The Mission of Emory University’s Division of General Medicine at Grady Memorial Hospital is to improve patient care for underserved patients. We accomplish this in part through superb teaching and through research focused on improving care.

William T. Branch, Jr., MD, MACP
Director, Division of General Internal Medicine

Teaching and Research Awards

Donald Brady, Associate Professor and Co-Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program, Head, Primary Care Track, received recognition for 10 years of leadership of the Primary Care Residency Program.

Lorenzo Di Francesco, Associate Professor and Grady’s Assistant Chief of Medicine, was chosen as the 2005-2006 recipient of the Kokko Award by the Department of Medicine for his excellence in teaching.

Charlie Harper, Assistant Professor of Medicine, received the Department of Medicine’s Nanette K. Wenger Distinguished Service Award-Assistant Professor for outstanding citizenship to the Department of Medicine (DOM) over the breadth of his career.

Stacy Higgins, Assistant Professor and Director of the Primary Care Residency Program, received the Annette Bernard Outpatient Teaching Award from the Division of General Medicine for outstanding teaching in the Primary Care Center.

Terry Jacobson, Professor, received the Department of Medicine’s Silver Pear Mentoring Award-Clinician/Teacher. Dr. Jacobson was recognized by the DOM for having demonstrated outstanding mentoring by a clinician/teacher to junior faculty during the past year.

Anna Kho, Assistant Professor, received the Inpatient Teaching Award, from the Division of General Medicine for outstanding teaching to housestaff on the Grady wards.

Stacy Higgins was interviewed by National Public Radio regarding immigrant Health Care in Atlanta.

David Malebranche was interviewed by Essence Magazine for a feature on 25 African Americans working on the frontlines of HIV, commemorating 25th Anniversary of the Epidemic. Dr. Malebranche was also interviewed with Jim Curran and Jeff Lennox on Georgia Weekly Review on Network GPB. The topic, “HIV Treatment Past and Present”. The show aired May 23, 2006.

Susmita Mallik was interviewed by the National Public Radio, CNN Radio, NBC news and several other national and international news media regarding her manuscript “Depressive Symptoms after Acute Myocardial Infarction - Evidence for Highest Rates in Younger Women” published in Archives of Internal Medicine, April 2006.

Susmita Mallik, Assistant Professor, was nominated for the Department of Medicine’s Junior Faculty Research Award for outstanding contributions to research.

Kimberly Manning, Assistant Professor and Program Director of the Transitional Year Residency Program, received the Division of General Medicine Primary Care Clinician-Teacher Award from the Primary Care Residency Program.

Neil Winawer, Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the Hospital Medicine Unit at Grady, received The Golden Apple Award from the DOM for outstanding teaching to housestaff.
Meet the Faculty
Lisa Bernstein and Ursula Whalen

Dr. Lisa Bernstein has been a member of the Emory Division of General Medicine since 1998, when she finished her residency in Internal Medicine at Emory. Her primary areas of interest are clinical skills and women’s health. In the area of clinical skills training, she has been Co-Director of the M1/M2 Clinical Methods Course since 1999, and was recently named Director of the course. In addition, as a newly-appointed member of the AAMC Working Group on Preclerkship Clinical Skills Education, she hopes to help determine the skills students should learn prior to starting the wards. Dr. Bernstein has been interviewed by CNN about the importance of the family history.

Dr. Ursula Whalen joined the Grady Division of General Medicine in the Fall of 2004 after completing her chief residency at Vanderbilt University. While at Vanderbilt, she started a community outreach health education program for underserved middle school students as well as implemented a pre-clinic conference. Since coming to Emory, she has become the Director of the Clinic Conference.

She serves on the Committee for Performance Improvement for the residents whose aim is to facilitate resident driven improvement in patient care. She recently joined Drs. Nomi Traub and Leslie Miller treating Hepatitis C patients in the Liver Clinic. Her research interests are smoking cessation and congestive heart failure. The results of her study on smoking trends among pregnant women in Tennessee will be published in Preventive Medicine this year.

Leadership and Recent Appointments

Erica Brownfield, Assistant Professor, was named Clerkship Director of Internal Medicine.

Yvette Cua, Instructor of Medicine, was promoted to Assistant Professor of Medicine.

Stacy Higgins, Assistant Professor, was promoted to Program Director, Primary Care Track; Associate Program Director, Ambulatory Medicine.

