



WLA SPOTLIGHT

A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows

Winter 2014 – Volume XVIII

Accomplishments, Appointments, Awards...

Georgia Jackson 2013 joined the Emory University Hospital team as Specialty Director for Surgical Specialties. In this role, Georgia, reporting to the EUH CNO, serves as an imperative part of the leadership team assuming operational and clinical nursing responsibilities for the surgical inpatient units at EUH.

Wendy Book 2012 is now professor of medicine (cardiology). She serves as director of the Emory Adult Congenital Heart Center and is a cardiologist with the Center for Heart Failure Therapy and Transplantation. Wendy will also work closely with the newly formed Congenital Heart Center of Georgia that Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Emory Healthcare are partnering to launch to provide a continuum of care from before birth through adulthood for those with congenital heart defects.

Philip Shayne 2010 has been elected to the position of Chair Elect for the Emergency Medicine Residency Review Committee (RRC). He is an extraordinary leader for the Emory EM residency program, and clearly his peers consider him 'the' leader for EM residency education on the national level. There is no higher honor in Graduate Medical Education.

Sagar Lonial 2012, Jonathan Kaufman 2014, and Larry Boise 2014 received The Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation (MMRF) Accelerator Award, a top award from the MMRF. They were recognized for their outstanding efforts and exceptional contributions in starting new clinical trials through the Multiple Myeloma Research Consortium and rapidly enrolling patients in those trials.

Keith Delman 2011, Winship member and associate professor in the division of surgical oncology, has been selected as the recipient of the Shipley Award for best scientific paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Surgical Association. He is the principal author of "Oncologic Outcomes after Videoscopic Inguinal Lymphadenectomy (VIL) for Stage III Melanoma." His coauthors included **Viraj Master 2014**, as well as other Emory colleagues.

Mimi Newell 2009 was recognized for the high quality of her prompt scholarly reviews and received Radiology's 2013 Editor's Recognition award, as well as a 2013 American Journal of Roentgenology Distinguished Reviewer award. Both journals have long been recognized as the authoritative reference for the most current, clinically relevant and highest quality research in the field of radiology.

Kimberly Rask 2004, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Health Policy and Management in the Rollins School of Public Health and Medical Director of Alliant GMCF (the CMS funded Georgia Medicare QIO), has been selected to serve on a National Quality Forum Linking Cost and Quality Measures panel. Funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the panel will explore approaches to measure health system efficiency and, according to the NQF, will "develop best practices for combining cost measures with clinical quality measures to improve efficiency of care."

In addition, CMS has invited Dr. Rask to consult on the Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program (HVBP). She is one of only 15 health care professionals nationwide to be invited to the Technical Expert Panel, which will provide recommendations and feedback on the HVBP's evaluation, statistical methods and strategies. Authorized under the Affordable Care Act, the program is designed to transform the quality of hospital care by realigning hospitals' financial incentives to do so.



In November, **Ervin Van Meir 2006** was interviewed by the National Science Foundation for a press release on a new approach to treat brain cancers, published on February 3, 2014. He was also interviewed for a press release for NSF in *Medicalxpress* (February 4, 2014) and wrote a blog about research on p14ARF tumor suppressor controlling clotting in tumors related to our recent publication in Cancer Research.

http://www.nsf.gov/discoveries/disc_summ.jsp?cntn_id=130241&org=NSF
<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-02-radically-cells-stunt-brain-tumor.html>
<http://www.emoryhealthsciblog.com/without-intent-yet-malignant/>

Dan Brat 2010 was elected to The Board of Directors for the Society for Neuro-oncology; appointed to the Executive Council for the American Association of Neuropathologists; and elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Habib Samady 2013 has been appointed Deputy Editor of the Journal of American College of Cardiology, Cardiovascular Interventions.

