

WLA SPOTLIGHT

*Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows
Winter 2021*

Accomplishments, Appointments, Awards

Congratulations and welcome to the WLA Class of 2021: [Aaron Anderson](#), [Farah Chapes](#), [Calli Cook](#), [Bob Dent](#), [Cam Escoffery](#), [Robin Everhart](#), [Doug Graham](#), [Yahaira Hernandez](#), [Sheryl Heron](#), [Greg Hill](#), [Nick Iannitti](#), [Craig Jabaley](#), [Christine Kempton](#), [Mohamad Moussa](#), [Allan Pickens](#), [Jessica Sheridan](#), [Joel Shu](#), [Ram Subramanian](#), [Parmi Suchdev](#), [LeShea Turner](#), [Lana Uhrig](#), and [Christina Wu](#)

[Annette Esper 2020](#), [Steve Goudy 2020](#), and [Nadine Rouphael 2017](#) are School of Medicine researchers whose work was highlighted as part of this year's Researcher Appreciation Day. The SOM Faculty Recognitions Committee organizes this opportunity every year for faculty to nominate colleagues who are making scientific advances that improve lives.

[Jamlik-Omari Johnson 2016](#) was appointed as Vice Chair for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Department of Radiology and Imaging Science.

[Steve Szabo 2017](#) talked with quarterback Matt Ryan about the importance of detecting cancer early, part of Winship's partnership with the Atlanta Falcons for October's Crucial Catch campaign. Their conversation and a patient story are featured on the Crucial Catch website.

[Hannah Henry 2019](#) was honored as one of Modern Healthcare's Top 25 Emerging Leaders.

[Anita Corbett 2007](#) was appointed as the endowed Samuel C. Dobbs Professor of Biology.

[Maha Lund 2018](#) is excited and humbled to have been elected At-Large-Commissioner for the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA), the organization that accredits Physician Assistant programs in the US. The Commission is comprised of 22 Commissioners who evaluate the reports provided by site visitors and make decisions on programs' accreditation status. Commissioners also participate in site visits, especially to programs with provisional accreditation or programs on probation.

[Nabil Saba 2020](#) was listed among the top 10 world experts on squamous cell cancer of the head and neck based on Expertscape ranking of medical experts. Expertscape objectively ranks people and institutions by their expertise in more than 29,000 biomedical topics. Nabil was appointed as Vice Chair for Quality and Safety in the department of Hematology and Medical Oncology and also appointed as co-leader of the Head and Neck Cancer Program at Winship.

[Donald Harvey 2019](#) has been appointed as Medical Director of Winship's Clinical Trials Office. This newly created position is in response to tremendous growth in the breadth of Winship's clinical trials program, and this role is critical to advance the successful execution of Winship's clinical research efforts.

[Nadine Kaslow 2004](#) is the winner of the 2020 Lifetime Service and Leadership Award. This Award was established by the School of Medicine Recognitions Committee on behalf of the Dean to recognize a faculty member's significant service to Emory University School of Medicine through personal activities, influence, and leadership over the course of many years. Read excerpts from the nomination letter: <https://2020recweek.mystrikingly.com/blog/lifetime>

[Usha Ramakrishnan 2008](#) has been selected as the recipient of this year's Marion V. Creekmore Award for Internationalization.

[Viraj Master 2014](#) received the 2020 Dean's Teaching Award. Recipients are nominated by colleagues and students and chosen by the Teaching Awards Committee for their dedication to medical student teaching and their many contributions as course directors and mentors.

[Taofeek Owonikoko 2019](#) is the recipient of the 2020 Michael C. Christian Oncology Drug Development Award and Lectureship. This award was established by the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program in 2007 to honor the twenty-year NCI career of Michael C. Christian. The award is intended to recognize the contributions of individuals, particularly those in mid-career, to the development of novel agents for cancer therapy. The award consists of a plaque and a lectureship.

[Craig Coopersmith 2012](#), [Keith Delman 2011](#), [Monica Farley 2009](#), [Jonathan Glass 2008](#), [Sagar Lonial 2012](#), [Taofeek Owonikoko 2019](#), [Arshed Quyyumi 2012](#), [Suresh Ramalingam 2017](#), [Nabil Saba 2020](#), and [Mike Zwick 2016](#) are MilliPub Club Inductees. The MilliPub Club honors and recognizes current Emory faculty who have published one or more individual papers throughout their careers that have each garnered more than 1,000 citations. Such a paper is commonly considered a "citation classic" and represents high impact scholarship.

[Kim Curseen 2019](#) was elected to the Board of Directors for the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

[Alexander Isakov 2010](#) has been selected to serve as the Medical Director for the Georgia Office of EMS and Trauma, Division of Health Protection, Georgia Department of Public Health.

[Gina Lundberg 2017](#) was just selected as the new Chair-elect for the Women in Cardiology Leadership council at the American College of Cardiology (ACC) to start in 2021. I am very excited about this new opportunity to improve gender equity for women in cardiology and women in medicine. Gina was also elected as Co-Chair for the National Lipid Association (NLA) for social media and communications committee and the diversity, equity, and inclusion committee.

