Letter from the Chair

Dear faculty, staff, trainees, alumni and friends,

Welcome back to The DOM Insider! This is a special time for the Department of Medicine as we close the door on a successful fiscal year and begin the new academic year. Fiscal ’18-’19 was a year of tremendous accomplishments by the faculty, trainees and staff in the Department of Medicine. We’ve made great progress and now look forward to the challenges ahead.

In this second issue, we continue to cover the latest news from the Department of Medicine. The past few months have been a time of leadership transition and growth of new faculty. I want to take this opportunity to share with you some updates of particular note in our community.

- The Division of Medical Education is changing their name to General Medicine. This name change reflects the division’s evolution from a predominant focus on undergraduate and graduate medical education to now include their growing clinical footprint in the Center for Outpatient Health, BJH, BJWC, and the Complete Care Clinic as well as expanded educational scholarship through the Teaching Physician Pathway and the division’s participation in the Academy of Medical Educators. We also say a fond farewell to Melvin Blanchard, MD as he leaves his current position for a new leadership role as chief of medicine at the Baltimore Medical Center effective October 31, 2019. Dr. Blanchard has provided tremendous leadership for the division and the housestaff training program for more than a decade. We will miss Dr. Blanchard’s leadership and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Thomas De Fer, MD, an outstanding clinician and educator, will serve as the interim chief for the division.

- I am pleased to announce that William Powderly, MD has been named Director of Washington University’s Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (ICTS). Dr. Powderly takes over leadership from Bradley Evanoff, MD, MPH who has been the principal investigator of the ICTS since its inception in 2007.
In addition to this award, Dr. Holtzman also formed a biotech company to help bring new drugs to the clinic. To support these efforts, he received a NIH Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant for $300,000 for a compound to address triple-negative breast cancer and another STTR grant for $300,000 for a compound targeting airway diseases. His research group also received a $250,000 award from the Siteman Investment Program to further support the development of the new compound for breast cancer. The strategy, according to Holtzman, is to combine academic and commercial activities to finally get these new kinds of compounds into practice as quickly as possible.

Read more about Holtzman and his team [here](#).
Research News

- **Richard G. Bach, MD:** Was featured in an audio interview on JN Learning from the JAMA network discussing his paper, “Effect of Simvastatin-Ezetimibe Compared With Simvastatin Monotherapy After Acute Coronary Syndrome Among Patients 75 Years or Older: A Secondary Analysis of a Randomized Clinical Trial.” [Listen here](#).

- **New Division of Physician-Scientists:** WUSM has established a Division of Physician-Scientists to help nurture the career development of physicians who want to conduct scientific research. The new division will be headed by [Wayne M. Yokoyama, MD](#).

- **Gregory M. Lanza, MD, PhD:** Helped establish a research relationship between WUSM (Cardiology Division) and United Imaging to utilize a 1.5T MRI scanner for further development of Cardiac MR (CMR) enabled with artificial intelligence (AI) software. Washington University will work with United Imaging in multiple phases of research over four to five years to study how AI can help combine clinical information with cardiac data to predict patient outcomes early, and thereby facilitate treatment management changes, if needed for better clinical responses. The new MRI will also be offered as a fee-based research resource to other departments with interest, such as Obstetrics and Gynecology, Physical Therapy and Radiology.

- **SnoRad Conference:** Over 200 participants from 15 countries attended the 2nd annual Symposium for Noninvasive Radioablation (SNORAD) in September at EPNEC. The two-day event was targeted toward heart rhythm specialists, radiation oncologists, and medical physicists who are interested in learning more about the use of noninvasive radioablation for arrhythmia, including ventricular tachycardia (VT).

- **Makedonka Mitreva, PhD** and colleagues find novel insights into the genome evolution of the intestinal and liver flukes of Fasciolidae; flukes that cause zoonotic food–borne infections. [Read more](#).

- Fungal bloodstream infections are responsible for the deaths of more than 10,000 people every year. New research from WUSM shows that the death rate can be reduced by 20% if infectious disease specialists oversee care of such patients. [Read more](#).

