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The mission of the Baylor College of Medicine Department of Medicine (DOM) Section of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) mirrors that of the DOM – that is, our Section creates and applies knowledge through research, scientific discovery, and medical education and training locally and globally; all done with innovation and compassion to advance health and wellness. The Section of General Internal Medicine operates at the Baylor Clinic, the Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center, Harris Health System (Ben Taub and Smith Clinic), and the MEDVAMC. With a large diverse group of over 130 employed faculty and 24 voluntary faculty, our section’s scope of clinical practice includes hospital medicine and outpatient primary care. Our faculty members serve in educational leadership roles for medical students, residents, faculty and other health professionals. Our faculty members engage in a variety of scholarly endeavors including innovative chronic disease management, quality improvement, medical education scholarship, environmental health, and narrative advocacy.

Numerous members of our section have earned recognition for their excellence in teaching and clinical work. Our faculty have presented locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally and published on topics ranging from medical education, clinical vignettes, professionalism, health policy, and social determinants of health.

The Section has made significant progress in achieving action items based on the strategic plan. We hope you will enjoy reading our annual report for the academic year 2017-2018.

David Hyman, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine
Chief, Section of General Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine Baylor College of Medicine

Andrew Caruso, MD, Director Hospitalist Service, MEDVAMC
Jennifer Chen, MD, Assistant Director, Hospitalist Service, Ben Taub General Hospital
Feibi Chi, PharmD, Director, Pharm D, MEDVAMC
Rola El-Serag, MD, Director, Women’s Health Center, MEDVAMC
Joey Fisher, MD, MPH, Associate Chief, GIM at Harris Health System (HHS)
Nautam Ganatra, MD, Associate Director, Primary Care, MEDVAMC
Himabindu Kadiyala, MD, Director, Prime Care Service, MEDVAMC
Surinder Kaul, MD, Director, Hospitalist Service, Ben Taub General Hospital
Lee Lu, MD, Medical Director, Smith Clinic and Director of Ambulatory Services GIM at HHS
Daniel Murphy, MD, MBA, Medical Director, GIM, Baylor Clinic
Cory Ritter, MD, Associate Director, Hospitalist Service, MEDVAMC
Hossam Safar, MD, Director, EC-IM, MEDVAMC
Umar Waheed, MD, Medical Director, Hospitalist Service, BSLMC
BAYLOR CLINIC – Primary Care Outpatient Faculty Group Practice

The General Internal Medicine Faculty Group Practice (FGP) moved to McNair Clinic in January 2018. After being at the Baylor Clinic location for over 10 years, the Department of Medicine relocated most of the Medicine sections to the new, long awaited McNair Campus on January 16, 2018. It is located across the street from the MEDVAMC. The new address for General Internal Medicine, outpatient clinic is 7200 Cambridge, 8th Floor, Houston, TX, 77030

The GIM FGP includes a dedicated group of 8 clinicians who practice not only general internal medicine providing evidence-based, high quality care for the prevention and treatment of chronic medical conditions but also specialize in a variety of areas including women’s health, diabetes, and adolescent care.

In addition, several FGP members work on quality improvement projects and health services research.

Patient growth and Preventive Care Quality in FY2018

The Baylor Clinic General Internal Medicine Faculty Group Practice has provided care to approximately 7975 patients, with an increase of 1,048 new patients over the past year. GIM continues to provide high Preventive Care Quality Scores in Blood Pressure Control, Diabetes Control and Tobacco Screening Cessation.
BAYLOR ST. LUKE’S MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITALIST GROUP

The concept for the Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center (BSLMC) Hospitalist group was originally proposed in the fall of 2015. Background work, which was done to initiate the Baylor hospitalist group at BSLMC hospital, included contractual relationships with the hospital and with the existing hospitalist groups. The driving force for the Baylor group to initiate hospitalist program at BSLMC was hospital’s desire to achieve improvement in quality metrics (reduction of length of stay, readmissions, mortality, complications and improvement in HCAPS, and other quality measures.)

