

# WLA SPOTLIGHT

## *A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows*

Winter 2017 – Volume XXIX

**Erwin Van Meir 2006** received the Phil Jory Research Award from the Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation.

He also received these new grants:

- 2016-2017: CURE Childhood Cancer Foundation, \$100,000 title: "Investigating the tumor suppressor role of BAI3 in Medulloblastoma"
- 2016-2017: Southeastern Brain Tumor Foundation, \$50,000 title: "Investigating the molecular mechanism of therapeutic resistance in glioblastoma"
- 2016-2021: NIH-NINDS, R01 NS096236 \$1,235,000 title: "Targeting mechanisms of medulloblastoma formation"

**Alex Isakov 2010** was promoted to Professor and also was awarded an NIEHS grant. Here is the link to the press release: [http://news.emory.edu/stories/2016/06/ebola\\_biosafety\\_training\\_program/](http://news.emory.edu/stories/2016/06/ebola_biosafety_training_program/). Alex was also appointed to the Ad Hoc Committee on Strengthening the Disaster Resilience of Academic Research Communities, Health and Medicine Division, National Academy of Sciences.

**Ray Young 2014** was named Division Chief of Psychosomatic Medicine/Consultation Liaison Services for Emory Healthcare (as part of the department of Psychiatry). He also received the Hidden Gem Award from the school of medicine for the department of psychiatry.

**Daniel Brat 2010**, director of Winship's Cancer Tissue and Pathology Shared Resource, received a lifetime achievement award in September from the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the leading organization of board-certified pathologists. He received the award at the CAP annual meeting in Las Vegas.

**Vinod Thourani 2011** was selected as the Vice-President and is on the Executive Council for the Southern Thoracic Surgical Association for 2016 - 2017.

**Chris Flowers 2016** was named co-director of the American Society of Hematology's Clinical Research Training Institute. He is also a 2016 member of the 1% Club, which recognizes faculty whose NIH proposals ranked in the top 1% by NIH reviewers.

**Aneesh Mehta 2015** was promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor of Medicine. Also he was recently inducted as a Fellow in the Infectious Diseases Society of America (FIDSA).

**Jaffar Khan 2009** has been appointed to the position of assistant dean for education for the School of Medicine. In this role, he will serve as the primary liaison between the SOM and Grady Hospital student and resident education.

**Stacy Higgins 2010** participated in an online NEJM discussion called *Care at the Front Line: Applying for Jobs in Primary Care*.

**Susie Buchter 2011** was selected by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education as a recipient of the prestigious Parker J. Palmer Courage to Teach award.

Along with James Lah and Elizabeth Corwin, **Viola Vaccarino 2010** received one of the first WHSC Synergy Awards, created to support new collaborative research projects. Their project deals with relationship of the gut microbiome to neurodegeneration in Alzheimer's disease.



**Tammie Quest 2008** was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal to the Georgia Palliative Care and Quality of Life Advisory Council. She is also president-elect of the [American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine](#).

The Arthritis Foundation honored **Sampath Prahalad 2013** as the Hugh McLeod Award of Excellence recipient. This award was established by the Arthritis Foundation in 2012 to honor the legacy and philosophies of Hugh McLeod, and focuses on seeking out other physicians exhibiting his character and qualities.

On short notice, **Matt Keadey 2011** stepped in to the role of Interim Medical Director for the Emory Johns Creek Hospital Emergency Department. Matt will provide mentorship, leadership and practice management oversight for the EJCH ED. He will partner closely with **Marilyn Margolis 2005**, the Emory Johns Creek CEO, and the EM leadership team. Matt will retain his role as Chief of Service for Emory University Hospital Emergency Services and will continue to work clinically at EUH.

**Vince Dollard 2011** has been appointed interim senior VP for communications and public affairs for Emory University, and **Holly Korschun 2004** has been appointed interim associate VP for health sciences communications.

In September, **David Schulman 2015** was formally elected to the Board of Regents at the American College of Chest Physicians, and was also named as Chair of their annual meeting for October, 2018.

**Craig McCoy 2014** made the Community Hospital Corporation list of 135 Nonprofit Hospital and Health System CEOs to Know 2016. Craig took the CEO position at Bon Secours St. Francis Health System in June 2015.

**Jennifer Blakely 2016** will be teaching Health Law at Emory Law School in the Spring.

**Gina Lundberg 2017** was in the Atlanta magazine July Top Doctor issue for Cardiology.

**Anita Corbett 2007** moved to become Professor of Biology.

**Mimi Newell 2009** was made a Fellow of the Society of Breast Imaging

**Marilea Grider 2008** has taken on a new role as executive administrator for both Pathology and Emergency Medicine.

**Mary Galinski 2003** just celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary with husband John Barnwell.

**David Guidot's 2007** daughter was married in October at Christ the King Cathedral on Peachtree and everything was perfect! David said also "on a much less exciting and more mundane professional level" he was awarded a new R01 from NIH to develop novel therapies for individuals living with alcohol use disorders. The particular goal is to improve their lung health. The project is called: "*Developing and testing novel therapies for the alcoholic lung: our clinical trials pipeline*".