- Britt Andersen, graduate student in Gary Weil’s lab, and colleagues uncover molecular changes associated with treating lymphatic filariasis. [Read more](#).
Clinical News

• AMiON:
The Geographic Localization Scheduling Program was originally created by hospitalist Dr. Myra Rubio in 2012 for the Division of Hospital Medicine. As the Division of Hospital Medicine grew to include 90+ clinicians, scheduling became more complex. In 2018, Warren Smith, Administrative and Scheduling Coordinator for the Division, lead an initiative to test the scheduling program AMiON, a new online scheduling enterprise system supported by Doximity which aids in publishing and streamlining existing schedules into one platform among all clinicians. AMiON is now utilized to support the Hospital Medicine, Cardiology and Medicine housestaff schedules. AMiON is currently being implemented for clinicians in all the divisions throughout the Department of Medicine. AMiON will also be implemented across all clinical departments at WUSM. Use of AMiON will help improve patient care and facilitate communication between residents, fellows, and attendings at WUSM.

• Team STEPPS Training:
TeamSTEPPS stands for “Team Strategies and Tools to Enhance Performance and Patient Safety” and was developed by AHRQ and the Department of Defense. The purpose of TeamSTEPPS is to improve team work, enhance team performance, and ensure safe patient care. WUSM is integrating TeamSTEPPS into its program with a goal of producing highly effective medical teams and individuals who communicate effectively to reduce the risk of human errors and optimize the use of information to achieve the best clinical outcomes. This program also aligns with supporting a culture of safety using a team driven, accountable approach that can prevent adverse events from occurring.

• Patient Experience:
Caroline Kahle, MD, of the Hospital Medicine Division, is leading the Patient Experience effort for BJH. Patient Experience has been identified as one of the priorities for the 2019-2023 BJH/BJWCH/WUSM Joint Clinical Strategic Plan. The joint clinical strategic plan is a five year plan that has joint goals, strategies, and tactics; all with a common vision to make Washington University in partnership with Barnes-Jewish Hospital a top-ranked, health care leader of choice by operating in a culture of excellence and professionalism. Dr. Kahle’s work thus far has focused on physician to physician communication, and developing professional and communication standards for the consistent care of our patients. Learn more.

• Spotlight on Physician Advisors:
BCJ decided that its member hospitals should use local physicians to help with case management operations instead of outsourcing these operations to private companies. In 2015, Robert J. Mahoney, MD of the Hospital Medicine Division worked with Barnes-Jewish Hospital to make it one of the first system hospitals to develop a full complement of such “physician advisors”. Initially, physician advisors performed mostly insurance-related tasks; however, over the next few years, the role expanded to include patient care progression, triaging transfer requests from other hospitals, and ensuring efficiency and quality of care. Today, physician advisors from internal medicine, emergency medicine, and neurology collaborate with treating physicians to remove barriers to care and maximize access to hospital and community resources, and with hospital leadership to analyze current resource deployment and plan for future care needs.

The new Barnes-Jewish West County Hospital: Open date is scheduled for November. View details.
Education News

• Washington University School of Medicine’s 14th Annual Research Training Symposium and Poster Session:
The symposium, held on October 8th, was a great success with over 200 attendees, five oral presenters and over 120 posters from 30 different programs. The Office of Medical Student Research and the Clinical Research Training Center extend their thanks to Michael DeBaun, MD, MPH for delivering the keynote address; Victoria J. Fraser, MD, for helping to kick-off the symposium; and to the oral presenters for sharing their research.

The Clinical Research Training Center has developed a series of videos highlighting the Center and its programs.

View all the videos below.

• The Washington Manual of Medical Therapeutics:
Check out this video produced by Wolters Kluwer to promote the The Washington Manual. Thank you to all the chief residents who participated in editing the latest version of the WashU Manual.

