



The Department of Medicine announced that it has chosen [Jada Bussey-Jones 2014](#), as the new Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. In addition, [Kimberly Manning 2011](#) will serve as the department's Associate Vice Chair of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Together, Jada and Kimberly will provide vision and leadership in promoting a departmental culture that values these attributes.

The Emory School of Medicine Recognitions Committee sent out a call for nominations for educators across the SOM who go above and beyond the call of duty as teachers and mentors. The committee reviewed outstanding nominations from peers, colleagues, and trainees.

As a result, these four WLA Fellows were recognized as part of this year's Educator Appreciation Day. These faculty members exemplify the outstanding faculty educators of the SOM and best demonstrate our values: [Jessica Arluck 2012](#), [Adriana Ioachimescu 2018](#), [Mary Jo Lechowicz 2011](#), [Kimberly Manning 2011](#)

[Mary Jo Lechowicz 2011](#) received the Exemplary Teacher/Scholar award for the entire Emory University, at the main graduation for the Class of 2019.

Also, earlier this month, Mary Jo visited Tbilisi State Medical University to speak and attend the inaugural graduation of the TSMU American Program's graduation of their first class to complete the six-year program. She has been working on creating the entire medical school curriculum for the last seven years, in conjunction with the faculty of TSMU and Drs. Gordon Churchward, Archil Undilashvili, and the late H. Kenneth Walker, as the consulting team on the Emory side. Mary Jo said this has been a wonderful collaboration and we look forward to ongoing relationship with TSMU.

[Mi-Kyung Song 2017](#) received the Distinguished Researcher Award from the Southern Nursing Research Society. She was also inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Researchers Hall of Fame for her work in palliative and end-of-life care.

Winship and collaborators from five other institutions have received a UG1 grant from the National Cancer Institute that will help fund translational research in thoracic malignancies. [Suresh Ramalingam 2017](#) is the contact principal investigator for the award. [Taofeek Owonikoko 2018](#) and Shi-Yong Sun will serve as co-investigators.

[Lucky Jain 2003](#) has been appointed as the Dr. George W. Brumley, Jr. Chair in Pediatrics.

The staff of Emory Johns Creek Hospital's radiology department recently had cause for celebration, as the facility was designated as the state's only American College of Radiology Diagnostic Imaging Center of Excellence.

[Hannah Henry 2019](#), Emory Johns Creek Hospital's vice president of operations, said it was an honor and credited the people who work there. "We're very proud of the hard work demonstrated by our radiology staff to receive this incredible designation," Hannah said. "Our team had to undergo a comprehensive assessment of the entire medical imaging practice, to include structure and outcomes, professional staff, technology, policies and procedures, image quality, safety, and patient results."

Gateway for Cancer Research, a nonprofit dedicated to funding transformational cancer research, has approved a \$1.5 million grant to help physician scientists at Phoenix Children's Hospital make progress in combating one of the most devastating, aggressive pediatric brain tumors, called Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG).

Led by [Cynthia Wetmore 2017](#), the Division Chief of Hematology/Oncology and Director of the Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at Phoenix Children's, the study, called CUPID, will test a therapy combining a customized peptide vaccine with a checkpoint inhibitor to combat the incurable pediatric brain stem cancer, DIPG. This is a collaboration with Stephen Johnston, PhD at Arizona State University, who has developed the technology for identifying peptides for the vaccine. If ultimately successful, the research could be the first therapeutic progress for DIPG in over 30 years.

The University of Alabama at Birmingham has named [Andrew Butler 2011](#) dean of the UAB School of Health Professions following a national search. He joins UAB from the Byrdine F. Lewis College of Nursing and Health Professions at Georgia State University, where he is professor of physical therapy and associate dean for Research. Andrew will start on July 1st.

[Suresh Ramalingam 2017](#) was named a Fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (FASCO) at a ceremony held June 1 during ASCO's annual meeting in Chicago. The distinction recognizes global oncology leaders who have demonstrated extraordinary volunteer service, dedication, and commitment to the society.

[Kristin Higgins 2019](#) will be awarded one of 10 nationwide Cancer Clinical Investigator Team Leadership Awards by the National Cancer Institute in July. It includes 15% effort for 2 years funded through the NCI. Kristin is also the overall principal investigator of a new NRG Oncology study enrolling through the National Clinical Trial Network (NCTN). It is the first National Cancer Institute-supported phase III trial of immunotherapy for patients with limited stage small cell lung cancer.

[Ned Waller 2007](#), Carlos Moreno, and Mark Goodman are the recipients of Emory School of Medicine's I3 Venture Research Awards, which support promising early-stage concepts with commercial potential.

[Donald Harvey 2019](#) has been promoted to Professor of Hematology and Medical Oncology, effective September 1.

[Viraj Master 2014](#) has been named Winship Director of Integrative Oncology and Survivorship. In this new role, he will collaboratively develop and implement a vision for innovative programs in translational research, quality, patient safety, and cancer care delivery at Winship.

