



# WLA SPOTLIGHT

## *A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows*

Summer 2018 – Volume XXXVI

**Lisa Carlson 2013** recently accepted the role of Executive Administrator, Research Programs and Operations, Emory School of Medicine. Lisa previously served in administrative roles for the Emory Transplant Center and the Department of Surgery. Most recently, Lisa held the role of Director, Management and Operations, Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) Network, within the Emory Global Health Institute of the Rollins School of Public Health. In her new role, Lisa will work alongside School of Medicine leadership to develop and implement key research program initiatives. She will also play an integral role in research project management and operational activities.

**Anne Tomolo 2014** has been named the Associate Chief of Staff for Education for the Atlanta VA Health Care System, where she will lead the education office and continue working to enhance the educational experience at the VAMC.

**Tim Lash 2018** was appointed as the Rollins Professor and Chair of the Department of Epidemiology. Tim joined Emory in 2013 as Professor of Epidemiology and, since 2015, has served as the Leader of the Cancer Prevention and Control Program of the Winship Cancer Institute. He also holds a position as Honorary Professor of Cancer Epidemiology at Aarhus University in Denmark. Since 2015, Tim has been Editor-in-Chief of EPIDEMIOLOGY, a leading journal in public health science. His research focusses on predictors of cancer recurrence and the use of adjuvant cancer therapies in low resource settings. He replaces **Viola Vaccarino 2010**, who has shown incredible leadership as Chair of Epidemiology over the past eight years.

**Craig Coopersmith 2012** and **Greg Martin 2011** were finalists in the Atlanta Business Chronicles Health Care Heroes Physician category. In 2016, they were part of an international effort to redefine sepsis so more health care workers can quickly recognize the signs and rapidly administer life-saving treatments. The new definition has been endorsed by more than 30 medical societies from six continents, spanning disciplines from critical care and emergency medicine to infectious disease and family practice. With these two serving as experts, Emory is reshaping how sepsis care takes place in its own hospitals. That means reorganizing teams so that tests and supplies can be delivered more quickly, using a standard treatment regimen, and putting into place an "electronic trigger" that continuously checks patients' vital signs and alerts the health care team. Craig and Greg have worked with the CDC to educate health care providers and the public and develop better surveillance strategies.

**Wendy Armstrong 2011** and **Tavi Ioachimescu 2016** were recognized for this this year's Educator Appreciation Day. The annual Educator Appreciation Day is a special acknowledgment for Emory University School of Medicine faculty members who lend their passion and skills to educate, encourage, and support scholars and learners across Emory. Their work extends beyond the classroom and into the community impacting generation after generation. The Emory Medicine Recognitions Committee sent out a call for nominations for educators who go above and beyond the call of duty as teachers and mentors. The committee reviewed more than 90 submissions from peers, colleagues, and trainees.

**Jason Atkins 2018** was recently elected to the Board of Directors of CALNOC (Collaborative Alliance for Nursing Outcomes). CALNOC is a non-profit corporation that focuses on the measurement and development of nursing sensitive indicators in order to effectively demonstrate and validate the impact of nursing on patient care.  
<https://www.calnoc.org/>



**Mark Williams 2004** has been named Chief Quality & Transformation Officer at UK Healthcare.

Led by **Laura Kimble 2018**, the School of Nursing received a \$2.7 million award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to help increase the number of nurses working in community-based primary care settings, particularly among medically underserved populations.

**Chris Flowers 2016** was named a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) at a ceremony held June 2nd during ASCO's annual meeting in Chicago. He was recognized along with other global oncology leaders for their extraordinary volunteer service, dedication, and commitment to the society.

**David Wright 2015** has been appointed as Interim Chair, Emergency Medicine. David joined the Emory School of Medicine faculty in 1997 and currently serves as Professor and Vice Chair for Innovation and Discovery in Emergency Medicine. He serves as Director of Emergency Neurosciences and Director of Emory's Injury Prevention Research Center. He also holds adjunct faculty roles in the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering.

In the June 22<sup>nd</sup> American College of Cardiology update, **Gina Lundberg 2017** has an interesting article on social media: [ACC WIC Section Social Media Toolkit: Twitter For Cardiologists](#). In the same update, information is provided on a leadership webinar on that Gina will help lead. This webinar will walk you through the newly created WIC Leadership Toolkit. Learn more and register here: [ACC WIC Section Webinar: Equipping Yourself With Tools For Successful Leadership](#).



