



WLA SPOTLIGHT

A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows

Spring 2015 – Volume XXIII

Accomplishments, Appointments, Awards...

Vinod Thourani 2011 won the Richard Clark award at the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) national meeting in January. He was also elected to the board of directors for the STS as well as the board of directors for the Heart Valve Society.

Yoko Hammond 2011 was selected for the 2015 Emory University Award of Distinction. Each year, the Award of Distinction Program recognizes approximately 10-15 university employees who have made outstanding contributions to the Emory Community.

In February, **Lisa Carlson 2013** received the Outstanding Teaching and Mentoring Adjunct Faculty Award from the Rollins School of Public Health.

In April, Lisa accepted a new role at Emory. She transitioned out of Surgery, Transplant and Brain Health into the role of Associate Director of Management and Operations with the new CHAMPS Network at the Emory Global Health Institute. Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CHAMPS (Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance) is a new global health surveillance network aimed at preventing childhood mortality in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia. She will be working closely with **Roseanne Waters 2003**.

Tawanda Austin 2009, MSN, RN, NE-BC, accepted the position of Chief Nursing Officer at Emory University Hospital Midtown, effective June 7. Tawanda had been serving as the Vice President of Patient Care Services and CNO at Southern Regional Medical Center, an Emory Healthcare Network Partner, since May 2013.

Hannah Cooper 2015 won both the RSPH Student Government and the Emory Williams Teaching Awards this year. She also became vice-chair of her department this month.

Anita Corbett 2007 received the Eleanor Main Graduate Faculty Mentor Award at graduation this year. See more about this in the *Staying Linked* section.

Wendy Armstrong 2011 received the School of Medicine Evangeline Papageorge Distinguished Faculty Award.

Mary Beth Allen 2004 was named the new Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO) for Emory Healthcare, effective July 1, 2015. She joined Emory University Hospital in 1982 as a technologist in the blood bank. Her outstanding leadership skills and vision were soon apparent, and she quickly took on progressive leader roles, including manager of the transfusion medicine program, administrative director of laboratories, associate director of laboratory and rehabilitation medicine, and, most recently, Vice President of Human Resources for Emory University Hospital, where she has served since 2012. In this role, she has overseen the HR activities for EUH, EWWH, EUOSH, ERH and EHI. Among her many accomplishments as Vice President of Human Resources, Mary Beth has developed and executed a comprehensive recruiting strategy, eliminated contract labor at EUH (which is a significant cost savings), improved employee engagement, and proven to be an outstanding coach and mentor.



Judy Belt 2010 presented at the national AAMC Group on Institutional Planning in NYC on April 23. The session focused on development of the WHSC Primary Care Plan.

Heather Hamby 2006 was named a member of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2016.

Lucky Jain 2003 received the NICHD/NIH 2015 Duane Alexander Award.

Georgia F. Jackson 2013 received the 2015 Nursing Achievement Award from the Gamma Chi Chapter of Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. This award is given to a Registered Nurse who has rendered service to nursing education, practice or administration, utilized personal expenditures of time, effort, and interest to provide health related services to the community. They also have served as a volunteer, advisor, and/or consultant to a variety of organizations for the improvement of health care services within the community and completed/implemented a project that contributed to the improvement of patient care. Chi Eta Phi Sorority, Inc. is a professional nursing organization founded in 1932 for specific purposes: elevating the plane of nursing and increasing interest in the field of nursing. There are over 8,000 registered nurses and nursing students in graduate and undergraduate (Beta) chapters grouped into five regions according to geographic areas. The chapters are located throughout the United States, District of Columbia, St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Island and Liberia West Africa. Guided by the motto "Service for Humanity", the Sorority has Programs focusing on health promotion/disease prevention, leadership development, mentoring, recruitment and retention and scholarships.

Greg Martin 2011 was appointed the director of the Clinical Research Network for ACTSI.

Mary Jo Lechowicz 2011 was appointed to the inaugural five-year term of the Margaret H. Rollins Chair in Cancer at the Winship Cancer Institute. She is also now the Director of Societies and Small Group Affairs for undergraduate medical school.

We have "back to back" first author NEJM articles by Winship / Emory SOM leaders this month. **Sagar Lonial 2012** wrote an article on a new approach to patients with relapsed multiple myeloma using an immunostimulatory antibody and the results of a positive phase III trial which was published in early June. **Dan Brat 2010** is first author on a new staging system for diffuse gliomas based on NCI's The Cancer Genome Atlas work.