In June 2016, BCM went into an official contract with BSLMC to provide hospitalist service that will cover all non-ICU and non-managed care patients. In October 2016, BCM hospitalist group sub-contracted with two existing hospitalist groups so they can work under BCM umbrella to deliver hospitalist services and desirable results for BSLMC hospital. Improvement in metrics were visible within a few months after the program started. Hospitalist services were expanded to maximize efficiency, throughput and patient safety. At the request of BSLMC hospital, the hospitalist program has made several changes from an admitting/rounding model to a model where the same attending who will follow patients daily will do admissions.

The BSLMC hospitalist group has created a schedule and throughput processes to make sure patients are taken care by the appropriate attendings and consult services. The group has strived hard to build relationships with Baylor and private attendings alike. In June 2018, the BSLMC Hospitalist team started the resident hospitalist team also known as RITE team at Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center. The BSLMC hospitalists are actively involved in hospital committees and the utilization management committee is chaired by one of the BSLMC hospitalists, Dr. Jarrouge. In addition to hospital committees, various hospitalists are involved in scholarly activity and quality improvement projects at BSLMC.
HARRIS HEALTH SYSTEM

Harris Health System (HHS) is the largest public health care system in Houston and Harris County with a focus on serving a primarily low resource/underserved patient population. The Section of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) faculty at Ben Taub and Smith Clinic saw a combined total of 94,699 patients visits in FY18 and generated a total of 123,700 WRVUs. This is a combination of all inpatient- teaching and hospitalist as well as outpatient services at Smith Clinic. The Harris Health SGIM group was over 100% of expected productivity for the 2018 academic year. Section members at HHS serve as leaders on numerous HHS committees including patient safety, health information management, pharmacy and therapeutics, ethics.

Ben Taub General Hospital

HOT (Hospitalist Only Team) Inpatient Care

The HOT service is comprised of general internists specializing in inpatient hospital management without trainees. We provide high quality care to complex medical patients at Ben Taub General Hospital with five rounding teams, one admitting team, and a night service. In the 2018 academic year our HOT service has provided care for approximately 35,000 patients.

As members of Baylor and Harris Health, the HOT faculty precept students as part of a commitment to medical education and frequently attend on teaching wards. We hold monthly meetings focusing on patient outcomes, care management, and are in the process of joining our hospitalist partners at St. Luke’s and the VA in forming a quarterly journal club. Faculty on the HOT service actively serve on hospital committees to provide crucial input in policy development. Our members work closely with nursing and hospital leadership to improve medical delivery to the bedside. We additionally meet monthly with Emergency Department leadership to streamline the transition from our triage department to the wards.

Inpatient Teaching Service

Baylor College of Medicine faculty provide supervision of inpatient medical care for hundreds of residents and students annually. The inpatient teaching service includes 8 ward teams, a consult service, and a special rotation for upper level residents to learn hospital medicine (RITE) team. The inpatient teaching service regularly receives fantastic evaluations from students and residents. For many, the Ben Taub inpatient service is the ‘crown jewel’ among all the great clinical opportunities in the Baylor system.
HHS Smith (Outpatient) Clinic

Smith Medicine Clinic is a Harris Health System primary care clinic where ninety-three internal medicine residents spend their three-year residency taking care of their continuity patients. Smith Medicine Clinic also has medical students rotating through during their ambulatory internal medicine clerkship. The majority of our core clinic faculty work in both inpatient (Ben Taub General Hospital) and outpatient (Smith Medicine Clinic). In this continuity clinic, house staff learn preventive medicine such as cancer screening and vaccinations, in addition to taking care of chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, heart failure, coronary heart disease, etc. They perform PAP smears and procedures such as arthrocentesis and incision/drainage of abscesses. Furthermore, they hone their counseling skills in the setting of encouraging patients to stop smoking and modify dietary lifestyle in reducing weight, or advanced life directives, etc.

The mean patient volume is ranges from 1000 to 1100 visits per month. In this past academic year, our Smith clinic house staff, with GI service assistance, implemented a successful Quality Improvement Project in using a PPI tapering set in reducing the number of chronic PPI use.

