

Issue 23, June 2023



Edward T. H. Yeh, M.D.

Message from the Chairman

Congratulations to our graduating residents and fellows! You started your training in the dark days of the pandemic. You should look back with pride that you have persevered and completed the tasks. I look forward to hearing about your accomplishments in the years to come.

Godspeed, as you embark on the next journey!

Congratulations Resident Class of 2023!

The department is proud to congratulate the twenty-one internal medicine and four internal medicine- pediatrics residents at the Little Rock campus who will complete their residency training at the end of this month. This high-achieving group includes future hospitalists and future fellows in cardiology, endocrinology, gastroenterology, hematology/oncology, infectious diseases, pulmonary/critical care, and rheumatology; and three chief residents. The residents celebrated recently at a dinner filled with laughs and good memories.



The department also congratulates the eleven residents in the class of 2023 from the UAMS Mercy Internal Medicine Residency in Fayetteville. Members of this class will pursue fellowships in infectious diseases, palliative care, and sports medicine as well as careers in hospital medicine and primary care.



The department also would like to congratulate the twelve residents graduating from the Baptist Health UAMS Internal Medicine Residency Program. Within this group of outstanding individuals, nine will be starting their careers as Hospitalists across the United States in locations such as Fresno, California, San Antonio, Texas, Murfreesboro, TN, in addition to our local institutions such as Baptist Health Medical Center and CAVHS. One resident will be pursuing a fellowship in Infectious Diseases at the University of Virginia while the other two will be continuing their careers in Outpatient General Medicine.



Congratulations to our 2023 Fellows!



Dr. Seemeen Hassan, Dr. Randeep "Annie" Kaur, and Dr. Iman Boston, Gastroenterology



Dr. Nirav Nagarsheth, Project Manager Hailey Rogers, and Dr. Priyatha Garlapati, Rheumatology



Dr. Nicolas Ibanez, Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine with Dr. Jagana and Dr. Johnson



Dr. Anas Alwashdeh and Dr. Anna Witt, Infectious Disease



Dr. Muhammad Khalil, Dr. Manojna Konda, Dr. Rana Douli, Dr. Sam Geurkink,
Hematology/Oncology



Dr. Melissa Pruitt, Dr. Abigail Southard, Program Director Heather Moore, Dr. Edward Yang, Hospice/Palliative Medicine





Dr. Yazan Bashtawi, Nephrology



Hani Alturkmani, Pankaj Mathur, Jessica Meyer, Dinesh Voruganti, General Cardiology
Danish Abbasi, Ahmed Hassanin, Hamza Rayes, Interventional Cardiology
Bader Alotai, Electrophysiology

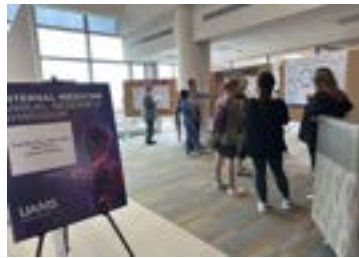


Research Symposium 2023

The UAMS Department of Internal Medicine recently hosted its Annual Research Symposium which showcases the scholarly work of students, residents, and fellows under the mentorship of Internal Medicine faculty. The event celebrates the hard work of our trainees and provides a forum to share their research and quality improvement activities undertaken within the department.



Dr. Farah Mazahreh presents on infections associated with bispecific antibodies



Residents peruse their colleagues' posters



Dr. Jake Smith presents on assessing for Staphylococcus aureus in facial infections

Annual Research Symposium 2023 Winners



**Poster Presentation
Amisha Gupta, MBBS**



**QI Presentation
Vidhu Vadini, MBBS**



**Research Presentation
Farah Mazahreh, MD**



Dr. Pearl McElfish 2023 Faculty Excellence in Mentoring (Research Category)

Dr. Pearl McElfish was recognized with the 2023 Faculty Excellence in Mentoring award in the area of research. Dr. McElfish has formally mentored over 30 students, post docs, and junior faculty, but she goes above and beyond by informally mentoring faculty, staff or students whenever she is asked. She has been at UAMS since 2012, when she founded the Division of Community Health and Research, and has been a

member of faculty since 2013. Dr. McElfish is the highest funded researcher at UAMS. She has brought in more than \$180 million dollars in external funding. In addition to founding the Division of Community Health and Research, because of her work, the office has grown to over 150 staff members who are implementing community-based research statewide. She also recruited one of only two Marshallese, US-trained physicians in the world, Dr. Sheldon Riklon, to UAMS. Congratulations, Dr. McElfish!