James Spivey 2009 has been appointed to the role of Vice Chair of Clinical Affairs for the Department of Medicine. In this role, he will engage with mentoring, peer review, and performance assessment of all physicians and practitioners in the department; collaborate with the Vice Chair of Quality on patient safety and process improvement initiatives; and partner with physician leaders to help direct the organization's agenda for clinical quality, safety, and cost of clinical care.

Clinician-researcher **Paul Spearman 2006** is president-elect of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society.

The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) recently elected **Dian Dowling Evans 2011** PhD, FNP-BC, clinical associate professor at Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, into its 2015 Fellowship class. She was honored earlier this month at the AANP's fellow induction ceremony at the 2015 AANP National Conference in New Orleans. Induction into the AANP Fellowship is considered one of the highest honors for nurse practitioners.

Alex Isakov 2010 received the Zeb L. Burrell Distinguished Service Award for contributions to enhance pre-hospital emergency medical care from the Georgia Association of Emergency Medical Services.

Marilea Grider 2008 has a new grandson. Lucian Rhett Woodliff, 7 lbs, 3 oz, 19 inches - was born to Dylan Woodliff, Emory College graduate and Laura Jane Miller, Marilea's daughter, Emory College and SOM graduate and a resident at Cambridge Health Alliance in Psychiatry.



Fellows in the News

The Chronicle of Higher Education | [A new grant aims to help young medical researchers jump-start their careers](#)
March 23, 2015

Three leading philanthropic groups are attempting to step in and support young medical researchers through the Faculty Scholars competition. In the meantime, the NIH has tried to provide financial support to student researchers through dedicated awards, known as T32 and F31 grants. The nation's leading user of the F31 grant, Emory University, has emphasized teaching students to write grant applications as well as scientific journal articles, said **Anita H. Corbett 2007**, a professor of biochemistry at Emory.

Business Insider | [Why prescription drugs are so wildly expensive](#)
March 20, 2015

In most markets, companies face concrete constraints on pricing, according to **David Howard 2013**, an associate professor of health policy and management at Emory University, but "in the pharmaceutical market, and particularly the market for cancer drugs, that's not the case."

CNN Money | [Most Alzheimer's patients not given diagnosis by their doctors](#)
March 25, 2015

This is not the first report to show doctors are sidestepping this tough conversation. "I think the comparison of Alzheimer's to cancer is appropriate," said Dr. **Tom Price 2013**, medical director for Emory University's Geriatric Clinic. "I give patients a new diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease many times a week, and every time it is uncomfortable, and I've been doing it for over 10 years. It is easier to talk about cancer now that there are so many new and effective treatment strategies, and cause of optimism with survival from cancer at an all-time high."

CNN via WDAM-TV | [Anaphylaxis can be deadly](#)
March 24, 2015

For most people, the occasional bee sting is just slightly painful and annoying. But for people with anaphylactic, or allergic, reactions, the encounter can be deadly. "Anaphylaxis is a systemic response or a total body response to something that someone is allergic to," Dr. **Kate Heilpern 2004**, Emory Hospital, said. "And if not treated rapidly and appropriately can lead to death."

Minnesota Public Radio | [How and why Medicare will change](#)
March 23, 2015

For nearly 20 years, Congress has implemented stop-gap measures to prevent sustainable growth rate cuts. This week lawmakers will vote on a measure to fix Medicare reimbursements for doctors. **David Howard 2013**, associate professor of health policy and management at Emory University, talks about the proposed plan and what it will mean for Medicare enrollees and doctors.

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Looking for answers](#)
March 27, 2015

Behind the walls of Georgia's research universities and biotech companies, there are hundreds of scientists conducting clinical trials that may very well change the world of health care. Emory clinical trials and physician-researchers are featured, including **Jacques Galipeau, Mark Rapaport, Muna Qayed, Helen Mayberg, Chandon Devireddy, Suresh Ramalingam, Anand Jillella, Subra Kugathasan, David Kooby 2015, Anne Winkler, Colleen Kraft, Stephen Yeh, Andrew Hendrick, Ihab Hajjar, Vinod Thourani 2011, Vasilis Babaliaros and Whitney Wharton.**



NPR Blog | [New York City to teens: TXT ME with mental health worries](#)

March 27, 2015

"I was very excited about this program," says **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, the president of the American Psychological Association and vice-chair of Emory University's psychiatry department. "I think it has a great deal of potential." In-person counseling is the best, most effective way to help teens with mental health trouble, says Kaslow, who isn't involved with the Teen Text program. "But there will be some subgroup of teens where this text service is the only way to connect with them."

