



WLA SPOTLIGHT

A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows

Summer 2017 – Volume XXXI

In April, **Vinod Thourani 2011** was awarded the first (inaugural) Emory University School of Medicine Discovery Medical Student Research Program Mentor Award.

Ravi Rajani 2017 was inducted into the Alpha Omega Society Honor Medical Society as a faculty inductee elected by AOA peers.

Patrick Sullivan 2016 received the Emory Williams Teaching Award. This award is given in recognition of a record of excellence in teaching. The designation represents the highest university honor for teaching given to a full-time faculty member. The award was established by Emory Williams, a 1932 Emory College alumnus and long-time trustee.

Viola Vaccarino 2010 received the Thomas F. Sellers, Jr., M.D. 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.

Sandra Franklin 2011, director of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library, was named a fellow of the Medical Library Association (MLA) at its May 2017 annual meeting. The designation is the group's highest honor, bestowed on members who are chosen by the Board of Directors for sustained and outstanding contributions to health sciences librarianship and to the advancement of the purposes of MLA. She has been a member of MLA since 1984 and a distinguished member of its Academy of Health Information Professionals since 1997. She served as an elected member of MLA's Board of Directors (2013–16). Sandra is chairing the local assistance committee for the 2018 MLA Annual Meeting, to be held in Atlanta.

Melinda Franks 2017 was invited to offer an opinion that appeared in usnews.com. Check it out: [Executive MBA: Boost a Career While Working](#)

On September 1, **Chris Flowers 2016** will be promoted to Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology with tenure.

Ram Ramalingam 2017 was inducted as a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation at the organization's annual meeting in Chicago. He was also elected to the American Board of Internal Medicine's Medical Oncology Board Exam Committee, the governing body responsible for creating examinations for Board Certified physicians. In addition, Ram has been elected to serve on the board of directors to represent the U. S. in the 'International Association for Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC)' from 2017 to 2021.

Kim Kerstann 2017 recently traveled to Washington, D. C. as part of a delegation of ORIEN consortium leadership. The group met with legislators at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building to discuss key priorities for cancer research and clinical trials.

Dan Brat 2010 delivered the Nathan Kaufman Timely Topics special lecture at the 106th U. S. and Canadian Academy of Pathology (USCAP) Annual Meeting held March 4-10 in San Antonio. **Volkan Adsay 2012** served as the meeting's president and presented research along with dozens of Winship colleagues.



The article “Evaluating surveillance imaging for diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and Hodgkin lymphoma” by Drs. Madhusmita Behera, Jonathon Cohen, and **Chris Flowers 2016**, was featured in This Week in Blood, a snapshot of the journal's top studies.

Sheryl Gabram-Mendola 2008 and colleagues from Winship's Glenn Family Breast Center are the recipients of a grant from the Avon Breast Cancer Crusade Board of Managers. The grant focuses on breast cancer outreach and clinical access for women in underserved communities.

Rafi Ahmed and **Ram Ramalingam 2017** led an investigative team showing how the protein CD28 can be used to predict a patient's response to certain cancer immunotherapies. The results of the study were published in *Science* and *PNAS*.

Grady's Georgia Cancer Center for Excellence received a five-year, \$2 million Merck Foundation Award as part of the new Alliance to Advance Patient-Centered Cancer Care. Morehouse School of Medicine's Roland Matthews, MD and Winship's **Sheryl Gabram-Mendola 2008** will lead the grant as principal investigator and co-principal investigator.

Scientists at Winship mapped a vast spider web of interactions between proteins in lung cancer cells in an effort to reach targets once considered “undruggable.” Senior author **Haian Fu 2015** and team published the results in *Nature Communications*.

Trish Haugaard 2005 and **Mike Zwick 2016** envisioned and created a new career path supporting research and professional growth for non-faculty PhDs in bioinformatics.

Nominated by several of her current and former mentees, **Kathryn Yount 2012** was selected for the university-wide 2016 Emory Women of Excellence Award for Mentorship.

