



# WLA SPOTLIGHT

## *A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows*

Fall 2017 – Volume XXXII

The following WLA Fellows were named “Top Doctors” in the July 2017 edition of Atlanta Magazine:

**Susy Alfonso 2015, George Chang 2016, Amy Chen 2010, Keith Delman 2011, Seth Force 2008, Jonathan Glass 2008, Amy Langston 2010, Janice Lea 2012, Michael Lindsay 2006, Gina Lundberg 2017, Viraj Master 2014, Sampath Prahalad 2013, Chad Ritenour 2005, David Schulman 2015, Andrew Smith 2009, Larry Sperling 2008, Steve Szabo 2017, Ned Waller 2007, and Field Willingham 2015**

**Marilyn Margolis 2005** was elected as the new chairperson for the Johns Creek Chamber of Commerce. She will lead the board in helping Johns Creek businesses connect, grow, and thrive.

**Jessica Arluck 2012** received the Faculty Award from The Society of Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology (SASGOG). This award honors a faculty member for their dedication and commitment to the ideals of being an academic generalist.

Selected to participate in ELAM, **Amy Chen 2010** has just finished her first week. The Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® (ELAM®) program is a year-long part-time fellowship for women faculty in schools of medicine, dentistry and public health. The program is dedicated to developing the professional and personal skills required to lead and manage in today's complex health care environment, with special attention to the unique challenges facing women in leadership positions. More than 1,000 ELAM alumnae hold leadership positions in institutions around the world. ELAM aims to sustain the number and impact of women in academic leadership positions in the health sciences.

**Ravi Rajani 2017** was named national principal investigator of a prospective, multicenter, non-blinded, non-randomized study of the RelayPro Thoracic Stent-Graft in subjects with traumatic injury of the descending thoracic aorta. Jaime Benarroch-Gampel, assistant professor of surgery and a member of the vascular surgery team at Grady, will be the Emory PI for the Grady site of the study.

**Sheryl Bluestein 2016** assumed operations responsibilities for all ambulatory cancer operations for Winship at Midtown. She will oversee cancer ambulatory clinics, radiation oncology, and cancer surgical services. Sheryl will continue to be responsible for infusion center registration, scheduling, revenue cycle, and regulatory compliance for EUHM hospital-based clinics.

**Tom Pearson 2004** is a new member of the board of LifeLink Legacy Fund. Over the years, the LifeLink Legacy Fund has emerged into a boundless support system for pre- and post- transplant patients in need of financial assistance. The LifeLink Legacy Fund also provides funding for critical research and programs to improve organ and tissue donation and transplantation.

**Dan Owens 2006** was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Hospital Association (GHA). The GHA Board of Trustees consists of 20 elected hospital executives from throughout the state of Georgia. Dan will serve as an at-large trustee, where his duties will include working with the board to develop strategies for GHA hospital members, advocating for the highest quality care for patients, and supporting adequate reimbursement for hospitals. At-large trustees are eligible to serve two consecutive terms of two years each.



**Stephen Szabo 2017** was the inaugural 'Walk with a Doc' physician Saturday, September 9, at Dunwoody's Brook Run Park. Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital has partnered with the City of Dunwoody to offer a free monthly walk event to encourage healthy lifestyle practices.

**David Kooby 2015** was named as the “Associate Section Editor” for the “Pancreas Tumors” section for the journal *Annals of Surgical Oncology*.

