

Issue 12, July 2022



Edward T. Yeh, M.D.

Message from the Chairman

In Homer's *Odyssey*, Mentor is the advisor of young prince Telemachus. Mentorship denotes transmission of wisdom from one generation to another up to this day.

I have been developing a mentorship program for the department with Dr. Schootman and am pleased to announce the opening of the [department website](#). Please visit the website to see details of the program and useful materials. My goal is to create a culture of mentorship in the department for senior faculty to advise new faculty in wellness, promotion/tenure, and career development. And, in the future the torch will be passed on to the next.

Faculty Mentoring Program Website



The Department of Internal Medicine Faculty Mentoring Program website is officially live. Led by Dr. Mario Schootman, Vice Chair of Mentorship and Innovation, the program aims to mentor junior faculty members to achieve promotion and/or tenure and create individual career plans.

The website offers a detailed overview of the program, tools for mentees and mentors, and resources for Promotion and Tenure, and Wellbeing and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Click [here](#) to visit the website

Major Publications from the Department of Internal Medicine

Congratulations to the following faculty members for their recent publications in major journals. Thank you for your continuous hard work and representing the Department of Internal Medicine.

Omar Atiq, M.D., "[Long-term services and supports for older adults: a position paper from the American College of Physicians.](#)" *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Husam Salah, M.B;B.S., "[Post-recovery COVID-19 and incident heart failure in the National COVID Cohort Collaborative \(N3C\) study.](#)" *Nature Communications*.

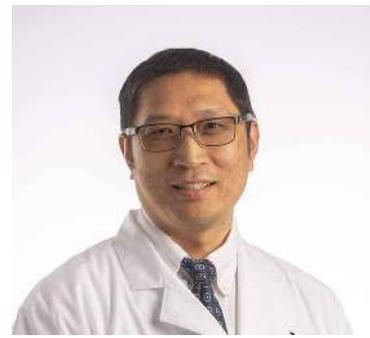
Fenghuang Zhan, M.D., "[TRIP13 modulates protein deubiquitination and accelerates tumor development and progression of B cell malignancies.](#)" *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*.



Omar Atiq, M.D.
Hematology/Oncology



Husam Salah, M.B;B.S.
Chief Resident



Fenghuang Zhan, M.D., Ph.D.
Hematology/Oncology



Dr. Frits van Rhee, Multiple Myeloma Clinical Director

Frits van Rhee, M.D., Ph.D. is a leader among the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. As Clinical Director of the UAMS Myeloma Center, Dr. van Rhee has been a prominent figure in the growth of the division. Among the many milestones the Cancer Institute has achieved, Dr. van Rhee is very proud of the advancements he and his section have made in bringing new immunotherapy treatments to patients. Within the past year, Dr. van Rhee and his team were able to treat their first patient with chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell immunotherapy with successful results.

There will soon be a second one as well as a new trial opening for monoclonal antibody therapy. Dr. van Rhee is pleased to be a part of this exciting field as new therapies and trials continue to move forward.

In addition to his expertise in Multiple Myeloma, Dr. van Rhee is a world-leading expert in Castleman Disease, a disorder defined by the enlargement of lymph nodes. In 2012, Dr. van Rhee co-founded The Castleman Disease Collaborative Network and established international diagnostic and treatment guidelines.

Dr. van Rhee aims to keep the UAMS Myeloma Center one of the most prominent programs in the country as well as maintain the high number of stem cell transplants performed. With the success of the CAR T-cell immunotherapy, he hopes to bring this treatment to the front line for his patients.

Even though the pandemic has produced challenges, the Myeloma Center has continued to rise above the obstacles and continue to provide the best care for their patients. The staff was able to step up to the plate and make sure immunocompromised patients were able to continue receiving treatment in a safe way. As Dr. van Rhee points out, "cancer treatment cannot wait."