In addition to being actively involved in the residency program’s Wednesday school ambulatory curriculum, our clinic faculty led by Drs. Michelle Schmidt, Cara Foldes, and Meroe Morse started an “Intern Spotlight” sessions which interns are assigned to review recently published articles on ambulatory care topics. Dr. Schmidt hosts a book club to discuss new books and novels. Dr. Foldes teaches evidence-based medicine in interpreting literature. Dr. Morse is developing an initiative a comprehensive integrative chronic pain management program to help physicians manage chronic non-cancer pain. Drs. Jaime Rueda and Ordonez often teach our house staff in performing procedures such as arthrocentesis. Dr. Lu, the medical director of Smith Clinic, collaborates with Harris Health leaders in increasing specialty resources through E consults and has written the textbook Leading an Academic Medical Practice.
MICHAEL E. DEBAKEY VA MEDICAL CENTER (MEDVAMC)

Inpatient – Hospitalist Service

The MEDVAMC Academic Section of Hospital Medicine began in 2012 with 7 FTE positions and has presently grown to a group of nearly 14 FTE. Our section of clinician educators focuses on BCM medical resident supervision while attending on the Inpatient Medicine service. We currently cover 50% of the general medicine inpatient teams, and are adding an additional team this August. Additionally, we provide coverage on site nightly to supervise the admitting resident, facilitate rapid response and code blue calls, proactively aid patient flow through the Emergency Department, and independently perform admissions. Our ranks are made of individuals who have taken on increasing leadership roles in education and include 2 Associate Program Directors for the IM Residency Program, the VA based Chief Resident in Quality and Safety (CRQS) Director, the BCM IM Core Clerkship Director and Associate Sub Internship Director, the UT IM Residency Program Site Director and Associate Site Director, the VA BCM Student Site Director, as well as numerous PPS3 facilitators and student mentoring community leaders. From an administrative and service perspective, our section participates in numerous high value committees at the VA and recently initiated a Physician Unit Advisor program to liaison with medical nursing unit administration. In June 2018, Dr. Andrew Caruso accepted the Chief role for the Section of Hospital Medicine, and Dr. Cory Ritter is our new Associate Chief.

Our group recently completed a recruitment cycle, and we are excited to welcome three new Hospitalists. Dr. Lindsay Vaclavik joins us after recently completing her year of service to the VA and BCM as one of two Chief Residents in Quality and Service and is also an alumna of the BCM Residency Program from 2017. Dr. Paras Mehta and Dr. Eric Wu just completed their BCM Residency Program training this June and will be joining us this summer. We are additionally recruiting a mid-level provider to be a part of our first endeavor into an Inter-professional team.

The MEDVAMC Section of Hospital Medicine is looking forward to further expansion and integration with the hospitalists at Ben Taub and Baylor St.Luke’s Medicine Center and are proud to be a growing part of the Section of General Internal Medicine.
Primary Care – PrimeCare

Primary Care is one of the foundational services at Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (MEDVAMC). The section has highly dedicated staff who provide excellent pro-active, team based, patient-centered care to our Veterans, and take pride in working for the Veterans Health Administration which is the largest integrated health care system in America. Below are some of the biggest accomplishments of this 2018 academic year:

- When Hurricane Harvey hit Houston in August 2017, MEDVAMC remained open and several of our Primary Care staff went above and beyond to take care of veterans in the most challenging of circumstances in the hospital, GRB Convention Center, and in unconventional locations such as tents and Mobile Medical Units.

- Excellent Performance on HEDIS Quality Performance Measures, Access Metrics, and ACSC hospitalizations.

- Lowest Opioid use - While there is an epidemic of prescription opioid overdoses in the country, MEDVAMC has one of the lowest opioid prescriptions.

- Primary Care – Mental Health Integration: At MEDVAMC, we have excellent integration of Primary Care and Mental Health services to increase access to mental health care, de-stigmatize mental health disorders, and to provide a more holistic and successful approach to mental and physical health problems. Our patients can see a Mental Health Provider on the same day they see their Primary Care Provider.