Gary W. Miller 2005 published his first book titled *The Exposome: A Primer*. He defines the Exposome as the environmental equivalent of the genome and Chapter 3 provides a succinct and useful description of a number of – omic based technologies including epigenomics and metabolomics. The book is introductory by design and would be useful to anyone who is interested in studying and learning more about the impact of the environment on health and disease. The book is available for checkout from the WLA library.

Jeffrey Nicolas 2005 was appointed by Governor Deal to the Georgia Trauma Care Network (Georgia Trauma Commission) and sworn in December 18th, 2013. He was also appointed as the Chair of EMS Region III Trauma Advisory Council at the end of last calendar year.

“The doctor will email you now. Five reasons patient portals can lead to better health,” **Julie Hollberg 2013** provided her thoughts on the value of electronic health records and patient portals in the delivery of quality care. Here is the link:

<http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine/2014/01/the-doctor-will-email-you-now/index.htm>

Julie was also selected to participate to speak at the upcoming Healthcare Ethics Consortium annual conference regarding The Impact of the Electronic Medical Record in a Time of Personalized Medicine.

Work done by **Judy Belt 2010** and **Lori McLelland 2006** was the focus of the feature story in the January 2014 Healthcare Financial Management e-Leadership bulletin -- [Emory Develops a Strategy to Align Primary Care Physicians, Zip Code by Zip Code](#).

Pam Cospers 2011, along with her team, won the first place award for hospitals over 300 beds at the Georgia Hospital Association GHA Patient Safety Summit January 8-9, 2014 on Intra-Hospital Critical Care Transport Quality Improvement Initiative.

Certain assets of Velocity Medical Solutions, a privately held company founded by radiation oncology faculty and Winship members **Tim Fox 2013** and Ian Crocker, will be acquired by Varian Medical Systems. This software company founded here at Emory with some GRA support has a great software platform and this is great news for Velocity as well as Emory! The deal was signed off on by all Emory leadership as well!

David Guidot shared that **Jesse Roman 2003** (now Department of Medicine Chair at the University of Louisville) received the prestigious Founder's Medal from the Southern Society of Clinical Investigation at the Southern Regional Meeting in New Orleans on February 21st.

Carolyn Clevenger 2013 was named a fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.



Staying Linked - *A feature to keep you connected with other fellows:*

A gift, given in honor of long-time Emory Healthcare employee **Roxann Arnold 2007**, will benefit patients and their families with serious illnesses. The gift, given by an anonymous donor, will create the Roxann Arnold Professorship in Palliative Care Medicine – appointed to Tammie E. Quest, MD, director of the Emory Palliative Care Center.

Arnold, who has held the position of director of patient financial services for Emory hospitals for 37 years, introduced the donor to the concept of palliative care while talking about their own aging and infirmed families.

Quest, who is being awarded the named professorship, is a nationally recognized expert in palliative care. She is an associate professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and director of the fellowship program for the Emory University School of Medicine program in Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

"This gift speaks volumes to the importance of all people within our health care system in caring for patients and families," according to Quest. "Roxann made an incredible impression on this donor, detailing her commitment to Emory, the vision of palliative care for our patients and families and the importance of the standards of quality and care for seriously ill patients. We all play a role in the care of our patients, even in non-direct clinical care settings, such as Roxann's."

Arnold's knowledge of Emory's expertise in palliative care, as well as her loyalty to the system was impressionable to the donor, who had not had a clinical experience with the palliative care team or its services. The donor chose to give to advance Emory's creative and innovative care provided to seriously ill patients.

"This is a monumental gift that will help in transforming palliative care at Emory by supporting the leadership of the center," says Quest, who also holds a faculty appointment at the Emory University Center for Ethics, because of her strong interest in ethics and end-of-life care. "The funds will support new care models for our outpatient programs and hospitalized-based care to push Emory forward in becoming a national leader in the field of palliative care."

Arnold says she is honored to be a part of such an exceptional gift, and one that was unexpected. "What is really important to me is how this gift to palliative care will benefit an untold number of people through everyone that touches the patient. The gift will help Dr. Quest train health care professionals and apply the palliative care concept to patients and families."

