



# WLA SPOTLIGHT

*Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows  
Spring 2021*

## Accomplishments, Appointments, Awards

[Usha Ramakrishnan 2008](#) has been appointed as the Chair of the Hubert Department of Global Health as well as the Richard N. Hubert Professor of Global Health.

[Sushma Cribbs 2018](#) was selected as Associate Vice Chair for Faculty Development effective February 1, 2021. In this new role, she will assist the Vice Chair for Faculty Development with the promotion and tenure process; provide oversight for the annual FEED conference and other faculty development events; provide guidance to the faculty development committee and mentoring subcommittee; and guide the overall direction of the DOM faculty development program.

In January, Drs. Rebecca Pentz and [Donald Harvey 2019](#) were planning committee members and speakers for “Improving the Evidence Base for Treatment Decision Making for Older Adults with Cancer,” a free, three-part virtual workshop hosted by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine.

[Aaron Anderson 2021](#) was selected as Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the Department of Neurology.

[Alvaro Alonso 2020](#) received a distinguished professorship for the Stephen D. Clements, Jr. Chair in Cardiovascular Disease Prevention.

[Nadine Rouphael 2017](#) has been named executive director of the Hope Clinic, the clinical arm of the Emory Vaccine Center, effective February 1, 2021. She has served as the interim director of the Hope Clinic since 2018 and director of the Emory Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Unit (VTEU) at the Hope Clinic since 2013.

[Shanthi Srinivasan 2020](#) is the recipient of the Veterans Affairs Biomedical Laboratory R&D Senior Clinician Scientist Investigator Award for her project, “Mechanism of GDNF regulation of Hepatic Steatosis.” The award recognizes outstanding senior biomedical laboratory research and development (BLRD) clinician scientists. The award provides senior BLRD clinician scientists with longer term, flexible support to maintain their laboratory infrastructure, retain key staff, and explore transformative advances in their fields.

[Anne Nelson 2018](#) has been named Vice President Epic Education and Readiness. In this new role, she will oversee all system training and readiness aspects of Epic. Working in collaboration with a governing council and across all business units, Anne will have oversight for creating, maintaining, and enhancing standard training practices related to the deployment of the Epic integrated clinical and financial system. In addition, her team will determine training needs, modalities and readiness for upgrades and new deployments, as well as audit training results and create process improvements for training and readiness plans. Anne will continue her work on the HR team overseeing Epic change management.

[Greg Hill 2021](#) recently served as an invited lecturer at LSU School of Medicine along with Tulane School of Medicine where he taught the business of medicine from a legal perspective and the corporatization of imaging to residents and attending Faculty.

[Ravi Rajani 2017](#) was named the Recorder for the Vascular and Endovascular Surgery Society for a three-year term.

[Moose Alperin 2011](#) was the recipient of the 2021 Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (ASPPH) Practice Excellence Award - <https://www.aspph.org/teach-research/awards/aspph-practice-excellence-award/>

[Amir Emamifar 2008](#) was awarded an appointment with Temple University School of Pharmacy as Distinguished Clinical Scholar in Pharmacy.

[Jennifer Christie 2020](#) has been named the Vice-President of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy for 2021-2022.

[Georgia Jackson 2013](#) completed her Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree from Capella University in December, 2020. Her scholarly project was entitled *The Impact of Implementing a Nurse Communication Competency Incorporating the Principles of AIDET on the Communication with Nurses HCAHPS Scores* focused on the benefits of consistent nurse communication principles in driving improved outcomes. Considering nurse communication as a competency is an important advancement in our thinking about preparing and supporting nursing practice.

Georgia also was promoted to a new role within EUH/EWWH/EUOSH - The Director of Nursing Workforce Development and Patient and Family Centered Care. This role is accountable for workforce development initiatives with a particular focus on cultural competence, diversity, equity, and inclusion. She will collaborate with nurse leaders and educators for nurse onboarding activities, nurse leader mentoring, and broader nursing workforce development. She will collaborate with system and operating unit senior leadership to support proactive succession planning and to promote a diverse leadership team.

[Octavian C. \('Tavi'\) Ioachimescu 2016](#) has been inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM).

[Larry Sperling 2008](#) shared these two accomplishments: Most importantly my wife, Sidney Barr (Emory SOM '91), and I will be celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in May.

As well, in my role as the Executive Director of the CDC / CMS Million Hearts Initiative, I am serving as the Chair of the Federal Hypertension Control Leadership Council composed of CDC, CMS, AHRQ, FDA, HRSA, IHS, NHLBI, NINDS, ODPHP, OWH, OMH, and ONC. The Council's mission is to improve National hypertension control with the goals of saving lives, eliminating disparities, and improving our Nation's health and resiliency.

