which recognizes faculty whose NIH proposals ranked in the top 1% by NIH reviewers.

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The Fall 2014 Winship Magazine is loaded with stories that feature many WLA Fellows: **Sagar Lonial 2012**, **Larry Boise 2014**, **Fadlo Khuri 2003**, **Amy Langston 2010**, **Jonathan Kaufman 2014**, **Keith Delman 2011**, **Haian Fu 2015**, **Michelle Kegler 2006**, **Sheryl Gabram-Mendola 2008**, **Ruth O'Regan 2009**, **Paula Vertino 2006**, **Kathleen Rodger 2012**, and **Charise Gleason 2015**.

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## *Happy Trails*

**Grace Pavlath 2008** accepted a new position as Senior Vice President - Scientific Program Director of Research at the Muscular Dystrophy Association October 31.

**Rob Stephenson 2013** will be leaving Emory at the end of the semester to take a position as Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Michigan.

**John Votaw 2012** will be retiring at the end of the year.

**Amir Emamifar 2008** is now Director of Medical Affairs at Baxter Healthcare Corporation near Chicago.



## [Staying Linked](#) - A feature to keep you connected with other fellows:



### [Cocaine use is epidemic in this country. Up to 10 percent of people who try cocaine become addicted to it.](#)

Neuroscientist **Leonard Howell 2005** hopes to loosen the grip of addiction. Using sophisticated PET and fMRI imaging at Yerkes National Primate Research Center, Dr. Howell has found that initial cocaine use in rhesus monkeys that were previously drug naïve activated an area of the brain within the prefrontal cortex that is part of the reward pathway. However, when the monkeys used cocaine for an extended period of time, to model compulsive drug use in humans, the areas of the brain that were affected spread markedly to include regions responsible for compulsive behavior, cognition and emotion.

#### **Leonard Howell**

"Traditionally, drug addiction research has focused on these brain reward pathways that involve dopamine transmission," says Howell, who was recently appointed associate director for Scientific Programs at Yerkes. "However, with chronic drug use, the cortical systems that involve serotonin transmission become very important."

Howell and his team have identified a specific serotonin receptor - the 2A receptor - that becomes hyperactive with cocaine use. He was then able to administer a drug that blocks that particular receptor, and the monkeys became resistant to relapse.

"We allowed monkeys to self administer cocaine for some extended period of time, followed by long-term abstinence from cocaine use," he says. "If we then gave them another dose of cocaine, they would go back to their drug-taking behavior. However, if we give the monkeys this receptor blocker, they don't start using cocaine again even after getting the cocaine. It completely blocked a relapse."

Howell believes his findings hold great promise for treatment of cocaine addiction. "We are very excited about this," he says. "The cortical mechanisms in primates are very similar to those in humans, so the fact that this drug works so well in monkeys is very promising."

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## [Fellows in the News](#)

**WAGA-TV** | [Surviving heart disease](#)

**Dr. Robert Taylor 2007**, cardiologist of Emory Healthcare, talks about heart disease, the silent killer.

**CBS News** | [Hospitals brace for patients with Ebola worries](#)

October 2, 2014

Dr. **Alex Isakov 2010**, with the Office of Emergency Management at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, added: "If the Ebola case in Dallas spurs patients to present to clinics or hospital emergency departments for evaluation, it is important to note that emergency departments nationwide annually prepare for a large influx of patients with flu-like symptoms, especially during influenza season."

**WSB-AM Atlanta** | [Alex Isakov interviewed about Ebola](#)

October 1, 2014

Dr. **Alex Isakov 2010**, with the Office of Emergency Management at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, spoke about Ebola at it relates to the patients treated recently at Emory University Hospital and the current diagnosed case of Ebola in Dallas.



*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* Subscription Required | [Transplants free patients of Type 1 diabetes](#)  
According to Dr. **Christian Larsen 2003**, the Emory transplant surgeon who headed up the trial with Dr. **Nicole Turgeon 2015**, early experiments in islet transplantation were considered failures, but interest was rekindled in 2000, "It's pretty miraculous that you can infuse a small number of cells into the pancreas and it completely reverses diabetes when the transplant is successful," Larsen said.

*Georgia Health News* | [Poll: Georgians like expansion, but not ACA overall](#)  
October 9, 2014

**David Howard 2013**, an Emory University health policy professor asked by GHN to review the results, said Thursday that the survey reflects the negative view of the health law overall by Georgians.

*New York Times* | [Smell turns up in unexpected places](#)  
October 13, 2014

The same year, **Grace Pavlath 2008**, a biologist at Emory University, published a study on olfactory receptors in skeletal muscles. She found that bathing the receptors in Lyral, a synthetic fragrance redolent of lily of the valley, promoted the regeneration of muscle tissue.

*Advocate* | [Op-ed: Couples invite harm when they don't talk about HIV](#)  
October 23, 2014

**Rob Stephenson 2013**, an associate professor of global health in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University writes, "In a relationship there are myriad issues to manage. But there is one issue that can often be harder to manage — how do we as a couple deal with HIV?"

