



WLA SPOTLIGHT

A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows

Spring 2017 – Volume XXX

Ray Young 2014 and his wife, Sidnee, adopted a baby boy - Jacob Brandon Paschal Young. Jacob was born on January 24, 2017, and Ray said that he has been a great addition to their family. Sidnee is the Director of Finance for the Atlanta Clinical & Translational Science Institute (ACTSI) here at Emory.

John Vazquez 2017 has been named Medical Director for System Transfer Service & Patient Flow, effective the first of this year. In particular, John will focus on the following areas:

- Support of operational success, system integration and overall growth of acute care access improvement
- Partnering with hospitals to improve patient flow
- Oversight of difficult cases and patient transfer quality
- Development of protocols and standard practices
- Maintaining compliance with applicable state and federal regulations

For the first time ever, a group of Winship experts traveled to Havana, Cuba, to meet with clinicians and researchers about new approaches to immunotherapy in treating multiple myeloma. **Sagar Lonial 2012, Jonathan Kaufman 2014**, Rathi Pillai, and **Larry Boise 2014** shared their expertise with Cuban medical oncologists and hematologists during the January 14-15 gathering.

Nabile Safdar 2017 was promoted into a new role as Associate Chief Medical Information Officer. In this role, he will lead the development of a system-wide strategic plan to address our imaging needs in Radiology and other clinical areas. He, along with our Chief Information Officer, will co-chair the Analytics Advisory Council, the team that sets priorities for the clinical data warehouse and analytics program. Nabile will work closely with the system CMIO and other physician IT directors to focus on issues of quality, safety, usability and process improvement, ensuring that our clinicians are fully engaged in our health care IT improvements.

Suresh Ramalingam 2017 was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI). In April, a formal induction ceremony will be held in Chicago.

Carolyn Clevenger 2013 has been appointed Associate Dean for Clinical and Community Partnerships, effective June 2017.

Vinod Thourani 2011 was elected to the role of Secretary (2017-2020), President Elect (2020-2021), and President (2021-2022) of the International Heart Valve Society. He will be the surgical program chair for the 2018 Heart Valve Society annual scientific meeting. Vinod was also elected to the Board of the Thoracic Surgery Foundation (2017-2020), the research and philanthropic arm of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

Alex Isakov 2010 was re-elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP). He was also recognized in the inaugural class of Fellows of the Academy of Emergency Medical Services (FAEMS). This designation was established to recognize members of the Association for contributions to the EMS profession and the development and advancement of emergency medical services.

Jaffar Khan 2009 was appointed Assistant Dean for Education in the medical school. In this role, he is the primary liaison between the medical school and Grady Hospital in matters concerning undergraduate and graduate medical education.



Gina Lundberg 2017 was promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine and spoke recently at the American College of Cardiology on Establishing a Social Media Presence.

Gina was honored by being one of the physician's in Medscape's feature on Why We Practice Medicine. Her story below is one that explains why physicians remain committed to their profession and to providing the best possible patient care, even in the face of increasing rates of burnout and changes in the practice of healthcare.

In 1997, I was talking to a 45-year-old female patient who had suffered a heart attack. She told me that she had had severe chest pain and went to the emergency room for evaluation. She knew something was terribly wrong, so she asked the ER doctor if she might be having a heart attack. He responded, "I doubt it. Women your age don't get legitimate chest pain." At that moment I felt anger and frustration, but also passion. That was when I knew I had to be an advocate for women with heart disease.

David Guidot 2007 recently received the 2017 Southern Society of Clinical Investigation (SSCI) Founders' Medal Award. To be considered for this prestigious award, the nominee must be a member who plays an important role in the SSCI, be recognized nationally as a leader in medicine, and be recognized as a leader in his/her institution.

Monica M. Farley 2009, received the Founders' Medal Award in 2015.

On March 6, **Sandra Mackey 2014** began an exciting new role as Chief Marketing Officer at Mercy Health in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Cynthia Wetmore 2017, Director of Developmental Therapeutics Program in Aflac Cancer & Blood Disorders Center, is the Principal Investigator of a successful application for in the NCI funded Pediatric Brain Tumor Consortium (PBTC). The application was submitted in collaboration with Tobey MacDonald, Director of Neuro-oncology in Aflac and is a recognition of our growing leadership in the area of pediatric brain tumor research.