Kimberly Manning, Assistant Professor, was appointed Program Director, Transitional Year Residency Program.

Nurcan Ilksoy, Assistant Professor, was nominated to the Advisory Board of Heart Failure Committee, Society of Hospital Medicine. Dr. Ilksoy is also Content Editor/Expert, Heart Failure Quality Improvement/ CME Resource Room, Society of Hospital Medicine.

Accomplishments of Note

Erica Brownfield, Assistant Professor, will serve as a Chair on a Panel at the Annual International Communications Association meeting this June in Germany.

Sunil Kripalani, Assistant Professor, served as Chair, National Institute of Health (NIH) Special Emphasis Grant Review Panels for Health Literacy Research (R01 and R03 applications), 2006. Dr. Kripalani also served as Co-Chair, Research Abstract Review Committee, Society of General Internal Medicine national meeting, 2006.

Rajeev Mathavan, Instructor of Medicine, was certified as a Diplomate of the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.
Grants and Scholarship

Jada Bussey-Jones received a $154,679 R01 Minority Supplement Grant “Learning About Research in North Carolina (LeARN)” from the NIH-National Human Genome Research Institute. The LeARN project minority supplement evaluates minority participant views on causality of colorectal cancer.

Paul Cantey, Mike Saenger, Sanjukta Chatterjee, Assistant Professors and Ruth Parker, Professor of Medicine, submitted a proposal with Carlos Franco and Carlos Del Rio to develop a Global Health Curriculum for the School of Medicine. This is funded by the University Teaching Fund.

Sunil Kripalani was awarded $40,000 from American Society of Health System Pharmacists Foundation, “Improving Medication Adherence through Graphically Enhanced interventions in Acute Coronary Syndromes (IMAGE-ACS)”. This randomized controlled trial will test the effectiveness of a low-literacy hospital discharge counseling intervention on patients’ medication adherence in the months following hospitalization for acute coronary syndromes. Dr. Kripalani was also awarded a Pfizer Visiting Professorship in Health Literacy. He will visit Drexel University College of Medicine in Nov 2006 to give Grand Rounds and lead several seminars.

David Malebranche was awarded $275,000 from NIH National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Department a 2 year R21 grant on “Social context of disclosure and HIV sexual risk among behaviorally bisexual black men who have sex with men”.

Susmita Mallik, Assistant Professor of Medicine, received a $422,247 Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23) from NIH National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) for her study titled “Troubled Minds, Broken Hearts: Women, Depression and Myocardial Infarction”. Dr. Mallik will examine the efficacy of drug treatment of depression in improving outcome in post-myocardial infarction (MI) men and women in a predominantly African-American patient population. This study will be conducted at Grady Memorial Hospital in collaboration with Drs. Nanette Wenger, Professor of Medicine, Viola Vaccarino, Associate Professor, Emory School of Medicine’s Division of Cardiology, Dr. Musselman, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, and the General Clinical Research Center (GCRC).

Dr. Mallik also received $260,000 Scientist Development Award from the American Heart Association (National) to study the effects of depression on prognosis after MI and to examine whether depression accounts for women’s higher rates of adverse outcomes post-MI. The four-year AHA grant provides funding for a prospective MI registry at Grady in collaboration with GCRC.

Anu Paranjape received $511,290 Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Career Development Award (K23) titled “Family Violence in Older African American Women” from the NIH NCRR to pursue a series of investigations related to family violence in older African American women, identify risk and protective factors for family violence, and study the link between family violence and health outcomes in this population.

Presentations


Harper CR, DeFilippis AP, Edwards MC, Jacobson TA. Increasing eicosapentaenoic acid levels with plant based alpha-linolenic acid supplementation. Poster presented at American Heart Association’s 46th Annual Conference on Cardiovascular Disease Epidemiology and Prevention, March 2006. Charles Harper is the first author of this work, in which the results showed modest supplementation with plant based alpha-linolenic acid in a free living population can produce substantial increases in serum eicosapentaenoic acid which has been associated with reductions in cardiovascular risk.


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RECENT PUBLICATIONS


Presentations

Continued


Emory Division of General Medicine faculty continue to teach institutionally and nationally in a variety of forums including grand rounds, invited lectures, conferences and workshops.