[Vinod Thourani 2011](#) has been named to 3 new positions:

- President-elect: Southern Thoracic Surgical Association
- President-elect: Heart Valve Society
- Vice-President: International Society of Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery

[Mary Beth Allen 2004](#) received recognition as the winner of the Atlanta Business Chronicle's "HR Excellence Awards" *2019 Atlanta Chief Human Resources Officer of the Year*, from among 75 nominees across the metropolitan Atlanta human resources community.

[Costas Hadjipanayis 2014](#) was recently elected into the Society of Neurological Surgeons (SNS). The SNS was founded in 1920 and is composed of neurosurgical department chairs, residency program directors, and other senior educational leaders, and is the oldest neurosurgical professional organization in the world.

[Nicole Franks 2017](#) gave summer safety tips in an interview on WABE's Closer Look: <https://www.wabe.org/episode/closer-look-ga-supreme-court-justice-robert-benham-reflects-on-his-career-when-advertisement-strategy-goes-wrong-er-doctor-gives-summer-safety-tips/>

[Charise Gleason 2015](#) has been named Chief of Advance Practice Providers for the departments of hematology and medical oncology, radiation oncology, and surgical oncology at Winship.

[Michael Zwick 2017](#) led the Georgia Core Facilities Partnership meeting at the Southeastern Association of Shared Resources (SEASR) conference, held June 12-14 at the Emory Conference Center Hotel. The partnership provides investigators from Georgia research universities with easy access to core facilities at internal rates, maximizing the scientific and economic benefit of cutting-edge institutional resources.

[Erwin Van Meir 2006](#) and postdoctoral fellow Bing Yu have been awarded a one-year, \$50,000 grant from the B*CURD foundation for the project, "Targeting Integrin Alpha3 in Glioblastoma," which builds on work funded by a *Winship Invest\$* pilot grant to Erwin.

The American Academy of Nursing announced [Carolyn Reilly 2019](#), [Deena Gilland 2009](#), and [Mary Zellinger 2015](#) were elected as 2019 Academy fellows. These nurse leaders will be among those inducted at the upcoming AAN policy conference in October.

[Carolyn Reilly 2019](#) had a paper published: Campia U, Moslehi Javid J, Amiri-Kordestani L, Barac A, Beckman Joshua A, Chism David D, Cohen P, Groarke John D, Herrmann J, Reilly CM, Weintraub Neal L, null n. (2019) Cardio-Oncology: Vascular and Metabolic Perspectives: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association. *Circulation*. 2019;139(13):e579-e602. doi: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000000641.

[Sushma Cribbs 2018](#) was recently named Chair of Members-in-Transition-Training Committee for the American Thoracic Society.

At graduation, [Lisa Bernstein 2010](#) was the inaugural recipient for the School of Medicine of the Provost Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Education (awarded to one recipient in each of the graduate schools).

[Haian Fu 2015](#) thought our WLA fellows might be interested in this new initiative that he co-leads for future translational collaborations at Emory:

https://news.emory.edu/stories/2019/05/er_basic_sciences/campus.html

Based solely on their being seated at the same table in WLA, 2019 project teammates [Suephy Chen](#), [Jim Forstner](#), and [Carolyn Reilly](#) collaborated to submit a synergy grant.

[Colleen Kraft 2019](#) is one of the investigators that received a Synergy II Nexus Award for a proposal called **Preparing the U.S. for Climate Change-Induced Infectious Disease Impacts: An Interdisciplinary Research Strategy**.

[Sheryl Gabram-Mendola 2008](#) will be appointed as the Ada Lee Correll Chair in Surgery.

[Stewart Factor 2011](#) had a winning proposal, along with seven other investigators, for a Synergy II Nexus Award called **Mapping the Human Gaitome: Automated Analysis of Individual-Specific Walking Patterns in Health and Disease**.

[Ravi Rajani 2017](#) was named "Distinguished Fellow in Vascular Surgery" by the Society for Vascular Surgery. This is presented to ~5 people nationally per year. Ravi also received the J. Richard Amerson Teaching Award for the Emory Department of Surgery, awarded by chief residents to one attending per year.

[Janice Lea 2012](#) received a Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) grant.

[Anne Nelson 2018](#) wanted to share that Emory Healthcare has been recognized as a 2019 CareerSTAT Frontline Healthcare Worker Emerging Champion by their peers.

CareerSTAT, an employer-led initiative of the National Fund for Workforce Solutions, marks its sixth year of sponsoring the champion program. It recognizes employers who are making great strides to support healthcare's critical employees - nursing aids, medical assistants, food service workers, housekeepers, and others - who make up the frontline workforce and want to grow their careers.

This year's Champions and Emerging Champions have developed strategies to hire a workforce that reflects the community in which they operate. They have made training, education, and development opportunities accessible to more employees, regardless of financial ability or other barriers, and are helping non-clinical workers move into clinical positions with a defined career path that leads to jobs that pay family-sustaining wages.

"There is no way that any organization or individual, at any stage of its life, can sit back, rest on its laurels, and be content to collect the rewards already won. You continue to grow or you deteriorate."

-Robert W. Woodruff