

In Ignotis “Into the Unknown”

Message from the Chair

I hope this new year has started well for you. I'm thrilled to share some exciting updates and important announcements from the Department of Medicine.

Firstly, we are officially changing our department name to the Department of Medicine. This change reflects our commitment to inclusivity and accurately represents the scope of our work. Our website URL has been updated to reflect this change (evms.edu/medicine). New digital logos to reflect this name change are available. If you're interested in accessing these logos, please reach out to Leah.

In other significant news, I'm pleased to inform you that EVMS and Sentara have signed a 10-year affiliation agreement, solidifying the partnership between our two institutions. This agreement marks a pivotal moment for our community and will undoubtedly strengthen our collaboration moving forward.

Preparations for the EVMS-ODU integration are well underway. The integration is scheduled to take place on July 1, 2024. Please keep a close eye on your emails for updates regarding this transition, including instructions for updating your email and network access credentials.

Most importantly, I am impressed with Department faculty achievements during the last calendar year—thanks to Julie and Max for putting this list together (see below). This is an outstanding work by our faculty beyond their clinical duties. From publications to research, community outreach, and peer-education initiatives, our faculty continue to make impactful contributions in various domains. As we move forward, let's continue to work together to uphold our department's mission and values. Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Peer-reviewed Publications

- 1) Schoomaker H, Sharma K, **Hooper AB**. Sister Mary Joseph’s Nodule. Clin Image Case Rep J. 2024 Jan 5: 363.
- 2) Dimond MG, Fiuzat M, Mentz RJ, Lala-Trindade A, Whellan DJ, Walsh MN, Costanzo MR, **Yehya A**, Desvigne-Nickens P, Malik F, O’Connor CM. Rewarding Site-Based Research: A Step Toward Improving the Ecosystem of Heart Failure Clinical Trials. Heart Failure. 2024 Jan 1;12(1):226-8.
- 3) Alebna PL, Mehta A, **Yehya A**, da Silva-de Abreu A, Lavie CJ, Carbone S. Update on obesity, the obesity paradox, and obesity management in heart failure. Progress in Cardiovascular Diseases. 2024 Jan 9.
- 4) Awosanya OD, Harris A, Creecy A, **Qiao X, Toepp AJ, McCune T**, Kacena MA, Ozanne MV. The utility of AI in writing a scientific review article on the impacts of COVID-19 on musculoskeletal health. Current Osteoporosis Reports. 2024 Jan 13:1-6.
- 5) Creecy A, Awosanya OD, Harris A, **Qiao X, Ozanne M, Toepp AJ, Kacena MA, McCune T**. COVID-19 and bone loss: a review of risk factors, mechanisms, and future directions. Current Osteoporosis Reports. 2024 Jan 15:1-3.
- 6) Harris A, Creecy A, Awosanya OD, **McCune T, Ozanne MV, Toepp AJ, Kacena MA, Qiao X**. SARS-CoV-2 and its multifaceted impact on bone health: mechanisms and clinical evidence. Current Osteoporosis Reports. 2024 Jan 18:1-1.

Annual Research Summary — Congratulations on an excellent year!

- ◇ **54** Peer-reviewed publications in 49 different journals
- ◇ **113** Posters, Presentations, and Abstracts at National or regional conferences. (41 faculty mentors)
- ◇ **27** Faculty mentors of unfunded research projects
- ◇ **31** Faculty mentors for EVMS Research Day posters
- ◇ **17** Media Events (Podcasts, Television interviews, etc.)
- ◇ **22** Awards (Faculty, Fellows, Residents, Medical Students)



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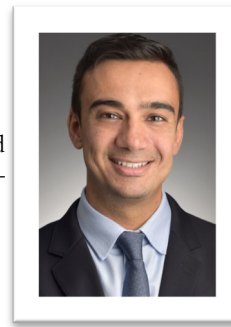
#IMResearch EVMS



Researcher Spotlight—Amin Yehya, MD

Please tell us about yourself and your research background:

I was born and raised in Lebanon & relocated to the United States to pursue my Internal Medicine Residency training at Emory University. I completed my cardiovascular disease fellowship at the Medical College of Georgia and my advanced heart failure and heart transplant fellowship at Stanford University. I hold the position of Medical Director of the Durable Mechanical Circulatory Support program at Sentara & serve as an Associate Professor of Medicine at EVMS. I am honored to be a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and the Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA). I serve as the Associate Editor for the Journal of Heart and Lung Transplant-Open Access, the Section Editor for the US Cardiology Review Journal, and the Editor for my book titled "Heart Failure: What a Non-Heart Failure Specialist Needs to Know." I am deeply committed to education, actively participating in the education of providers, staff, patients, caregivers, and the community.