Elected Chair of the ACGME Residency Review Committee for Urology nationally, **Chad Ritenour 2005** will begin a 3-year term effective July 1, 2017.

Costas Hadjipanayis 2014 shared the news that the FDA approved the oral agent Gleolan that lights up brain tumors. See link below. Gleolan was used for the first time in North America at Emory in 2011 with a clinical trial for malignant brain tumors. This has been in the works for over 7 years!

<http://www.raredr.com/news/fda-approves-gleolan>

Alex Isakov 2010 is one of 10 national experts selected to engage the nation's EMS community in creating a vision for the future of the nation's EMS system. The panel will develop EMS Agenda 2050, a two-year project aiming to engage the entire EMS community and other stakeholders in developing a vision and plan for the evolution of emergency medical services over the next several decades.

In April, **David Kooby 2015** was inducted into the American Surgical Association, the most prestigious surgical society for academic surgeons. He will also be program chair for the 2019 meeting of the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association, a national meeting with over 1,000 attendees.

Cynthia Wetmore 2017 will be leaving Emory to assume the position of Division Chief of Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplantation and Director of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Phoenix Children's Hospital in Phoenix, AZ. She will also hold the Sybil B. Harrington Chair in Pediatric Oncology. Cynthia will have academic appointments at Mayo Medical School and the University of Arizona. She will remain affiliated with Emory so her Emory email will still work - please let her know if you are ever in the Phoenix area as she has a guestroom and would welcome dear friends from Atlanta!



Lance Waller 2003 was invited to join the Independent Advisory Committee for the Global Burden of Disease project (Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation) and the National Academies' Board of Mathematical Sciences and Analytics.

Class of 2017 Team Phoenix (**Douglas Ander, Melinda Franks, Kimberly Kerstann, Gina Lundberg, David Mafe, Nadine Rouphael, and Nabile Safdar**) recently shared their project titled *Clinician and Staff Burnout* with the Pediatric Department Leadership Council and the School of Medicine Council of Clinical Chairs. They will also be presenting it to the School of Medicine Wellness Executive Committee on June 29th.

Kimberly Kerstann 2017 has recently been invited to join the External Scientific Advisory Boards of both the Hollings Cancer Center of the Medical College of South Carolina, and the University of Virginia Cancer Center.

Mary Jo Lechowicz 2011 was inducted by the SOM medical students into the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society.

Greg Martin's 2011 son, Forrest, graduated from high school in May and will matriculate to Emory this fall.

There are a number of WLA Fellows on the new WHSC Strategic Planning Subject Matter Expert Teams:

Inter-Professional Education & Practice: **Douglas Ander 2017, Keith Delman 2011, Ted Johnson 2010, and Kristy Martyn 2015. Judy Belt 2010** is one of the planning facilitators.

Constructive Culture: **Julie Swann 2016 Co-Chair, Jennifer Blakely 2016, Sandi Dunbar 2006, Dan Hunt 2016, Sheryl Bluestein 2016, David Kooby 2015, Nate Spell 2006, and Jenny Wood 2016. Lynda Barrett 2011** is one of the planning facilitators.

Transforming Models of Care: **Carolyn Clevenger 2013 Co-Chair, Hannah Cooper 2015, Ben Druss 2006, Deena Gilland 2009, and Nabile Safdar 2017. Lynda Barrett 2011** is one of the planning facilitators.

Innovative Discovery: **Mike Zwick 2016, Dan Brat 2010, Haian Fu 2015, Kathy Griendling 2008, Kim Jacob Arriola 2010, Gary Miller 2005, and Larry Boise 2014. Julia Yeager 2005** is one of the planning facilitators.

The Data/Informatics Subgroup for Innovative Discovery includes these WLA Fellows: **Lance Waller 2003 – sub group leader, Marc Overcash 2009 and Mike Zwick 2016.**

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

Elizabeth Downes 2016 has been promoted to Clinical Professor of Nursing. She will also serve as MSN Program Director. In this role, she will provide leadership for the school's MSN programs and operations and will work with faculty and School of Nursing leadership to ensure continued excellence in preparing highly-skilled professional nurses for advanced nursing roles.