- Same day Mammograms – Our designated Women’s Health Providers provide comprehensive general primary care and gender-specific care to our female veterans. We currently have Mammogram services on site, and our veterans can get screening and diagnostic mammograms on the same day as their Primary Care appointment.

- VA Video Connect Visits – As part of a national VHA mandate, our Primary Care Providers at MEDVAMC are utilizing the VA Video Connect Visits to provide telehealth services using a secure video connection to address nearly any issue that does not require an in-person visit. The VA Video Connect can be used by any veteran who has video-capable technology such as a smartphone, tablet, or computer.
• Musculoskeletal Clinic: In the past academic year, we have started a musculoskeletal clinic in Primary Care. Dr. Hendiani who did a Sports Medicine Fellowship evaluated more than 200 veterans for various musculoskeletal conditions. Several of them received corticosteroid or hyaluronic injections in various joints. We are planning on expanding the services utilizing ultrasound and orthobiologics.

• Whole Health Initiative - The Whole Health initiative continues to build momentum and engagement in Primary Care and Health Promotion programs at MEDVAMC. Our staff are trained by Dr. Daniel DeBrule, who is our Health Behavior Coordinator/Whole Health Director regarding the model with emphasis on personalized health planning and connection with Complementary Medicine approaches such as Yoga, Tai Chi, Acupuncture, and Guided Imagery. Personalized Health Planning has been conducted by several PCPs in Primary Care.

• Expansion of trainees in Primary Care Continuity Clinic: We currently have over 100 Internal Medicine residents from BCM and UT who have a rich learning experience from deserving and appreciative patients and precepted by top notch Faculty.

• CoEPCE: MEDVAMC is one of the seven Centers of Excellence in Primary Care Education, the main goal of which is to develop and test innovative structural and curricular models that foster transformation of health care training from profession-specific silos to inter-professional, team based educational and care delivery models in primary care settings. Our current trainees include Internal Medicine residents, NP residents, NP students, Pharmacy residents, Social work interns, Psychology Fellow, Psychology intern, and RN students.

VA Pharm D Program

Pharmacy residents presented their research projects at the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Midyear (Dec 2017) and Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists ALCALDE (Apr 2018). In addition, pharmacy house staff earned the recognition below:

• Wanat, Matthew – inducted as a Fellow of American College of Critical Care Medicine (Feb 2018), University of Houston College of Pharmacy Preceptor of the Year (2017), UHCOP Rho Chi Teaching Excellence Award (2017), Society of Critical Care Medicine Texas Chapter President (2017-2018)

• Mitchell, Brian – College of Psychiatric & Neurologic Pharmacists poster presentation on Treatment resistant schizophrenia and the role of long-acting injectable antipsychotics: a case report (Apr 2018), MEDVAMC Pharmacy Residency Preceptor of the Year Award (June 2018)

• Moody, Jetavia – board certification in geriatric pharmacy (Nov 2017)

• Sulik, Hannah – board certification in geriatric pharmacy (Nov 2017)

• Chi, Feibi – serves on VA National Workgroup on assessment of acute care clinical pharmacy practice throughout VHA
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Healthcare: EHS continues to operate two Environmental Health Clinics, one for children and one for adults, which provide assessment and intervention services to individuals with health conditions that are caused or exacerbated by the environment, including asthma and lead poisoning. EHS is now in the final stages of negotiations with the United Healthcare Community Plan of Texas to provide and be reimbursed for comprehensive asthma management services (including home visits and supplies) for UHC members. The partners are also developing an innovative outcomes-based payment system to cover the services, which is expected to serve as a model for other asthma programs and health plans across the country.

Community: Immediately after Hurricane Harvey, the EHS team was called on to help understand the immediate health risks caused by contact with floodwater and sediment and to explain these risks—and appropriate safety precautions—to the community. Along with partners at the Houston Health Department and Rice University, the EHS was in the field with a New York Times Investigative journalists just days after the flood, collecting water and sludge samples from some of the most affected communities across Houston and interpreting the results.