[Lucky Jain 2003](#) shared that Emory Pediatrics ranked # 1 in the country for NIH funding in 2020, up from # 49 in 2004 and that we have 18 investigators with more than \$1M extramural funding.

[Dan Owens 2006](#) has been selected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals. The Georgia Alliance of Community Hospitals is dedicated to helping community hospitals fulfill their primary mission of serving their communities and is a resource to members in advocating for sound health care policies and regulations.

[Steve Goudy 2020](#) is the CEO and Founder of [Dr. Noze Best](#) - a content forward company focused on educating parents and providing pediatric health and wellness solutions. Dr. Noze Best has created the [NozeBot](#), a pediatric nasal aspirator that provides hospital grade suction in a portable and rechargeable device and is available on [Amazon](#). This product allows families to more easily clear their children's nose with its novel nosepiece design.

[Ed Chen 2018](#) is busy learning a new institution and building a house which should be done in late August. He was given an Honorary Overseas Fellowship by the Indian Association of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery in February. He has given virtual talks to India (two meetings) and Japan (two meetings) since last fall. Ed is also on the Thoracic Surgery Foundation Board of Directors now (the Charitable arm of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons) and is on the writing committee for both the AHA Aortic Disease Guidelines and AHA Valvular Heart Disease Performance Measures Guidelines.

[Tim Lash 2018](#) and colleagues published the fourth edition of Modern Epidemiology, a leading text in the methods of epidemiologic research. Almost nine years just to prepare the revision!  
<https://shop.lww.com/Modern-Epidemiology/p/9781451193282>

In February, [Leon Haley 2005](#) was honored by The First Coast Business Hall of Fame for his outstanding accomplishments. He was one of seven local leaders recognized for distinguishing themselves through their contributions to the local community and are lifelong examples of integrity and high ideals.

[Nabil Saba 2020](#) and team had this paper published in Nature:

*Defining HPV-specific B cell responses in patients with head and neck cancer.* [Wieland A, Patel MR, Cardenas MA, Eberhardt CS, Hudson WH, Obeng RC, Griffith CC, Wang X, Chen ZG, Kissick HT, Saba NF, Ahmed R. Nature. 2020 Nov 18. doi: 10.1038/s41586-020-2931-3. Online ahead of print](#)

[Sandi Dunbar](#) is going to receive the American Heart Association's Healthcare Volunteer of the Year in a virtual meeting in June.

<https://pub.s1.exacttarget.com/pkjkgc0txea#top>

[Bob Dent 2021](#) had this to share:

1. In January, my wife and I celebrated our 31<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary where we honeymooned, Disney World. Of course we were appropriately socially distanced, wore our masks, and washed our hands regularly;
2. Presented *Maintaining a State of Resiliency and Positivity in the Hospital* as a keynote at the virtual Georgia Hospital Associations Patient Safety Summit in January;
3. Published an article, *Everyday courage for extraordinary times* in the January Nursing Management journal;
4. Published a message of hope in *The Stay Strong For Us* eBook which includes more than a hundred messages of hope, gratitude, and encouragement. The eBook can be viewed as a flipbook and/or downloaded. I included a message on pages 68-69. [Stay Strong For Us website and eBook](#);
5. Was selected to serve on the *Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Steering Committee* in January. I will serve on this committee for 18-24 months as they develop educational modules, journal articles, online conversations to the membership, and a deep dive into the organization's policies, procedures, and branding.

[David Murphy 2016](#) was named a fellow of the American College of Critical Care Medicine.

[David Murphy](#) pointed out [Greg Martin 2011](#) is serving as president of the Society of Critical Care Medicine and it is impressive that the WLA has a second president for SCCM. [Craig Coopersmith 2012](#) was president a few years ago.

[Vinod Thourani 2011](#) has been named Treasurer-Elect of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the Board of the Heart Valve Voice, and the Scientific Board of the FDA Heart Valve Collaboratory.

[Daniel Wu 2016](#) will serve as the Interim Chief of Service for Emergency Medicine (Grady). He was also awarded the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA) 2020 Leadership Award.

## Happy Trails

[Hany Atallah 2018](#) accepted the position of Chief Medical Officer at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.

After 15 years at Emory Healthcare, [Diane Woods 2010](#) accepted the position of Clinical Executive Director for Ambulatory Operations at UC Davis Health in Sacramento. She is looking forward to our AMC collaborations!

[Doty Kempf 2018](#) has accepted an Associate Director of Veterinary Sciences position at Bristol Myers Squibb.

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