



# WLA SPOTLIGHT

## *A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows*

Winter 2013 – Volume XV

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

**Chris Larsen 2003**, an internationally recognized leader in transplant surgery and immunology, has been named dean of Emory University School of Medicine. His roles also include VP for health center integration and chair of the board of directors of The Emory Clinic.

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**Tom Pearson 2004** was named the Executive Director of the Emory Transplant Center. He is also surgical director of the kidney and pancreas transplant program, Livingston Professor of Surgery, and an affiliate scientist at Yerkes Primate Research Center.

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**Heather Hamby 2006** was named associate VP for health center integration for the Woodruff Health Sciences Center as well as executive associate dean and chief operating officer for the School of Medicine. These appointments were effective Feb. 1.

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In February **David Howard 2013** was appointed to the Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee. The Committee makes recommendations to CMS about coverage policies for tests and therapies under the Medicare program.

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**Vinod Thourani 2011** has been selected as a 2012 recipient of the American College of Cardiology W. Proctor Harvey, M.D., Young Teacher Award. This award has been established for the purposes of identifying, recognizing and honoring a promising young member of the College who has distinguished him or herself by dedication and skill in teaching, and to stimulate, as far as possible, continued careers in education.

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**Jaffar Khan 2009** received the American Academy of Neurology's Medical School Clerkship Director's Teaching Award. This award places Dr. Khan as the only member in the history of this Academy to have received the award from both resident and medical school education. He has also been appointed to the SOM MEST Promotions Committee and the American Academy of Neurology's Education Committee.

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**Sandra Franklin 2011**, Director of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library, was elected to the Medical Library Association's Board of Directors. She will serve a three year term beginning May 2013. Sandra is also a member of the National Program Committee for the 2015 Medical Library Association meeting in Austin, TX.

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**Nadine Kaslow 2004** has been elected as President-Elect for the American Psychological Association (APA) in 2013 and will assume the Presidency of the APA in 2014. This is a great honor for Dr. Kaslow and for Emory and reflects her many significant contributions to the field of psychology. Dr. Kaslow was also honored with the Inspiring Mentor Award at the third annual White Coat Grady Gala.

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**Tim Fox 2013** was invited to give a TED talk at the TEDx Peachtree event last November. The title of the talk was "Math: Oncology's New Best Friend", and he talked about how we combine the precision of math with the inexact science of medicine to help us make better decisions in cancer imaging. Tim only had 9 minutes to do it!

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**Tom Pearson 2004** was named the Executive Director of the Emory Transplant Center. He is also surgical director of the kidney and pancreas transplant program, Livingston Professor of Surgery, and an affiliate scientist at Yerkes Primate Research Center.

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**Frank Anania 2013** was appointed Director of the Division of Digestive Diseases. He has served with distinction as Interim Director for the last one and one-half years. He will also be nominated to hold the R. Bruce Logue Chair of Digestive Diseases.

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**Mary Galinski 2003** followed up on the news of our \$19.4 million NIAID contract on MALARIA Systems Biology Award. The project has been officially active since fall 2012, and going strong. Mary is the Principal Investigator, with co-PIs Alberto Moreno (Emory/SOM/ID) and Jessica Kissinger (UGA). The team includes many - from Emory, UGA, Ga Tech, CDC, and many countries around the world. Check out the new MaHPIC website: <http://systemsbiology.emory.edu>.

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**Erwin Van Meir 2006** was awarded a new NIH-NCI R01 grant entitled "Defining mechanisms of extracellular communication for cancer therapy". The grant is for 5 years and the total cost is \$1,618,500.

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**Michael M. Johns, III 2007** was the Keynote Speaker at Phonocon 2013, the meeting of the Association of Phonosurgeons of India, March 8-10, 2013 in Vijayawada, India.

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**Ted Johnson 2010** has been appointed as the Paul W. Seavey Chair in Medicine. This appointment recognizes Dr. Johnson's leadership and commitment to General Internal Medicine and The University as a whole.