Emory School of Nursing held an alumni event earlier this month at Emory Johns Creek Hospital. **Marilyn Margolis 2005** and **Sandi Dunbar 2006** were two of the panelists for an interactive discussion featuring nursing leaders with expertise in academic, clinical, international, and healthcare administration settings.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine on August 19, 2017 released its report “Strengthening the Disaster Resilience of the Academic Biomedical Research Community: Protecting the Nation’s Investment”. **Alex Isakov 2010** was a member of the committee and co-hosted a webinar describing the new report. [http://news.emory.edu//stories/2017/08/national\\_academies\\_report\\_on\\_disaster\\_resilience/index.html](http://news.emory.edu//stories/2017/08/national_academies_report_on_disaster_resilience/index.html)

The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response – Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (ASPR TRACIE) on June 22, 2017 released the EMS Infectious Disease Playbook, a one-stop information source to guide the transport of patients with serious communicable diseases. **Alex Isakov 2010** was a lead contributor for the Playbook. <https://asprtracie.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/aspr-tracie-transport-playbook-508.pdf>

**Melinda Franks 2017** was asked to write an 'easy read' article for the alumni of the University of Pittsburgh Katz School of Business to support the promotion of their new partnership with UPMC that creates an EMBA for Healthcare leaders. She was asked as an alumna to write an article for a layperson audience on a topic relevant to healthcare and then connect the benefits of having an EMBA degree to her personal professional story.

Along with three other female physicians, **Gina Lundberg 2017** was the "quarterback" on a project to develop a Leadership Toolkit. It will go on the American College of Cardiology Women in Cardiology website. See the email Gary sent out earlier today (Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>).

**David Guidot 2007** is this year’s recipient of the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation Founders’ Medal. The presenters were **Jesse Roman 2003** and Sushma Cribbs.

In 1946, representatives from 19 southern medical schools met in New Orleans to organize the formation of a regional society of clinical investigators; this organization became the Southern Society for Clinical Investigation (SSCI). Fifty selected “Founders” attended that meeting. In 1973, the Society started awarding the Founders’ Medal to those who fulfilled the following three criteria:

- contributed greatly to the SSCI
- showed outstanding accomplishments at their institution
- played prominent roles at the national or international stage

These criteria alone do not fully capture the impact that these worthy recipients have had - and continue to have - on medical education, discovery through research, mentorship, and on the practice of medicine. This award not only celebrates the accomplishments of clinician-investigators, but it serves as inspiration to trainees and junior faculty who may witness what can be accomplished with a little sacrifice, commitment, vision, and passion.



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## **Staying Linked** - A feature to keep you connected with other Fellows:

Effective July 1, 2017, **Michael E. Halkos 2016** became the new Chief of the Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Emory Department of Surgery.

The former Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Robert Guyton, MD, who followed the esteemed Charles Ross Hatcher, Jr., MD, as the second chief of the division in 1990, will remain clinically and academically active within the Division and the School of Medicine. During Dr. Guyton's tenure, Emory's CT Surgery program achieved national recognition as one of the country's top programs in areas including off-pump coronary revascularization, congenital cardiac surgery, robotic mitral surgery, major aortic surgery, robotic-assisted coronary bypass, and transcatheter valve therapies. He has been a national leader in CT surgery education, has trained over 120 cardiothoracic surgery residents, and has served as a crucial mentor for many of Emory CT Surgery's faculty members.

"Dr. Halkos was selected to this impressive leadership position after a national search was conducted," says John Sweeney, MD, Joseph Brown Whitehead Professor and Chair of the Department of Surgery. "The search committee interviewed some of the country's most well-established and up and coming CT surgery leaders, and Dr. Halkos rose to the top of the candidate pool. He impressed us with his steady, sophisticated responses; the subtle and consistent team-based leadership style he has developed here at Emory; his intimate understanding of cardiothoracic surgery at a multi-hospital system like Emory; and the ambitious vision he recommended for the future of the Division."

Dr. Halkos joined the Emory Department of Surgery in 2009 after completing his Emory Cardiothoracic Surgery Residency. He is a highly experienced and productive academic cardiac surgeon-scientist with expertise in minimally invasive cardiac surgery, particularly robotic-assisted coronary artery bypass surgery and robotic mitral valve surgery, hybrid coronary revascularization, and hybrid atrial fibrillation ablation. Over 50% of his clinical practice focuses on minimally invasive approaches for cardiac surgical operations. Along with Douglas Murphy, MD, at Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital, he helms one of the largest and most successful robotic cardiac surgical programs in the world. He is also one of the highest volume surgeons in performing robotic coronary bypass procedures, and is an international leader with his cardiology colleagues in hybrid coronary revascularization.