• Preventive Medicine Residency (PMR):
The Department of Medicine welcomes the Preventive Medicine Residency, a collaboration between the School of Medicine, the Brown School of Social Work and Public Health, and the Institute for Public Health. The two-year residency offers instruction and practical experience in multiple aspects of preventive medicine, allows trainees to earn an MPH degree from Washington University, and provides substantive time and opportunities for trainees to develop research or health improvement projects in their areas of interest. Learn More and Apply Now.

• Rheumatology:
In collaboration with the Goldfarb School of Nursing under Deborah Parks, MD and Lisa Burnitt’s guidance, the Division of Rheumatology certified their first class of musculoskeletal trained nurse practitioners. Read more.

• Matifadza Hlatshwayo, MD, MPH gave a presentation on the past, present and future of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention tied to the story Angels in America: Parts One and Two, at the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis. Read more.

• The Society of General Internal Medicine and the American College of Physicians have announced WUSM as a 2019 #ProudtobeGIM grantee. The aim of the program is to inform students of the variety of career options and leadership opportunities in general internal medicine. Congratulations to Dominique Cosco, MD and students, Monica Lim, Sean Terada, Michael Nehls, and Hannah Truong for their work on the application. Read more.
New Faculty Leadership

**Victor Davila-Roman, MD, FACC, FASE:** Named new Associate Director of the Institute for Public Health’s Global Health Center and interim faculty lead for the Center.

**Thomas M. De Fer, MD, FACP:** Serving as interim Chief for the Division of General Medicine.

**Elvin Geng, MD, MPH:** Named Director of the Center for Dissemination and Implementation Science at the Institute for Public Health.

**Karen Joynt Maddox, MD, MPH:** Named Co-Director of the Center of Health Economics and Policy (CHEP) with the Institute for Public Health.

**William G. Powderly, MD:** Named Director of Washington University’s Institute of Clinical and Translational Sciences (ICTS). The Institute is funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Awards/Grants/Honors

**Matthew Ciorba, MD** and **Joanna Gilbertson, RN, BSN** have been selected to receive the Catalyst for Mission Advancement Award from the Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation Mid-America chapter.

**Michael Durkin, MD, MPH** and **Stephen Liang, MD, MPH**, along with a team of co-investigators, were awarded two separate CDC grants to study “Increasing use of Medication-Assisted Treatment to Address Opioid Use among Patients with Bacterial and Fungal Infections Related to Injection”. One grant, led by Durkin, is specific to regions with highest rates of non-prescription opioid overdose death. The other grant, led by Liang, is specific to rural populations.

A team of Washington University investigators led by **Timothy J. Ley, MD** have been awarded a $15 million NIH grant to better understand the genetic changes that drive acute myeloid leukemia and predict patients’ responses to therapy. The findings may enable development of more effective therapies tailored to patients, based on the genetic characteristics of their cancer cells. Read more.

**Tarek Alhamad, MD, MS, FACP, FASN:** Selected as an Award of Excellence recipient from the National Kidney Foundation serving Eastern Missouri, Metro East, and Arkansas.

**John Atkinson, MD:** Awarded Presidential Gold Medal by the American College of Rheumatology for lifetime achievement in study of infectious, autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.

WUSM Department of Medicine received a multimillion personal bequest from community leader Lee Kling, St. Louis native and president of The Kling Company, toward research, teaching and patient care, specifically to benefit the underserved. Read more.
Awards/Grants/Honors, cont.

**Nancy Bartlett, MD:**
Co-Investigator on a six-year, $7.8 million grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) awarded to physicians at Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine.

**Rachel Bardowell, MD:**
Received the Internal Medicine Residency Teaching Faculty of the Year award in General Medicine. [Read more](#).

**Richard D. Brasington, Jr, MD:**
Received the inaugural teaching award that was named in his honor, The Brasington Teaching Award in Rheumatology.

**Melvin Blanchard, MD:**
Selected as the 2019 Missouri Laureate Award winner from the Missouri Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

**Carey-Ann Burnham, PhD:**
Awarded the [2020 American Society for Microbiology Award for Research Leadership in Clinical Microbiology](#).

