



# WLA SPOTLIGHT

## *A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows*

Fall 2016 – Volume XXVIII

The following WLA Fellows were named “Top Doctors” in the July 2016 edition of Atlanta Magazine:

**Susy Alfonso 2015, George Chang 2016, Amy Chen 2010, Keith Delman 2011, Seth Force 2008, Jonathan Glass 2008, Amy Langston 2010, Janice Lea 2012, Michael Lindsay 2006, Viraj Master 2014, Sampath Prahalad 2013, David Schulman 2015, Andrew Smith 2009, Larry Sperling 2008, James Spivey 2009, and Ned Waller 2007**

**Nate Spell 2006** has taken on the role of associate dean for education and professional development for the School of Medicine. He'll work across the system to augment professional development, with our doctors at the Emory Clinic, the VA, Grady, Children's, and Emory Specialty Associates. Nate will oversee continuing medical education, faculty education and associated clinical development activities, programs and initiatives and also focus on embedding an education strategy within major Emory Medicine clinical initiatives and integrating continuing education into clinical workflow.

**Dave Murphy 2016** has been named the Patient Safety Officer for Emory Healthcare. In this role, he will lead efforts to refine our system-wide approaches to improving patient safety.

**David Howard 2013** led a study published last month in *Health Affairs* that highlights how evidence from trials of untested but widely used treatments can change medical practice and help patients. The results of this study challenge the conventional wisdom that physicians are slow to react to new evidence.

**Leon Haley 2005** (executive associate dean for clinical services at Grady Hospital and chief medical officer of the Emory Medical Care Foundation) is the new chair of the [Essential Hospitals Institute](#). This is the research and quality arm of America's Essential Hospitals, whose board is now chaired by John Hauptert.

**Carolyn Clevenger 2013** wrote this brief and very interesting editorial for Media Planet recently: <http://www.futureofhealthcarenews.com/patient-safety/whos-poised-to-care-for-the-aging-boomer-population>

**Field Willingham 2015** is now serving as the President of the Georgia Gastroenterologic and Endoscopic Society (Georgia's GI society) and also recently received a major 3 year grant from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

**Tavi Ioachimescu 2016** won the prestigious Nanette K. Wenger Service Award in the Associate Professor category. Also Tavi was accepted in the modular Executive MBA at Goizueta Business School and starts this month.

**Amy Chen 2010** (Otolaryngology) and **Stacy Higgins 2010** (Medicine) are now representatives on the University Senate and Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee.

The Department of Medicine's Office of Education announced a restructuring of their education leadership, naming **Karen Law 2016** as one of three Associate Vice Chairs of Education. In this role, she will focus on developing curricula that span the faculty-fellow-resident-student continuum and enhance learner development in medical education. In addition, she will assume the role of Program Director of the J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program, the largest training program in the School of Medicine.



Emory University Orthopaedics & Spine Hospital (EUOSH) has been designated a Magnet® facility! High praise was given for the collaboration, innovation and teamwork demonstrated by EUOSH's nurses, physicians and support teams. **June Connor 2007** is the Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Operating Officer for EUOSH.

Submitting for Magnet® is a lengthy, time-consuming process that requires the collaboration and efforts of many individuals across the hospital and the organization. After submitting the application, teams collected a great deal of data around quality improvement, nurse engagement, patient satisfaction, learning, development and many other areas that represent the culture of the hospital. This information was compiled into a comprehensive document and submitted to the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). After submitting this document, a site visit was awarded, and ANCC appraisers came on-site to meet nurses, physicians and interdisciplinary staff to watch teamwork in action. The on-site appraisal gave the EUOSH team the opportunity to answer questions and showcase their teamwork in action. The appraisers were truly impressed with the work of the teams and appreciated the participation and cooperation of the staff, physicians and nurses whom they encountered.

Since 2014, Emory Healthcare has been the only health system in Georgia with two Magnet® designated hospitals, Emory Saint Joseph's Hospital and Emory University Hospital. Today, we are proud to state we are the only health system in Georgia with *three* Magnet® designated hospitals!