Dr. Halkos has demonstrated a passion for Emory's tripartite mission, and has excelled in both education and research in addition to patient care. He currently directs the Cardiothoracic Center for Clinical Research, was the Department of Surgery's first faculty member to receive an NHLBI K-23 Award, received his Master's Degree in Clinical Research in 2012, and currently serves as Principal Investigator for multiple industry- and NIH-sponsored trials. He plays an active leadership role in resident education, and has authored well over 120 publications in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters.

He credits much of his clinical and academic success at Emory on strong mentorship as well as close collaboration and multidisciplinary teamwork with his colleagues in cardiothoracic surgery and research, cardiology, anesthesiology, and nursing.



The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has chosen Emory University to join the All of Us Research Program, a national effort with more than 25 collaborating institutions charged with advancing research into precision medicine. The All of Us Research Program aims to gather data over time from more than one million people in the United States, with the goal of accelerating research and improving health. Researchers will use the data for studies on a variety of health conditions, to learn more about the impact of individual differences in lifestyle, environment, and biological makeup.

Emory is part of the SouthEast Enrollment Center (SEEC) network, which also includes the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Morehouse School of Medicine, and the OneFlorida Clinical Research Consortium led by the University of Florida. The SEEC network will help extend the geographic coverage of the All of Us program to the southeastern states of Georgia and Florida and will strengthen its reach within underserved communities, including lower-income, Hispanic and Latino, African American, American Indian, and rural communities.

**Michael Zwick 2016** will lead Emory's participation in the SEEC network. The Emory team includes faculty members from the School of Medicine, including Drs. **Arshed Quyyumi 2012**, **Greg Martin 2011**, James Lah, and Andrew Post, in addition to Dr. Alvaro Alonso from the Rollins School of Public Health.

To learn more about Emory's involvement in the project, please visit [genome.emory.edu](http://genome.emory.edu). For more information about the All of Us Research Program and to sign up for updates, visit [www.joinallofus.org](http://www.joinallofus.org).

View the [NIH press release](#).

## [Emory in the News](#)

*NBC News.com* | [Needle-free flu vaccine patch works as well as a shot](#)

June 27, 2017

A press-on patch that delivers flu vaccine painlessly worked as well as an old-fashioned flu shot with no serious side effects, researchers at Emory and Georgia Tech reported Tuesday in the *Lancet*. "There were no treatment-related serious adverse events," Dr. **Nadine Rouphael 2017** of the Emory University School of Medicine and colleagues wrote. "We were pleased to see that the immune response was excellent." [CNN.com](#) | [BBC News](#) | [WebMD](#) | [Healthday](#) | [Voice of America](#) | [The Guardian](#) | [Medpage Today](#) | [The Telegraph](#) | [Agence France-Presse via Jakarta Post](#)

*Smithsonian* | [Could vitamin C be the cure for deadly infections?](#)

June 27, 2017

Although **Dr. Craig Coopersmith 2012**, a leading sepsis researcher at the Emory University School of Medicine, is not using the protocol himself, he says some of his colleagues are. "While some components of this are assuredly safe, there are with every medication risks involved," he says. "I think people who are early adopters of this because the results are so tremendous, I fully support. I also fully support people who would want to wait for additional data."

*WGCL-TV* | [Police: Mom kills family](#) [story begins at 3:36]

July 6, 2017

Family members say the mother couldn't get over the death of her father. "Filicide, which is what this is called, is very rare." **Nadine Kaslow 2004** is a psychology professor at Emory and former president of the American Psychological Association. "One of the things that we know, from the literature and the research on parents who do kill their children, is that depression is one of the most common problems. When somebody says they need help, they have some sense that they're really, really struggling."