Elizabeth has served on the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing faculty since September 2002, and previously served as specialty coordinator for the Family Nurse Practitioner/Nurse Midwifery dual specialty program. Her experience in international and public health nursing spans more than 25 years. As a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, she understands first-hand the needs and challenges of providing quality health care in resource-poor countries and has dedicated her career to developing sustainable educational strategies to support the expansion of highly-skilled Advance Practice Nursing (APN) workforces at home and abroad. Her expertise in



educational program development is internationally sought by such organizations as World Health Organization, USAID, the Department of State and the Carter Center. She has enhanced nursing clinical competency and capacity in more than a dozen countries, including Ethiopia, Fiji, Liberia, Mozambique, the Bahamas and Zimbabwe, significantly shaping the way nurses are trained and practice in these countries. The advanced practice nursing curriculum that she designed and implemented for the World Health Organization in the Western Pacific has created a sustainable domestic nursing workforce that can provide for population-specific needs of communities throughout the region. She has played a key role in the development of faculty continuing education and national curriculums for nursing schools in countries throughout Africa. Her textbook for educators, *Educating Health Professionals in Low-Resource Countries*, has shaped education and clinical training for health care professionals in many developing countries.

In addition to her work abroad, Elizabeth leads many initiatives to improve health outcomes and access for vulnerable international communities within the United States, including refugees and migrant farmer workers. She is the graduate nursing lead for the Farmworker Family Health Program in Moultrie, Ga. that provides care for more than 600 farmworker families every year. She developed and leads the school's Coverdell Peace Corps Fellowship program and Emory's nursing-specific Complex Humanitarian Emergencies that prepares nurses to assist in vulnerable countries destabilized by natural and man-made disasters.

She has received many notable honors for her work. She was recently named a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. She is also a fellow of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the National League for Nursing's Academy of Nursing Education and serves on the International Council of Nurses' Advanced Practice Nursing Network Policy sub-committee.

Elizabeth's knowledge and expertise has informed the Curriculum Committee and so many areas of our program. We are truly fortunate to have her as a resource and leader within the School of Nursing.

[Emory in the News](#)

Covington News | [Oxford College holds disaster drill](#)

March 21, 2017

A crisis drill at Emory's Oxford College is featured. **Sam Shartar 2013**, senior administrator for the Emory University Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR), is quoted.

NPR | [Doctor turns up possible treatment for deadly sepsis](#)

March 23, 2017

Dr. **Craig Coopersmith 2012**, a surgery professor at Emory University School of Medicine and top sepsis researcher, comments on a potentially effective treatment for sepsis discovered by a physician at Eastern Virginia Medical School and published in *Chest*. "If it turns out in further studies that this is true, and we can validate it, then this will be an unbelievably huge deal," said Coopersmith. "But right now we should treat it as a preliminary deal that needs to be validated."

NPR | [Why the newly proposed sepsis treatment needs more study](#)

March 29, 2017

The Society for Critical Care Medicine is interested in sponsoring a study to follow up on the research, says Dr. **Craig Coopersmith 2012**, an Emory University professor of surgery and associate director of the medical school's critical care center.



Georgia Health News | [Affluent suburban counties remain Georgia's healthiest, rankings show](#)

April 2, 2017

David Howard 2013, an Emory University health policy expert, said that the report authors “are definitely steering policymakers in a certain direction.” But he added, “The value of these rankings is showing that we’re not as healthy as we should be. Here in our state, there are big differences in outcomes and quality of life. For rural areas especially, reducing tobacco use can cause big improvements in health.” [Marietta Daily Journal](#) | [Online Athens](#)

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Older men at higher risk for melanoma](#)

April 7, 2017

The American Cancer Society estimates about 52,170 men in the U.S. will be diagnosed with melanoma this year. “Melanoma is the deadliest form of common skin cancers,” said Dr. **Keith Delman 2011**, co-chair of the melanoma working group at Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute. “It is more likely to spread than basal and squamous cell skin cancer.”

