



WLA SPOTLIGHT

*Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows
Summer 2021*

Accomplishments, Appointments, Awards

[Kimberly Jacob Arriola 2010](#) has been appointed executive associate dean for academic affairs and Charles Howard Candler Professor at Rollins School of Public Health, as dean of Laney Graduate School following a national search. She also will serve as vice provost for graduate affairs. Her tenure begins September 1, 2021.

[Roberta Kaplow 2004](#), clinical nurse specialist in the Acute Respiratory Intensive Care Unit at Emory University Hospital, has been named a 2020 National Magnet Nurse of the Year by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). She was recognized for Exemplary Professional Practice, a core component of the Magnet program for nursing excellence.

https://news.emory.edu/stories/2021/06/kaplow_2020_magnet_nurse_of_year/index.html

Roberta is one of five National Magnet Nurse of the Year awardees for 2020. The clinical nurses were recognized by the ANCC for outstanding contributions in innovation, consultation, leadership, and professional practice.

[Ram Ramalingam 2017](#) has been appointed as the new executive director of Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University. He will begin his new post on July 1, 2021.

The Correll Family Foundation has established the Correll Distinguished Clinician Leadership Fund in honor of [Chad Ritenour 2005](#) for his leadership responsibilities within Emory Healthcare. Through the foundation, the Correll family has funded chairs, scholarships, and professorships.

[Mary Jo Lechowicz 2011](#), in collaboration with others, has been part of a six-year medical school in Tbilisi, Georgia (the country). They have now graduated their third class and recently acquired international accreditation for the medical school.

[Toni Wimby 2005](#) graduated from the Harvard Business Analytics Program (HBAP) in March 2021. The 18-month journey included coursework in artificial intelligence and machine learning, neural networks, digital business strategy, operations and supply chain management, data driven marketing, and people analytics.

[Donald Harvey 2019](#) was selected as one of the Association for Clinical Oncology's (ASCO) 2020 Advocacy Champions. ASCO appreciates Donald's continued commitment to their advocacy efforts and his work to educate lawmakers on the promise and challenges of providing high-quality, equitable care for patients with cancer in the United States.

Atlanta Business Chronicle 2021 Health Care Heroes Finalists

[Craig Coopersmith 2012](#) was a finalist in the Physician/Physician Practice Group Category for his work in caring for critically ill patients with COVID-19 and sharing critical care guidance to educate health care providers across the U.S. and globally. During the pandemic, Craig, a professor of surgery at Emory University School of Medicine and director of the Emory Critical Care Center, and his team cared for several thousand COVID-19 patients with the highest degree of expertise, compassion, and humanity.

[Christy Norman 2020](#) was a finalist in the Allied Health Professional Category for her role in the planning and distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations to Emory Healthcare staff, physicians, and patients. A pharmacist and administrator, she serves as vice president of Emory Healthcare Pharmacy Services and has been instrumental in organizing and leading the operational efforts at Emory Healthcare's mass vaccination site at Northlake Mall (in the former Kohl's department store). When the first vaccines arrived at Emory in December 2020, Christy was there to administer the very first shots to frontline health care workers. Her team has advised federal, state, and local officials on large-scale vaccine clinic best practices.

[Nicole Franks 2017](#) and [Ted Johnson 2010](#) were finalists in the Community Outreach Category for their work on Emory's initiative to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in Atlanta's Black and Brown communities. Together with physicians, social workers and communicators, Nicole and Ted formed the Emory Collaborative for Community Outreach and Health Disparities group in May 2020.

[Sandra G. Franklin 2011](#), director of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center Library, delivered the Janet Doe Lecture on May 26, 2021 during the Medical Library Association's annual conference. The Janet Doe Lectureship is one of MLA's award nominations. The criteria for selection includes being an active member of the profession a sufficient number of years to have acquired a broad perspective of medical librarianship, and a member of the association who has made a substantial contribution to its work. Sandra's lecture was titled "Diversity That Defines Us: The View Through A Crystal Lens" to be followed by a publication in the Journal of the Medical Library Association.

Sandra's service to MLA includes chair of the Credentialing Committee, member of the Board of Directors, member of the 2015 National Program Committee, chair of the Local Assistance Committee for MLA 2018 in Atlanta, and chair of MLA's Diversity and Inclusion Task Force.

[Melinda Franks 2017](#) recently joined the leadership team at Vanderbilt University Medical Center as the CBO for the Department of Emergency Medicine.

[Jennifer Christie 2020](#) has been named vice president of the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ASGE), starting May 2021. In her new role, Jennifer will serve one of the leading gastrointestinal (GI) professional societies internationally, with more than 14,000 members.

Effective October 1st, [Mark Williams 2004](#) will be starting a new position at Washington University / Barnes Jewish Health. See link below.
<https://internalmedicine.wustl.edu/mark-v-williams-md-chief-of-the-division-of-hospital-medicine/>

[Richard Pittman 2015](#) received the Evangeline T. Papageorge Distinguished Teaching Award. The award, established in 1993 by the Emory Medical Alumni Association, is one of the most prestigious awards presented by the School of Medicine and Emory University. The Papageorge Award recognizes excellence in the teaching of medical education and honors the legacy of Dr. Evangeline Papageorge 29G 37M, beloved teacher and administrator who served Emory for many decades. The award and honorarium are given each year to a medical faculty member whose intellectual luminosity has generated the greatest excitement about learning among students and colleagues.