Quest remarks that this unique donation is a linkage gift — in that it combines business and health care finance on Arnold's end and clinical care on Quest's end. "When you put it all together, patients and families will benefit greatly because of these special links."

Note: The entire article was released on Friday, March 7. Here is the link:

http://news.emory.edu/stories/2014/03/quest_arnold_palliative_care_named_professorship/index.html

It was also the lead news story on the EHC home page under "News" and was distributed to media.

On February 4th, an Emory Healthcare-wide ceremony honored Dr. **Tammie Quest 2008** as the recipient of the Roxann Arnold Endowed Professorship in Palliative Care Medicine. Dr. Quest was singled out as "one of the most charismatic, dedicated and involved leaders in the field of palliative medicine; someone who inspires confidence in patients and families; and a visionary leader."



On February 20th, Drs. Fadlo Khuri and Sagar Lonial announced that **Jonathan L. Kaufman 2014** is the new Medical Director of the Ambulatory Infusion Centers. Dr. Kaufman will join a collaborative team that includes Kevin Schreffler, MSN, RN, OCN and Sheryl Bluestein, MBA, MHA. The team will be responsible for Emory University Hospital Midtown (EUHM) infusion services at four locations: EUHM, Emory Johns Creek, Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital and the Winship Cancer Institute on Clifton Road.

The newly formed team will focus on streamlining and improving the patient experience while building further on our outstanding patient outcomes. This effort has the full commitment of Winship, departmental and Emory Healthcare leadership. Dr. Kaufman, who succeeds **John Kauh 2013**, is an Associate Vice-Chair for Quality in the Hematology and Medical Oncology Department. He has also served as Associate Director of the Hematology and Medical Oncology Fellowship Training Program at Winship.

Stacy M Higgins 2010, MD, FACP, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of General Medicine and Geriatrics at the Emory University School of Medicine, is the 2014 recipient of the American College of Physicians W. Lester Henry Award for Diversity and Access to Care. This national award, named in honor of Dr. W. Lester Henry, the first African-American Regent and Master of the American College of Physicians (ACP), is given to an ACP member with outstanding accomplishments in advancing diversity in clinical medicine, research and/or access to care in the United States. The ACP is the largest medical-specialty organization and second largest physician group in the United States, with over 132,000 members. Each year a *single* candidate is selected for this national award.

Dr. Higgins grew up in Brooklyn, New York and completed her undergraduate degree at Dartmouth College followed by a medical doctorate from Cornell University Medical College. After completing her Internal Medicine residency at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, she was selected to serve as Chief Medical Resident. In 1999, Dr. Higgins joined the Emory faculty and has been clinically based at Grady Memorial Hospital. Dr. Higgins' talent and leadership in medical education were quickly identified and she was appointed Associate Residency Director for Ambulatory Care and then Program Director for Primary Care. In these roles she has taught countless medical students and residents and has received many teaching awards including the ACP Georgia Chapter J. Willis Hurst Bedside Teaching Award.

Dr. Higgins has made enormous contributions in promoting physician diversity and improving access to care for minority and non-English speaking patients. In her education leadership roles, including serving as Director of Minority Resident Affairs, Dr. Higgins has played a major role in attracting under-represented minorities into internal medicine and primary care. Dr. Higgins' national and regional efforts have led to successful career development for many medicine residents from underserved minority backgrounds. Additionally, she has shared her passion for Primary Care to students at the annual SNMA conference.

In 2002, Dr. Higgins founded the Women's Clinic within the Grady Primary Care Center, providing preventive care for female patients who previously had limited access to these services. As an African American physician who is fluent in Spanish, Dr. Higgins recognized the many challenges faced by Georgia's rapidly growing Hispanic population and co-founded the International Medical Clinics (IMC) at Grady Hospital. In collaboration Morehouse School of Medicine, Dr. Higgins has helped catalogue information on physician language fluency to help meet the communication needs of the patient population served by the IMC. In collaboration with the Health Departments, this clinic also frequently helps provide medical care for refugee families. Dr. Higgins has shared her service expertise in many arenas, including as an active member of the ACP National Volunteerism Management Advisory Committee.