UAMS Doctors Recognized for Marshall Islands Research

Drs. Pearl McElfish and Jennifer Andersen were acknowledged recently for their outstanding work targeting type 2 diabetes and hypertension within the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Dr. Andersen's paper, *Faith-Based Health Screenings for Marshallese Adults Living in the Republic of the Marshall Islands: Study Design and Results* was published in the journal

Frontiers in Public Health. In late May, UAMS team members were invited to join the Republic of Marshall Islands' delegation to the World Health Organization Summit. Afterward, UAMS participants signed an official agreement with the RMI Ministry of Health and Human Services to strengthen their partnership and continue their collaborative work toward a better state of health for all Marshallese communities.

UAMS Endocrinologist Speaks at Endocrine Society's Annual Meeting

Dr. Joseph Henske, associate professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology and director of the diabetes program, recently spoke at The Endocrine Society's press conference on diabetes during the group's annual meeting in Chicago. Dr. Henske's presentation, "Real-World Survey of Adherence to Guidelines Regarding Type 1 Diabetes and Aerobic Exercise," featured the results of a study conducted in

collaboration with Dr. Arwa Albashaireh, assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Endocrinology, and medical student Gavin Beach. By utilizing social media groups, Dr. Henske and his colleagues surveyed experienced athletes with long-standing type I diabetes to understand their exercise habits, their glucose control, and their compliance with guidelines on the management of diabetes in exercise. "Many people learn about managing diabetes in exercise not from the guidelines," Dr. Henske revealed. He said that of those who responded to the survey, "the majority of [them] received their information not from their medical team, but from other sources" such as trial and error and social media groups. Moreover, the study revealed several discrepancies between guideline recommendations and respondents' practices. Dr. Henske noted that these discrepancies present significant opportunities for better patient education and for increased awareness of the guidelines among physicians and patients alike.



[Click here](#) to view Dr. Henske's presentation.

Department Awards



Ebert Award

Clark Kennedy, M.D.



**George L. Ackerman Award for
Outstanding Intern**

Merit Turner, M.D.



**George L. Ackerman Award for
Outstanding Resident**

Mason Harper, M.D.



**George L. Ackerman Outstanding
Faculty**

Nicholas Gowen, M.D.



**Thomas E. Andreoli Award
Excellence in Internal Medicine**

Anthony Northcote, D.O.

**Congratulations to the College of Medicine's Dean's Honor Day
Winners!**



**Clinical Excellence, Service and
Professionalism**

Konstantinos Arnaoutakis, M.D.



Clinical Excellence, Rising Star

Joseph Henske, M.D.



Staff Excellence, Administration

Mark Mosby, B.S.

Townhall Meeting- June 15, 2023



On June 15, Dr. Edward Yeh hosted a Townhall meeting for Internal Medicine. He began by recognizing Dr. Charles O'Brien's renewal of the COBRE grant. He also recognized UAMS faculty members approved for promotion and/or tenure, acknowledged residents who received various awards and accolades, and introduced upcoming chief residents. Next, Kelley Suskie gave the administrative report before turning it over to Dr. Larry Johnson who discussed the DEI Committee's current projects.

Dr. Mario Schootman, Vice chair of Mentorship and innovation, told the goals of the Faculty Mentoring Program and progress to date, and Dr. John Arthur gave strategies for training and advancing underrepresented

researchers and mentoring in the department of medicine. Dr. Michael Saccente introduced the COM Award winners and the Red and Gold Sash Awardees and talked about protected didactic time for residents.



Farewell and best wishes to our 2022-2023 Chief Residents



Lana Abusalem, M.D.

Dr. Abusalem is joining the Infectious Diseases Fellowship Program at Duke Department of Medicine



Husam Salah, M.D.

Dr. Salah is joining the Cardiovascular Disease Fellowship Program at Duke Department of Medicine



Ples Spradley, M.D.

Dr. Spradley is joining CAVHS as an Academic Hospitalist and will be part time here at UAMS in the Division of General Internal Medicine as an Assistant Professor teaching the M4 class.

Grand Rounds for July

July 6	Pulmonary/Critical Care	Anand Venkata	Pulmonary Abnormalities Following Covid-19
July 13	Hematology/Oncology	Mazin Safar	TBA
July 20	Cardiology	Dustin Rumpel	ECMO and MCS at UAMS
July 27	Infectious Diseases	Michael Saccente	"Syphilis"

The Department of Internal Medicine is home to approximately 180 full-time faculty members, 200 residents and fellows serving four 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 Natalie Moore at NMoore@uams.edu or Amy McFarland at AMcfarland@uams.edu or Dr. Ples Spradley at TPSpradley@uams.edu.