**Ying Maggie Chen, MD, PhD:**
Received a 2-year, $300,000 Mallinckrodt Challenge Grant for her study “Targeting Podocyte Dysfunctional Ryanodine Receptor to Treat Nephrotic Syndrome”. Received a VA Merit Award for “Targeting Podocyte Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress-Mediated Apoptosis to Treat Nephrotic Syndrome”.

**Sharon Cresci, MD:**
Led a committee that developed the American Heart Association’s (AHA) scientific statement on the potential for precision medicine to improve treatment for patients with heart failure. [Read more](#).

**Nicholas O. Davidson, MD, DSc:**
Received a perfect score (10) for the competitive renewal of the Digestive Disease Research Core Center (DDRCC).

**John F. DiPersio, MD, PhD:**
Presented research related to Chimeric Antigen Receptor for T Cells at the American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) 6th Annual Clinical Education Conference held on the WUSM campus.

**Tom De Fer, MD, FACP:**
Selected as the recipient of the [2020 CDIM Ruth-Marie E. Fincher, MD, Service Award](#) to be presented at the CDIM Awards Lunch during Academic Internal Medicine Week 2020.

**James M. Fleckenstein, MD:**
Received a VA Merit Award for “Molecular Pathogenesis of Enterotoxigenic Escherichia Coli Infections”.

**Gerome Escota, MD:**
Selected to be Chair of the Teaching and Learning Resources Work Group of the IDSAMC Education Community of Practice.

**John Gorscan III, MD:**
Named an International Honorary Member of the Japanese College of Cardiology (JCC) for life and was the “Sakamoto Lecturer” at the JCC annual meeting in Nagoya, Japan Sept. 12-15, 2019.

**Andreas Herrlich, MD, PhD:**
Awarded a five-year, $1.45M (direct cost), R01 grant from the NIH to study the involvement of amphiregulin (AREG) in kidney fibrosis.
Awards/Grants/Honors, cont.

**Michael J. Holtzman, MD:**
Received awards totaling $7.5 million to support innovative research aimed at defining and controlling chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). [Read more.](#)

**Benjamin D. Humphreys, MD, PhD:**
Awarded a two-year, $125,000 grant for his proposal “Tubulointerstitial Profiling for Alport Syndrome Target Identification” by the [Alport Syndrome Foundation](#). [Read more.](#)

**Michael Hughes, PhD:**
Received an R01 from NIH for the study titled “A Systematic Analysis of RNA Editing in Skeletal Muscle”.

**Hrishikesh S. Kulkarni, MD, MSCI:**
Received a K08 from NIH for the study titled “C3 Mitigates Epithelial Injury in Pneumonia”.

**Jennie H. Kwon, DO, MSCI:**
Received an [Emerging Leader Award](#) from her alma mater.

**Kory J. Lavine, MD, PhD:**
Received a [Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers](#), the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government for early-career scientists.

**Irfan Lodhi, PhD:**
Received the David L. Williams Lecture and Scholarship Award at this year’s Kern Lipid Conference.

**Douglas L. Mann, MD:**
Received the 2019 Heart Failure Society of America (HFSA) Lifetime Achievement Award for heart failure.

**Tingting Li, MD, MSCI:**
Received the 2019 Nathan Hellman Memorial Teaching Award in Nephrology.

**Kory Lavine, MD, PhD, (left) pictured here receiving a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers from Kelvin Droegemeier, PhD, Director of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).**

**Jeanne M. Nerbonne, PhD:**
Received a VA Merit Award for “Identification of Novel Cellular/Molecular Mechanisms and Arrhythmia Targets in Heart Failure”.

**Nathan S. Nolan, MD:**
Will represent the American College of Physicians as a delegate to the AMA and will serve on the upcoming 2019 Interim Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates, November 16 – 20.

**Michael Paley, MD, PhD:**
Received the [2019 Distinguished Fellow Award](#) from the American College of Rheumatology (ACR).

