

In Ignotis “Into the Unknown”

Message from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

In your hands lies this month's research newsletter, highlighting the remarkable achievements of you and your colleagues from last month. It's truly inspiring to witness such consistent and robust output month after month. Your unwavering commitment to excellence is what drives our department forward.

I want to remind you of the invaluable resources available to us within our department. We continue to host monthly Research Workshops and Research Journal Club sessions, both aimed at fostering collaboration and deepening our understanding of research methods. Additionally, we're introducing Research Focus Sessions, providing a platform to discuss ongoing unfunded studies, share insights from research challenges, and explore potential collaborations. I am confident that these initiatives will further enrich our research culture.

I'm also thrilled about endless possibilities for collaboration and innovation with our integration with ODU. The Faculty Affairs Office has organized various social events to facilitate interaction between EVMS and ODU faculty. I encourage you to attend these events, as they offer a fantastic opportunity to learn about ODU faculty research interests and explore avenues for collaboration.

Lastly, EVMS will soon announce internal research funding for small pilot projects. If you have any research ideas brewing, now is the perfect time to develop them and prepare to apply for these pilot grants.

As we move forward on this journey together, let's continue to support and uplift one another. Your contributions are invaluable, and together, we will achieve great things.

Peer Reviewed Publications

- 1) **Vilela A**, Quingalahua E, Vargas A, et al. Global Prevalence of Pancreatic Cystic lesions in the General Population on Magnetic Resonance Imaging: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. Published online February 27, 2024. doi:10.1016/j.cgh.2024.02.018
- 2) Biederman S, Sadr N, **Qayyum R**. Improving Interdisciplinary Communication on an Academic Hospitalist Service: A Quality Improvement Project. *J Healthc Qual*. 2024 Mar-Apr 01;46(2):65-71. PMID: 37820056.
- 3) Cundra LB, Vallabhaneni M, Houston K, Saadeh M, **Vargas A, D'Souza SM, Johnson DA**. Nutritional effects on mucosal integrity and immune function. *Explor Immunol*. 2024;4:90–105.
- 4) Krieger E, **Qayyum R**, Toor A. Increased donor inhibitory KIR are associated with reduced GVHD and improved survival following HLA-matched unrelated donor HCT in paediatric acute leukaemia. *Br J Haematol*. 2024 Mar 5. doi: 10.1111/bjh.19356. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38442905.
- 5) Hawa F, Chalhoub JM, **Vilela A**, Quingalahua E, Shannon C, Philips GM, Kwon RS, Wamsteker EJ, Schulman AR, DiMugno MJ, Machicado JD. Efficacy and safety of long-term indwelling plastic stents after resolution of pancreatic fluid collections with endoscopic transmural drainage: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Surg Endosc*. 2024 Mar 20. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 38509392.
- 6) **Vargas A**, Dutta P, Carpenter ES, Machicado JD. Endoscopic Ultrasound-Guided Ablation of Premalignant Pancreatic Cysts and Pancreatic Cancer. *Diagnostics (Basel)*. 2024 Mar 6;14(5):564. doi: 10.3390/diagnostics14050564. PMID: 38473035; PMCID: PMC10931421.

What's New? - Departmental Research Focus Sessions

In the upcoming months, the Department of Medicine will begin to host a monthly Research Focus Session. These meetings will take place on Friday afternoons & will be offered to all faculty & trainees in a hybrid fashion (e.g., small or large conference room, Zoom). The purpose of these sessions are, 1) to serve as an open forum for medicine related clinical research projects, 2) to provide networking opportunities for clinical faculty & students/trainees, & 3) to conjure shared interest or learning about in various topics of clinical research or research methods. During the 2-hour block of time, faculty & trainees will have the opportunity to participate, as available, in a round table-type discussion about their projects, to share new ideas for future investigations, & to share updates or ask questions about current projects. The goal is to provide support for new or current research projects in an unstructured & amicable setting. Attendees may come & go as their schedules permit.

Match Day 2024 Results!