With her many contributions, it is no wonder that Dr. Higgins has also been the recipient of both the Office of Community and Diversity "We Are Emory" Award and the Georgia ACP Volunteerism and Community Service Award. Congratulations Stacy!!!



[Fellows in the News](#)

Yahoo Shine | [Girls switched at birth are happy where they are](#)

November 19, 2013

It's not all that surprising, according to psychologists familiar with the case. "I think what this highlights is how much attachment really matters," Dr. **Nadine Kaslow 2003**, president elect of the American Psychological Association and professor of psychiatry at Emory University, tells Yahoo Shine.

Huffington Post | [Younger, female heart attack survivors face higher risk of mental stress-induced myocardial ischemia](#)

November 29, 2013

"This is the first study to examine the cardiovascular effects of psychological stress as a possible mechanism for the greater mortality after myocardial infarction among younger women," study researcher **Viola Vaccarino 2010**, MD, PhD, a professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the university's Rollins School of Public Health, said in a statement.

USA Today | [Healthcare still improving but much to be done](#)

November 28, 2013

David Howard 2013, associate professor of health policy at Emory's School of Public Health, said he's concerned that people will find that they haven't actually been enrolled, even though the consumer portion seems to be working well. "If it were all a matter of the consumer website working, the Obama administration would already be proclaiming victory," he said

PBS NewsHour | [Why eliminating 'hospital purgatories' would save billions of dollars](#)

December 3, 2013

"I call them the 'six- to 48-hour patients,'" said Dr. **Michael Ross 2014**, associate professor of emergency medicine at the Emory University School of Medicine. "These are patients who need more than six hours of emergency care but who might only need to spend 24 or 48 hours in a hospital if actively cared for. But hospitals are so focused on inpatient care or outpatient care, and these patients really fall between the cracks." | [MedPage Today](#)

Georgia Public Broadcasting | [Group says 60,000 Georgians will pay more for health insurance](#)

November 22, 2013

David Howard 2013, associate professor at Emory University's School of Public Health, says not everyone wins under the new plan. "When you require community rating for insurance plans, when you require plans to be more generous, there are going to be some people who are going to have to pay more," said Howard. "And even if it's a small proportion of the population, that doesn't make it any less comforting to them."

Newsweek | [End of filibuster could boost Obamacare](#)

November 22, 2013

Since the end of the filibuster, some are calling for firings at the Department of Health and Human Services over the disastrous rollout of Obamacare. **David Howard 2013**, health policy expert at Emory University explains why firing officials who presided over the rollout disaster may not be beneficial.

Huffington Post | [What next for those living with HIV?](#)

December 5, 2013

This opinion essay was written by Emory's **Rob Stephenson 2013**, Public Voices Fellow, the OpED Project and associate professor of global health, along with **Mohammed K Ali**, Public Voices Fellow, the OpED Project and assistant professor of global health.

Huffington Post | [Why "out" gay sporting stars matter](#)

December 17, 2013

In a blog post, **Rob Stephenson 2013**, associate professor in global health at Emory University discusses why gay athletes have the potential to act as important role models for gay young people.



