



# WLA SPOTLIGHT

## *A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows*

Fall 2012 – Volume XIV

### *Accomplishments, Appointments, Awards...*

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Emory University named **Greg Martin (WLA 2011)** as director of the Center for Health Discovery and Well Being. See more about this in the AJC article in the *Fellows in the News* section of the Spotlight.

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Earlier this year, **Lisa Bernstein (WLA 2010)** won the Herbert S. Waxman award for Outstanding Medical Student Educator from the national American College of Physicians.

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**Mary Jo Lechowicz (WLA 2011)** was elected to the University Senate effective September 1, 2012.

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**Marc Overcash (WLA 2009)** was asked to serve as the Course Director for the Association of American Medical College's Group on Information Resource's Leadership Academy. They are revamping the 8 year old curriculum and updating it to be more current with Information Technology trends and issues.

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In June, **Kathryn Yount (WLA 2012)** was awarded the Asa Griggs Chair of Global Health by the University Board of Trustees.

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**Nadine Kaslow (WLA 2004)** gave the commencement address at Wright State University for the School of Professional Psychology. The theme of the address was integrating your passions with your work life. As an example of this, Nadine is the psychologist for the Atlanta Ballet.

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**Sandra Dunbar (WLA 2006)** leads a team of faculty and staff from Georgia Tech, Emory School of Medicine and the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing that was awarded a seed grant from The Healthcare Innovation Seed Grant program. This program funds multi-investigator, multi-disciplinary teams examining healthcare services and clinical effectiveness and the awards support innovative approaches that address issues of healthcare quality, costs, and/or access. Read more about their project: [\*A Preliminary Test of iHealthHome for Improving Outcomes in Persons with Heart Failure and Diabetes.\*](#)

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**Sagar Lonial (WLA 2012)** was recognized by the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation as one of the 15 key innovators in myeloma therapy over the last 15 years.

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Erie County Medical Center in Buffalo, New York, asked **Kathy Holloway (WLA 2009)** to present how she implemented her Call-Center and how she was able to get physicians to buy into the model.

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**Mary Galinski (WLA 2003)** was profiled as a member of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (ASTMH) in their newsletter launched in August for 15,000 members. The answers are not her precise words, but tailored per the executive director's style. Regardless, to Mary's satisfaction, she managed to have Emory well recognized. Mary shared this as it may be useful for continued outreach, and awareness internally of the continued success of our malaria team.

<http://www.astmh.org/source/blog/post.cfm/member-profile-mary-galinski-phd-emory-vaccine-center-emory-university>.

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**Pam Cospers (WLA 2011)** presented at the AACN Regional conference on "Leadership's Responsibility in Guiding Healthcare Reform". Also, in May, Pam was nominated and invited to join the Emory University School of Nursing Alumni Board. The appointment is for 2 years.

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**Nael McCarty (WLA 2012)** is an inaugural member of the "Emory 1%". The Emory 1% is a new award, identifying the faculty PIs from any School who have received study section scores in the top 1 percentile.

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Effective September 1, **Maeve Howett (WLA 2010)** was promoted to the rank of Clinical Associate Professor.

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**Jason Stein (WLA 2010)** was named a CMS Innovation Advisor in its inaugural year. It is part of the new CMS Innovation Center established by the Affordable Care Act.

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We were recently awarded a 3-year \$1.5 million grant from the CDC for a cooperative public health project titled "Surveillance of Congenital Heart Defects (CHDs) Focusing on Adolescents and Adults", as one of 3 sites nationally. **Wendy Book (WLA 2012)** is the PI on the study, and will be working closely with Co-investigators at Rollins School of Public Health, Sibley Heart Center, Children's Health Care of Atlanta and Grady Memorial Hospital.

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In September, the C. S. Dawn Oration at the 11<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Reproductive and Child Health was delivered by **Lucky Jain (WLA 2003)**.

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Recent accomplishments of **Dubois Bowman (WLA 2007)** include:

- Selected as Fellow of the American Statistical Association
- Elected President of the Eastern North American Region (ENAR) of the International Biometric Society
- Awarded a three-year NIH grant entitled "Analytic Methods for Determining Multimodal Biomarkers for Parkinson's Disease"



**Joyce Doyle (WLA 2006)** won the Mark Silverman Award from the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Physicians. The Mark Silverman award serves to recognize the nurturing attitude of a physician who has not only demonstrated excellence in bedside skills and teaching, but has served as an inspiration for younger physicians to advance their knowledge and training in medicine as well as their involvement in the Georgia Chapter of the ACP.