On May 14, Tavi and Adriana Ioachimescu (WLA class of 2016 and 2018) were part of a special graduation ceremony (see photo).

Their daughter, Ana, graduated from Emory College and Tavi from the Executive MBA program. As faculty and parents, they had the honor to give Ana her diploma.

Tavi obtained the highest academic achievement award and other MBA awards.

Tavi and Adriana also both recently learned that they were promoted as Professors of Medicine (Adriana also has a joint appointment in Neurosurgery).



## [Happy Trails](#)

**Pat Capes 2012** left Emory at the end of May to become the EM System Medical Director and Vice Chair of Operations for Erlanger in Chattanooga, in charge of five Emergency Departments.

**Kate Heilpern 2004** has been named Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. Her new position is effective August 1. Kate has served as the Ada Lee and Pete Correll Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine since 2007, and as a member of the Emory School of Medicine faculty since 1996. In 2015, she was appointed Executive Associate Dean for the School of Medicine. She previously served as Interim Chair of Family and Preventive Medicine, as Assistant Dean of Medical Education and Student Affairs, and as Vice Chair for Academic Affairs in the Department of Emergency Medicine. She has served as President of the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM).

**Paula Vertino 2006** will join the University of Rochester Medical Center and [Wilmot Cancer Institute](#) as the Director of Translational Research and professor of Biomedical Genetics in September. She will also serve as the inaugural Wilmot Distinguished Professor, an endowed position funded by the family of James P. Wilmot, the cancer institute's namesake. Paula will be a member of the institute's executive committee and the [Hallmarks of Cancer](#) research program, which focuses on the biology of cancer.

## [Emory in the News](#)

*TIME.com* | [An Experimental weight loss procedure literally freezes hunger signals](#)

March 22, 2018

Dr. **J. David Prologo 2018** an interventional radiologist from Emory University School of Medicine, leads a new pilot study that freezes the nerve that carries hunger signals to the brain and may be able to lower a person's appetite and help them lose weight. The story also appeared on [The Chicago Tribune](#) | [U.S. News and World Report](#) | [MedPage Today](#) | [WABC-TV](#)

*Healio* | [Informal caregiving costs for CVD projected to double by 2035](#)<sup>SEP</sup>

April 9, 2018

"The dramatic rise in the prevalence of cardiovascular disease in the next 2 decades will place an intense strain on caregivers, putting their own health at risk from the ongoing distress, physical demands and cost," said **Sandra B. Dunbar 2006**, RN, PhD, FAHA, adjunct professor of medicine, Charles Howard Candler professor of cardiovascular nursing and associate dean for academic advancement at Emory University School of Medicine.

*Reuters* | [AstraZeneca wins U.S. approval for 1st-line use of lung cancer drug](#)

April 18, 2018

Emory University Winship Cancer Institute Deputy Director **Suresh Ramalingam 2017**, MD, comments on a new FDA-approved drug that improves survival in some lung cancer patients.

*WAGA-TV* | [Emory doctors freeze hunger nerve for weight loss](#)

April 19, 2018

Dr. **David Prologo 2018**, an interventional radiologist at the Emory School of Medicine, conducted a pilot study to test an experimental procedure to freeze a nerve known as the posterior vagal trunk, that carries hunger signals to the brain. Prologo hopes to begin a larger study with a control group, to see if freezing the vagus nerve can help people struggling to lose weight.

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* | [Immune therapy plus chemo doubles lung cancer survival, study says](#)

April 21, 2018



**Suresh Ramalingam 2017**, deputy director at Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute, said the findings were "very important" as "it moves the milestone forward. This study shows that by combining the two treatments, you can maximize or even improve patient outcomes. From that standpoint, it does shift the treatment approach to lung cancer in a positive way," said Ramalingam, who was not a part of the trial.