WLS-TV Chicago | [Diet is key to controlling Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes](#)

April 6, 2015

Almost one in 10 Americans has a form of diabetes. And whether it's Type 1 or Type 2 diabetes, there's one thing all of these people can do to help manage the disease. And that's to eat a healthy diet. "Dietary approaches are really just as important as medical approaches to the treatment of diabetes," says Dr. **Laurence Sperling 2008**, Emory University Preventive Cardiology Director. This story also appeared in additional media outlets.

WXIA-TV | [Ebola in Atlanta: Inside Emory's labs](#)

April 9, 2015

Infectious disease physician/researcher **Aneesh Mehta 2015**, pathologist **Anne Winkler**, and School of Nursing professor **Deborah Bruner** were featured in a story about Ebola treatment, research and education at Emory.

Web MD | [The health effects of e-cigarettes](#)

April 9, 2015

Winship Cancer Institute Deputy Director **Fadlo Khuri 2003**, MD, talked to WebMD about the dangers of e-cigarettes.

Consumer Affairs | [Researchers find pediatric cancer clusters in Florida](#)

April 21, 2015

Some recent research indicates that there are higher-than-expected rates of pediatric cancers present in the Miami metro area and certain locations west of the Everglades. **Lance A. Waller 2003**, a biostatistics professor at Emory University points out that having so many research teams on the problem can be beneficial. "The methods don't completely agree on the precise location, boundaries, and make-up of the detected clusters," he said. "But reviewing each case will allow for potential policy responses to address public concerns."

WBBH-TV Ft. Myers, Florida | [Report finds pediatric 'cancer cluster' in SWFL](#)

April 23, 2015

A new report singles out Southwest Florida as having a "cancer cluster" - an area with a higher than expected number of children battling cancer. Emory University professor **Lance Waller 2003** said: "Maybe there's just something we don't understand - maybe there's something with individual risk behaviors, diet, exercise, or so on - maybe there's something related to the environment." He warned not to leap to large-scale causes until they really look into data and figure out what they have in those cases.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution | [Monica Pearson recovering from liver cancer](#)

April 23, 2015

Monica Pearson, former Channel 2 Action News anchor who retired in 2012 after 37 years, is recovering from liver cancer. She was diagnosed in December and had surgery January 29 to remove more than 50 percent of her liver. She praised **Dr. Rio Dickens**, her primary care physician, for catching the cancer after seeing abnormal results during a routine blood test during her regular physical in early December. And she also lauded her surgeon Emory's Dr. **David Kooby 2015** for his thoroughness and expertise.



Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Who is in the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2016?](#)

May 1, 2015

Leadership Atlanta on Friday announced its Class of 2016, which it called its largest and most diverse. The class includes **Heather Hamby 2006**, Associate Vice President, Health Center Integration, Executive Associate Dean, and Chief Operating Officer, Emory School of Medicine, and **Erika James**, Dean, Goizueta Business School.

HealthDay via U.S. News & World Report | [Short-term debt can depress more than your finances](#)

May 14, 2015

People with short-term debt, such as overdue bills or credit card debt, are more likely to be depressed than those who carry long-term debt through mortgages and other big loans, a new study suggests. **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, past president of the American Psychological Association and a professor at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta said, "When you incur debt, you need to not only think about the financial implications but also the emotional ones, and maybe even the physical ones," she said, referring to the effects of stress on the body. This story appeared in more the 25 media outlets.

Wall Street Journal | [Bristol and AbbVie's experimental drug delayed progression of blood cancer](#)

May 13, 2015

Sagar Lonial 2012, MD, internationally recognized expert in multiple myeloma and Winship Cancer Institute chief medical officer, is lead author on a study that could significantly increase treatment options for multiple myeloma patients. The study is being featured at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). [Reuters](#) | [Bloomberg News](#) | [Cancer Network](#)

Chronicle of Higher Education | [Ebola: A global issue](#)

May 21, 2015

Alex Isakov 2010, MD, MPH, is an emergency medicine physician and executive director of the Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR) at Emory. Over the past 12 years, he and his EMS team developed policies, procedures and training for just this type of situation. "All of that education and training, all the exercises and drills, give you confidence; you've thought this through," he said. "The first time you do anything, you learn something new, so drills and exercises allow policies and procedures to be refined."