Dr. Ha-Neui Kim Receives First R01 Funding

Ha-Neui Kim, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism's Center for Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Diseases. Dr. Kim also serves as a Project Leader in the COBRE Center for Musculoskeletal Disease Research. This month, Dr. Kim received the news that his first R01 grant application will be receiving funding. After two years of hard work, he will be receiving an award of 1.9 million dollars over five years from the National Institute of Health's branch of the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS).

Dr. Kim's research lies in his interest in cell organisms, specifically the mitochondria. He plans to use his grant to further his investigations of the cellular/molecular mechanisms in the development of osteoporosis. Dr. Kim is already considering the possibility of renewing his grant after the five-year period is over. Looking into the future, he is thinking about research projects to be developed, releasing more publications, and continuing to receive extramural funding. Dr. Kim is also growing an interest in teaching and collaborating with students who are interested in the mitochondrial function in skeletal homeostasis and disease.

Lastly, Dr. Kim is grateful for the guidance and support of the Division of Endocrinology, the COBRE Center, his lab members, and the leadership of the Senior PIs. He is thankful for Dr. Charles O'Brien and Dr. Maria Schuller Almeida for their feedback and assistance after hours in ensuring the organization of his application. In addition, his mentors Dr. Stavros Manolagas and Dr. Lee Ann Macmillan-Crow, were integral contributors in the success of the development of his grant application.

Congratulations, Dr. Kim!

Expanding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Internal Medicine

Internal Medicine is continuing to make strides to further the diversity, equity, and inclusion of the department and medicine as a whole. Four Internal Medicine residents recently submitted a grant with the help of Dr. Keyur Vyas and Dr. Emily Kocurek. The project titled "Development and Implementation of a Trainee-Led Research Program to Identify, Audit, and Modify Stigmatizing Language in Internal Medicine Patient Charting at UAMS" was chosen to receive a \$20,000 award from the Building Trust and Equity in Internal Medicine Training grant program.

The project began once Dr. Emily Kocurek was inspired by the Grand Rounds presentation given by Dr. Sara Tariq discussing how to avoid stigmatizing language in charting in consideration of patient access to documentation. Dr. Kocurek has selected four residents to perform a literature review and create a questionnaire to interview thirty patients on their experience with medical charting.

The Building Trust and Equity in Internal Medicine Training grant program is sponsored by the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine, American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), the ABIM Foundation, the American College of Physicians, and the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation to support projects promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion into internal medicine education.

Click [here](#) to read the press release.



Emily Kocurek, M.D.



Keyur Vyas, M.D.

Dr. Subhi Al'Aref Publishes with Trainees

Dr. Subhi Al'Aref and the Division of Cardiology continue to instill into the academic career of their trainees. Since June, Dr. Al'Aref has had a paper accepted and a paper published with four residents and a fellow.

In conjunction with fellow cardiology colleagues Dr. Kalaivani Sivakumar and Dr. Gaurav Dhar, Dr. Subhi Al'Aref and four Internal Medicine residents received notice that their work on a state of the art review paper has been accepted. Residents Dr. Nitesh Guatam (first author), Dr. Sai Nikhila Ghanta, Dr. Alex Clausen, and Dr. Prachi Saluja will have their paper "Contemporary Applications of Machine Learning for Device Therapy in Heart Failure" published in one of the top cardiac journals, *JACC-HF*.

On July 6, 2022, Dr. Al'Aref, Dr. Munthir Mansour (Division of Hospital Medicine), and Cardiology Fellow Dr. Abdallah Malkawi had a major paper published in reputable journal *European Heart Journal - Cardiovascular Imaging*. Their publication is titled "Cardiac Magnetic Resonance for Prophylactic Implantable-Cardioverter Defibrillator Therapy Internal Study: Prognostic Value of Cardiac Magnetic Resonance-Derived Right Ventricle Parameters Substudy." This project was in collaboration with a large group from Europe demonstrating the prognostic significance of right ventricle dysfunction in heart failure patients. To read the paper, click [here](#).



