



IMPACT

UAMS
College of Medicine
Internal Medicine

Issue 20, March 2023



Edward T. Yeh, M.D.

Message from the Chairman

It is with great pleasure for me to announce the official approval for promotion or granting of tenure to 12 faculty members. They will be elevated to their new rank in July. This is an important milestone in their academic career. Please join me in celebrating their achievements with them.

I would also like to recognize the leadership of Dr. Abuabdou and members of the promotion and tenure committee for their hard work in vetting these candidates.

Internal Medicine Faculty Members Promoted and Tenured

Congratulations to our Internal Medicine faculty members who have been approved for their promotion and/or tenure! They have put in many hours preparing their packets and were voted upon by the Board of Trustees this month. Their new appointments will be effective at the start of the new fiscal year in July.



Subhi Al Aref, M.D.
Cardiology
Associate Professor
and Tenure



Omar Atiq, M.D.
Hematology/Oncology
Tenure



Sushma Bhusal, M.D.
Nephrology
Associate Professor
and Tenure



Jennifer Callaghan-Koru, Ph.D.
Community Health
& Research
Tenure



Harmeen Goraya, M.D.
Pulmonary & Critical Care
Associate Professor
and Tenure



**Marie Rachelle Narcisse
Jean-Louis, Ph.D.**
Community Health
& Research
Associate Professor



Emily Kocurek, M.D.
Pulmonary & Critical Care
Associate Professor
and Tenure



Riley Lipschitz, M.D.
General Internal Medicine
Associate Professor



Munthir Mansour, M.D.
Hospital Medicine
Associate Professor



Nikhil Meena, M.D.
Pulmonary & Critical Care
Professor



Burcu Ozdemir, M.D.
General Internal Medicine
Professor



Aparna Sharma, M.D.
Nephrology
Associate Professor
and Tenure

National Geographic Highlights an Arkansan and His Experience with Cystic Fibrosis



Last month, Dr. Larry Johnson and Dr. Keyur Vyas were mentioned in *National Geographic* in an article titled "This crippling disease often goes under-diagnosed - unless you're white." The article discusses cystic fibrosis (CF) and an Arkansan's journey to receiving his diagnosis.

Terry Wright grew up in Little Rock with a severe and chronic stomach pain. He would be at the hospital for sinus infections, pneumonia, or severe pain for weeks at a time only to be back in three months. Terry would not be diagnosed with cystic fibrosis until the age of 54. Sixteen years, prior he was told, "if you were not Black, I would say you had cystic fibrosis." CF is considered one of the most common inherited diseases in white Americans, however statistics show that it is even more common among African Americans, South and East Asians, Hispanics, and Africans.



In 2016 Terry's wife, Michele, brought him to UAMS to seek out an infectious disease specialist after his lung infections were failing to improve with antibiotics. Here they were treated by Dr. Keyur Vyas who ordered a diagnostic test after noticing his symptoms were similar to CF and began seeing Dr. Larry Johnson for treatment. A late diagnosis of CF can be very dangerous for patients as it can cause serious lung damage and harmful outcomes. Dr. Johnson believes Terry could have been overlooked as it was rare to see a case of CF outside of pediatrics when he was first suspected of the illness in 2000.



To raise awareness for CF among African Americans, Terry and Michele founded the National Organization of African Americans with Cystic Fibrosis (NOAACF). To learn more about their organization click [here](#) to visit their website. If you are subscribed to National Geographic, click [here](#) to read the article. If not, you can read the article [here](#) on the NOAACF website.



Dr. Riley Lipschitz, Basic Science for the 21st Century

Dr. Riley Lipschitz, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, was recently published in the *Society of General Internal Medicine Journal*. Her article titled "Basic Science for the 21st Century - Data and Population Health Management" discusses the need for our future physicians to develop their skillsets to be able to provide equitable care.

Dr. Lipschitz was first author on this article and joined by Dr. Karina Clemmons, Assistant Dean for Medical Education and Associate Professor of Medical Humanities

and Bioethics; Dr. Zain Alfaneq, UAMS graduate and Internal Medicine resident at Brown University; and Dr. Shira Yun, Professor at University of Michigan Medical School.