Atlanta Journal-Constitution Subscription required | [ER waits can be dangerously long](#)

January 4, 2014

Emory University Hospital in November opened a much larger ER, double the size of the old one, at its Clifton Road location. Now, Emory said, its patients typically see a doctor in about 30 minutes instead of the average waits of an hour in the old ER. "We always provided good care, but it just took a while sometimes," said Dr. **Matthew Keadey 2011**, chief of emergency medicine at Emory University Hospital. [Emory News Center](#)

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [Celebrating Atlanta's leaders in healthcare](#)

January 17, 2014

The 2014 Health-care Quarterly Who's Who Special Section highlights 100 prominent people in the health-care industry. Included this year are **Robert J. Bachman, Otis Brawley 2004, Penny Z. Castellano, S. Wright Caughman, James W. Curran, Walter J. Curran, John T. Fox, Sanjay Gupta, Ira Horowitz, Christian Larsen 2003, Curtis Lewis, Linda McCauley, Dane Peterson, Mark Rosenberg, Scott Schmidly, James Steinberg, and Barbara Stoll.**

North Fulton | [Emory Johns Creek Hospital receives chest pain center accreditation](#)

January 17, 2014

"It took a team of dedicated people across many hospital departments and services to achieve Chest Pain Center accreditation at Emory Johns Creek Hospital," said **Craig McCoy 2014**, chief executive officer of Emory Johns Creek Hospital.

Medpage Today | [Lack of context likely in release of doc pay data, experts say](#)

January 15, 2014

David Howard 2013, PhD, health policy professor at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, told *MedPage Today* in a video interview that some outside groups may try to quantify a physician's work without adjusting for the number of patients doctors treat or their patients' overall health.

Atlanta Journal-Constitution | [GHA bestows Lifetime Achievement Award to Emory nurse leader](#)

January 21, 2014

Emory Healthcare's **Marilyn Margolis 2005** was awarded the 2013 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Hospital Association at the Hospital Heroes luncheon in December. Aso, the following seven Emory nurses received top honors at the 2013 Nurse of the Year Awards, sponsored by the Georgia Chapter of the March of Dimes in partnership with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia: **Debbie Gunter, Roberta Kaplow 2004, Mylinh Yun, Mary Zellinger, Mary Gullatte, Angela Amar and Tami Thomas.**

Georgia Health News | [Patient classification is complex](#)

February 2, 2014

On a recent PBS NewsHour program, Dr. **Michael Ross 2014**, associate professor of emergency medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, and co-author of a study published in Health Affairs, said patients may require less than 24 to 48 hours of observation. The article suggests a unit just for those being observed may actually cut costs for the patient and the hospital, depending on the individual's diagnosis and treatment.

Medical Xpress | [Radically modified cells may stunt brain tumor growth](#)

February 4, 2014

"Innovation in designing new therapeutic strategies is urgently needed to tackle GBM, one of the most lethal human tumors and the most aggressive adult brain tumor," says **Erwin Van Meir 2006**, a brain tumor researcher and director of the Winship Cancer Institute's Cancer Cell Biology Program at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.



Georgia Trend Magazine | [Reducing the risk](#)

February, 2014

The program applies a trauma center approach to treating heart attacks, a problem that kills five times as many people as trauma, says **Mike Ross 2014**, M.D., professor of emergency medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and medical director of Observation Medicine at Emory Healthcare.

Medpage Today | [SGR fix: No pay cut!](#)

February 6, 2014

Physicians will get a 0.5% pay increase each year for 5 years under a deal by a bipartisan team of House and Senate negotiators to repeal the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula for physician payment under Medicare. The proposed system entails an unprecedented degree of healthcare micromanagement by the federal government, according to **David Howard 2013**, PhD, health policy professor at Emory University in Atlanta.

Los Angeles Times | [Do tell, MIT, what exactly is street-fighting mathematics?](#)

February 24, 2014

Rob Stephenson 2013, associate professor at the Rollins School of Public Health, discusses the increasingly bizarre course names listed on academic transcripts and the difficulty it causes for graduate school reviewers to determine relevance of courses to graduate programs.

The Hospitalist | [Team-based care model improves communication, coordination among hospital staffs](#)

February 18, 2014

"Rather than having six different hospital medicine teams rounding on eight different units every day, we thought it would make more sense to have those teams round on a single unit each day where all their patients were cohorted together," says hospitalist **Jason Stein 2010**, MD, SFHM, and lead author of the HBR blog post.