Emory College and SOM graduate Laura Jane Miller, the daughter of **Marilea Grider 2008**, just completed her residency at Cambridge Health Alliance in Psychiatry. She is moving back to start her child psychiatry fellowship at Emory so she can practice in Atlanta.

**Clint Shedd 2014** recently got married to Calli Cook. Some of you may know Calli – she is a nurse practitioner in the Department of Neurology and adjunct faculty in the School of Nursing. Congratulations and best wishes!

In August, WLA Dean **Gary Teal** celebrated a remarkable thirty years of service with Emory and the Office of the Executive Vice President for Health Affairs.

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## **Fellows in the News**

**Business Insider** via SF Gate | [This interactive map shows where people with HIV live in the US — and it points to some distressing trends](#)

June 22, 2016

AIDSVu, a project run by Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, in partnership with biotech company Gilead Sciences, has been tracking where people with HIV live by county since 2010. On Thursday, it released its newest data and interactive map, which looks across 2013, as well as new diagnoses from 2008-2014. Dr. **Patrick Sullivan 2016** is the project's lead researcher.

**Atlanta Journal-Constitution** | [Winship marks bone marrow/stem cell center's 5,000th transplant patient](#)

June 23, 2016

Winship's Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant Center, which started in 1979, is the oldest and largest in Georgia. "It's a landmark that I think people can identify with," said Dr. **Amelia Langston 2010**, medical director of the Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant Center. "It represents the advancement of technology, greater safety and the expansion of the donor pool."

**WAGA-TV** | [Georgia woman's cancer journey inspires her to become cancer nurse](#)

June 22, 2016

Megan Patton plants a small white flag. It's one of 5,000 now lining the lawn of the Emory School of Medicine in Atlanta. Each represents a bone marrow transplant patient at the Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University.



Megan is now a cancer nurse, working on Winship's Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, where she was once treated. Dr. **Edmund Waller 2007**, director of the Bone Marrow Transplant Center, says they've made enormous progress in bone marrow transplantation over the last three decades.

**HealthDay** via **UPI.com** | [Stem cells deemed safe for ALS patients](#)

June 29, 2016

Scientists report that stem cell therapy appears to be safe for people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), but it's not yet clear whether the treatment provides any benefits. Dr. **Jonathan Glass 2008**, one of the study authors and leader of Emory University's ALS Center, called it an important start in developing a therapy for the incurable disease, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. "We can say this procedure is doable in ALS patients," Glass said. "Now we have to test whether it's actually therapeutic." [The Verge](#) | [Tech Times](#) | [Medical News Today](#) | [Neurology Advisor](#)

**PBS News Hour** | [Why the South is the epicenter of the AIDS crisis in America](#)

July 12, 2016

**Carlos del Rio**, co-director of the Emory Center for AIDS Research, and **Wendy Armstrong 2011**, medical director of the Ponce de Leon Center, Infectious Diseases Program at Grady Health System, are interviewed about the AIDS epidemic in Atlanta, including issues of poverty, funding, late diagnosis, access to care and continuity of care.

**WXIA-TV** | [How to talk to your kids about protests](#)

July 11, 2016

Emory professor and clinical psychologist **Nadine Kaslow 2004** says it's really difficult because it's hard for us as adults to even figure out how to talk about current events. She says it's important to consider the age of your child in determining what's appropriate.

**MD Magazine** | [Emory team to train first responders in infectious disease protection](#)

July 15, 2016

The Emory University School of Medicine's Department of Emergency Medicine has received a \$375,000 grant to help train first responders, and workers whose jobs may expose them to infectious diseases, in ways to protect themselves and prevent the spread of disease. "First responders in emergency medical services, in frontline health care facilities and in public health practice, are at risk for exposure to serious communicable pathogens," says **Alexander Isakov 2010**, MD, MPH, associate professor in Emory's Department of Emergency Medicine.

**Reuters** | [Researchers publish data on police-related injuries](#)

July 25, 2016

Dr. **Hannah L. F. Cooper 2015** from Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, who recently addressed police violence as a public health issue, told Reuters Health it's important to "expand the national dialogue beyond death. Non-fatal injuries are also vital to the conversation and are much more common," she said. "Better surveillance of police-related injuries is needed," she added.

