

WLA SPOTLIGHT

Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows
Summer 2020

Accomplishments, Appointments, Awards

[Christy Norman 2020](#) is President-elect of the Georgia Society of Health-System Pharmacists.

RSPH included Lisa [Carlson 2013](#) in their new Faculty Profiles webpage.

<https://www.sph.emory.edu/academics/faculty-highlights/index.html>

These profiles will be emailed to admitted students as part of their drip marketing campaign, aimed at solidifying yield, and were also featured in their spring newsletter for admitted students.

[David Rye 2007](#) was notified that *Your Fantastic Mind* has been nominated for five Emmys. One of them is for the show overall that includes the story done with him on hypersomnia. The winners are usually announced in June, but because of the pandemic it's open ended.

[Colleen Kraft 2019](#) had this article in the LA Times:

<https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2020-04-08/la-sci-pandemic-fighting-doctor>

[Mike Zwick 2016](#) was selected to serve as a program committee liaison to the 2020-2021 Steering Committee for the AAMC Group on Research and Development (GRAND). GRAND provides a national forum for the promotion, support, development, and conduct of biomedical research in medical schools and teaching hospitals.

[Alvaro Alfonso 2020](#) has been selected as the inaugural Stephen D. Clements, Jr. Distinguished Professor in Cardiovascular Disease Prevention and Research. A competitive national search for this was led by [Viola Vaccarino 2010](#). This endowed chair was established in January 2018 by the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation to honor Stephen D. Clements, Jr., MD, a distinguished Emory cardiologist and longtime friend of the Rollins family, who has dedicated his career to clinical care, prevention, and discovery in cardiovascular disease.

[Kristin Higgins 2019](#) will co-chair the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) World Conference on Lung Cancer, scheduled to take place Sept. 11-14, 2021, in Denver. The conference is the world's largest meeting dedicated to lung cancer and other thoracic malignancies.

This year [Vinod Thourani 2011](#) is the President of the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association, President of International Heart Valve Society, and President/Program Chair, South Atlantic Cardiovascular Society.

[Kimberly Manning 2011](#) authored the piece, "When Grief and Crises Intersect: Perspectives of a Black Physician in the Time of Two Pandemics," in the Journal of Hospital Medicine.

<https://www.journalofhospitalmedicine.com/jhospmed/article/223342/hospital-medicine/when-grief-and-crises-intersect-perspectives-black>

[Sheryl Gabram-Mendola 2008](#) will retire as Emory Emeritus Professor in January 2021. Sheryl started mid-April transitioning from her clinical and leadership roles in the Department of Surgery and at Grady Memorial Hospital. [Keith Delman 2011](#) began serving as interim surgeon-in-chief at Grady in April.

A Winship study by [Adam Marcus 2020](#), Mala Shanmugam, Rachel Commander, and colleagues reveals metabolic differences between leader and follower cells and provides a rationale for co-targeting PDH and GLUT1 to inhibit cancer metastasis. The results were published March 24 in *Nature Communications*.

[Craig Coopersmith 2012](#) has been named director of the Emory Critical Care Center, having served as the center's interim director since 2018. Craig has also been inducted as a Master of Critical Care Medicine of the American College of Critical Care Medicine.

The American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) held the first of its two-part virtual annual meeting April 27-28. [Suresh Ramalingam 2017](#) chaired a clinical trials plenary session on April 27 that featured [Taofeek Owonikoko 2019](#) as a discussant.

[Sagar Lonial 2012](#) and [Amy Langston 2010](#) discussed topics related to cancer care during the COVID-19 pandemic and answered viewer questions in a Facebook Live on April 16.

Winship researchers, including first author Brian Pedro and senior author [Adam Marcus 2020](#), found that mutations identified from invasive leader cells correlate with poor survival in patients with non-small cell lung cancer. The study was published April 21 in the journal *Cancer*.

[Tim Lash 2018](#) offered insight into work and study efficiency during difficult times in a PROspective posted April 19 by the Department of Epidemiology at Rollins.

[Baker Hubbard 2018](#) is among those being recognized for Educators Appreciation Day. The Emory University School of Medicine honored faculty for their passion and skills to educate, encourage, and support scholars and learners across the school.

[Greg Martin 2011](#) and Wilbur Lam, along with Oliver Brand from Georgia Tech, received a large NIH grant to 'test the tests' - meaning to test the accuracy of new COVID-19 tests. They are also about to receive another NIH award that Greg will lead to perform studies in asymptomatic individuals using the newest tests, to ensure they will work for our nation to be safe.

The first lung cancer patient to be treated with a new type of immunotherapy involving the re-engineering of a patient's T cells, known as TCR T-cell therapy, took place at Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University (Winship) on May 7, 2020. The Winship patient is enrolled on a clinical trial evaluating the safety and tolerability of a TCR T-cell therapy product in patients with lung cancer.

The on-going trial is being run at several institutions around the world as a Phase Ib/IIa Pilot Randomized Study. [Taofeek Owonikoko 2019](#) is principal investigator for the trial in Georgia, and Winship is the only location in Georgia enrolling patients on this trial.

More than 50 Winship investigators were part of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)'s virtual meeting, May 29-31. In a webinar on May 29, [Sagar Lonial 2012](#) and [Suresh Ramalingam 2017](#) discussed the breadth and depth of Winship-driven research at ASCO and clinical advances helping change the landscape of cancer care.