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**Greg Martin 2011** was elected to serve on the Council of the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM). The SCCM is the largest multi-professional organization dedicated to ensuring excellence and consistency in the practice of critical care.

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**Sandi Dunbar 2006** will be inducted into the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame by the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. The Hall of Fame recognizes nurse researchers who have achieved significant and sustained national and/or international recognition for their work; and whose research has impacted the profession and the people it serves.

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The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has invited **Kimberly Rask 2004** to a panel of experts advising the federal agency. She will consult with CMS on the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program (HVBP).

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**Pam Cospes 2011** been appointed to the Emory School of Nursing Alumni board. The Nurses' Alumni Association's mission is to promote the community of nursing alumni; to advance nursing practice, education, and service; and to support the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing in all ways possible, including being mentors for students and graduates and helping to raise funds for nursing scholarships.

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After only 8 months on the ACGME's Emergency Medicine Residency Review Committee, **Philip Shayne 2010** was elected Vice Chair.

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**Keith Delman 2011** was recently appointed the Chris Carlos professor of surgical anatomy and technique and Director of the Carlos and Davis Center for Surgical Anatomy and Technique.

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**Rob Stephenson 2013** had this Op-Ed piece he wrote recently published in The Philadelphia Inquirer: [http://articles.philly.com/2013-02-27/news/37311848\\_1\\_hiv-infections-hiv-transmission-heterosexual-couples](http://articles.philly.com/2013-02-27/news/37311848_1_hiv-infections-hiv-transmission-heterosexual-couples)

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Drs. Wally Curran and Waun Ki Hong nominated **Fadlo Khuri 2003** for the American Association for Cancer Research's (AACR) top award for a physician scientist, under the age of 51, whose work is felt likely to impact clinical medicine. This will be good for Winship and Emory, as we have never been recognized at AACR as an institution. It is an honor for Fadlo to be asked to present our team's work.

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Rollins' Career MPH program, led by **Melissa Alperin 2011**, was ranked No. 1 among the top 20 online US MPH programs by TheBestSchools.org, an independent organization that ranks colleges and degree programs in various categories.

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**Deena Gilland 2009**, formerly director of nursing at Winship, was named acting Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of Emory Ambulatory Patient Care Operations.

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**Michelle Mott 2011**, formerly Associate Chief Nursing Officer of The Emory Clinic, was named Assistant Director of Nursing Informatics for Emory Physician Practices (The Emory Clinic and Emory Specialty Associates).

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**Dubois Bowman 2007** shared a link to NIH's press release for the Parkinson's Disease Biomarker Program, which is the initiative funding his recent U18 grant. <http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jan2013/ninds-15.htm>

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Congratulations are in order for **Sagar Lonial 2012**, who received the Celgene 2012 Young Investigator Award for Clinical Research in Hematology at the American Society of Hematology December meeting.

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**Rick Gitomer 2003**, Clinically Integrated Network (CIN) Chief Quality Officer & Director of CIN Medical Services, assumed the role of President of the CIN, effective January 1, 2013. With the exponential growth of the CIN, it was decided that the President of the CIN should focus exclusively on this endeavor, and Dr. Gitomer's current involvement with the CIN made him the ideal candidate. Dr. Gitomer will continue to serve as the CIN CQO and Director of Medical Services.

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For the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, **Larry Sperling 2008** was invited to serve on a panel of 20 U.S. diet experts ranking the popular diets for U.S. News & World Report. This year he also appointed Chair of the American College of Cardiology's Cardiometabolic Working Group and Chairman of The National Cardiometabolic Alliance.