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**Stacy Higgins (WLA 2010)** won the J. Willis Hurst Outstanding Bedside Teacher Award from the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Physicians. The J. Willis Hurst Bedside Teacher Award was established in 1991 to honor a Georgia member or Fellow in the College for his or her outstanding teaching activities, especially related to medical students and house staff. The award is named after J. Willis Hurst, M.D., MACP, and former Chair of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, whose dedication to instilling principles of lifelong learning brought him worldwide recognition as a gifted and influential teacher.

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**Kimberly Manning (WLA 2011)** was named one of Atlanta's 25 most influential African American doctors by blackhealth magazine.

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## *Fellows in the News...*

*Science Magazine* | [AIDS in America: Atlanta, Georgia: And the band played on](#)

July 13, 2012

"We see a lot of people coming in with three or four T cells and life-threatening opportunistic infections," says **Jeffrey Lennox**, chief of infectious diseases at Grady... On a balmy morning in late May, Lennox, who is also on the faculty at Emory University, leads the daily rounds at Grady with eight young doctors rotating through what's called the Special Immunology Service...Clinic pediatrician **Rana Chakraborty (WLA 2009)** says the root of the problem is that Georgia doesn't enforce its own laws [for screening]..."It's really difficult to get people involved in prevention," says **Markese Sanders**, who recently completed a neuroscience undergraduate degree at Emory and now works at the Evolution Project, a drop-in center for young, black MSM.

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*Medical News Today* | [Reducing racial disparities requires better preconception health care for women](#)

July 13, 2012

An accompanying Editorial by **Anne Dunlop (WLA 2012)** and Darcie Everett, MD, MPH, Emory University School of Medicine, "Forthcoming Changes in Healthcare Financing and Delivery Offer Opportunities for Reducing Racial Disparities in Risks to Reproductive Health", emphasize changes in health care policy, financing, and delivery that emphasize prevention, expand coverage, and improve access to preconception and reproductive health care for lower-income Americans.

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*Health News Digest* | [High volume stroke centers deliver faster treatment with better patient outcomes](#)

July 17, 2012

"Centers that perform a large number of endovascular stroke therapies are more efficient and better at it," says **Rishi Gupta (WLA 2012)**, associate professor of neurology at Emory University School of Medicine.



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*ABC's Good Morning America* via Yahoo! News | [Blood poisoning kills thousands, but no drugs to help](#)

July 17, 2012

"This was the first drug specifically licensed for sepsis, which leaves us essentially with nothing now," said **Greg Martin (WLA 2011)**, director of the medical and coronary intensive care units at Emory University.

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*ABC News* | [Colorado shooting recalls history of theater violence](#)

July 20, 2012

No one is less surprised by violence at movie screenings than **Nadine Kaslow (WLA 2004)**, the chief psychologist at Emory University Medical School's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in Atlanta.

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*ABC News* | [Teens who allegedly filmed fatal attack are charged with murder](#)

July 16, 2012

**Nadine Kaslow (WLA 2004)**, vice chair and chief psychiatrist at Emory University, told ABC News that she believes there a number of reasons for the increase in these sorts of filmed crimes, including the easy access to technology, the copycat phenomenon, and the lack of etiquette to what you do and don't post to social media.

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*Associated Press via 11 Alive News* | [Whooping cough returns](#)

July 23, 2012

**Paul Spearman (WLA 2006)**, from Emory University and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta discusses who needs to get vaccinated for whooping cough.

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The "Initiating the Seamless Continuum of Care: Breaking the 2 Hospital, 1 Patient Dichotomy" **WLA 2012 Project Team (Team InCisive: Jessica Arluck, Pat Capes, George Grant, Sagar Lonial, Cindy Moore and Leah Phillips)** must have found the following Advisory Board article interesting:

### **Avoid the hospital on Saturday? A-fib patients suffer 'weekend effect'**

Weekend patients have a higher risk of death, increased LOS

**July 30, 2012**

According to a study in the *American Journal of Cardiology*, atrial fibrillation (AF) patients admitted to the hospital over the weekend have a 23% increased chance of death compared to patients hospitalized during the week.

[Cardiovascular Rounds: Weekend patients face longer waits, less care—and higher mortality](#)

For the [study](#), researchers analyzed 86,497 AF discharges from the Nationwide Inpatient Sample 2008 database. They found that patients admitted on the weekend:

- Had a higher average length of stay (LOS) of 3.6 days compared with 3.5 among patients hospitalized during the week;
- Had a higher mortality rate of 1.1% compared with 0.9% among patients hospitalized during the week; and
- Received a cardioversion—a procedure that restores normal heart rhythm—only 7.9% of the time, compared with 16.2% among patients hospitalized during the week.