How have you managed your research over the years?

My commitment and passion drive my ongoing involvement in research studies. I firmly believe that a medical institution's distinction stems from active participation in clinical trials and research endeavors, shaping the future of medicine and creating therapeutic options for improved patient outcomes. Success in research hinges on close collaboration with team members & building a like-minded network of individuals who share a common interest & belief in the value of research. Adaptability and time management are essential, requiring openness to adjusting the research plan based on clinical duties, recent findings, challenges, and emerging trends.

Describe the studies you are working on:

Currently, I serve as the principal investigator for several significant clinical trials & am actively involved in three investigator-initiated studies in collaboration with EVMS medical students. Project 1 focuses on improving the documentation of sexual orientation and gender identity among patients discharged with heart failure, designed with Schinderle C. Project 2 with Thurber J, aims to examine the outcomes of heart failure patients discharged on midodrine. Project 3 with Pierce F, involves evaluating the outcomes of patients with end-stage heart failure on inotropic support.

What lessons have you learned from being involved in research?

Participating in research has offered me valuable insights into critical thinking, problem-solving, & meticulous attention to detail. The iterative process of research has underscored the significance of resilience and adaptability in overcoming challenges. Moreover, effective collaboration and communication skills have become integral facets of my skill set, especially within the collaborative dynamics of research teams working with a diverse group of staff and patients. This engagement in research has not only enhanced my understanding within the field of heart failure but has also refined a spectrum of skills applicable to various facets of both life and professional pursuits.

Awards, Media Highlights, Presentations & Mentorship

Research by **Ghiorzi J** and **Qayyum R** was accepted among **1373 entries** for SHM's plenary session! Their presentation is titled, "Medicaid Expansion's Impact on Heart Failure Mortality: A Nationwide Study".

Hooper AB earned the Sentara Mason Andrews Community Service Award and the Sir William Osler Award for Outstanding Physician. Congratulations Dr. Hooper!

Tahhan S became a Fellow in Hospital Medicine from the Society of Hospital Medicine.

Okravi H was invited to serve as an expert panel member for the development of clinical guidelines on the use of blood-based biomarkers by the Alzheimer's Association.

Hooper AB received a \$20,000 Building Trust Through Diversity Health Care Equity & Inclusion Grant.

Naing A Presented "Huffing and Puffing with Olanzapine: Olanzapine-Induced Dyspnea." at the Critical Care Congress on January 22.

Hanrahan J and **Derber C** were featured in the podcast, "Using Culture to Sustain Desirable Infection Prevention Behaviors." Link: [Using Culture to Sustain Desirable Infection Prevention Behaviors by SHEA \(soundcloud.com\)](https://www.sheafoundation.org/podcast/using-culture-to-sustain-desirable-infection-prevention-behaviors-by-shea).

Congratulations to The following learners and mentors on their recent abstract acceptances:

◇ Society for Hospital Medicine: **Aggroia V, Ahn J, Alagha T, Amoako-Kissi E, Ayesha, Carton J, Dod R, Flathers E, Mohan N, Naing A, Nguyen L, Palmer C, Kolkey Z, Javed U, Tahhan S, Tasneem Z, Qiao X, Blumrick C, Flemmer M, Inayet N, and Kassabo W.**

◇ Cutting Edge of Transplant Summit: **Naing A and Rust H.**

Reminders:

Grand Rounds

Wednesdays at noon in Waitzer Hall, Suite #300

- 2/7/24– Dr. Marissa Galicia-Castillo, EVMS (Drew Endowed Lecture)
- 2/14/24 - Dr. Gonzalo Bearman, VCU
- 2/21/24, Dr. Khalid Matin, VCU
- 2/28/24, Dr. Antonio Abbate, UVA

Upcoming Research Events in Hofheimer Hall—5th floor Large Conference Room; Hybrid option available on Zoom:

- Research Workshop: Case Study Write-ups - Dr. Sami Tahhan, 2/13/24 @ 5:00 p.m.
- Research Journal Club: 2/27/24 @ 5:00 p.m.

Please send updates to: ProkopMP@evms.edu or SilJJD@evms.edu