**Larry Sperling 2008** shared the following news:

- He enjoyed an amazing day as an invited participant to the White House briefing on cardiovascular health
- He delivered the Hong Kong Heart Foundation invited keynote lecture at the 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Preventive Cardiology conference
- He served as the immediate past-president of The American Society for Preventive Cardiology
- Currently he is a Visiting Professor at the Imperial College in London and the National Heart & Lung Institute of the United Kingdom



**Tara Adyanthaya 2012** was recently appointed to the American Bar Association President's Special Commission on the Law and Medical Ethics. She is also speaking on balancing legal risk with medical ethics in caring for patients with dementia in long-term care facilities at the University of Maryland's Erickson School on Aging's Memory Care Summit at Disney World in January.

**Maggi McKay 2003** is retiring at the end of January, 2017.

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## **Emory in the News**

**Infection Control News** | [NIH funds research network focused on HIV-infected youth](#)

September 26, 2016

The National Institutes of Health has awarded funding for a research network devoted to the health and well-being of adolescents and young adults with HIV or at risk for HIV infection. The awards, up to \$24 million in 2016, provide for three research centers and a data coordinating center that will make up the Adolescent Medicine Trials Network for HIV/AIDS Interventions (ATN). The principal investigators and the hubs they lead include Lisa Hightow-Weidman, MD, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and **Patrick Sullivan 2016**, MD, Emory University, Atlanta.

**MDatl.com** | [Emory will study use of FDA-approved drug in HIV positive patients receiving kidney transplants](#)

October 1, 2016

**Thomas Pearson 2004**, MD, DPhil, professor of surgery, and executive director of the Emory Transplant Center, discusses how the Emory Transplant Center will soon begin enrolling HIV positive patients in need of a kidney transplant into a new clinical trial to evaluate the safety and tolerability of a drug that blocks the CCR5 receptor. The CCR5 receptor is an entrance point for HIV into cells of the immune system.

**WebMD** | [Breast cancer deaths increasing for black women](#)

October 3, 2016

**Sheryl Gabram-Mendola 2008** MD, director of the Avon Foundation Comprehensive Breast Center at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, sees firsthand the barriers many African-American women face getting tested. Many don't reach out for help until their cancer is at an advanced stage, she says. Gabram-Mendola says efforts are underway in her city to bring about change. One example she says is that doctors from Emory University and Morehouse College formed a group that meets weekly to talk about all breast cancer patients seen at the center and to coordinate similar care across schools.

**MedPage Today** | [Self harm may predict suicide in vets](#)

October 7, 2016

**Nadine Kaslow 2004**, PhD of Emory University, who wasn't involved in the study, said its take-aways included "the importance of gathering accurate mental health information about service personnel, and being sure that individuals with psychiatric problems are adequately assessed and treated when in service and at high-risk times, such as immediately post-deployment and immediately post-separation."

**CNN** | [Heart surgery patients at risk for deadly infection, CDC warns](#)

October 14, 2016

Patients who have undergone open heart surgeries since 2012 may be at risk of a life-threatening infection linked to a medical device used during their operations, health officials warned Thursday. Though upsetting, this news should not raise pulses, says **Dr. Vinod Thourani 2011**, co-chair of the American College of Cardiology's surgeon's council. "The overall risk is exceedingly low," said Thourani, who is also a professor and chief of cardiothoracic surgery at Emory University Hospital.



**MedPage Today** | [Affordable Care Act pounded by hurricane, Bill Clinton](#)

October 5, 2016

"I don't think it will be damaging to Hillary Clinton's campaign," agreed **David Howard 2013, PhD**, a professor of health policy and management at Emory University in Atlanta. "...And the former president was pointing out a valid problem with the law, as people make more money, the assistance they receive drops off quickly.... [But] I doubt Congressional Republicans will support more generous subsidies. It will really increase the cost of the law."

**MedPage Today** | [Docs disagree on e-cigarette safety](#)

October 24, 2016

Pulmonologist **David Schulman 2015, MD**, of Emory School of Medicine said that while he believes e-cigarettes are safer than conventional cigarettes, they may not be as safe as those who want to promote them for smoking cessation believe. "I would say use them, especially if they had tried first-line treatments and were still smoking. But I wouldn't want them to stay on e-cigarettes forever," he said.

**MedPage Today** | [Metformin in COPD patients improves outcomes](#)

October 24, 2016

Patients with diabetes who also had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) were at significantly lower risk for lung-related hospitalizations when using metformin rather than insulin to control blood glucose, researchers reported. **David Schulman 2015, MD**, of Emory University, said, "There are some data that suggest that metformin has some anti-inflammatory properties, and there are increasing studies like this one that not only does metformin improve glycemic control but may have some other systemic benefits that we are just scratching the surface of."