After adjusting for disease severity as well as patient and hospital characteristics, researchers found that in-hospital mortality was 23% higher and LOS was significantly longer among patients admitted over the weekend.



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USA Today | [Cutting-edge clinical trial offers hope to those with ALS](#)

August 5, 2012

A clinical trial may provide hope for those with ALS. It's tentative and early. But when the rest of a person's life has been compressed to an expectancy of two to five years, it is hope, nonetheless. Standing just a few feet from Emory neurosurgeon Dr. **Nicholas Boulis**, **Jonathan Glass (WLA 2008)**, director of the Emory ALS Center, was ready. | [Detroit Free Press](#)

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Atlanta Journal-Constitution | [Even mild anxiety may shorten a person's life](#)

August 3, 2012

The study findings did not surprise **Viola Vaccarino (WLA 2010)**, a cardiologist and professor of medicine at Emory University in Atlanta who studies the role of depression in heart disease. "Clearly there is evidence that depression is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease and total mortality as well," says Vaccarino, who was not involved in the research.

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WebMD | [Stem Cells for ALS: Inside a Clinical Trial](#)

August 22, 2012

**Jonathan Glass (WLA 2008)**, director of Emory's ALS Center, discusses the landmark clinical trial testing the safety of the use of stem cells in patients with ALS. Emory neurosurgeon Nicholas Boulis, MD performs the surgery to implant the cells and also developed the device used to inject the stem cells into the spinal cord. / [Technology Review](#)

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Associated Press via Atlanta Journal-Constitution | [Cardinal George to undergo chemotherapy for cancer](#),

August 28, 2012

Another cancer specialist, **Otis Brawley (WLA 2004)**, an oncology professor at Emory University, suggested that if George has kidney cancer, that might bode well for his recovery. "There are new drugs that are very effective in treating kidney cancer," Brawley said. | [Quincy-Herald-Whig](#) Illinois.

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Georgia Health News | [A healthy life in Georgia: Besse Cooper's world-beating longevity](#)

August 24, 2012

There are more centenarians than ever before, says **Ted Johnson (WLA 2010)**, an Emory geriatrician and director of its Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology. But he adds, "I'm not sure we're seeing a lot more 110-year-olds."

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Fox 5 News Atlanta | [Henry County man undergoes experimental ALS stem cell surgery](#)

August 27, 2012

Ted Harada is the 18th and final patient to undergo a stem cell transplant for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) patients. He's part of an Emory study being watched all over the world. Emory neurologist **Jonathan Glass (WLA 2008)** had to make sure the stem cells were still viable. It was Emory neurosurgeon Dr. **Nick Boulis'** 18th stem cell transplant at Emory.

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Atlanta Journal-Constitution | [Aging can be an issue for execs](#)

September 2, 2012

It's their job that gives many people a reason to get up each day, said **Ted Johnson (WLA 2010)**, director of the Emory Center for Health in Aging. "If you think about what provides an engaging or fulfilling life, it's a feeling of worth or value. It's stature or esteem," he said. "For many people, there's nothing more exciting than fulfilling their life's dream."

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Fox 5 News Atlanta | [Keeping your heart in top shape](#)

September 17, 2012

Emory Preventative Cardiologist **Laurence Sperling (WLA 2008)** says while you can't control whether heart attacks or stroke run in the family, you need to know it.

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Atlanta Journal-Constitution | [Gregory Martin named director of Emory's Center for Health Discovery and Well Being](#)

September 21, 2012

**Greg Martin (WLA 2011)** has been named director of Emory University's Center for Health Discovery and Well Being. Martin is an associate professor of medicine in Emory University School of Medicine and associate division director for critical care in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy and Critical Care. The Emory News Center posted this announcement at the following link regarding Greg's news:

[http://news.emory.edu/stories/2012/09/greg\\_martin\\_predictive\\_health/](http://news.emory.edu/stories/2012/09/greg_martin_predictive_health/).

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South Bend Tribune Indiana | [Future cancer treatments may focus less on location, more on genetics](#)

September 24, 2012

"The problem we run into is that each time you discover a new subtype of any cancer, it gives a lot of ideas on how to develop trials, but we still have to do the trials to get the results," said **Ruth O'Regan (WLA 2009)**, director of translational breast cancer research at Emory University.