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Hypertension treatment more nuanced today](#)

April 10, 2017

“It’s a huge public health issue,” said **Allen Dollar 2011**, associate professor of medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and section chief of cardiology for Emory at Grady Memorial Hospital. “We’ve had a lot of hypertension for a long time,” said **Girish Kalra**, assistant professor in the Department of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine. “It’s not so much a change in how much we have, but we’re learning a lot more about how strongly it predicts having a heart attack and stroke. We’re leaning more of who should be treated and how aggressively we should treat them.”

Atlanta Journal Constitution | [Someone must die so another can live](#)

April 21, 2017

Last year, Emory performed 39 adult heart transplants, said **Dr. Andrew Smith 2009**, chief of cardiology at Emory University Hospital and medical director of the advanced heart failure therapy program. “Transplantation has had a major impact for patients who should be in the prime of their lives but are dying from organ failure,” Smith said.

Cardiology Today | [Awareness of women's heart health has increased but more research required](#)

April 27, 2017

“Prior to 2004, most women and many doctors — including cardiologists — thought that heart disease was a ‘man’s disease,’ and were not even looking for heart disease in women,” said **Gina Lundberg 2017**, MD, FACC, clinical director of Emory Women’s Heart Center at Emory University. But we know that particularly after menopause, which, nowadays, is almost half your life, there is generally worsening of BP, cholesterol, diabetes and other CV risk factors.”

Nashville Public Television | [Aging & the workplace](#)

April 27, 2017

Emory Johns Creek Hospital CEO, **Marilyn Margolis 2005** discusses the nation’s nursing shortage as baby boomers age and prepare to retire. Seasoned nurses explain why they are staying longer on the job.

Modern Healthcare | [New website launched to help prevent spread of hepatitis C](#)

April 27, 2017

HepVu is the result of a public-private partnership aimed to help the estimated 3.9 million Americans who currently have or have had hepatitis C. The disease is also the leading cause of death in liver cancer and cirrhosis patients, said Dr. **Patrick Sullivan 2016** from the Rollins School of Public Health, the project's principal investigator. HepVu's interactive maps use data from advanced modeling techniques generated by Emory University's Coalition for Applied Modeling for Prevention, a project supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [WGCL-TV](#)



NBC News | [Whose responsibility is it to police content on Facebook?](#)

May 9, 2017

"It gets to a larger question in life. When people misuse something, do we take it down for everyone else?" Dr. **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, a professor at Emory University's department of psychiatry, told NBC News. "I actually don't feel like they have to do that, to shut it down. That, to me, feels really extreme," she said.

Atlanta Journal Constitution subscription required | [Flipside of '13 Reasons Why': Grady program helps women choose to live](#)

May 18, 2017

The Nia Project was founded more than 20 years ago by Emory psychologist **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, who'd seen far too many African-American women attempt suicide. "Sometimes we hear about them and reach out to them, and sometimes they hear about us and show up," Kaslow said.

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Healthcare Heroes finalists](#)

May 19, 2017

Healthcare Heroes finalists included **Dr. Gina Lundberg 2017** (physician finalist); **June Connor 2007** (nursing finalist), Dr. **Timothy Buchman**, and **Cheryl Hiddleston** (innovation finalists); Dr. **Mark Mulligan 2008** (community outreach finalist), Dr. **Matthew Klopman 2017** (rising star finalist), and **Dr. Barunashish Brahma** (physician finalist).

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette | [Pitt study definitively shows faster treatment of sepsis saves lives, prevents hospital deaths](#)

May 23, 2017

Craig Coopersmith 2012, director of the Surgical/Transplant Intensive Care Unit at **Emory University Hospital** in Atlanta, said the study, in which he was not involved, shows that following the three-hour bundle "in rapid fashion is associated with important outcomes and saved lives." "This study shines a light on a disease that is deadlier than the others and if treated early, the more likely you will be to save more lives," he said.