*Newsweek* | [Ebola, from the tarmac to the isolation unit](#)  
October 29, 2014

Dr. **Alexander Isakov 2010**, a member of Emory University's emergency medical faculty and a physician qualified in emergency medicine and emergency medical services, was interviewed about preparing the team who transported Ebola patients to Emory University Hospital.

*WABE* | [Organizations gear up for round two of ACA enrollment](#)  
November 13, 2014

In the meantime, the U.S. Supreme Court will soon determine whether residents can get federal subsidies in states that chose not to create their own exchanges. **David Howard 2013** is an associate professor in Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. He said if justices side with challenging the Affordable Care Act, it could mean many Georgians will lose their subsidies. "We don't know how many of the people who currently signed up for exchange plans in the state of Georgia would continue to buy plans and pay premiums out of their own pocket if they didn't get subsidies, but you would have to guess it would be many fewer and the marketplace would unravel or get smaller."

*HealthDay News* via Philadelphia Inquirer | [Emotional stress affects women's hearts](#)  
November 17, 2014

Emotional stress is more likely to physically impact younger women with heart disease compared to men with heart disease and seniors of both genders, new research, presented at the American Heart Association annual meeting shows... "Women who develop heart disease at a younger age make up a special high-risk group because they are disproportionately vulnerable to emotional stress," study author Dr. **Viola Vaccarino 2010**, chairwoman of cardiovascular research and epidemiology at Emory University's School of Public Health, said in an AHA news release.

*WXIA-TV Atlanta* | [Emory and GA. Tech to help with concussions](#)  
November 14, 2014

Dr. **Michelle LaPlaca**, biomedical engineer at Georgia Tech and Emory, and Dr. **David Wright 2015**, Emory emergency medicine physician, discuss iDETECT, a system for rapidly and comprehensively evaluating



head injuries in athletics and the military. iDETECT was one of seven winners in the Health Health Challenge II, cosponsored by the NFL, GE and Under Armour. [Emory News Center](#)

Check out this great story on the NFL and [David W. Wright 2015](#) and his team!

[http://news.emory.edu/stories/2014/11/head\\_health\\_challenge/campus.html?utm\\_source=ebulletin&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=EmoryReport\\_EB\\_111814](http://news.emory.edu/stories/2014/11/head_health_challenge/campus.html?utm_source=ebulletin&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EmoryReport_EB_111814)

*WABE* | [Organizations gear up for round two of ACA enrollment](#)

November 13, 2014

Round two of open enrollment under the Affordable Care Act starts Saturday. [David Howard 2013](#), associate professor at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health takes a look at efforts to sign up residents in our state.

*WAGA-TV Atlanta* | [New rules could affect thousands of Georgians waiting on kidney transplant](#)

December 3, 2014

Under the previous system, Emory kidney transplant surgeon Dr. [Nicole Turgeon 2015](#) says a major factor for transplant candidates was waiting time: how long they'd been on the transplant waiting list. How long they'd been undergoing dialysis didn't really count. But that's changed. Dr. Turgeon says, "One of the major differences is that now you will be given credit for your dialysis time."

*Boston Globe* | [My quest to flush out open house crashers](#)

December 7, 2014

[Nadine Kaslow 2004](#), a psychologist at Emory University and president of the American Psychological Association, does not think being a looky-loo is necessarily a cause for concern. It might just be a symptom of the American Dream. "We all have the sense that bigger and more is better. It's part of this culture of moving up in the world. But then there are some who are curious about other people in an extreme way."

*Associated Press* via Atlanta Journal-Constitution | [Studies: Progesterone fails to help brain injuries](#)

*Wall Street Journal* | [Progesterone treatment fails to minimize brain trauma, studies find](#)

*HealthDay* | [Hormone treatment for brain injury fails to meet expectations](#)

December 10, 2014

The results were from a study of 882 patients, called Protect III, headed by doctors at Emory University in Atlanta, and from another study of 1,195 patients, called Synapse, headed by doctors at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, N.Y. Both reports were published in Wednesday's issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. Emory's Dr. [David Wright 2015](#) was quoted.

*WRBL-TV Columbus, Georgia* | [Emory researchers hoping for FDA approval on agent that turns cancer cells pink](#)

December 3, 2014

Dr. [Costas Hadjipanayis 2014](#) is leading a team at Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute in the research to treat Glioblastoma, a very aggressive form of brain tumor.

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**WLA Lunch & Leadership** – The next WLA Lunch & Leadership will be held on **Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The speaker and location are to be determined.

Don't forget we have a number of new books and CDs in the WLA Library and hope you will be able to take advantage of this leadership resource.

If you would like to checkout a book, DVD or CD from the library, let us know, and we'll deliver it to your office within a few days. Send a request via email to: [WLAlibrary@emory.edu](mailto:WLAlibrary@emory.edu).