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A few of the members of the MilliPub and 1% clubs, which respectively recognize scientists with publications that have received 1,000 citations or scored NIH grants in the 1st percentile, were not reported in the last Spotlight. Listed below are all of the WLA Fellows that were recognized at last October's ceremony:

2012 MilliPub Club Awardees: **Dan Brat 2010, Monica Farley 2009, Chris Larsen 2003, Tom Pearson 2004, Erwin Van Meir 2006, Paula Vertino 2006**

2012 Emory 1% Club Awardees: **Nadine Kaslow 2004, Nael McCarty 2012, Paula Vertino 2006, Erwin Van Meir 2006**

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## *Fellows in the News...*

*RedOrbit.com* | [RedOrbit Exclusive Interview: Professor Elizabeth Buffalo, Emory University's Buffalo Lab](#)

November 7, 2012

**Elizabeth Buffalo 2010**, co-author of the study and an assistant professor of neurology at Emory University's School of Medicine, recently talked with redOrbit about her team's discovery of grid cells in rhesus monkeys and what it could mean for the future of neuroscience.

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*Nature.com* | [Next-generation proteasome inhibitor approved in multiple myeloma](#)

November 8, 2012

"The news is in many ways quite good—it appears as if median overall survival for patients diagnosed with multiple myeloma has at least doubled, if not more than that," says **Sagar Lonial 2012**, a professor of hematology and medical oncology at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta.

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*The Healthcare Blog* | [Could same-sex marriage improve the nation's health?](#)

November 11, 2012

This op-ed was written by **Rob Stephenson 2013**, a Public Voices Fellow with The OpEd Project, an associate professor of Global Health at Emory University and an expert in HIV and sexual behavior among gay men. | [Bioportfolio.com](#)

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*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* | [Emory psychologist gets Beckman Award](#)

November 16, 2012

**Nadine Kaslow 2004**, a professor and vice-chair in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University School of Medicine, has received the 2012 Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award. The award recognizes Dr. Kaslow's inspiration for her students and junior colleagues to create meaningful and effective community-based programs. The award was founded in honor of Dr. Beckman, an educator and pioneer in the field of psychology.

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*MSNBC* | [Disorder causes lawyer to sleep up to 18 hours a day](#)

November 26, 2012

For Anna Sumner, who suffers from hypersomnia, sleeping became an obsession. She slept up to 18 hours a day without feeling rested, and after reaching "rock bottom," took a leave of absence and headed to Emory University's sleep lab for help, where **David Rye 2007** led a team that checked everything. | [ABC News](#) | [LA Times](#) | [Live Science](#) | [The Last Word on Nothing](#) | [11Alive.com](#) | [100 WAPI](#) Alabama | [Time](#)

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*Atlanta Business Chronicle* | [Emory University School of Medicine gets new dean](#)

November 20, 2012

**Christian P. Larsen 2003**, an internationally recognized leader in transplant surgery and immunology, has been named dean of Emory University School of Medicine.

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*Bloomberg* | [Anesthesia antidote may help treat extreme sleep disorder](#)

November 26, 2012

Primary hypersomnia is linked to a substance that boosts the effects of gamma-aminobutyric acid, a neurotransmitter that limits excess brain activity and leads to the drowsiness, said **David Rye 2007**, the lead author of a study published today in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*. Patients are



usually prescribed stimulants, though they don't work well, he said. | [WABE-FM](#) | [Mother Nature Network](#) | [Scientific American](#) | [Atlantic Wire](#)

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*WABE-FM* | [19.4 Million grant forms Georgia Malaria Research Team](#)

November 20, 2012

Researchers from around the state will form the Malaria Host-Pathogen Interaction Center. Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Emory University will make up the research consortium. This may sound unusual, but imagine using mathematics to study malaria. **Mary Galinski 2003** is a professor of medicine and infectious diseases at Emory." It's not just studying the biology, but actually bringing in mathematics to try to predict the best experiments and how to refine experiments along the way and that's the big benefit of working with Georgia Tech and also some investigators at UGA."

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*CNN* | [Illness makes woman a 'sleeping beauty'](#)

December 1, 2012

Researchers led by Emory neurologist **David Rye 2007** have discovered a substance in the cerebrospinal fluid that is responsible for a rare sleep disorder, hypersomnia. A clinical study showed that the drug flumazenil may be an antidote that can restore alertness.

