



WLA SPOTLIGHT

A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows

Fall 2015 – Volume XXV

Accomplishments, Appointments, Awards...



Wendy Book 2012 and team have received a CDC Cooperative grant for "Surveillance of Congenital Heart Defects across the Lifespan" that has been funded for \$1.7 million over four years. Wendy will serve as the principal investigator. This will expand on work initiated in 2012 on development of a Pilot Surveillance Project with the CDC and two other cooperative sites. As part of this project, they will collaborate with a number of sites across the state of Georgia including patient advocacy, nonprofits, and community healthcare systems to improve access and quality of care for those with congenital heart defects.

In September, the Congenital Heart Center of Georgia hosted a conference with international attendance on "Frontiers in Fontan Failure" - an interactive symposium bringing experts from top centers together to discuss management of these most complex patients. It was a huge success - with a number of working groups coming out of the meeting. Wendy's partners Mike McConnell and Rusty Rodriguez served as the course directors.

Wendy also participated in a similar American College of Cardiology organized working group on diagnosis and management of Fontan Liver Disease to discuss solutions to diagnosis, staging, and management of liver disease associated with the Fontan circulation. The Congenital Heart Center of Georgia, in conjunction with our hepatology colleagues, have been leaders in the field of Fontan Liver Disease.

Elizabeth Larkins 2014 won the Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital Mercy Leader of the Year Award.

Sandra G. Franklin 2011, Director of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library, was recognized as the 2015 Southern Chapter/Medical Library Association's Academic Librarian of the Year during the group's annual meeting in October. To be eligible for this award, the candidate must have worked in an academic health library setting for five years and be a member of the Southern Chapter of the Medical Library Association. The successful applicant will have demonstrated excellence in research, instruction, and/or service in health librarianship. Sandra is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Medical Library Association, and Chair of the Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries' Future Leadership Committee.

Julie Swann 2016 has been named the Chief Nursing Officer for Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital.

Cameron Taylor 2014 has been appointed as vice president for Government and Community Affairs.

Recently promoted to Professor: **Rana Chakraborty 2009, Seth Force 2008, Viraj Master 2014, Nael McCarty 2012, Sampath Prahalad 2013, Tammie Quest 2008, and Chad Ritenour 2005.**

Recently promoted to Associate Professor: **Mark El-Deiry 2016, Jamlik-Omari Johnson 2016, and Field Willingham 2015.**

Heather Dexter 2015 has been named CEO of Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital.

June Connor 2007, COO and CNO at EUOSH, is serving as interim chief nurse executive and chief patient services officer at EUH.

Lucky Jain 2003 was named interim director of the Pediatric Center.



Maureen Kelley 2003 was inducted into the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) Fellowship during a formal ceremony at the AAN's Annual Conference and Meeting in Washington, D.C. in October.

Cheryl Day 2015 and **Vinod Thourani 2011** were recognized as 2015 members of the Millipub Club, which recognizes authors of a paper with 1,000 citations.

Kathy Griendling 2008 is a 2015 member of the 1% Club, which recognizes faculty whose NIH proposals ranked in the top 1% by NIH reviewers.

Bob Taylor 2007 was recently inducted into the American Clinical and Climatological Association.

Costas Hadjipanayis 2014 was appointed Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Mount Sinai Beth Israel.

Sandra Dunbar 2006 received the Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Heart Association Council of Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing in November 2015.

Kristy Martyn 2015 was invited to serve on American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) newly established Health Policy Advisory Council. The purpose of this council is to convene policy experts from AACN member schools that can provide strategic insights to guide the association in its development of an expanded policy portfolio surrounding current and emerging areas in health, healthcare, and higher education.

Erwin Van Meir 2006 has a new NIH-NINDS-R01 grant entitled "*Targeting mechanisms of medulloblastoma formation*".

Julie Hollberg 2013 was recognized as the Department of Medicine's Hidden Gem during Faculty Recognition Week. Here's what was written in the program:

"Even before becoming Chief Medical Informatics Officer (CMIO), Julie emerged as a leader in our inpatient computerized physician order entry (CPOE) implementations and her ever-present support during those go-lives was a critical success factor...She has become nationally recognized for her leadership in this area and is a sought after speaker and advisor on IT implementations to improve care."

Wendy Book 2012 and her colleague, Dr. Mike McConnell, made a presentation to the Pediatric Center Board in November called Developing a Transition /Transfer Process in Congenital Heart Disease.