WAGA-TV | [The Grady Nia Project: Georgia woman finds hope after suicide attempts](#)

May 27, 2015

Created by Emory/Grady psychologist Dr. **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, Nia is a suicide crisis intervention and support program for African-American women who are abuse survivors. Kaslow's research shows a link between intimate partner violence, a history of child abuse or neglect and suicide attempts in African-American women. She created the program in the early 1990s to provide at-risk women with resources and hope.

NPR blog | [How a claim that a childhood vaccine prevents leukemia went too far](#)

May 27, 2015

Emory faculty members were interviewed for an article about Hib vaccine research at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. **Walter Orenstein**, associate director of the Emory Vaccine Center, and Dr. **Martha Arellano** and Dr. **Edmund Waller 2007** of the Winship Cancer Institute were quoted.

WAGA-TV | [Summer camp safety: questions parents need to ask](#)

May 27, 2015

Emory Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Grady Health System psychologist Dr. **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, discusses summer camp safety questions that parents need to ask potential camp counselors to make sure their kids are being left in good hands.



Medpage Today | [Violence from weapons affects one in four kids](#)

June 8, 2015

Nadine Kaslow 2004 PhD, professor and vice chair for faculty development in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, said the study pointed out the serious public health problem that violence poses to children, and the clinician's role in helping to identify it.

New York Times | [Brain tumor's genetic makeup critical in treatment, research finds](#)

June 10, 2015

Doctors can more effectively treat many brain tumors by first ascertaining their genetic characteristics, rather than studying tissue samples under a microscope, the standard practice, two teams of researchers reported on Wednesday. Dr. **Daniel J. Brat 2010**, vice chairman of pathology and laboratory medicine at Emory University, was lead author of one of the new studies, along with more than 300 other scientists in the Cancer Genome Atlas Research Network.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution subscription required | [Johnny Isakson reveals Parkinson's diagnosis, will still run](#)

June 10, 2015

Dr. **Stewart Factor 2011**, the director of the Emory University School of Medicine's Comprehensive Parkinson's Disease Center, said, "Progression is variable, so where he would be five years down the road is difficult to predict, but I don't think it's unreasonable to think that he could" serve out another term. Dr. Factor also offers questions and answers to describe Parkinson's disease, its causes, and treatment. See also: "[What is Parkinson's Disease?](#)"

USA Today | [Skyrocketing drug prices leave cures out of reach for some patients](#)

June 15, 2015

Each new drug approval seems to set a new floor for prices, as doctors, patients and insurance providers get used to paying more, said **David Howard 2013**, an associate professor in the department of health policy and management at Emory University in Atlanta. So even drugs outside the domain of precision medicine are getting pricier.

Happy Trails

Craig McCoy 2014 left in early June for an outstanding opportunity in his hometown of Greenville, South Carolina. Craig will serve as CEO of Bon Secours St. Francis Health System, a three-campus, two-hospital system where his father practiced for 30 years.

Costas Hadjipanayis 2014 accepted two positions at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai in NYC. Starting September 1, he will be Chairman of the Dept. of Neurosurgery at Mt. Sinai Beth Israel and Director of Neurosurgical Oncology for the Mt. Sinai Health System.

Fadlo Khuri 2003 was named president of American University of Beirut in Beirut, Lebanon. He will begin his tenure there on September 1.



Decatur resident Anita Corbett donates \$5,000 in Emory prize money



Anita Corbett, a professor of biochemistry at the Emory School of Medicine, was recently honored by the Laney Graduate School of Emory University with the inaugural Eleanor Main Graduate Mentor Award. Prof. Corbett said the news of her selection for the faculty award was a surprise. "I am most humbled to be selected for this award. The typical reward for mentoring is seeing trainees

prosper. Anyone who is a committed mentor typically gains satisfaction from the success of others," she says. "For me, this is sufficient to make me feel as though my efforts are appreciated. However, the formal award indicating the appreciation of colleagues, friends and trainees is an outstanding validation that the time and effort dedicated makes a difference."

The award honors the memory of the late Dr. Eleanor C. Main, herself an Emory professor who served in several high-ranking administrative positions in her four decades of service and leadership at Emory University. She was a passionate advocate and mentor for her students and colleagues and for young women in the greater Atlanta community.