[Jada Bussey-Jones 2014](#) received the Exemplary Teacher of the Year Award, a faculty honor supported by the United Methodist Church's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. The award honors exceptional teaching, recognized concern for students and colleagues, a record of significant contributions to the scholarly life of the university, and commitment to high standards.
https://news.emory.edu/stories/2021/05/er_commencement_awards_teaching_bussey_jones/campus.html

On June 17th, [Sheryl Heron 2021](#) had the privilege of speaking with Dr. Marion Hood for the Emory School of Medicine's Juneteenth celebration, "Giving Voice: The Rest of His Story with Dr. Marion Hood." It has been featured in the AJC, the New York Times, and CNN. If you missed it, click here: [Giving Voice: The Rest of His Story with Dr. Marion Hood | Emory School of Medicine](#).

[Christy Norman 2020](#):

- ASHP House of Delegates-Georgia Representative
- Appointed to ASHP Pharmacy Practice Management Council
- Appointed to ASHP Pharmacy Practice Accreditation Commission
- New Chair of ASHP Pharmacy Practice Management/Multihospital Executive Management Executive Committee-
- Will be installed as new President of Georgia Society of Health-Systems Pharmacist next month
- Delivered commencement speak last month at PCOM graduation and awarded Honorary Doctor of Science degree

[Lisa Carlson 2013](#) is to receive the Rollins School of Public Health Distinguished Achievement Award this fall.

[Bob Dent 2021](#) and his wife welcomed their 7th grandchild, Benjamin Elliott, to the family. Fun times!

[Stacy Higgins 2010](#):

-I've been invited to be the Co-Chair of the NBME's Women's Health Test Development Materials Committee

-I've joined the Journal of General Internal Medicine as an Associate Editor in Medical Education

-My younger daughter will be joining her older sister this fall at Emory as a freshman and on the Emory swim team

[Ravi Rajani 2017](#) was recently promoted to Editor for "Annals of Vascular Surgery".

Cody V. Thourani was born on April 13, 2021 to Marissa and [Vinod Thourani 2011](#). He is doing well and growing up fast.

The chief residents honored [Chris Dente 2014](#) with the departmental teaching award titled the J.R. Amerson Teaching Award for 2021. This award is given to the faculty member with the most significant impact on the education and growth of the graduating chiefs.

[Erwin Van Meir 2006](#):

-Published a study in the *Journal of Clinical Investigation* in 2021 demonstrating the role adhesion receptor N-cadherin plays in radio-resistance of glioma stem cells:

<https://www.uab.edu/news/research/item/11897-uab-researchers-identify-potential-therapeutic-target-against-malignant-brain-tumors>

-Was awarded two new NIH R01 grants to study brain tumors in 2020 and 2021:

1. NS117666 "Mechanisms underlying BAI1/ADGRB1 negative regulation of glioblastoma mesenchymal transition and invasion"

2. CA235162 "Evaluating ADGRB3 as a tumor suppressor epigenetically silenced in WNT medulloblastoma"

-Became Associate Director for Shared Resources at the NCI-designated O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center in 2020

-Received an endowed Professorship in 2021: David Hart White Professorship for Brain Cancer Research

-Celebrated my google scholar H-index of 100 with our lab publications having cumulated over 45,700 citations

-Bought a 100-year old house in the historic Highland Park district of Birmingham and its maintenance keeps me busy

[Ed Chen 2018](#) has been named to the Editorial Board of The Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, one of the two premier journals in CT Surgery.

Happy Trails

The last day of employment for [Arnold Barros 2003](#) was June 11. He said his **41** years of service to Emory Healthcare has been a blessing and his participation in the very first WLA class was a major highlight of that career. Arnold said to please thank everyone for all the support and leadership education over the almost 20 years of the academy and that it was truly special.

[Taofeek Owonikoko 2019](#) accepted a leadership position at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Hillman Cancer Center in Pittsburgh as chief of the Division of Hematology/Oncology, effective July 1, 2021.

[Melissa Childress 2020](#) returned to her home state of Ohio, where she accepted a position as chief operating officer for University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center in Cleveland.

[Mike Zwick 2016](#) will be senior vice president for research at Rutgers University, effective September 1, 2021. He will arrive at Rutgers after serving as associate vice president for research of the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center and the associate dean of research and professor of human genetics and pediatrics in the School of Medicine. He spent over 16 years at Emory, beginning as an assistant professor in 2005.

[David Mafe 2017](#) is now heading the University of Colorado Health Systems DEI work (reporting directly to the CEO of the system) and he is a regional VP of HR.

Remember to take advantage of the leadership resources available in the WLA Library.

If you would like to checkout a book or CD from the library, let us know, and we'll deliver it to you.