**WXIA-TV** | [Blue Whale Challenge: What should parents be on the lookout for?](#)

July 13, 2017

11Alive's Chris Hopper spoke to an Emory psychologist, **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, who said teens doing dangerous things like driving too fast or hazing is not uncommon. However, she said if parents start to notice any changes in their teen's behavior, they should be on alert.

**Reuters** | [Mental health coverage cuts result in extra costs](#)

July 19, 2017

"The findings are troubling," Dr. **Benjamin Druss 2006** of Emory University in Atlanta writes in a commentary accompanying a recent mental health coverage study. "The Dutch experience suggests that copayments can reduce access to mental health care and increase costs, particularly among vulnerable and high-need populations. Without careful planning and oversight, mental health care cost-sharing programs may exact a steep price." [Philly.com](#)

**WABE-FM** | [More votes coming after senators reject ACA 'Repeal and Delay'](#)

July 26, 2017

The U.S. Senate on Wednesday rejected an attempt to repeal major parts of the Affordable Care Act, its second failure within 24 hours to unravel the 2010 law. **David Howard 2013**, health policy expert at Emory University, told GHN on Wednesday that Republicans, looking to pass a bill, can add financial incentives for the states of senators reluctant to pass legislation.

**Bloomberg News** | [A cancer breakthrough near FDA approval has a costly side effect](#)

July 12, 2017

Dr. **Edmund K. Waller 2003**, Winship hematologist and director of Emory's stem cell and immune therapy division, talks about the use of CAR T-cell therapy.

**DeKalb Neighbor** | [Emory doctor works on committee aiming to curb opioid epidemic](#)

July 31, 2017

**Anne Marie McKenzie-Brown 2008**, MD, associate professor of anesthesiology at Emory and director of the Emory Pain Center, located at Emory University Hospital Midtown, was part of a committee of 18 national experts who compiled a new report on opioid overuse for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. The report determines it will take years of sustained and coordinated efforts by physicians, patients, federal and state agencies and the public to curb the opioid epidemic.

**Gizmodo** | [Why everyone is hating on IBM Watson—including the people who helped make it](#)

August 10, 2017

The IBM artificial intelligence technology, Watson, is making strides in health care research with the company's claims that its technology is better at providing the same treatment recommendations as doctors for certain cancer types. But according to **David Howard 2013**, professor of health policy and management at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, these are "early-stage studies" and there is a big gap between those results and demonstrating a benefit for patients.

**Atlanta Journal Constitution** | [Mary Rose Taylor faces greatest challenge yet](#)

August 17, 2017

Alzheimer's, the disease that took her second husband, developer Mack Taylor, prompted her to devote her life to fighting that illness, Parkinson's and other intractable neurological disorders. She directed time, resources and her networking ability toward helping Dr. **Allan Levey** and the Emory University Department of Neurology rise to the challenge. Then in 2014, she began experiencing worrying problems— difficulty swallowing, a forgotten word. Her friend **Jonathan Glass 2008**, who is also director of Emory's ALS Center, sat across from her at a Starbucks and recognized the symptoms.



*Johns Creek Herald* | [Handel pays visit to Emory Johns Creek Hospital](#)

August 25, 2017

Congresswoman Karen Handel (R-GA) recently visited Emory Johns Creek Hospital to learn more about services and the impact the academic and research based network is making in a community hospital. Handel met with [Marilyn Margolis 2005](#), CEO of Emory Johns Creek Hospital, physicians, leadership and staff. They toured the Emergency Department, Center for Breast Care, Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute Infusion Center, and the Interfaith Sanctuary. They also discussed the rising opioid epidemic in North Fulton County and across the country.

*Ivanhoe Medical News* | [The "Steve Jobs" cancer: NET](#)

September 5, 2017

[David Kooby 2015](#), MD, Director of Surgical Oncology at Winship at Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital, discusses neuroendocrine cancer (NET), the type of slow-growing pancreatic cancer that Apple co-founder Steve Jobs lived with for almost a decade after his diagnosis.