Atlanta Business Chronicle | [NIH ranks Emory Pediatrics fifth](#)

February 20, 2014

"We are elated to now be among the top five NIH-funded pediatric departments, because this is a strong indicator of an institution's strength in child health-related research," said Dr. **Paul Spearman 2006**, chief research officer for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and vice chair of research in the Department of Pediatrics at Emory School of Medicine.

Washington Post | [Regularly sleeping too long may indicate a health problem](#)

March 10, 2014

Neurologist **David Rye 2007**, whose particular expertise is in excessive daytime sleepiness, says that when a patient expresses concerns about needing too much sleep, he looks for underlying medical problems. Rye, director of Emory University's Program in Sleep, often checks for hypothyroidism, in which the thyroid doesn't produce the right balance of hormones.

WXIA-TV Atlanta | [Jerry's Journey: Knowledge is good](#)

March 11, 2014

A recent study conducted by the fine folks at the Emory **Winship Cancer Institute** claims only 5% of the men questioned were aware of the prostate's purpose...Dr. **Viraj Master 2014**, who helped lead the study, says men are so uninformed about simple prostate-related terminology that it could limit the ability of these patients to make wise decisions about their health.

Oncology Times | [Warning about increased risk of sialadenitis from radioactive iodine](#)

February 25, 2014

Based on the study, whether RAI is indicated should be carefully considered because the treatment is not without consequence, said **Amy Y. Chen 2010**, MD, MPH, professor in the Department of Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery and professor in the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology at Emory University School of Medicine. "In addition, we should use caution in the amount of RAI we administer since it appears to be a dose-response curve."



Nature World News | [Depression bad for the heart, researchers find](#)

March 15, 2014

"Depression may cause worsened arterial stiffness with stressful conditions, but not with exercise," said **Pratik Pimple**, MBBS, from Emory's Rollins School of Public Health and lead author of the study.

"These findings may help explain why depression is linked to adverse cardiovascular outcomes," added **Viola Vaccarino 2010**, MD, PhD, the study director and the Wilton Looney Chair of Cardiovascular Research in the Department of Epidemiology at Rollins

Atlanta Journal-Constitution | [Rolling toward 100: Aunt Ruth takes the wheel](#)

March 1, 2014

Dr. **Ted Johnson 2010**, chief of the division of general medicine and geriatrics at Emory University's Woodruff Health Sciences Center, sees plenty of elderly patients who can function fine on the road. Others, not so much, he said. If you were a bad driver in your earlier years, you won't miraculously become a safe driver once you hit 70.

Athens Banner-Herald | [UGA One Health symposium to focus on malaria](#)

March 5, 2014

Experts from the University of Georgia, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Emory University will gather on March 19 to discuss malaria in a symposium titled "The Secret Life of Malaria - A Global Journey to Cure and Prevention." Guest speakers at this symposium are **Mary Galinski 2003** of Emory University.

Molecular Imaging | [Varian acquires Velocity clinical oncology data aggregation software](#)

March 17, 2014

"We expect that Varian will support the continued development of this important clinical tool and help to make it more widely available," said **Tim Fox 2013**, PhD, a founder of Velocity Medical Solutions and director of medical physics for the department of radiation oncology at Emory University in Atlanta.

[Happy Trails...](#)

Therese Baker 2012 was recently married and moved to Columbia, MO.

Judi Cline 2008 has accepted a position as a Senior Attorney at Virginia Mason Medical Center in downtown Seattle.

Save the date: WLA Lunch & Leadership – Mark your calendars - the next WLA Lunch & Leadership will be held on June 3rd. The speaker and location are to be determined.

Remember to take advantage of the WLA Library. We have a number of new books and CDs, including Gary Miller's new book titled *The Exposome: A Primer*.

If you would like to checkout a book, DVD or CD from the library, let us know, and we'll deliver it to your office within a few days. Send a request via email to: WLAlibrary@emory.edu.