**Atlanta Journal Constitution** subscription required | [When it comes up during campaign, Isakson doesn't shy away from illness](#)

October 27, 2016

**Stewart Factor 2011**, the director of the Emory University Comprehensive Parkinson's Disease Center, does not treat Isakson but said the progression of the disease, which affects movement and motor skills in up to 1 million Americans, varies from person to person.

**U.S. News & World Report** | [Your Presidential candidate lost. How to cope with the crushing disappointment](#)

November 7, 2016

Throw a "defeat" party. While some people on the winning side will celebrate their victory, voters on the losing side can throw a gathering that is cathartic and fun, says **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, a professor and vice chair for faculty development in the department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta.

**MD News** | [Zika virus: Epidemiology, virology and counter measures](#)

November 5, 2016

At IDWeek 2016, **Mark Mulligan 2008, MD**, from the Hope Clinic at the Emory Vaccine Center, discussed his team's recent projects studying the natural history of Zika infection and their Zika vaccine trial. Mulligan said that the point of studying Zika's history is to get fundamental information to better design and develop counter measures that are vaccines, treatments and diagnostic tests.

**MedPage Today** | [Obamacare on the chopping block?](#)

November 09, 2016

With the Republicans winning the White House and retaining control of both houses of Congress on Tuesday, healthcare scholars predict big changes in some healthcare policies, although perhaps not as much as feared. **David Howard 2013, PhD**, a professor of health policy and management at Emory University in Atlanta, predicted in an email that the ACA will be "dismantled piecemeal. There will be remnants--increased Medicaid funding and subsidies--(delivered via tax credits) that live on like the smoldering embers from a campfire."



**Reader's Digest** | [11 silent signs of sepsis you need to know](#)

November 22, 2016

"Very rarely, the body responds to an infection by dropping body temperature, although this is less common," says **Craig Coopersmith 2012**, MD, a surgeon at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta and a leading researcher on sepsis.

**CNN** | [Learning to be a fighter: Young mom struggles with Parkinson's](#)

Dec. 5, 2016

People under the age of 40 make up about 15 percent of all Parkinson's cases, according to **Stewart Factor 2011**, a neurologist and director of the Movement Disorders Program at the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta. "We call that young-onset Parkinson's, while under the age of 20 is juvenile-onset of Parkinson's disease," Factor said. "That's much less common."

**Atlanta Journal Constitution** | [As Georgia ages, shortage of docs for seniors](#)

December 3, 2016

"There's definitely a crisis," said Dr. **Ted Johnson 2010**, chief of geriatrics at Emory University School of Medicine. Few people are even entering the field. "We're losing ground. We're not even at a replacement rate." The article also includes doctor and professor of medicine Dr. **Ugochi Ohuabunwa**, Grady Hospital's head of geriatric medicine and Dr. **Tom Price 2013** at the VA's geriatric outpatient clinic for veterans.

**Fox 5 News** | [Stranger's gift changes Georgia teen's life](#)

December 7, 2016

At Emory University Hospital, 42-year old Kelley Bundick is waiting for a surgery she doesn't need. Bundick is giving a kidney to a Greensboro, Georgia teen. **Dr. Nicole Turgeon 2015**, who is performing Bundick's operation, specializes in living donor surgeries, people who give a kidney to a loved one, colleague, or sometimes a stranger, because they can. "I really cherish the opportunity to work with these donors because they put themselves in harm's way," **Dr. Turgeon** says. "So, I feel a tremendous amount of responsibility to them as well as to the potential recipient."

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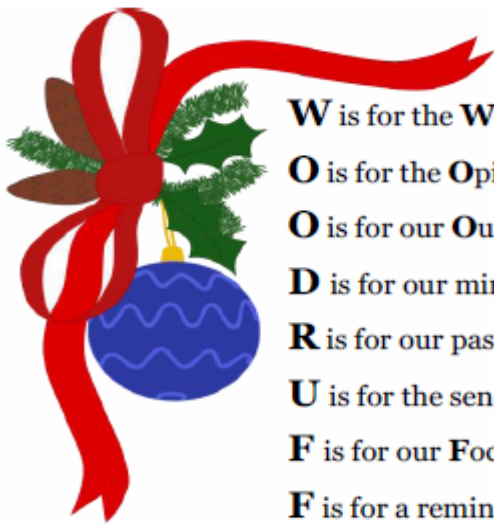
Remember to take advantage of the WLA Library. We have some new books and CDs, including *Grit - The Power of Passion and Perseverance* by Angela Duckworth. This was suggested by Chris Flowers. He also recommends *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown. Chris said this one is truly awesome - a very inspiring book about how a team can become so much greater than the sum of its parts.

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.



The poem below was distributed last December and, after an update or two, it is shared again. It is hard to believe the new WLA Class of 2017 represents the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the WLA!





**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 15<sup>th</sup> **Y**ear of the WLA!



Paula L. Heard 2016