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* subscription required | [Dispute delays Emory's union with city of Atlanta](#)

September 6, 2017

The largest expansion of Atlanta's borders in decades, which would bring Emory University into the city, is on hold because of concerns about urbanization. Emory spokesman [Vince Dollard 2011](#) said the university respects the arbitration process and wants the annexation to move ahead. "Emory worked closely with the city of Atlanta to ensure there are no proposed changes in zoning, land use or density with Emory's annexation, and we believe that the arbitration panel will agree there are no such changes," Dollard said.

*Johns Creek Herald* | [Johns Creek welcomes Margolis as chairwoman](#)

September 14, 2017

Emory Johns Creek Hospital CEO [Marilyn Margolis 2005](#) has taken the reins of the Johns Creek Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for the 2017-2018 term. "I'm so honored to represent the Chamber of Commerce and help build partnerships with businesses in the community to help our city grow," says Margolis.

*Georgia Health News* | [Emory opening more primary care locations](#)

September 14, 2017

**Emory Healthcare** is expanding its primary care portfolio by adding nine new clinics in metro Atlanta.

"We are tremendously excited to offer more primary care access and nearby locations to our patients," [Dr. Ted Johnson 2010](#), lead physician for Emory Primary Care, said in a statement. "These new clinics provide a health home base that will allow us to help our patients and their families better meet their health needs – whether simple or serious." The article also includes information about the appointment of [Dr. Vikas P. Sukhatme](#) as the new dean of Emory University School of Medicine.

*Georgia Health News* | [Study: Georgia would see big gains under GOP bill, but not long term](#)

September 20, 2017

[David Howard 2013](#), a health economist at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, comments on the Cassidy-Graham health care bill under consideration in Congress.

*Marketplace* | [Latest Obamacare repeal bill sounds a lot like welfare reform](#)

September 21, 2017

The Cassidy-Graham bill calls for taking the money the federal government spends on Obamacare and doling it out to the states in block grants. "Welfare reform used a block grant formula and as a result some states were able to make changes to their welfare programs that reduced the number of people on welfare," said [David Howard 2013](#) with Emory University.



**WABE-FM** | [Study: Georgia would see big gains under GOP bill, but not long term](#)

September 21, 2017

**David Howard 2013**, a health economist at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, comments on the Cassidy-Graham health care bill under consideration in Congress.

**The Morehead News** | [\\$1.16 million grant awarded to combat opioid epidemic](#)

September 1, 2017

**Hannah Cooper 2015**, associate professor in the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, is co-principal investigator of a multi-institution project conducting research in eastern Kentucky counties on the opioid epidemic. "On my first trip to the Gateway district, I was struck by both the devastating consequences of the local opioid epidemic, and by the local community's fierce commitment to stopping it," said Cooper.

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## **Happy Trails**

**Julia Yeager 2005** has moved to Seattle to work for Kaiser Permanente.

**Russ Price 2014** recently announced his retirement from Emory. Russ accepted an appointment as associate dean for research and graduate studies at the Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. He will also serve as a professor in ECU's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Russ was one of ECU's very first PhD graduates.

**Jennifer Blakely 2016** is leaving Emory to take the position of Manager, in Chick-fil-A's Corporate Legal Department, where she will primarily be responsible for coordinating and managing litigation and providing legal guidance on pre-litigation matters and operational issues.

**Vinod Thourani 2011** joined MedStar Heart & Vascular Institute's leadership team as the chairman of Cardiac Surgery.

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## **A Personal Tribute**

Please take the time to check out **Fadlo Khuri's 2003** personal tribute to **Hanna Michel "Jean" Khoury 2008**, who passed away on May 22, 2017. It is in the Winship Fall Magazine Special Anniversary Issue.

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Remember we have a number of 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 or CD from the library, let us know, and we will deliver it to your office within a few days.