CNN | [Stem cell study offers hope for ALS](#)

May 18, 2017

An experimental study at Emory University involves injecting stem cells directly into ALS patients' spines. Drs. **Nicholas Boulis**, **Jonathan Glass 2008** and a team at Emory began looking into stem cells more than 7 years ago. "We're not repairing or replacing motor neurons, we're trying to protect them and induce them to heal and grow back," says Boulis, a neurosurgeon with Emory Healthcare.

WAGA-TV | [Do drug discount cards work?](#)

May 30, 2017

David Howard 2013, professor of health policy at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, discusses drug discounts that are meant to be used in place of insurance.

Genome Web | [Q & A: Winship Cancer Institute's Dan Brat on the challenges of using MDx for cancer](#)

May 30, 2017

Dan Brat 2010, director of the cancer tissue and pathology shared resource at Winship Cancer Institute, and whose work is primarily in the diagnosis of primary and metastatic brain tumors and other brain-related diseases, recently spoke with 360Dx about the impact of molecular methods on cancer diagnoses.

MedPage Today | [If repeal-and-replace tanks, how should the ACA be fixed?](#)

May 25, 2017

"Insurers should be given more leeway to vary premiums by age to encourage enrollment by younger consumers," wrote **David Howard 2013**, PhD, professor of health policy and management at Emory University in Atlanta, in an email to MedPage Today.



Atlanta Journal Constitution (subscription required) | [Answers elusive as youth suicides in Georgia rise sharply](#)
June 9, 2017

There's also better reporting and tracking of suicides than in years past, which could account for some of the increasing numbers, said **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University School of Medicine. On-line bullying and the availability of guns also have had a role, Kaslow said.

Cardiology Today's Intervention | [Cerebral protection system cleared for use in TAVR procedures](#)
June 8, 2017

"This is an extremely promising advent for the management of aortic stenosis and for the performance of transcatheter valve therapies," **Vinod H. Thourani 2011, MD**, co-director of Emory Heart and Vascular Center's Structural Heart and Valve Center, professor of cardiothoracic surgery at Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, and an investigator on the pivotal SENTINEL trial, told *Cardiology Today's Intervention*.

Financial Times | [More Americans rely on handouts for affordable medication](#)
June 7, 2017

For Americans unable to afford prescription medicines, patient assistance programmes — run by charities and drug companies to provide free or low-cost medication to poor or uninsured patients offer a lifeline. Writing in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, **David Howard 2013**, a health policy and management professor at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, argued that as patients become less sensitive to costs, manufacturers of patented drugs push up prices.

WWL.com | [What impact would GOP health care bill have?](#)
June 7, 2017

David Howard 2013, Professor in the Dept. of Health Policy and Management at Emory University, discusses the new CBO score of the GOP's health care bill.

The Scientist | [Immune cells deliver cancer drugs to the brain](#)
June 19, 2017

Emory neuro-oncologist **Erwin Van Meir 2006** discusses a mouse study that harnessed neutrophils, a critical player in the innate immune response, as a way to deliver drugs to kill residual cancer cells.

REMINDER - Lunch & Leadership is next week - June 29th

WLA Lunch & Leadership will be held on **Thursday, June 29th in the WHSCAB Auditorium**. **Lunch will be available at 11:45 am, and the presentation will begin promptly at noon.**

We are fortunate to have Cameron Taylor speaking to us on legislative updates. Cameron is our VP for Government & Community Affairs and a WLA Class of 2014 Fellow.

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. This summer might be a great time to reread or listen to Malcolm Gladwell's [The Tipping Point - How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference](#), or to change a habit with [The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People](#) by Stephen Covey.

If you would like to checkout a book, DVD or CD from the library, let us know, and we will deliver it to your office within a few days.