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*Sacramento Bee* | [The ALS Association announces new research awards to focus on therapies for Lou Gehrig's disease.](#)

November 30, 2012

In addition to the clinical management grants and drug discovery contracts, The ALS Association is supporting two novel clinical pilot studies involving people with ALS with the Northeast ALS Consortium (NEALS) Clinical Trials Network. **Jonathan Glass 2008**, MD, and **Christina Fournier**, MD, with Emory University in Atlanta, along with Merit Cudkowicz, MD, and James Berry MD., in Boston, Mass. will work together to determine whether they can identify a subset of people with ALS that respond to immune suppressing medication.

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*KECI-TV Montana* | [NFL player's murder-suicide makes us ask why](#)

December 3, 2012

Because murder-suicide statistics aren't readily available, it's not possible to be sure how many happen in public spaces, like in Kansas City and Wyoming. But choosing a public space, or at least doing it in front of other people, is a way to make a "major statement," said **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University in Atlanta. "Often these are impulsive acts, too," she said. "There's just no way to know what was going through someone's head." | [KJCT8.com](#) Colorado

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*Wall Street Journal* | [Scientists try to unravel the riddle of too much sleep](#)

December 10, 2012

"It tends to hit people in their young, formative years when they are trying to get started in a profession or having a family," says **David Rye 2007**, a professor of neurology at Emory and lead author of a paper on the discovery, published last month in the journal *Science Translational Medicine*. . . Researchers now know that this condition "is something real," says **Andrew Jenkins**, an associate professor of neuroscience, molecular and system pharmacology at Emory. "We know why you're sleepy—your brain is sedating itself," he says.

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*Fox News* | [Nurse radio hosts pranked to get royal baby details commits suicide](#)

December 10, 2012



**Nadine Kaslow 2004**, a clinical psychologist at Emory University and the president-elect of the American Psychological Association, told FoxNews.com the prank call may have been the "final straw" that led Saldanha to take her own life.

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**KPLA-FM** | [Animals improve social lives](#)

January 1, 2013

**Nadine Kaslow 2004**, clinical psychologist at Emory University, explains how owning a pet reduces feelings of social anxiety and shyness.

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**WebMD** | [The truth about mucus](#)

January 15, 2013

"Mucus is incredibly important for our bodies," explains **Michael M. Johns, III 2007**, director of the Emory Voice Center and assistant professor of otolaryngology -- head and neck surgery at Emory University.

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**CNN** | [Why we cheat](#)

January 17, 2013

CNN's Brooke Baldwin speaks with **Sanjay Dhall 2012**, assistant professor of neurosurgery at Emory University School of Medicine to get an up close look at what happens in the brain of a cheater.

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**Austin Daily Star** Texas | [Scientists block HIV infection of cells](#)

January 26, 2013

Such gene manipulations represent the next wave of HIV research and "could contribute toward a cure for HIV," said Dr. **Paul Spearman 2006**, a research professor and vice chairman for research in the Department of Pediatrics at Emory University in Atlanta.

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**Atlanta Journal-Constitution** | [Real People: Grady psychologist incorporates love of dance with healing](#)

January 29, 2013

As the chief psychologist at Grady Hospital, **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, professor in behavioral sciences at Emory University, deals with emotionally-charged situations on an almost daily basis. "When there's a crisis, when something happens, I'm often the person called in to help people cope or heal," said Kaslow, 55.

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**Associated Press** via CBS news | [Authorities release photo of accused Ala. abductor](#)

February 2, 2013

**Nadine Kaslow 2004**, a family therapist and psychiatry professor at Emory University in Atlanta, said the boy's emotional troubles might make things even more difficult for him. This article appeared in multiple news outlets.

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**Atlanta Journal-Constitution** | [Fourth down](#)

February 9, 2013

In fact, it wasn't until late 2007 that a doctor in Macon made the first definitive diagnosis of ALS and referred Jeremy Williams to specialists at Emory. "It's hard to because it's a very variable disease," said his doctor, **Jonathan Glass 2008**, professor of neurology at Emory.