Subhi Al'Aref, M.D.
Cardiology



Alex Clausen, M.D.
PGY-2



Nitesh Gautam, M.D.
PGY-3



Sai Nikhila Ghanta, M.B;B.S.
PGY-2



Abdallah Malkawi, M.D.
Cardiology Fellow, PGY-4



Prachi Saluja, M.D.
PGY-3

Dr. Paul Mounsey Investiture

On July 19, 2022, the investiture of Dr. J. Paul Mounsey, BM, BCh, Ph.D., FRCP, FACC as the recipient of the Don and Carolyn Kirkpatrick Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine took place at the Fred W. Smith Conference Center.

The Kirkpatrick family have been long time supporters of UAMS. With the \$1 million gift establishing the Don and Carolyn Kirkpatrick Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine, the family hopes it will further the world class cardiology care here at UAMS.



Endocrinologists Present to Undergraduates at INBRE Workshop

On May 25, the Arkansas INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) hosted a workshop to educate undergraduate college students on obesity and diabetes. The workshop was uniquely set up for students to listen to seven presentations from UAMS researchers including five twenty minute presentations in a small group rotation.

Dr. Dinesh Edem and Dr. Joseph Henske of the Division of Endocrinology were two of the speakers present at the workshop. Read more about the workshop [here](#).



Shelby Shields, The Pen Behind the Impact

Shelby Shields has been working alongside Dr. Yeh and Natalie Moore to create the IMpact newsletter since March. Shelby is one of the department's three Graduate Assistants pursuing a Master of Health Administration from the UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health and has been with the department since August 2021.

Born and raised in Little Rock, Shelby has seen the impact that UAMS has made on the state and many people in her life. Growing up as a patient of Arkansas Children's, Shelby knew she wanted to work in a field involving medicine and serving others. After

graduating from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville with a degree in Public Health and learning about the UAMS MHA program, she knew that was the route she wanted to take for her career.

Shelby has enjoyed her experience working with the administrative team in Internal Medicine and the opportunity to conduct interviews for the newsletter and learn about each person's unique story. Outside of class and work, she likes to spend time with family and friends, travel, reading, trying new restaurants, and watching Razorback athletics!

2022 Gold Sash Honorees

The Gold Sash Award is voted on by members of all four medical school classes. This award recognizes College of Medicine faculty members for their outstanding teaching.



Nicholas Gowen, M.D.
General Internal Medicine



Hakan Paydak, M.D.
Cardiology



Manisha Singh, M.D.
Nephrology

2022 Red Sash Honorees

The Red Sash Award is presented by the members of the senior class to outstanding faculty members over their four years of medical school.



Ramez Awad, M.D.
Hospital Medicine



Sheena CarlLee, M.D.
Community Health &
Research



Nishank Jain, M.D.
Nephrology

Welcome 2022-2023 Internal Medicine Interns!

This month, our new Internal Medicine interns were welcomed with a reception and attended orientation as they start their residency in internal medicine.



2022 New Faculty

Welcome to our new faculty members that started on July 1!



Ramya Bachu, M.B;B.S.
Assistant Professor
Hematology/Oncology



Anusha Jillella, M.B;B.S.
Assistant Professor
Hematology/Oncology



Chitra Nadagoundla, M.D.
Assistant Professor
Hospital Medicine



Emily Newsome, D.O.
Assistant Professor
Palliative Medicine



Sunny Singh, M.B;B.S.
Assistant Professor
Hematology/Oncology



Siddharthan Vaithilingam, M.D.
Instructor
Pulmonary & Critical Care

The Department comes together for a group photo



The Department of Internal Medicine is the largest department in the College of Medicine at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. The department is home to approximately 150 full-time faculty members, 81 residents, and 68 fellows serving two residency programs and twelve fellowship programs. Dr. Edward T.H. Yeh, a cardiologist and physician/scientist, is a pioneer in the field of onco-cardiology.

Questions, comments, or suggestions for future newsletters? Email Shelby Shields at SMS Shields@uams.edu or Natalie Moore at N Moore@uams.edu.

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