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Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News | [Partnership seeks multiple myeloma biomarkers and drugs](#)

September 24, 2012

"For this study, we will be collecting RNA-seq, SNP, and copy number variation data from our own patient samples," explains **Sagar Lonial (WLA 2012)**, MD, director of translational research for the B-cell malignancy program at Winship Cancer Institute, who will act as PI on the NextBio collaboration.

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WebMD | [High cholesterol: What it can do to you](#)

September 25, 2012

"If you look at populations of people, the higher the cholesterol, the higher the level of heart and blood vessel disease," says **Laurence Sperling (WLA 2008)**, head of preventive cardiology at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. It's that simple.

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New York Times | [Misconduct widespread in retracted science papers, study finds](#)

October 1, 2012

**Ben Druss (WLA 2006)**, a professor of health policy of Emory University, said he found the statistics in the paper to be sound but added that they "need to be kept in perspective."

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Yahoo! Finance | [Neurotrack launches early diagnostic test for Alzheimer's disease](#)

October 3, 2012

"One of the biggest hurdles that pharmaceutical companies face in the development of preventive drugs for Alzheimer's disease is populating their clinical trials with appropriate candidates -- those who are pre-symptomatic but who have Alzheimer's disease," said **Elizabeth Buffalo (WLA 2010)**, PhD, Associate Professor of Neurology at Emory University in Atlanta. "Unlike other diagnostic tools on the market, Neurotrack's test focuses on memory ability that critically depends on the integrity of the hippocampus, one of the first areas of the brain that is affected in the course of Alzheimer's," said **Stuart Zola**, PhD, Director of the Yerkes National Primate Research Center and Professor of Psychiatry at Emory University.

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CNN | [Rehab after breast cancer treatment](#)

October 10, 2012

**Sheryl Gabram (WLA 2008)**, breast surgical oncologist at Emory, was featured in a CNN Health Minute discussing the importance of rehab therapy for breast cancer patients.

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*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* | [Home dialysis giving kidney patients their lives back](#)

October 17, 2012

With in-home dialysis, though, patients can do dialysis whenever it is convenient to them. It's important, Frasier said, that patients talk to their physician to determine whether they are mentally and physically able before they proceed. "Home is fantastic," said **Stephen Pastan (WLA 2012)**, a nephrologist and medical director of Emory's kidney transplant program. "Patients love it."

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*HealthNewsDigest.com* | [NIH \\$20 million transplant grant aims at better drugs and long-term organ tolerance](#)

October 16, 2012

"Despite tremendous advances in immune drug therapy, the fact remains that organ recipients still must take immunosuppressant drugs over their lifetimes," says **Chris Larsen (WLA 2003)**, MD, PhD, executive director of the Emory Transplant Center and principal investigator of the new grant.

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CNN | [Pakistani schoolgirl stands](#)

October 19, 2012

**Sanjay Dhall (WLA 2012)**, assistant professor of neurosurgery at Emory University, comments on Malala Yousufzai's recovery.

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*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* | [Know your leader](#)

October 20, 2012

This article features **Tawanda Austin (WLA 2009)**, MSN, RN, NE-BC, a specialty director in surgical services at Emory University Hospital.

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*New York Times* | [New laws add a divisive component to breast screening](#)

October 24, 2012

"I'm always worried when politicians start legislating the medical conversation, especially when it's a medical conversation where the experts don't know what needs to be said," said **Otis Brawley (WLA 2004)**, the chief medical officer and executive vice president of the American Cancer Society and a professor of medicine at Emory University in Atlanta.

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*Science Blog* | [Primates' brains make visual maps using triangular grids](#)

October 28, 2012

"The entorhinal cortex is one of the first brain regions to degenerate in Alzheimer's disease, so our results may help to explain why disorientation is one of the first behavioral signs of Alzheimer's," says senior author **Elizabeth Buffalo (WLA 2010)**, associate professor of neurology at Emory University School of Medicine and Yerkes National Primate Research Center. | [Medical Xpress](#)

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*CBSAtlanta.com* | [Are Atlanta hospitals ready for disaster?](#)

November 1, 2012

With the important things going on in a hospital, Grady Memorial Hospital administrators said they're always thinking about their disaster plan. **Leon Haley (WLA 2005)** with Grady Memorial said they test and check things on a monthly basis, particularly their multiple generators.