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**Yahoo! News** | [U.S. News & World Report announces Best Diets 2013 - Weight Watchers](#)

February 12, 2013

**Laurence Sperling 2008**, director of The Center for Heart Disease Prevention, Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, was on the Best Diets 2013 expert panel.



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*Atlanta Business Chronicle* | [Emory scores \\$900K Parkinson's research grant](#)

February 15, 2013

The Center for Biomedical Imaging Statistics at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health received a three-year, \$900,000 grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. "Our primary goal is to achieve a better prognosis for patients by identifying neuro-degeneration earlier," said **DuBois Bowman 2007**, director of the Center for Biomedical Imaging Statistics.

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*San Diego Union-Tribune Newspapers* | [Ventrix plans heart regeneration trials for Europe](#)

February 20, 2013

The treatment looks promising, said cardiologist **Arshed Quyyumi 2012**, a professor of medicine at Emory School of Medicine. But he cautioned that direct comparisons with real-world heart attack patients are questionable.

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*Georgia Health News* | [Gaps in the breastfeeding trend \(video\)](#)

February 21, 2013

In this video, Emory experts **Maeve Howett 2010**, Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and **Laura Gaydos**, Rollins School of Public Health talk about why breastfeeding is important for the health of both the child and the mother.

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*Yahoo! News* | [ALS community tells FDA 'We Have No Time To Waste,' urges changes in trial design and review process](#)

February 25, 2013

"Regulatory barriers inhibit treatment, based on a traditional model that I believe should be updated," said **Jonathan Glass 2008**, a physician conducting a phase 2 clinical trial at Emory University in Atlanta involving the injection of neural stem cells into the spines of people with ALS.

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*WXIA-TV* | [Meet Dr. Leon Haley, Jr., a Grady Memorial Black History Maker](#)

February 26, 2013

"You never know what's going to happen," said **Leon Haley, Jr. 2005** "But we operate under the assumption that something will happen." Dr. Haley is the Deputy Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs and Chief of Emergency Medicine at Grady Hospital.

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*Medical News Today* | [Associations explored between air pollution and health outcomes](#)

February 19, 2013

**Lance Waller 2003**, chair of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health, presented preliminary work that explores relationships between high-levels of air pollution exposure and health effects at a press briefing hosted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston.

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*USA Today* | [Child's HIV cure won't mean new treatments immediately](#)

March 4, 2013

Most adults can't benefit from such early therapy, because they typically don't even learn that they're infected for months or years, says **Rana Chakraborty 2009**, an associate professor of pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine.

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*Examiner.com* | [Baby's HIV cured: What does this mean for others?](#)

March 4, 2013

A newborn baby has a better chance than an adult does with early treatment because adults typically



don't find out that they are infected for months or years according to [Rana Chakraborty 2009](#), an associate professor of pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine.

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*Atlanta Magazine* | [Emory doc rates diets](#)

March 7, 2013

For the third year, Emory cardiologist [Laurence Sperling 2008](#) helped U.S. News & World Report rate the country's top diets. Sperling joined a panel of 20 experts to evaluate 29 diets from Atkins to Zone. Fortunately for Sperling, medical director of Emory's Center for Heart Disease Prevention, he didn't have to actually try them all.

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*Kaiser Health News* | [Prostate screening tests in older men decline, but many still get them, study finds](#)

March 4, 2013

"There's a lot of skepticism in the medical community that guidelines don't work, especially when the guidelines recommend less care," said [David Howard 2013](#), an associate professor of health policy at Emory University and one of the authors of the study published in Health Affairs today. | [Palm Beach Post](#)

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*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* | [Baby cured of HIV needs more study, Emory doctors say](#)

March 6, 2013

News that a HIV-infected baby, born in rural Mississippi, had been cured dominated the talks early this week at the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in Atlanta... "We know from research that the vast majority of infected children and adults, if they stop their treatments, they are going to get sick and usually very rapidly," said Dr. [Jeffrey Lennox](#), a professor of infectious disease at Emory University and leader of the Emory's HIV clinical trials unit. Lennox and [Rana Chakraborty 2009](#), chairman of the committee on Pediatric AIDS for the American Academy of Pediatrics and the medical director for the family and youth clinic at Grady Hospital's infectious disease program, said the infant's story is an "incredibly unusual" case.