**Rupa Patel, MD:**
Received a $3.9 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to establish a regional resource center at Washington University to aid HIV prevention efforts in 12 Midwestern states. [Read more.](#)

**Timothy Peterson, PhD:**
Was awarded an NIH R42 grant for Novel Insulin-Sensitizing NASH/Diabetes Drugs.
Awards/Grants/Honors, cont.

Christine Pham, MD:  
With Dr. Farshid Guilak (Orthopaedic Surgery) received the R61 RISK award for their high-risk program testing SMART cell implants in experimental models of arthritis.

William G. Powderly, MD:  
Honored with Distinguished Graduate Award by University College Dublin (UCD) Medical Graduates Association.

Kimberley Sukhum, PhD:  
Received the 2019 SHEA Research Scholar Award presented at IDWeek 2019.

Laneshia Karee Tague, MD:  
Received a KL2 award for “Pharmacogenetic-based Mycophenolate Dosing to Improve Lung Transplant Outcomes.”

Mark S. Thoelke, MD:  
Received the 2019 Neville Grant Award for Clinical Excellence.

Matthew J. Walter, MD:  
Will lead the new Edward P. Evans Myelodysplastic Syndromes Center, funded by a $5 million grant from the Edward P. Evans Foundation.

Ofer Zimmerman, MD:  
Received a $100,000 Physician Scientist Fellowship award from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. He will be working in the laboratory of Michael Diamond, MD, PhD, to study the role of variations in the gene MXRA8 in infection with chikungunya virus.

Congratulations to all the DOM faculty who were honored at the Academy of Medical Educators inaugural event on September 24, 2019.

Academy of Educators Inductees

- Eva Aagaard, MD
- Dennis Chang, MD
- Steven Cheng, MD
- Dominique Cosco, MD
- Thomas De Fer, MD
- Amber Deptola, MD
- Gerome Escota, MD
- Janice Hanson, PhD, EdS
- Benjamin Humphreys, MD, PhD
- Patricia Kao, MD, MS
- Steven Lawrence, MD
- Justin Sadhu, MD, MPHs
- Megan Wren, MD
- Timothy Yau, MD

Teaching Scholars Program Certificates

- Amber Deptola, MD
- Michael DeVita, MD
- Steven Lawrence, MD
- Barbara Lutey, MD
- Justin Sadhu, MD, MPHs
- Sandeep Tripathy, MD, PhD
- Lisa Zickuhr, MD
Awards/Grants/Honors, cont.

Department of Medicine Distinguished Service Teaching Awards Recipients
For Academic Year 2018-2019
As voted by Washington University Medical Students I, II, and III First Year Awards, Class of 2022

Stanley Lang Lecturer of the Year:
• Sabrina Nuñez, PhD

Practice of Medicine Small Group Leader of the Year Award:
• Timothy Yau, MD

Course Director of the Year:
• Steven Cheng, MD

Lecturer of the Year:
• Timothy Yau, MD

Distinguished Service Teaching Awards:
• Nigar Kirmani, MD
• Steven Lawrence, MD, MSc
• Justin Sadhu, MD, MPHs, FACC
• Megan Wren, MD
• Timothy Yau, MD
• Lisa Zickuhr, MD

Practice of Medicine Preceptor of the Year:
• Thomas De Fer, MD

Teaching Assistant of the Year:
• Erin Klein, Medical Student

Clerkship Director of the Year:
• Gerome Escota, MD

Clinical Department of the Year:
• Department of Medicine

Clinical Teacher of the Year Award:
• Cassandra D. Fritz, MD

Resident of the Year Awards:
• Bilal Al-Khalil, MD
• Ryan J. McGuire, MD

Primary Care Preceptor of the Year:
• Daniel Gaitan, MD
DOM Faculty Affairs

DOM Faculty Orientation and Fair:
Thank you to all who helped to make this year’s new faculty orientation and fair a huge success.

DOM Faculty Family Day at the Zoo:
The Office of Faculty Development hosted the DOM Faculty and Family Day at the Zoo on Sunday, October 13. Approximately 150 people (DOM faculty and their families) were welcomed to the River Camp room in the Rivers Edge area by some of the zoo animal greeters followed by a BBQ lunch buffet. Afterward DOM faculty and their families explored the zoo. They enjoyed the Zootoberfest activities and all the Halloween decorations set up for the upcoming Boo at the Zoo. This is an annual fall event sponsored by the DOM Office of Faculty Development.