The PBTC is a national cooperative group that is limited to only 10 member institutions which specialize in the care of brain cancer and was formed by the NCI in 1999 to improve the treatment of primary brain tumors in children. The PBTC has a goal of rapidly conducting novel phase I and II trials of new drugs and technologies for children with brain cancer. Membership in this consortium is highly selective and in order to be picked for membership, you have to out compete one of the existing members during their period of competitive renewal. Current members of this consortium include the very best programs in the country such as CHLA, Children's Hospital of Chicago, Stanford, Memorial Sloan Kettering, NIH-Pediatric Oncology Branch, St Jude, and Texas Children's Hospital.

Winship leaders Wally Curran and **Suresh Ramalingam 2017** served as honorary co-captains for the March 5th Atlanta Hawks game, sponsored by Emory Healthcare. Dozens of Winship patients, caregivers, and staff received complimentary tickets and cheered on the home team.

Steve Szabo 2017, director of Winship's community oncology program at Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital, was recognized by CanCare for his long-time efforts to integrate the program throughout Emory Healthcare.

Kristy Martyn 2015 has accepted the Associate Dean of Graduate Education position in the School of Nursing, effective April 1.

Earlier this month, members of the Winship myeloma team, including **Sagar Lonial 2012, Jonathan Kaufman 2014 and Larry Boise 2014**, joined colleagues from around the world at the 16th International Myeloma Workshop in New Delhi, India. Winship faculty and staff shared their research in oral presentations, poster sessions, and panel discussions.

In February, **Matt Klopman 2017** became president of the Georgia Society of Anesthesiologists.



Mary Zellinger 2015 was inducted as a Fellow in the Society of Critical Care Medicine (FCCM) in Honolulu, Hawaii in January 2017. This is quite the honor for her as the majority of people they select for the prestigious fellowship are physicians and not nurses. Mary also has a recently published chapter on Cardiac Surgery in V. Goode & P. Kirkwood (Eds) AACN Advanced Critical Care Nursing (2017).

Pam Cosper 2011 and **Mary Zellinger 2015** have a publication that they coauthored in Biomedical Instrumentation and Technology Journal Volume 51 (March/April 2017).

[Improving Clinical Alarm Management: Guidance and Strategies](#). Pam Cosper, Mary Zellinger, Allen Enebo, Samantha Jacques, Lynn Razzano, and Marilyn Neder Flack (doi: 10.2345/0899-8205-51.2.109)

David Wright 2015 and the research team were awarded a coveted HUB spot on the New NIH SIREN network. The Emory University Department of Emergency Medicine at Grady Memorial Hospital and its partners have been selected as one of the 10 Hubs for the NIH Emergency SIREN (Strategies to Innovate EmERgENcy Care Clinical Trials Network) networks.

The goal of the Hub is to provide a highly functioning infrastructure for rapid implementation and high quality performance of large pragmatic clinical trials for a wide variety of emergency conditions including, neurologic, cardiovascular, respiratory, hematologic, and trauma related emergencies. More information on SIREN can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-NS-16-016.html>

Also, David and his band, comprised of mostly Emory physicians, played at the Grady Gala. They had a featured special guest – Jon Lewin on sax!



Craig McCoy 2014 was named one of the 50 Most Influential People in Greenville, SC. In addition, Craig was accepted into the class of 2019 at The Academy GE Fellows Program. Here's a description of the program from their website:

Founded in 1998, The Health Management Academy is exclusively comprised of executive members from the country's largest integrated health systems and a strategic balance of the industry's most innovative companies. Executive members exchange best practices and benchmark information on increasing the quality and efficiency of healthcare. The Academy is a knowledge source for identifying and monitoring tactical and strategic issues. The Academy's model of educational programming assesses the top priorities of its members, monitors the organization and development of large health system executive teams and facilitates structured interaction among its health system members. Peer-focused, problem-solving based programs—where the latest Academy research, policy analysis and expert views on the issues driving healthcare are analyzed and discussed—create the foundation for developing the leadership strategies and skills needed to guide strategically critical health system decisions. The Academy is an accredited CE provider.