## Happy Trails...

We've had three WLA Fellows move on in recent months:

**Andrew Butler (WLA 2011)**, **Habib Tannir (WLA 2006)**, and **Evelyn Jirasakhiran (WLA 2007)**

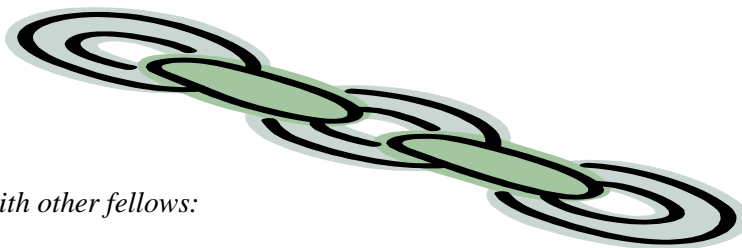
Andrew Butler joined the Georgia State Faculty as associate dean for research and interim chair of the department of physical therapy in the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions. In July, Georgia State published the official announcement of Andy's appointment on their website (<http://snhp.gsu.edu/737.html>). Notice that he had the GSU PR person mention WLA in his bio.

In July, it was announced that Habib Tannir, Administrator of the Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences and Associate Administrator for Imaging Services at Emory Healthcare, accepted the position of Executive Director of Clinical Operations and Diagnostic Imaging at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. Habib joined Emory in May 2005 and during his seven-year tenure has made numerous and important contributions to the excellence of Emory Radiology, one of these being leading the efforts to create the Radiology Leadership Academy (now entering its fourth year). Habib transitioned to his new position on September 1.

In September, Evelyn Jirasakhiran accepted a position at St. Francis Hospital in Columbus, GA as Vice-President of Patient Services. She was the Nursing Director for Women's Health Services at Emory University Hospital Midtown.

## Staying Linked

A feature to keep you connected with other fellows:



**Erwin Van Meir (WLA 2006)** has had quite a few newsworthy items over the past few months. Erwin noted it is "just the ordinary life of an Emory researcher".

- He joined the SOM MilliPub and 1% clubs, which respectively recognize scientists with publications that have received 1,000 citations or scored NIH grants in the 1st percentile: <http://med.emory.edu/main/research/accomplishments/millipub/index.html>
- Erwin received grants from the St. Baldrick's Foundation and the CURE Foundation to study Ewing's sarcoma.
- He has also become an adjunct professor in the Department of Biology at Georgia State University to facilitate collaborations.

In 2012, Erwin has also published manuscripts in the following journals: ACS Med Chem Letters, J Med Chem, Bioorg Med Chem, Clin Cancer Res, PlosONE, Nature, Am J Pathology (with **Dan Brat WLA 2010**), J Mol Med, J Clin Invest and Oncogene. Erwin's favorite is this one in Chinese: Research on p14ARF and angiogenesis featured in *BioOnNews*:  
<http://www.bioon.com/biology/cancer/518952.shtml>





**Jaffar Khan (WLA 2009)** is also celebrating quite a few accomplishments in the past six months or so:

- Jaffar was awarded the 2012 Consortium of Neurology Program Directors Recognition Award from the American Academy of Neurology.
- He was appointed Chair of the Education Subgroup of the “Navigating Healthcare Reform” task force for the American Academy of Neurology (AAN).
- He was also nominated to the ACGME Program Directors Academy for Emory's GME Office and to the University's Class of 2012 Academic Leadership Program.
- Jaffar was elected to the Emory University Senate and University Faculty Council.
- He was appointed to the following committees: Executive Committee of the GME Strategic Plan Task Force, Medical Educator and Service Track Promotion Committee, and the CME Committee, Emory University School of Medicine.

***Congratulations to all WLA Fellows for all you do for so many.  
It is hard to believe The WLA is celebrating 11 years of leadership development  
for the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center!***



## ***Upcoming Events***

**November 8th - 11:30:** WLA Reunion Luncheon for 2009 & 2010 Classes  
~WHSCAB 415~

**November 8th - 5:30:** WLA Mini-Presentation:  
Preparing for Changes in the Research Funding Climate presented by the WLA 2012 Project Team “The Cliffhangers” - Volkan Adsay, Anne Dunlop, Rishi Gupta, Janice Lea, Arshed Quyyumi, Kathleen Rodger and Kathryn Yount  
~SOM 130~

**December 7th - 11:30:** WLA Lunch & Leadership – Nell Hodgson Watt, the “adopted” daughter of Robert Woodruff (his niece), will have all kinds of wonderful tales to tell from her past related to the Woodruffs.  
~SON Auditorium~

**December 13th - 11:30:** WLA Reunion Luncheon for 2011 and 2012 Classes  
~WHSCAB 415~