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*Creative Loafing* | [Take me to Grady](#)

March 7, 2013

During [Leon Haley, Jr.'s 2005](#) 16 years at Grady, he's worked as its chief of emergency medicine, a senior administrator, an Emory University medical professor, and a researcher. Few people know the ins and outs of the 1.87 million-square-foot facility better than he does. "You have to remember, everything comes through the emergency room department," he says, scanning the room for incoming patients.

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*Science Daily* | [Store donated blood for more than 3 weeks? Say NO \(Nitric Oxide\)](#)

March 10, 2013

The results are being presented at the American College of Cardiology meeting in San Francisco. The presenter is cardiovascular research fellow Robert Neuman, MD. Senior authors include [Arshed Quyyumi 2012](#), MD, professor of medicine and director of the Emory Clinical Cardiovascular Research Institute, and John Roback, MD, PhD, associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine and medical director of the Emory University Hospital blood bank. | [Big News Network](#)

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*Medical Xpress* | [Results released for first multicenter study of hybrid revascularization](#)

March 10, 2013

[John Puskas 2004](#), MD, professor of surgery and associate chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Emory University School of Medicine, was national principal investigator for the study and is scheduled to present the results at the American College of Cardiology meeting in San Francisco.

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Reuters | [Edwards heart valve system good as surgery at 3 years-trial](#)

March 11, 2013

Patients who received the original version of Edwards Lifesciences Corp's non-invasive heart valve replacement system had a nearly identical death rate after three years as those who had open-heart surgery, with no increased risk of stroke, according to results from a clinical trial... "There seems to be no structural deterioration thus far," said Dr. **Vinod Thourani 2011**, from Emory University School of Medicine and co-lead researcher of the Partner study, who presented the findings at the meeting. |

[Business Week](#) | [Fox Business](#)

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News-Leader.com | [How will the HIV cure affect local treatments?](#)

March 12, 2013

Most adults can't benefit from such early therapy because they typically don't even learn that they're infected for months or years, said **Rana Chakraborty 2009**, an associate professor of pediatrics at Emory University School of Medicine.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution | [Dean inducted into nurse researcher Hall of Famer](#)

March 15, 2013

**Sandra B. Dunbar 2006**, RN, DSN, associate dean for Academic Advancement at Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, will be inducted into the International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame by the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

## ***Happy Trails...***

In early February, **Angela Caliendo 2005** transitioned to a new position in the Brown/Lifespan healthcare system as the Executive Vice Chair of Medicine. Angela's new information is:

Angela M. Caliendo, MD, PhD, Jane Brown 0105, Rhode Island Hospital, 593 Eddy Street, Providence, RI 02903, 401-444-5344, [acaliendo@lifespan.org](mailto:acaliendo@lifespan.org)

**Carl Washington 2006** joined Dermatology Associates of GA after spending 23 years on the faculty of Emory University School of Medicine Department of Dermatology, where he was involved in the training of 18 Fellows in Mohs Surgery, and hundreds of Dermatology Residents.

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

Winship investigator **Ned Waller 2007** is the key author in NEJM study:

### WINSHIP CENTRAL TO STEM CELL TRANSPLANT STUDY IN NEJM

ATLANTA -- Edmund K. Waller, MD, Director of the Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplantation Center at Winship Cancer Institute was a key author and researcher in a study that could influence whether leukemia and blood-related cancer patients receive transplants from blood stem cells or bone marrow.