The article goes over the curriculum created by Dr. Lipschitz and Dr. Shira Yun at the University of Michigan that teaches medical students the importance of data and population health management. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Louisiana Cultural Day

The Internal Medicine and Med-Peds residents kicked off the month with Louisiana Cultural Day. The presentation was given by Drs. Robert Spraggins (PGY-1), Collette Tilly (Med-Peds PGY-3), Emily Waddick (Med-Peds PGY-2), Katie Moreaux (Med-Peds PGY-3), and Alex Clausen (PGY-2). The Louisiana natives talked about local food, the difference between creole and cajun, history, and the variety of pronunciations of words across the state.



Little Rock Marathon

Internal Medicine was well represented at the Little Rock Marathon on March 4th and 5th! Dr. Arwa Albashaireh (Assistant Professor, Endocrinology) ran the 10K, Dr. Ples Spradley (Chief Resident) ran the half marathon, and Dr. Joseph Henske (Associate Professor, Endocrinology) and Dr. Nithin Karakala (Associate Professor, Nephrology) ran the full marathon.



Gut Club

Join the Division of Gastroenterology for Gut Club on Thursday, April 6th from 6:00pm-8:00pm on the 12th floor of the Jack T. Stephens Spine and Neurosciences Institute to hear Dr. Juan Pablo Arab from Western Ontario University.

This is a great opportunity for residents with an interest in GI to learn more and meet with faculty and fellows!

Click the following link to RSVP: <https://go.uams.edu/GutClub/>

The poster features a top section with a blue and white anatomical illustration of a human torso. A central white circle contains the UAMS logo and the text 'Please join us for UAMS Gut Club'. Below this, a large red rectangular area contains the event details in white text. At the bottom, a dark red banner displays the website 'Go.UAMS.edu/GutClub' and contact information for Melanie Meyer.

UAMS
Please join us for
UAMS Gut Club

APRIL 6 | 6 - 8 P.M.
12th floor, UAMS
Jackson T. Stephens Spine & Neurosciences Institute

Alcohol Associated Hepatitis
Dr. Juan Pablo Arab
Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of Gastroenterology
Western Ontario University; London, ON

Heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine
Attend in person or via Zoom.
RSVP by **April 4** at **Go.UAMS.edu/GutClub**

From I-630, take the Pine/Cedar Street exit and go north on Pine Street. Turn left onto Capitol Avenue, turn right into Parking 3.

Hosted by Physician Relations & Strategic Development

Go.UAMS.edu/GutClub

Questions? Please contact Melanie Meyer - melanie@uams.edu or 501-686-8206

Match Day

We are pleased to welcome our new Internal Medicine and Med-Peds residents that will be joining us this year!

Internal Medicine



Stephen Aguilar
UAMS



Anas Alrwashdeh
University of Jordan



Nathan Andress
UAMS



Natalie Austin
UAMS



Ali Beebe
UAMS



Ben Blaske
UAMS



Omar Darwish
Mu'tah University Faculty of
Medicine



Andrew Daugherty
UAMS



Sydney Edson
University of Missouri -
Kansas City



Jali Garza
Texas Tech University
School of Medicine



David Henry
UAMS



J. Curran Henson
UAMS



Suria Khurana
Philadelphia College of
Osteopathic Medicine



A. Sykes Martin
UAMS



Liyan Mazahreh
Hashemite University Jordan



Zelalem Mekuria
Hayat Medical College



Bhavesh Mohan Lal
All India Institute



Gomathy Nageswaran
All India Institute



Adetayo Odueke
Obafemi Awolowo College,
Olabisi Onabanjo University



Toshali Pandey
Maulana Azad Medical
College



Krishna Vellanki
UAMS

Med-Peds



Cailey Crawford
University of Mississippi School of
Medicine



Joey Dean
UAMS



Bradford Lepik

University of Alabama School of Medicine



Conner Webb

UAMS

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 NMoore@uams.edu.

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