[Donald Harvey 2019](#) and colleagues from the American Society of Clinical Oncology evaluated changes and challenges that oncology clinical researchers are encountering during the COVID-19 pandemic. The article was published on May 12 in *JCO Oncology Practice*.

[Amy Langston 2010](#) discusses caring for patients with cancer during the COVID-19 pandemic in an article published on May 22 in *The Cancer Letter*. The story examines how the virus has uniquely impacted communities in Georgia.

[Connie Masters 2018](#) spoke with WSB-TV about the 100 handmade bracelets that 10-year-old Brigid Quinn gave to Winship for Nurses' Week. The "People 2 People" segment aired on May 17.

[Anita Corbett 2007](#) is the inaugural recipient of the Mid-Career Leadership Award from the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB). In a profile published on May 26, Anita discusses her early influences and her passion for increasing diversity and inclusion in science.

[Sagar Lonial 2012](#) and colleagues report a pooled, post-hoc analysis of two studies that evaluated daratumumab as monotherapy in patients with heavily pretreated multiple myeloma. The results were published June 1 in *The Lancet*.

The Southeastern Association of Shared Resources (SEASR) held a virtual meeting on June 10 to exchange ideas about current and emerging issues. The agenda included [Mike Zwick 2016](#), Finesha Colton-Lee, Pritha Bagchi, and Lyra Griffiths as presenters and session moderators.

Bill Stokes, [Kristin Higgins 2019](#), and Jeff Bradley discussed advances in radiation oncology during the COVID-19 era in a webinar on June 1. The live, interactive discussion included updates for ASTRO and ESTRO head and neck cancer guidelines.

[Lance "Walker" \(actually Waller\) 2003](#) was quoted in a Bloomberg story picked up by Fortune and MSN on potential for second wave of Covid: [Bloomberg | **Second U.S. virus wave emerges as cases top 2 million**](#) (Lance Walker quoted) | [Fortune](#) | [MSN](#). Lance was also interviewed by the Cheddar news network on the same topic.

[Tara Adyanthaya 2012](#) lives in Boston now and will be attending graduate school at Boston University's School of Medicine in the fall to pursue a Master's degree in mental health counseling. She misses her Emory friends and colleagues and hopes anyone visiting Boston will give her a holler.

In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, a special grant cycle of the Imagine, Innovate and Impact Awards, COVID-Catalyst-I3, was created to support COVID-19 research. [Haian Fu 2015](#), along with Stefan Sarafianos and Dennis Liotta, received one of the awards for **Accelerated discovery of SARS-CoV-2 viral entry inhibitors**. This is made possible through a grant from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation.

[David Kooby 2015](#) has been in charge of our "Surgical Adjudication Committee" at ESJH during the pandemic, with 11 amazing partners. He was also honored to be appointed to the editorial board of the *Annals of Surgery* - the highest impact surgical journal.

[Kim Rask 2004](#) will be retiring from Emory at the end of the month. She will continue working part-time at Alliant. She and her husband, [Martin Sheline 2005](#), will be spending more time on their Florida "house", a sailing catamaran, sticking to US ports of call until COVID decides to take a break! The boat's name is "Paradox" – pronounced "Pair of docs"

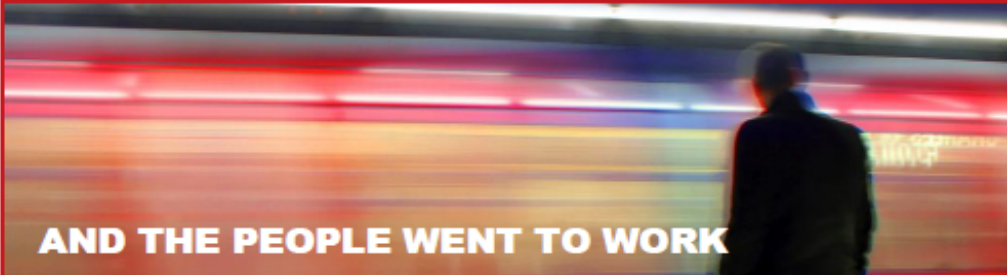
[Ravi Rajani 2017](#) was appointed the Vice-Chair of the Society for Vascular Surgery Professional Conduct Committee.

[Dan Hunt 2016](#) was honored with the Golden Apple Award at EUH. This award recognizes the most outstanding inpatient attending and subspecialist attending at each hospital.

[Victoria Jordan 2018](#) is the incoming President of the Fellows for the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers and serves on the Engineering Council for Auburn University.

[Gina Lundberg 2017](#) was named Social Media Supervisor for Journal of American College of Cardiology (JACC) Case Reports for 2020 till 2023.

Gina also wrote the poem below about COVID-19 entitled "And the People Went to Work". It was published in the American College of Cardiology (ACC) Cardiology Magazine May 2020.



AND THE PEOPLE WENT TO WORK

And The People Went to Work
Gina P Lundberg MD

And the people went to work
And wore masks and paper gowns
And cared for the feverish and weak
And bathed them and fed them
And took them for testing and fluffed their pillows
And gave them medications and IV fluids
And held their hands and wiped their brows
And tried to give comfort
Someone listened
Someone wept
Someone prayed
And the people learned about the virus
And most people got better
And some people died
And the visitors were unable to come
And the schools and churches closed
And the people appreciated the doctors and nurses
And the people thanked the first responders
And they were steadfast in their calling as health care workers