**Becker's Hospital Review** | [Emory Healthcare to launch ACO bundled payment program with Walmart](#)

April 19, 2018

Atlanta-based Emory Healthcare and Walmart are teaming up on an ACO for Walmart employees based in the metro Atlanta area, as well as a bundled payment program for spine surgeries and joint replacement surgeries. "More and more large, self-insured employers like Walmart are looking for new and creative solutions as a potential way to decrease costs of healthcare plans for employees, while improving the overall quality of the care. This partnership is a win-win for everyone involved," said **Patrick Hammond 2004**, CEO of Emory Healthcare Network. [Becker's Spine Review](#)

**Georgia Health News** | [Dangerous dust: silica exposure haunts former workers in an iconic Georgia industry](#)

April 29, 2018

Dr. **David Guidot 2007** of Emory University School of Medicine says the exposure comes from inhaling very small particles of sand that have aerosolized or turned into fine dust. "If enough of this dust is inhaled, you can't clear it, and immune cells eat these dust particles, causing inflammation that can lead to scarring," which makes it difficult for the person to breathe, he says.

**Georgia Public Broadcasting** | [Overdose victims are donors of 1 In 8 transplanted organs](#)

May 2, 2018

Dr. **Thomas C. Pearson 2004**, professor of surgery at the Emory University School of Medicine and executive director of the Emory Transplant Center, is interviewed about a Johns Hopkins University study which found that 1 in 8 organ transplants in the United States involves organs from someone who died of a drug overdose.

**Atlanta Journal-Constitution** | [Do popular DNA tests like 23andMe and ancestry actually work?](#)

May 2, 2018

"What most companies offer today is a measure of ancestry that maps to a geographic region. The basic data consists of genetic variants (alleles) that are at different frequencies in different geographic regions," said Dr. **Michael Zwick 2016**, an associate professor at Emory University's Departments of Human Genetics and Pediatrics and assistant dean of research at Emory's School of Medicine. Zwick said that while there is always uncertainty, estimates get better over time.

**Kaiser Health News** | ['Pharma Bro' Shkreli Is in prison, but Daraprim's price Is still high](#)

May 4, 2018

Branded drugs like Daraprim are more likely to be priced high without a clear justification, noted **David Howard 2013**, a health economist and professor at Emory University.

**WXIA-TV** | [Study shows freezing the hunger nerve makes weight loss easier](#)

May 9, 2018

Dr. **David Prologo 2018**, assistant professor in the Department of Radiology at Emory University School of Medicine and director of Interventional Radiology Services at Emory Johns Creek Hospital, led a pilot study to test the safety of freezing the vagus nerve for mild-to-moderate obesity. "We use a CT scanner to guide the needle to the nerve that carries hunger signals to their brain," explained Dr. Prologo. "That creates a cold zone that decreases the temperature and stops the signals in those nerves."

**Everyday Health** | [Tagrisso approved as first line treatment for metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer](#)

May 9, 2018



**Suresh S. Ramalingam 2017**, MD, deputy director for cancer research at Winship Cancer Institute, comments on the approval of a new drug for lung cancer.

*NPR* | [Can a cocktail of vitamins and steroids cure a major killer in hospitals?](#)

May 11, 2018

"This is something which, if proved to be true, would be a game-changer, almost a miracle cure, honestly," says Dr. **Craig Coopersmith 2012**, a critical care surgeon at Emory University and a member of the team running one of the two sepsis studies, the VICTAS Study.

*The Week* (India) | [Zika-proofing the womb](#)

May 11, 2018

Dr. **Rana Chakraborty 2009**, a pediatric specialist at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, discusses the possibility of protecting unborn babies from the Zika virus in the mother's womb.

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* | [Public suicides traumatize communities, leave unanswered questions](#)

May 14, 2018

"It takes on a different feel because it then impacts so many people," said **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, Emory University professor of clinical psychology. "It ends up that so many people are traumatized and impacted by a death by suicide. It takes on a community feel."

*BiPiSci* | [You are exposed: Gary Miller / The exposome](#)

May 14, 2018

In part four of the You Are Exposed series, **Gary Miller 2005**, professor of public health at the Rollins School of Public Health and director of the HERCULES Exposome Research Center at Emory University, discusses the exposome the sum total of your lifetime exposure to environmental factors.

*Becker's Hospital Review* | [How a mix of vitamins and steroids could kill sepsis: 6 things to know](#)

May 16, 2018

Researchers at Atlanta-based Emory University and Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston are launching two studies to test a treatment that could potentially cure the No. 1 cause of death in American hospitals- sepsis. **Craig Coopersmith 2012**, MD, a critical care surgeon at Emory University and team member in the first sepsis study, called the VICTAS Study a potential game-changer.