The award includes a \$5,000 cash prize, which Anita donated to the Decatur Education Foundation. She made the gift in May and said she hoped to set a precedent and inspire future honorees to consider donating their prizes.

Anita has been an active member of the City Schools of Decatur community. She served as a member of the School Leadership Team at Clairemont and was a member of the PTA at both Clairemont and the 4/5 Academy at 5th Avenue. She organized and ran the Science Explorers' Club at Clairemont for many years. Anita has three children who attend City Schools of Decatur - Maya Karkare who will be a sophomore at Decatur High School, Sonia Karkare who will be a freshman at Decatur High School and Nicky Karkare who will be a 6th grader at Renfroe Middle School.

Anita has also been selected to serve as a faculty mentor under a national program through the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) aimed at promoting diversity in science. She will be mentoring Dr. Nathan Bowen at Clark Atlanta University.

Under the program, a limited number of young scientists are selected to work with more-experienced, funded senior faculty at a research-intensive institution for a long-term structured mentoring relationship. This relationship focuses on preparation of a research or educational grant to be submitted to the National Science Foundation or comparable funding agency.

The ASCB mentoring program is focused on newly independent investigators who are senior postdoctoral scientists about to launch their own independent positions or untenured junior faculty members who have been in their current positions for no more than five years. Minority professors and professors at colleges and universities with a high minority enrollment especially are encouraged to apply for the program, according to the ASCB.





Upcoming Birthdays

Sampath Prahalad, June 24	Susy Alfonso, June 25	Anita Bray, June 25
Heather Hamby, June 27	Robin Ginn, June 28	Wendy Armstrong, July 4
Otis Brawley, July 4	Maureen Powers, July 5	Mary Jo Lechowicz, July 9
David Roberts, July 9	Sagar Lonial, July 11	Ned Waller, July 12
Lisa Carlson, July 13	John DelGaudio, July 13	Cheryl Day, July 18
Kenneth Hepburn, July 19	Kevin Andrews, July 21	Tawanda Austin, July 22
Lucky Jain, July 22	Mindy Simon, July 22	Monica Farley, July 25
Anne Dunlop, July 27	Georgia Jackson, July 29	Steven Culler, August 1
Vince Dollard, August 1	Jin-Tang Dong, August 2	Russ Price, August 2
James Spivey, August 2	Jeanne Landry, August 6	Nael McCarty, August 6
Mark Mulligan, August 6	Costas Hadjipanayis, August 8	Diane Woods, August 8
Andrew Furman, August 9	Dian Evans, August 10	Cecelia Manzanares, August 15
Joyce Cohen, August 16	Pam Hoppie, August 16	Craig Coopersmith, August 19
Allen Dollar, August 20	Volkan Adsay, August 22	Charles Andrews, August 26
Robin Rutherford, Aug. 28	Patrick Hammond, August 30	Julie Hollberg, Sept. 1
Ken Minneman, Sept. 1	Richard Pittman, Sept. 2	Habib Samady, Sept. 6
Traci Galatas, Sept. 7	Kimberly Manning, Sept. 7	Brenda Seiton, Sept. 8
Rick Gitomer, Sept. 9	Frank Anania, Sept. 10	Craig McCoy, Sept. 10
Arnold Barros, Sept. 12	Kathy Griendling, Sept. 13	Jaffar Khan, Sept. 13
Fadlo Khuri, Sept. 13	Jeff Nicolas, Sept. 13	Kim Rask, Sept. 13
Heather Dexter, Sept. 14	Field Willingham, Sept. 18	Rana Chakroborty, Sept. 22
Ray Young, Sept. 22	Anita Corbett, Sept. 23	Stacy Wood, Sept. 23
Beth Clark-Morrison, Sept. 24	Tom Pearson, Sept. 26	Mike Ross, Sept. 27
Amy Langston, Sept. 29	Mary Zellinger, Sept. 29	

WLA Lunch & Leadership – Save the date - the next WLA Lunch & Leadership will be held Wednesday, **September 2nd**. The speaker and location are to be determined.



Why don't you borrow a book or CD from the WLA Library this summer? We have some new ones including: The Boys in the Boat, Rebel Yell – The Violence, Passion, and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson, James Madison – A Life Reconsidered, and Colin Powell's It Worked for Me - In Life and Leadership.