Faculty members **Corrine Abraham** (nursing) and **Anne Tomolo 2014** (medicine) have worked together in care and training at the Atlanta VA Medical Center (VAMC) for three years now, and their latest collaboration is a new center to coordinate care for patients with dementia. The Specialty Care Education Center of Excellence for Cognitive Disorders, co-directed by Abraham and Tomolo, is funded by a \$1.5 million three-year award from the Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition to coordinating care, it will provide a platform for teaching Emory nursing students and medical residents and fellows and social work students from other schools as part of interprofessional teams.

Michael Zwick 2016 will represent Emory on the South Big Data Regional Innovation Hub Steering Committee.

Dan Brat 2010 is investigating biomarkers of human gliomas in an *in silico* Center for Brain Tumor Research, using large data sets such as the Cancer Genome Atlas. In a recent study Dan led, researchers found that molecular diagnostics can be much more precise and consistent than traditional microscopic classification in diagnosis and prognosis of brain tumors.



[Fellows in the News](#)

Vanity Fair | [Turing Pharmaceuticals CEO discusses drug pricing](#)

September 22, 2015

Dr. Wendy Armstrong 2011, professor of infectious diseases at Emory University, told VF.com that while the company does make the drug more affordable if patients can't pay the full price, that requires heaps of paperwork, income statements, and barriers that make it difficult for sick people to be treated. "These are late-stage HIV patients, individuals who may not have had access to healthcare, who are often minorities or poor," she said. "That's just wrong."

Georgia Public Broadcasting | [Nursing shortage](#)

September 22, 2015

Sandra Dunbar 2006 from the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing discusses the state of the national nursing shortage and the school's efforts to prepare future nurse leaders.

Tampa Bay Times | [Politifact: Fact-checking Martin Shkreli's claim that Daraprim is 'underpriced, relative to its peers'](#)

September 24, 2015

Beyond cancer and rare disease treatments, few drugs cost more than \$100,000, said **David Howard 2013**, a professor of health policy and management at Emory University. So the high price Shkreli cited "isn't a good benchmark for deciding whether a drug is underpriced," he said.

Medpage Today | [Bye-Bye Boehner: What does It mean for medicine?](#)

September 25, 2015

House Speaker John Boehner's (R-Ohio) announcement that he is leaving Congress at the end of October likely won't have much of an effect on efforts to repeal or severely handicap the Affordable Care Act (ACA), experts said Friday. **David Howard 2013**, PhD, a professor of health policy and management at Emory University in Atlanta, said that he expected House conservatives to push for a more confrontational replacement as speaker. "If they are successful, expect more efforts by House Republicans to use Congress's power of the purse to defund the ACA," he wrote in an email.

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Emory University gets \\$8.3M grant to establish research laboratory](#)

September 29, 2015

The National Institutes of Health has awarded \$8.3 million to Emory University in collaboration with Georgia Tech to establish a National Exposure Assessment Library to measure the impact of environmental chemicals on children's health. "We can no longer study the environment one chemical at a time," said **Gary Miller 2005**, professor and associate dean for research at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health. "We must embrace the complexity of our exposures if we are going to get to the root causes of disease. This award gets us one step closer to unraveling the mystery of the exposome."

WAGA-TV Atlanta | [Oregon College massacre: How to talk to your kids](#)

October 2, 2015

The images from Umpqua Community College massacre in Oregon are hard enough for adults to understand. So, how do you explain the rampage to children? That can be tricky, says Emory School of Medicine Professor and Grady Chief Psychologist Dr. **Nadine Kaslow 2004**.

WABE-FM / [Emory, GA Tech to study children's exposure to chemicals](#)

October 5, 2015

The National Institutes of Health is giving Georgia Tech and Emory \$8.3 million to establish a lab to study children's exposure to chemicals. "When you think about various environmental factors that can affect health it's very easy to consider things like lead," said **Gary Miller 2005**, an environmental health professor at Emory and associate dean for research at the Rollins School of Public Health. "But there are many different types of metals.



There are different pesticides, many different classes of them. There's plasticizer. There are many things that affect out endocrine systems.”

CNN Accent Health | [“Surviving cancer”](#)

October 2, 2015

Emory University Winship Cancer Institute patient Carolyn Higgins describes how clinical trials and a positive attitude have kept her going during 8 years of treatment for multiple myeloma, and credits Winship Cancer Institute myeloma expert Dr. **Sagar Lonial 2012** for making those advanced treatments possible.