*WAGA-TV* | [Facing cancer, Georgia woman volunteers to test experimental treatments.](#)

May 21, 2018

A Winship Cancer Institute multiple myeloma patient, along with Dr. **Sagar Lonial 2012**, are featured in a story on the impact of Phase I clinical trials:

*Atlanta Journal Constitution* | [Why investigators feel certain CDC researcher killed himself](#)

May 23, 2018

In a recent interview, **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, Emory University professor of clinical psychology, said it's unknown why some people commit suicide outside or in another manner where they could be found by others in a public setting. Deaths like these traumatize not only family and friends, but also those in the community.

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* | [Childhood leukemia may be triggered by germs and could be prevented, study suggests](#)

May 24, 2018

Dr. **Amelia Langston 2010**, a leukemia and stem cell transplant specialist at Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute, discusses a new study from the Institute of Cancer Research in London, published in Nature, that suggests that acute lymphocytic leukemia in childhood has a clear biological cause, and is triggered by a variety of infections in predisposed children whose immune systems have not been properly primed.



**NPR** | [When scientists develop products from personal medical data, who gets to profit?](#)

May 31, 2018

Emory radiology professor **Nabile Safdar 2017** discusses issues related to the use of patient information in developing commercialized products.

**Atlanta Journal-Constitution** | [Most popular vitamins, mineral supplements provide little health benefits, study says](#)

June 1, 2018

"I'm not sure what the benefits of vitamins are, because we've never had any studies on it," says **Arshed Quyyumi 2012**, a cardiology expert at Emory University. "We don't know what happens over 30 years. All we know is what happens in a short period of time."

**WAGA-TV** | [A cure for an illness that kills thousands every year may be close](#)

June 6, 2018

Emory will soon begin a new clinical trial for patient who have sepsis. Patients enrolled in the trial will be randomly selected to receive a combination of vitamin C, thiamine and corticosteroids or a placebo, as researchers look for a new way to treat sepsis. "It's incredibly frustrating. There have been over 100 clinical trials of sepsis, and none of them has been positive," says **Dr. Craig Coopersmith 2012**, director of the Surgical/Transplant ICU at Emory University Hospital.

**Metro Atlanta CEO** | [Emory's School of Nursing receives \\$27M HRSA grant to increase community-based nursing workforce](#)

June 7, 2018

According to **Laura Kimble 2018**, RN, PhD, project director and clinical professor at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing, "This project is an important asset in helping our students learn how to provide high quality nursing care across the community."

**NPR** | [Barbershop: Rising U.S. suicide rates](#)

June 9, 2018

**Nadine Kaslow 2004**, professor and vice chair of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Emory University, participates in a nationally broadcast discussion about rising suicide rates in the U.S. and potential ways to impact the growing problem. [TIME](#) | [WebMD](#) | [MarketWatch](#)

**TIME** | [How to support loved ones who may be at risk of suicide, according to psychologists](#)

June 8, 2018

"We often don't take time to reach out to those we care about and love, even when we notice there's a concern," says **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, a past president of the American Psychological Association and a professor at Emory University School of Medicine.

**Georgia Public Broadcasting** | [Why are more Americans taking their own lives, and what can be done to stop them?](#)

June 12, 2018

**Nadine Kaslow 2004** professor and vice chair of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Emory University School of Medicine, participates in a discussion about suicide rates and prevention.

**NPR** | [US suicides rates are rising faster among women than men](#)

June 14, 2018

**Nadine Kaslow 2004**, the chief psychologist at Grady Memorial Hospital and a professor at the Emory University School of Medicine, discusses a CDC report on the increase in suicides in women over men. [Atlanta Journal Constitution](#)



*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* | [This life with Gracie: Are suicides really preventable?](#)

June 15, 2018

**Nadine J. Kaslow 2004**, a professor in the Emory University School of Medicine and past president of the American Psychological Association, agreed traditional risk factors such as depression, substance abuse, stress or previous suicide attempts aren't adequate predictors of suicide by themselves.

*WABE-FM* | [Closer Look: The birth plan and medical decisions during maternity](#)

June 14, 2018

Dr. **Alexis Dunn**, assistant professor at Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing and a certified nurse midwife, along with Dr. **John Horton 2018**, division director of General Obstetrics and Gynecology at Emory Healthcare, discuss considerations parents need to make for their birth plans, and what challenges they face from planning to the delivery room.

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