**William Branch**, Carter Smith Senior Professor & Division Chief of General Medicine, presented Grand Rounds: "Teaching Professional Values", at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in March 2006 as a visiting professor. Dr. Branch also “Teaching the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Competencies: Practical Tips for Teaching Professionalism, Humanism and Communication Skills”, at the ACGME. The ACGME is responsible for the accreditation of post-MD medical training programs within the United States.

**Erica Brownfield**, Assistant Professor, presented “Medical Malpractice: Everything You Need to Know” at Emory University Hospital Ground Rounds. She also presented a poster “Increasing Women’s Health Literacy Using a Multimedia Program” at the National Society of General Internal Medicine.

**Jada Bussey-Jones**, Assistant Professor, presented a Pre-Course titled “Teaching about Disparities: A standardized patient/learner experience” at the National SGIM. She is also serving as Course Director for the primary care resident lecture series, “Cross-Cultural Primary Care”, speaker for the Cross-Cultural Medicine Elective Panel and as an elective preceptor at Emory.

Assistant Professor **Yvette Cua**, presented “Billing & Coding: Working Smarter, Not Harder” at Grady Memorial Hospital, Primary Care Grand Rounds. She has also been elected to the mentoring committee for the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine Alumni Board.

**Anna Kho**, Assistant Professor, gave the Primary Care Grand Rounds Lecture on Handheld Devices in Medical Education. She also presented at the Morbidity and Mortality Conference at the Emory Hospital Medicine Unit.

**Stacy Higgins**, Assistant Professor, was invited to give a lecture at the Annual Fatherhood Conference in Birmingham, Alabama on "Reportable Diseases and Contraceptives".

**Sunil Kripalani**, Assistant Professor, led a workshop, “Health Literacy for the Clinician-Educator,” at the SGIM National Meeting. He also led the health literacy group and moderated the Hospitalists Oral Research Abstract Session at the SGIM National Meeting. In addition, Dr. Kripalani led a workshop, “Addressing Literacy-related Health Disparities Through Individual and System Interventions,” at the 5th Biennial Conference on Cancer, Culture, and Literacy. He was invited for a plenary presentation entitled “Health Literacy: Its Importance in Primary Care” at the National Meeting of the Student National Medical Association. At Emory, Dr. Kripalani gave the Grady General Clinical Research Center Resident Research Conference, “Health Literacy”.

**Laura Martin**, Assistant Professor, gave “Two Physician Consent” Ethics Grand Rounds at Emory. She also presented a Journal Club “Informed Consent in Patients with Delirium” to the Division of General Medicine faculty.

**Rajeev Mathavan**, Assistant Professor, presented at the Emergency Medicine/Internal Medicine Conference on “Decision Making Capacity, Do Not Resuscitate and Ethical Issues”.

**Susmita Mallik**, Assistant Professor, was invited to present her manuscript ”Depressive Symptoms after Acute Myocardial Infarction - Evidence for Highest Rates in Younger Women” at the residents’ Journal Club.

**Anu Paranjape**, Assistant Professor, led the “Physicians against Violence” interest group at the National SGIM meeting.

**Michael Saenger**, and **Nomi Traub**, Assistant Professors, are completing a monthly Cancer Screening workshop for residents in Internal Medicine. The workshop emphasizes teaching residents how to integrate new information in the application of cancer screening.

**Idelfonso Tellez**, Assistant Professor, was invited to participate in a vaccinology course in Pucon, Chile. This is a forum for Latin American and US experts sponsored by the Pasteur Institute (France) and Sanofi-Pasteur Laboratories.

Division of General Medicine faculty members also participated in the pre-clinic conferences led by Dr. Laura Martin and co-directed by Assistant Professor Ursula Whalen. Some of the conference topics were Prevention and Screening by **Jada Bussey-Jones**, Pre-Conception Counseling by **Anna Kho**, Smoking Cessation by **Sunil Kripalani**, Congestive Heart Failure by **Susmita Mallik** and **Nurcan Ilksoy**, and Osteoporosis, Herbal Medicine, DNR Issues presented by **Laura Martin**.

**Kimberly Manning**, Assistant Professor is the Director of the Emory University Comprehensive Board Review in Internal Medicine, an intensive program designed specifically for physicians who plan to take the American Board of Internal Medicine Certification Examination.