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Emory Saint Joseph's names new CEO](#)

October 8, 2015

Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital named **Heather Dexter 2015** as its new CEO. Dexter, who previously served as chief operating officer of the hospital, will take reins on October 23rd. [Neighborhood Newspapers](#)

NPR | [Scottish nurse who recovered from Ebola is back in isolation](#)

October 9, 2015

Dr. **Aneesh Mehta 2015**, who is part of a team of doctors at Emory University that treated four Ebola patients during the recent outbreak, says Cafferkey's readmission to the isolation unit is puzzling.

Atlanta Jewish Times | [Emory Saint Joseph's one of the first U.S. hospitals to offer radiosurgery system](#)

October 7, 2015

Dr. **David Kooby 2015**, director of surgical oncology at Emory Saint Joseph's, discusses the Spectropen, and how this surgical tool is making a difference for some pancreatic cancer patients. A similar story also appeared in the [Atlanta Business Chronicle](#).

Your Care Everywhere | [The straight dope on pricey prescription drugs](#)

October 13, 2015

“Drug prices are high by design,” said health economist **David H. Howard 2013**, PhD, associate professor in Emory University's Department of Health Policy and Management. “The patent system gives companies a temporary monopoly to produce drugs without competition. If we think drug prices are too high, we could always shorten the length of patent protection. However, no one is proposing to do that. I suspect they do not want to acknowledge the tradeoff between affordability and innovation.”

Atlanta Journal Constitution subscription required | [Whole milk for a healthy heart? don't raise that glass just yet](#)

October 15, 2015

A growing body of research suggests that saturated fat in dairy, specifically in milk, may not be as harmful to overall health as previously thought, according to an article on the research by the Washington Post. “The public doesn't like mixed messages and the guidelines lose credibility and people stop trying to follow them,” said **Sandra Dunbar 2006**, a cardiovascular researcher at Emory University School of Nursing. “Diet is only one part of what influences cardiovascular diseases,” she said. “Not smoking, getting exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, all of those are key in determining whether saturated fat will promote heart disease.”

Atlanta Journal-Constitution subscription required | [HIV epidemic afflicting Georgia, the South: A 'public health emergency'](#)

October 23, 2015

The South's struggle with HIV is “a public health emergency,” said Dr. **Patrick Sullivan 2016**, an epidemiology professor at Emory University. He and other experts cited numerous reasons for it, especially poverty. “Any programs that expand the availability of healthcare are a critical part of the answer to how we can get a better handle on the HIV epidemic in the South,” said Sullivan, a former CDC official and now the principal scientist for aidsvu.org, which tracks HIV in the U.S.



Atlanta Business Chronicle | [People on the move: Cameron Taylor](#)

October 21, 2015

Vice President for Government and Community Affairs at Emory University: **Cameron Taylor 2014** will continue to be based in Washington, D.C., and will lead a team of five government and community affairs experts who are based on Emory's campus in Atlanta.

Reuters Health | [After prostate cancer surgery, blacks have more complications, higher costs](#)

October 27, 2015

The findings add to a growing body of evidence on racial disparities in cancer care, Dr. **Otis Brawley 2004**, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society and an oncologist at Emory University, noted in an accompanying editorial. Black men may be less likely to be treated by urologists who specialize in prostate cancer, Brawley said, a phenomenon that is seen in a number of diseases. Men will fare best when they see specialists who do a high volume of procedures, Brawley added.

Chronicle of Higher Education | [Appointments](#)

October 25, 2015

Cameron Taylor 2014, interim vice president, to vice president for government and community affairs at Emory University.

U.S. News & World Report | [Doctors, hospitals say 'no' to Obamacare plans](#)

November 4, 2015

"We have no idea what the plans are paying," says **David Howard 2013**, professor in the department of health policy and management at Emory University. "That's closely guarded information. We can only draw conclusions based on anecdotal reports."

Las Vegas Review-Journal | [Coroner disputes suicide finding in death of 8-year-old](#)

November 6, 2015

Dr. **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, former president of the American Psychological Association and current professor at Emory University in Atlanta, said understanding pre-adolescent suicides is difficult because there is so little data due to how rarely they happen. Unfortunately, Kaslow said, most children who try to kill themselves don't understand the permanence of their choice.

CNN | [How counselors help survivors of terrorism](#)

November 17, 2015

While survivors and their loved ones have the highest risk of experiencing stress and depression, even those who are just watching the event on TV can be affected, said **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Emory University School of Medicine. An important step in counseling people affected by tragic events is to help them realize that their emotions are normal, said Emory's Kaslow.