[Colleen Kraft 2019](#) has been elected to serve as the 2022 president of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). Her term will begin July 1, 2021. The ASM is the largest single life science society, composed of more than 30,000 scientists and health professionals. ASM's mission is to promote and advance the microbial sciences through conferences, publications, certifications, and educational opportunities. It enhances laboratory capacity around the globe through training and resources and provides a network for scientists in academia, industry, and clinical settings.

[Mimi Newell 2009](#) has been selected to the Board of Governors for the American Board of Radiology and to the Board of the Society of Breast Imaging.

Here is a link to the Atlanta Medicine Magazine that [Nicole Franks 2017](#) was the guest editor for: <https://www.mdatl.com/past-issues/>

[Steve Szabo 2017](#) will move from vice chief to chief of staff at ESJH and [David Kooby 2015](#) will back fill his role as vice chief of staff.

[Lisa Carlson 2013](#) has been named a Consulting Editor to the journal *Health Promotion Practice*.

[Toby Goldsmith 2018](#) shared this news:

December 1, we just turned on the phones for Georgia's first perinatal psychiatry consultation program. www.peace4momsga.org Two perinatal psychiatrists (I am one of them) are staffing the phones 5 days a week, 8-5, providing diagnostic and treatment assistance to clinicians treating women who are currently pregnant or are postpartum. We were able to develop this based on a grant from the Department of Public Health.

[Sheryl Heron 2021](#) was selected for the planning committee for the National Academies of Science workshop on *The Science of Unconscious Bias: Implications for Law and Policy*. She has also served 25 years of Service at [Cornwall Regional Hospital](#) in Jamaica, the land of her birth.

[Keith Delman 2011](#) was selected to receive the School of Medicine Mentoring Award recognizing faculty who have demonstrated outstanding mentoring in the domains of education, service, and/or research to trainees or early career faculty during the past year.

[Stacy Higgins 2010](#) was recently invited to serve as Co-Chair for the Women's Health Test Development Materials Committee with NBME. And, her younger daughter Sydney was accepted to Emory, Early Decision, and will be swimming for the Emory Swim & Dive team!

[Ravi Rajani 2017](#) was named a consultant to the American Board of Surgery with a specific focus on the Vascular Surgery Certifying Exam.

[Dan Brat 2010](#), Magerstadt Professor and Chair of Pathology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, was elected to the Association of American Physicians and to the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars in 2020. He also served as the President of the American Association of Neuropathologists in 2019-20.

[Victoria Jordan 2018](#) was the keynote speaker for the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers' Engineering Lean and Six Sigma conference on October 13.

[Ted Johnson 2010](#) shared this news:

Emory, GSU supporting 187 Georgia Nursing Homes COVID-19 Response via Telemedicine

The goals of the NNHCAN project are to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on long-term care communities and to stop the spread of SARS-COV-2. *"Through the targeted training of nursing home personnel - who can then select, implement, and evaluate best practices to respond to this public health issue - we hope to see significant reductions in the spread of SARS-COV-2,"* said Dr. Ted Johnson, Professor and Director of Georgia's Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program.

[Vinod Thourani 2011](#) was renewed his presidency of Southern Thoracic Surgical Association (STSA) by its Board for a second year (2019-2021) secondary to the COVID pandemic. The Heart Valve Society (HVS) Board has renewed his Presidency tenure for an additional year (2020-2022). Vinod serves as the President and Program Chair of the South Atlantic Cardiovascular Society (SACS) from 2019-2021 and also serves as the adult cardiac surgery Co-Chair of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery Annual Scientific Meeting for 2020 and 2021.

[Ruth O'Regan 2009](#) has been named the next Charles A. Dewey Professor and Chair of Medicine at the University of Rochester Medical Center's School of Medicine and Dentistry. Ruth brings more than 20 years of experience in academic medicine and a distinguished history of research and publication to her new role, which she will begin Jan. 1, 2021.

[Camille Vaughan 2019](#) is delighted to share that Geriatrics and Gerontology was elevated to a Division within the Department of Medicine. She was offered and accepted the role of Division Director as of Sept 1, 2020. [Here](#) is a link to more info.

[Vandana Niyar 2019](#) just heard that she has been invited/appointed to the Board of Directors for the Kidney Health Initiative (KHI) for a three-year term--January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023. KHI is a collaboration and a public-private partnership between the American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and has 114 member organizations. KHI's mission is to catalyze innovation and the development of safe and effective patient-centered therapies for people living with kidney diseases.

[Marilyn Margolis 2005](#) authored an article and presented case studies for Simpler/IBM Watson Health: **Transformation of Revenue Cycle patient access processes** (with Denise Gardner). She was also elected President of Johns Creek Advantage-the Economic Development Arm for the City of Johns Creek and is Chair of the Rotary of Johns Creek Membership Committee (past President).

Emory Healthcare's patient experience team announced providers who achieved gold, diamond, and platinum level honors based on patient surveys in fiscal year 2020. Honorees include [Suephy Chen 2019](#), [Kim Curseen 2019](#), [Seth Force 2008](#), [Jonathan Kaufman 2014](#), [Chad Ritenour 2005](#), and [Patrick Sullivan 2019](#).