Medicine Residents:

Zooha Altaf, Cristian Armas Florez, Lixanna Azcona Valdez, Abes Bautista Neughebauer, Nicholas D'Alessandro, Joshua Dolsen, Bryan Fitzgerald, Mikaela Kcomt Lam, Effie Lambrinos, Jennifer Pressnitz, Hira Sarfraz, Brandon Savage, Manveer Singh, Nicholas Valle, Thais Sloop, Waleed Adawi, Isabelle Brown, Vincent Chan, Grayson Fortin, Michael Foster, Imadul Haque, Abby Hargis, Harris Leach, Braden Miller, Madeline Sun, Giovanni Torres



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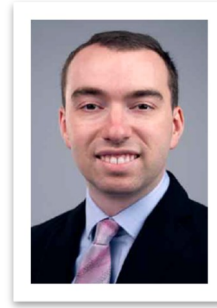
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Researcher Spotlight—Reece Hoerle, MD

Please tell us about your research interests: I am currently interested in pulmonary hypertension and specifically PAH (pulmonary arterial hypertension). I studied biological engineering as an undergraduate and have an interest in applying my knowledge of physics and fluid mechanics to my practice as a physician. I believe that the area of pulmonary hypertension and pulmonology include many fundamental topics within physics, thermodynamics, and gas exchange that go hand in hand with my interests and background in engineering. There are also many new devices and drugs that affect the hemodynamics of patients with pulmonary disease that are very interesting to me.



You were selected to be part of the first group of research-tracked residents. What attracted you to this particular program? I did a year of research before medical school at the NIH's National Institute on Drug Abuse and was heavily involved in clinical research throughout my time in medical school. The demands of residency make it difficult to find time to conduct research, but being involved in the research track gives me the resources and time to focus on that which interests me. Having protected time to do research in residency is truly a gift that I am thankful to receive as I do have a passion for research and advancing patient care through new discoveries.

What has been the most rewarding study or poster you've worked on? Why? I've had the privilege to work on many interesting projects including the development of a nicotine vaccine, the study of opioid addiction and treatment with suboxone, a pediatric sepsis project conducted in the Dominican Republic, and many case reports throughout medical school. The most rewarding project for me would be my project in the Dominican Republic as I got to learn about a different healthcare system, conduct novel research on the treatment of sepsis outside of the United States, and help improve health outcomes for an underserved population. My in-person travel to the Dominican Republic to conduct this research is also where I met my lovely wife!

What idea(s) are you most excited about studying over the next one to two years? I'm excited to have the privilege to work with Dr. Michael Eggert and the rest of the pulmonary hypertension experts at our hospital on a study that examines the outcomes of pregnant patients with Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. The topic is not widely studied and there is still a lot to be learned and examined in these complicated patients. I'm hoping that our retrospective study can help contribute to the establishment of an official standard of care for these patients and help improve patient outcomes for both mom and their child.

"Without data, you're just another person with an opinion" - W. Edwards Deming

Awards and Media Highlights

Janousek J was selected as the Sentara Norfolk General Hospital (SNGH) Clinical Excellence Award for a Physician-in-Training for Quarter 1.

Peppiatt I (mentor - **Tahhan S**) abstract submission was selected as a poster finalist for the American College of Physicians annual conference 2024 for, A Tale of Two β Chains: Heterozygous Hemoglobinopathy in Sickle Cell Disease. Boston, MA.

Johnson DA was featured on a Heallo on 08 Mar 2024. Video: Consider sleep quality, 'next-day functioning' in patients with nocturnal heartburn. Watch the clip [here](#).

Pulmonary/Critical Care Medicine Fellows, **Abouleish Y** & **Admire K** were selected for membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.



Reminders:

Grand Rounds:

Wednesdays at noon in Waitzer Hall, Suite #300

- 4/3/24– Dr. Peter Amir Toor, MD, Lehigh Valley Health Network, PA
- 4/10/24 - Dr. Manasi Shah, MD, EVMS
- 4/17/24, Melinda Hancock, CPA, FHFMA, Sentara
- 4/24/24, Dr. Michel Khouri, MD, Duke

Upcoming Research Events in Hofheimer Hall—5th floor; Large or Small Conference Rooms; Hybrid option available on Zoom

- Research Workshop: Cross Sectional Designs: Tuesday, 4/2/24 @ 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- Research Focus Session: Friday, 4/19/24 @ 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- Research Journal Club: Tuesday, 4/23/24 @ 5:00 p.m.

Please send updates to:
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