DOM Leadership Training Course:
The Department of Medicine, in collaboration with BJC Learning Institute, offered the 2019 DOM Basic Leadership Training Course. Congratulations to Amanda Cashen, MD, Justin Chen, MD, Milan Chheda, MD, Malachi Griffith, PhD, Yasir Hamad, MD, Cynthia Herrick, MD, Makedonka Mitreva, PhD, Jen Mosher, Anupam Pande, MD, Rupa Patel, MD, and Marc Sintek, MD who completed this four part training course featuring sessions on facilitation skills, accelerating change and transitions, situation appraisal and decision analysis, and lean leadership.

Forum for Women in Medicine
The Forum for Women in Medicine is committed to provide our female trainees with skill building workshops and lectures, networking opportunities, and opportunities to meet leaders in the field of medicine. Please go to our website, our Facebook page, or Twitter @WashUFWIM for more information and to watch for future events.

• On August 7, over 60 fellows and faculty in the various divisions of the Department of Medicine came together to share experiences and make connections during the inaugural “Meet the Chair” Happy Hour.

• On September 26, FWIM hosted our first visiting professor luncheon of the year with AMWA medical students, house staff, fellows, and faculty coming together to hear from Dr. Mary Doi, a WUSM alum who completed her IM residency and Chief Resident year here.

• Our most recent Negotiation Strategies workshop on October 16 with guest speaker Hillary Anger Elfenbein PhD, the John and Ellen Wallace Distinguished Professor at the Olin School of Business at Washington University, brought together many trainees and faculty to hone our negotiation skills.
Upcoming Events and Symposiums

• **Diabetes Day Symposium:**
The Diabetes Research Center will host the Diabetes Day Symposium on Thursday, November 7, 2019 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. [View details.]

• **2019 Transgender Spectrum Conference**
Join us for the 2019 Transgender Spectrum Conference Friday, November 8 and Saturday, November 9 Washington University in St. Louis - Danforth Campus CEUs (for Social Workers and Counselors) are available. Visit the [conference website](#) for full details and registration.

• **9th Guller Family Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Lecture**
To be held Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 8:00 am Department of Medicine Grand Rounds, Clopton Auditorium

• **Women Leading in Medicine & Science Symposium: Forging Ahead**
Please join us for the inaugural WUSM symposium aimed at the professional development of women in academic medicine to provide strategies for career advancement, opportunities for networking and interdepartmental community building. The symposium will be held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 from 7:30 am – 1:00 pm. [Learn more and register here.]

• **Upcoming CRTC Career Development Seminars**
3:30 – 5:00 pm | Wohl Auditorium
- November 12th: “Submitting an R Grant: What to Know When You Apply”
- December 3rd: “Patient Recruitment for Research: Thinking Inside and Outside the Box”

• **“Reversing the Opioid Epidemic, and Delivering More Effective Pain Care: How Collaborative Efforts Can Enhance Health Policy Efforts”**
Richard & Elizabeth Henby Sutter Visiting Professor of Occupational & Environmental Medicine Keynote Speaker: Gary A. Franklin, MD, MPH Tuesday, November 26, 2019 | 9:00 am – 10:15 am Clopton Auditorium | Psychiatry Grand Rounds [View details.]

• **3rd Annual ICTS Symposium and Poster Session: “Building a Learning Health Care System: From Lab to Laptop”**
Friday, February 14, 2020
8:30 am – 3:00 pm, EPNEC
Keynote Speaker: Patricia F. Brennan, RN, PhD, Director, National Library of Medicine [View details.]

Epic Update

Please reference the most recent EPIC Action Report found here. This report, distributed bi-monthly, provides valuable updates on EPIC.

Contact the DOM Insider

Please contact us with questions, ideas and suggestions!

**The DOM Insider:**
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