[Larry Boise 2014](#) has been named as the R. Randall Rollins Chair in Oncology, an endowed chair created with a generous gift from the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation in 2010.

[Amelia Langston 2010](#) and [Adam Marcus 2020](#) have been named as the recipients of Winship 5K Research Professorships. The two endowed professorships are funded through proceeds from the Winship Win the Fight 5K Run/Walk.

In November, [Bob Dent 2021](#) was the keynote speaker for the South Dakota Agency for Healthcare Organizations. The title of the presentation was, 'The Heart of a Nurse Leader: Values-Based Leadership' from the book he co-authored in 2018. Also in November, he was awarded Georgia's Nurse of the Year in the category of Nursing Administration sponsored by the March of Dimes. In December, Bob's son Joshua was married to Kaylee in Denton, Texas.

Winship virtual Grand Rounds continued on Dec. 9 with [Lisa Bernstein 2010](#) presenting "Providing Feedback: Coach Not Critic."

Epidemiology faculty and trainees from Emory's Rollins School of Public Health led sessions and presented research at the Society for Epidemiological Research (SER) Annual Meeting, that took place virtually Dec. 16-18. [Tim Lash 2018](#) was among the conference faculty.

[Ned Waller 2007](#) shared: "A new activity for me is running a randomized placebo controlled clinical trial of duvelisib, a PI3 kinase inhibitor in patients with severe COVID-19. I wrote the study and hold the IND from the FDA. This study is repurposing a cancer drug with immuno modularity properties to treat COVID-19 patients. We have consented 19 out of a planned 80 subjects to-date, and have not seen any toxicities, with all treated patients leaving the hospital. Seeing COVID-19 patients first hand has given me an appreciation of the severity of this disease, and the lack of understanding of its pathophysiology. Why do some patients get so sick while other breeze through their infection? I hope that our study can shed some light on this important question and help keep Emory patients from needing to be intubated."

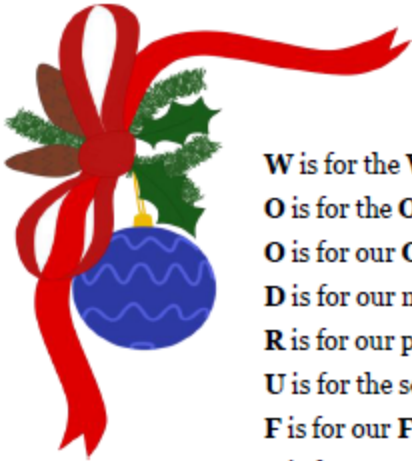
[Sheryl G.A. Gabram-Mendola 2008](#) will be appointed Emory Emerita Professor of Surgery as of January 1st, 2021, retiring from Emory after 15 years of service. She will continue her membership on the board of directors of TurningPoint Breast Cancer Rehabilitation, a non-profit organization committed to reducing disparities of rehabilitation and survivorship care for all women diagnosed with breast cancer. In January 2021, she will assume the position of Chief Scientific Officer with the Georgia Center for Oncology, Research and Education (CORE), an organization that brings together individuals and organizations across local hospitals, community and academic programs to positively impact the lives of cancer patients throughout the state of Georgia.

[Kristin Higgins 2019](#) just found out she was appointed to the NRG Oncology board of Directors for a 3-year term.

[Adam Marcus 2020](#) has been appointed Winship's interim executive director. Marcus will assume the role from Walter J. Curran, Jr., MD, while Emory University conducts a national search for Winship's next executive director.

[Taofeek Owonikoko 2019](#) has been elected to the board of directors of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO). He will begin his four-year term in June 2021, joining five other newly elected ASCO leaders.

[David Howard 2013](#) participated in NCI's Future of Cancer Health Economics Research Conference, held virtually Dec. 2-3.



W is for the **W**ork we do here every day.
O is for the **O**pinion that we are number one in every way.
O is for our **O**utstanding character that we display.
D is for our mindset of **D**edication from the beginning.
R is for our passion for **R**esults and winning.
U is for the sense of **U**rgency we create - even in the long run.
F is for our **F**ocus on the positive that is second to none.
F is for a reminder that we also need to have **F**un.

L is for the **L**ofty goals we visualize.
E is for our **E**fforts to do the right thing and not compromise.
A is for our winning **A**ttitude on which we thrive.
D is for the **D**iscipline we need to keep our drive.
E is for our process in making **E**ffective decisions.
R is for the **R**espect that we give to other positions.
S is for the **S**elfless concern we have for so many.
H is for the **H**ope we give to plenty.
I is for **I**mproving the quality of everything.
P is for the **P**ride we have in contributing.

A is for our consistent **A**ccountability.
C is for our **C**ommitment to excellence at Emory.
A is for patient care we strive to **A**dvance.
D is for the **D**ifficult conversations we don't take to chance.
E is for our routinely applying **E**mootional intelligence.
M is for all we do to advance our **M**issions today.
Y is for the 19th **Y**ear of the WLA!