The study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on Oct. 18, reported on the first randomized trial comparing bone marrow with peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC) for unrelated-donor transplantation. The trial involved 48 centers enrolling 551 patients as part of the Bone Marrow and Clinical Trials Network (BMT CTN). Dr. Waller helped design the study, and his lab at Winship analyzed the cells in each type of graft as the central core lab for the trial.



The study found no significant difference in the overall survival rate at two years, and no difference in relapse rates or in acute graft-versus-host-disease (GVHD). It did, however, find a significantly higher rate of chronic GVHD with the use of blood stem cells.

Because GVHD can be a difficult and sometimes life-threatening complication from transplants, this finding could result in patients and their physicians choosing different treatments. At the very least, this finding will generate serious discussion among leaders in the transplant field about whether bone marrow or PBSC transplantation is a better treatment option.

“What is surprising,” said Waller, “is that the relapse rate was similar, despite the PBSC arm having more chronic GVHD.”

Chronic GVHD starts more than three months after a transplant and can severely diminish a patient’s quality of life over his or her lifetime. Dr. Waller says the study leads him to believe that since the survival rates are the same, bone marrow should be the standard for the majority of unrelated-donor transplants. Exceptions to this would be patients with life-threatening infections and patients at high risk for graft rejection.

Donating bone marrow involves a two or three hour surgical procedure requiring general anesthesia, in which bone marrow is removed from the hip bone with a needle and syringe. For peripheral blood stem cells, the donor undergoes five days of injections of granulocyte colony-stimulating factor and then a four-hour apheresis procedure to harvest stem cells from the blood. Blood stem cell donors have bone pain during the 5-day period of cytokine treatment, and bone marrow donors have more discomfort early after donation, but symptoms for both BM and PBSC donors have typically resolved by four weeks after donation.

Winship played a key role in this study and, according to Waller, is part of on-going BMT CTN studies that will help shape transplant protocols and outcomes.

“This is an outstanding example of Winship investigators leading in the resolution of major questions in cancer care,” said Fadlo R. Khuri, MD, Deputy Director of the Winship Cancer Institute, and Chair of the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology at Emory University. “Dr. Waller and his colleagues have helped define a major question, namely, whether patients who receive grafts from unrelated donors should receive peripheral stem cells or cells from the bone marrow harvest of others. This is paradigm shifting work, and Dr. Waller and his colleagues are to be congratulated for their foresight and persistence in answering this important question.”

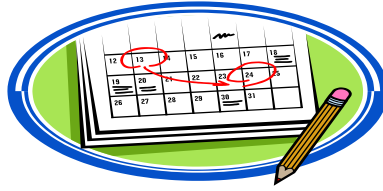
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Dr. Omar Lattouf, Emory Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, recently participated in the meeting of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) Cardiometabolic Work Group. Dr. Lattouf spoke with the Committee Chair, Emory Cardiology Professor [Larry Sperling 2008](#), president - elect of the Society of Preventive Cardiology, who expressed an interest in collaborating with the group’s CEO Roundtable Steering Committee to further advance our common objectives and particularly to explore ways to materialize the 2 proposals below:

1. Creating easy to apply, easy to introduce visual and reportable metrics to define, determine and to allow in seamless ways regular reporting of CMS status, risk and response to treatment and life-style modification. The use of CMS Bull's Eye, which is in the development stage, would serve well here.
2. The concept of "Immunizing" children against CMS! Dr. Lattouf uses the term immunizing in a metaphoric way to educate and "sensitize" children early in their lives, and help create a “mental awareness" against the CMS risk factors.

Additionally, Dr. Sperling informed him that the ACC is planning a multi-disciplinary meeting next year, likely to include the Association of Black Cardiologists, Endocrine Society and other important organizations.





## *Upcoming Events*

**June 4th – 12:00:** WLA Lunch & Leadership – Guest Speaker Dr. Claire Sterk, Emory University Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs - Location TBD

**September 11th – 11:30:** WLA Lunch & Leadership – Guest Speaker Dr. Joseph Simone, author of Simone's Maxims – Location TBD

**October 12th –** WLA Reunion Dinner - Location TBD

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

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).