**WSB-TV** People2People | [Atlanta lab plays critical role in ALS gene discovery](#)

August 5, 2016

Project MinE's U.S. DNA collection site in Atlanta received \$1 million from the ALS Association following the 2014 Ice Bucket Challenge. "This new gene will allow us to investigate the biology behind this gene," Dr. **Jonathan Glass 2008**, director of the Emory ALS Center said. "This is a baby step forward, and lots of baby steps create a giant leap."



**WSB-TV** | [Emory University leads research for HIV positive patients on organ transplant list](#)

August 23, 2016

Dr. **Thomas Pearson 2004**, executive director of the Emory Transplant Center, discusses research on organ donation between HIV positive patients.

**Healthday** via WebMD | [Stress may take toll on younger women's hearts](#)

August 24, 2016

Dr. **Viola Vaccarino 2010**, chair of epidemiology at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta, leads research that suggests stress may be especially hard on the hearts of younger women who have heart disease. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Forbes** | [Stress may be harder on women's hearts than on men's, study finds](#)

August 25, 2016

"We wanted to address the question of whether psychological stress affects the heart circulation of young women with heart disease differently than men of the same age," says **Viola Vaccarino 2010**, chair of epidemiology at Emory University Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta. "Our findings suggest that women with heart disease in their 30s, 40s and early 50s are more vulnerable to the damaging effects of psychological stress on their heart circulation."

**Orlando Sentinel** | [Local doctors concerned about EpiPen price increase](#)

August 24, 2016

**David Howard 2013**, associate professor of health policy and management at Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, discusses the EpiPen price increase and how there are not many options out there in the marketplace.

**The Guardian** | [Obamacare 'on the cusp of falling apart' as insurers flee health exchanges](#)

September 3, 2016

**David Howard 2013**, an associate professor at Emory University's department of health policy and management, said the ACA included provisions to keep the marketplaces stable, but some of those were watered down in the push to get the deal through Congress, and in other cases the provisions have not been enacted in the way people expected. "So that means the exchanges are potentially on the cusp of falling apart," Howard said.

**The Scientist** | [What sensory receptors do outside of sense organs](#)

September 1, 2016

An article about olfactory receptors refers to research on muscle cells by Emory pharmacologist **Grace Pavlath 2008**.

**CBS This Morning** | ["Blood money": Lawmakers want answers for EpiPen price surge](#)

September 20, 2016

Mylan CEO Heather Bresch is set to testify Wednesday on Capitol Hill about the massive increase in the cost of the EpiPen. Emory University health economist **David Howard 2013** said there's another concern about future costs. "Insurers are still going to have to pay the full price. They may get some of that back in rebates. But that will ultimately come back to consumers in the form of higher premiums," Howard said.

**MedPage Today** | [Suicide risk factors vary for children and young teens](#)

September 20, 2016

**Nadine Kaslow 2004**, PhD, of Emory University, commented on a study that characterized reasons for suicide among different groups of children. "There's been relatively little attention paid to suicide in younger children -- we know more about adults and older adolescents," said Kaslow, who was not involved with the research. "Often, people lump children and adolescents together and say they're all alike, so I think what this study does is a nice job of trying to differentiate between elementary school and middle-school children, and I think that's really important."



## *Happy Trails*

**Maeve Howett 2010** has headed off on a grand adventure to be the new assistant dean at UMass Amherst College of Nursing.

**Rick Gitomer 2003** will join Brigham and Women's Hospital as director of their new Primary Care Center of Excellence and vice chair of Primary Care in the Department of Medicine, effective October 1, 2016.

**Paul Spearman 2006** is now Chief of Infectious Diseases at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, where he has been named to the Albert B. Sabin Chair in Pediatric Infectious Diseases. There he will continue his basic research on HIV, while leading efforts in vaccine development and translational vaccinology for a program that is well known for its pioneering work in developing vaccines for children.

**\*\*\* SAVE THE DATE – Don't miss this one! \*\*\***

**Please mark your calendars for our next WLA Lunch & Leadership.**

**Many of you have had the opportunity of hearing**

**JOHN RICE**

**at your WLA sessions and this year on**

**DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**

**you can hear him again.**