Melinda Franks 2017, 2016-2017 Chair of the Academic Practice Committee for the national Association of Otolaryngology Administrators, hosted a national group of Administrators at Emory University Hospital Midtown March 15-17. Key healthcare administration topics including physician compensation, employee engagement, industry benchmarking, and quality reporting were reviewed in depth by Emory leaders and guest speakers. Attendees were treated to a VIP Guided Tour of the World of Coca-Cola to highlight the historical tie between Mr. Robert Woodruff, the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, and Emory.

David Guidot's 2007 son, Daniel Marshall Guidot, graduates from the Emory School of Medicine in May. He will be married on April 1st to Cori Lewis, a medical school classmate (they met at orientation in 2013), and they will start their residencies in July. They found out last Friday they matched at the University of Texas - Southwestern in Dallas and are both ecstatic.



Elizabeth Downes 2016 has been invited to serve as one of the Emory Global Health Institute's Faculty Fellows. The program includes faculty from around the university (representing a variety of disciplines) with an interest in global health for a three-year term. The objective is to create a multi-disciplinary and integrative milieu for thought and activity on global health at Emory—"a brain-trust with an active component".

EGHI Faculty Fellows identify key problems/scientific questions on which Emory is uniquely suited to innovate and develop solutions. The group also advises EGHI on areas of emphasis and research/training platforms. Additionally, they provide a resource to mentor/inspire the next generation of global health leaders/investigators (i.e. students at Emory). Ultimately, the EGHI Faculty Fellows will help bring Emory's global health work to a new level of integration and impact.

Scott Davis 2017 was named Associate Editor of Surgical Laparoscopy, Endoscopy, and Percutaneous Techniques journal.

Suresh Ramalingam 2017 and others from Winship Cancer Institute are excited about a paper they had published in Science journal in collaboration with Rafi Ahmed's group. Check out the story here: http://news.emory.edu/stories/2017/03/ahmed_science_cd28/

In honor of National Doctors' Day (March 30), the Emory University School of Medicine Recognitions Committee asked faculty and staff to nominate doctors who demonstrate dedication to improving the health and well-being of our patients and community through the care they provide, the research they conduct, and/or their efforts to teach and inspire young doctors.

2017 Emory Doctors' Day honorees include: **Douglas Ander 2017, Jessica Arluck 2012, Dan Brat 2010, Susie Buchter 2011, Erica Brownfield 2003, Craig Coopersmith 2012, Mark El-Deiry 2016, Stewart Factor 2011, Sheryl Gabram 2008, Johnathan Glass 2008, David Guidot 2007, Karen Law 2016, Janice Lea 2012, Gina Lundberg 2017, Viraj Master 2014, Anne Marie McKenzie-Brown 2008, Mimi Newell 2009, Stephen Pastan 2012, Richard Pittman 2015, Gustavo Pradilla 2016, Nadine Rouphael 2017, Hal Simon 2007, Nate Spell 2006, Ned Waller 2007, Field Willingham 2015, and Jennifer Zreloff 2007.**

Emory in the News

USA Today | [Politics adds new anxiety to family get-togethers over the holidays](#)

December 18, 2016

Families are coping with post-election anxiety in a variety of ways, **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, a psychologist and professor at Emory University, says, depending largely on how they've always dealt with stress: Some are talking more, listening and learning from each other. Others are setting ground rules in advance, promising to avoid talking about politics. Still others are staying away from each other entirely.

MedPage | [2016's top 5 stories in health policy](#)

December 28, 2016

"Withdrawals by major insurers from some exchange markets highlighted continued problems with the Affordable Care Act's signature provision," wrote **David Howard 2013**, PhD, associate professor of health policy and management at Emory University, in Atlanta.

Washington Post | [The man who beat Lou Gehrig's disease](#)

January 3, 2017

When diagnosed in 2010 by **Jonathan Glass 2008**, a doctor at the Emory ALS Center, Ted Harada was deteriorating quickly. What saved him was an experimental ALS treatment pioneered by doctors at the Emory ALS



enter, in which doctors opened his spinal cord and injected neural stem cells directly into diseased areas, where the pools of motor neurons affected by ALS are found.