European Pharmaceutical Review | [FDA approves Darzalex for multiple myeloma](#)

November 17, 2015

"The responses we saw in clinical trials that led to today's approval were striking, especially considering that these patients received a median of five prior lines of therapy," said investigator **Sagar Lonial 2012**, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. "It appears the mechanism of action for daratumumab may play an important role in its single-agent activity among this group of advanced-stage multiple myeloma patients."

L.A. Times | [Need help paying for Amgen's Repatha? Get ready to give up your privacy](#)

November 13, 2015

Certain programs also expand the market for costly drugs by making it easier for physicians to prescribe them to financially strapped patients. The industry typically paints these financial assistance programs as altruistic, but they carry a large component of self-interest. Drugmakers "face little resistance to setting higher prices as long as



patients don't have to pay for them out-of-pocket," says **David Howard 2013**, a pharmaceutical marketing expert at Emory University.

CNN | [Meet the dogs who can sniff out cancer better than some lab tests](#)

November 20, 2015

Dr. **Sheryl Gabram 2008** discusses canine cancer detection. The Emory University surgeon published a study four years ago showing that a machine, like a dog, could reliably detect the smell of breast cancer from patients' breath samples.

MedPage Today | [FDA approves second antibody for myeloma](#)

November 30, 2015

"This is just so huge for patients," said **Sagar Lonial 2012**, MD, of Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute in Atlanta. "For years we had a situation that I often described as 'oncologic irony.' We had a disease that makes too much antibody but didn't have an antibody to treat it. That is no longer the case." A principal investigator in the elotuzumab pivotal trial, Lonial said the different targets of elotuzumab and daratumumab (CD38) make them potentially complementary, and myeloma clinical researchers have a keen interest in determining whether using the agents in combination is feasible and desirable.

Georgia Health News | [On World AIDS Day, a grim reality in Atlanta](#)

November 30, 2015

The Grady staff outlined the extent of the problem in a meeting with U.S. Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.) on Monday, the day before World AIDS Day. The Ponce de Leon Center, run by Grady, is seeing more demand for services every year, said Dr. **Wendy Armstrong 2011**, medical director of the center. "We're seeing 5,800 patients with HIV annually," she said. "It has gone up by 100 to 150 every year." Dr. **Carlos del Rio**, co-director of Emory's Center for AIDS Research and an infectious diseases physician, told Lewis that the epidemic is hitting hardest among young African-American men who are poor. Del Rio, though, praised the Ponce de Leon Center's coordinated care system for people with HIV as a local strong point in the battle against the disease.

MedPage Today | [Could American cities cope with paris-type terrorist attack?](#)

December 3, 2015

Tim Buchman, director of Emory's Critical Care Center, and **Alex Isakov 2010**, executive director of CEPAR, discuss the extraordinary response by emergency and trauma physicians and other providers to the Paris attacks, and the extended need for preparedness, surge capacity and advanced measures required to deal with such an event.

CNN | [Preparing for mass shootings](#)

December 7, 2015

Samuel Shartar 2013, senior administrator for Emory's Office of Critical Emergency Preparedness and Response, discusses what establishments should do to prepare for mass shootings.

Stat News | [Who will manage outbreaks? A crisis looms for infectious disease specialists](#)

December 8, 2015

"We are all concerned," said Dr. **Wendy Armstrong 2011**, on the faculty at Emory University School of Medicine and a spokeswoman for the Infectious Diseases Society of America... "In the specialty, this is a significant topic of conversation. We are concerned that this could become a crisis."

Georgia Public Broadcasting On Second Thought | [How diet science confuses us](#)

December 10, 2015

Emory cardiologist **Laurence Sperling 2008** speaks to GPB's On Second Thought host Celeste Headlee about which diets to trust and which ones to avoid. Dr. Sperling's segment begins at 16:52.



WAGA-TV Atlanta | [Coping with holiday grief](#)

December 15, 2015

When the whole world is celebrating, grief seems even harder. And Emory psychologist Dr. **Nadine Kaslow 2004** says sometimes the best you can do, is the best you can do. "First of all, I do think people need to be patient with themselves. We sort of know that grief is a process, and it takes time. But the first few days and weeks, and months, and even the first year, are really difficult," says Dr. Kaslow.

Happy Trails

Michael E. Johns III 2007 left Emory and has taken a faculty position at the University of Southern California.

Justin Remais 2014 will leave Emory to join the faculty of UC Berkeley, effective January 1, 2016.

Remember to take advantage of the leadership resources available in the WLA Library.

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.