CNN | [More women got mammograms when Obamacare paid for them](#)

January 9, 2017

Obamacare eliminated the costs and out-of-pocket expenses for Americans wanting preventive health care services including mammography and colonoscopy, both tests able to detect cancer. "At least for mammography, (the study results) are largely consistent with what we know from prior research," said **David H. Howard 2013**, associate professor in health policy and management at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, who was not involved in the research. He believes the low uptake of colonoscopy is due to non-financial barriers, including the invasiveness of the procedure.

Wall Street Journal | [Norovirus stomach bug: How bad is it this year?](#)

January 23, 2017

Norovirus, a particularly fierce stomach virus, is striking this month and has forced school closings around the country. Emory University's Dr. **Christine Moe 2017** discuss the strength of the virus.

MedPage| [SAVR beats expectations in intermediate risk trial](#)

January 25, 2017

Vinod Thourani 2011, MD, professor of surgery and medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, reported at the Society of Thoracic Surgeons annual meeting that a detailed analysis of the intermediate surgical risk cohort of the PARTNER 2 trial turned up better than expected survival after surgical aortic valve replacement (SAVR), also known as TAVR (transcatheter aortic valve replacement).

WCLK FM | ["Your Health Connection"](#)

January 18, 2017

Dr. **David Kooby 2015**, director of surgical oncology for Winship Cancer Institute at Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital, discusses advancements in pancreatic cancer.

New York Times | [His doctors were stumped. Then he took over.](#)

February 4, 2017

Dr. **Mary Jo Lechowicz 2011**, a professor at the Emory University School of Medicine, describes a rare lymphoma - or auto-immune-like condition - called Cattleman disease.

Washington Post | [Revenge, recognition and the disturbing trend of live-streamed suicides](#)

February 8, 2017

Nadine Kaslow 2004, who is also a psychology professor at Emory School of Medicine, said although social media gives people a platform to talk about suicide in a constructive way, she agrees that it's concerning when people are showing their own deaths in graphic detail.

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Emory performs first HIV-positive kidney transplant from HIV-positive deceased donor](#)

February 15, 2017

Emory Transplant Center performed its first HIV-positive kidney transplant from an HIV-positive deceased donor. The transplant was the first of its kind in Georgia. It was possible because of the HIV Organ Policy Equity (HOPE) Act, which authorizes clinical research and revision of rules about organ donation. "With about 10,000 people living with HIV who are on dialysis, the HOPE Act gives us new opportunities to save more lives, rather than turning down organ donations from HIV-positive donors," says Dr. **Nicole Turgeon 2015**, associate professor of surgery and principal investigator of this study at Emory.



WXIA-TV | [Emory taking steps to protect campus from severe weather](#)

February 10, 2017

Sam Shartar 2013, senior administrator of Emory's Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response (CEPAR) was interviewed about the university's preparations in the event of severe weather.

Genomeweb subscription required | [Emory team builds interaction network of key lung cancer proteins](#)

February 24, 2017

Emory University researchers are developing a targeted protein-protein interaction network focused on the behavior of known oncogenes across a variety of cancers. In a study published last week in Nature Communications, they presented an initial version of the resource, called OncoPPi. The network could be useful for a variety of research purposes, including identifying new disease biomarkers as well as potential drug targets, said **Haian Fu 2015**, professor of pharmacology, hematology and medical oncology at Emory and senior author on the paper.

USA TODAY | [By law, hospitals now must tell Medicare patients when care is 'observation' only](#)

March 9, 2017

Atlanta's Emory University Hospital system added a list of reasons to the form that its doctors can check off, "to minimize confusion and improve clarity," said **Michael Ross 2014**, medical director of observation medicine and a professor of emergency medicine at Emory. [KRMG](#)

Happy Trails

Kent Haythorn 2013 recently left Emory to pursue other interests outside of Emory Healthcare.

Remember we have a number of new books and CDs in the WLA Library and hope you will be able to take advantage of this leadership resource.

If you would like to checkout a book, DVD or CD from the library, let us know, and we will deliver it to your office within a few days.