Nearly 100 members of the community came together on May 1 (World Asthma Day) for the first-ever Houston-Area Town Hall on Asthma. The community spoke about the burden of asthma and helped create a list of actions to make Houston more lung healthy. The Houston mayor’s office presented BCM with a proclamation naming May “Asthma Awareness Month.” The event was hosted by EHS and the Harris Health System and funded through grants from The Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute.

Education: The director of EHS, Dr. Winnie Hamilton, delivered a lecture titled “Environmental Health: Time for an Upstream Approach,” on April 26 for the Determinants, Disparities, and Social/Population Health (DDASH) foundational sciences course at BCM. Dr. Abi Oluyomi, EHS faculty member, in partnership with colleagues at the Southwest Center for Occupational and Environmental Health at UTHealth School of Public Health, presented a comprehensive introduction to geomedicine and the use of geographic information system (GIS) applications in the healthcare field on June 1, 2018.
Research: EHS has several ongoing and newly funded research projects such as Environmental Exposures, Health and Resilience before and after Hurricane Harvey in a Houston-Area Cohort of African-American Adults with Poorly Controlled Asthma (NIEHS); Environmental Health Outcomes Research among Hurricane Harvey Survivors; Protecting the Health of Houstonians and Texas Gulf Coast Residents (NIEHS); Geospatial analysis of high-risk areas for vector-borne transmission utilizing satellite imaging technology; Pathways Linking Neighborhood Environments to Activity Behaviors (American Cancer Society), and Houston Home-Based Integrated Intervention Targeting Better Asthma Control for African Americans (PCORI).

The BCM Resource Stewardship and Sustainability Program (RSSP) has had another successful year and has maintained its rank as one of the leading colleges in the annual RecycleMania competition. After implementing a new LDPE/HDPE plastics recycling stream on BMC’s main campus, the program has been awarded a bench from TREX Collegiate Recycling Program for their efforts. RSSP held a very successful lab coat and scrubs recycling event, in addition to the annual Earth Day event that was well attended. RSSP has also been able maintain and recruit new volunteers for the recycling program on campus.
Undergraduate Medical Education
Nadia Ismail, MD, MPH, MEd – Associate Dean, Curriculum
Lee Poythress, MD – Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
Anita Kusnoor, MD – Director of PPS3 (Patient, Physician, & Society 3); Director, Medicine Sub-internship
Andrew Caruso, MD – Director, Internal Medicine Core Clerkship
Lubna Khawaja, MD – Director/Coordinator, Internal Medicine UME Electives
Rajeev Balchandani, MD – Assistant Course Director, PPS3
Cara Foldes, MD, MPH - Course director, CABS-Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM)

Graduate Medical Education
Anoop Agrawal, MD - Program Director, Joint Medicine-Pediatrics residency program
Allison Heinen, MD - Assistant Director of Medical Education, BSLMC
Erica Lescinskas, MD - Associate Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program
Zaven Sargsyan, MD - Associate Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program
Chirayu Shah, MD - Associate Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program
Stephanie Sherman, MD – Associate Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program

Faculty / Continuing Medical Education
Cara Foldes, MD, MPH & Joslyn Fisher, MD, MPH – Co-Directors, General Internal Medicine
Grand Rounds – Regularly Scheduled Series (CME)
National/Regional:

Co-Chair, Ambulatory Clinic Interest Group, National SGIM – Lee Lu, MD

Chair, Council of Resident / Fellow Members for the American College of Physicians- Sarah Candler, MD, MPH

Member, Board of Regents for the American College of Physicians- Sarah Candler, MD, MPH

Co-Editor, “Fresh Look” Annals of Internal Medicine blog for early career and training physicians – Sarah Candler, MD, MPH

Clinical Vignette Chair for Society of Hospital Medicine 2016-2018- Stephanie Sherman, MD

Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine Innovation Grant Review Committee 2015-2018- Stephanie Sherman, MD

Editor, “Global Morning Report.” Human Diagnosis Project (HDx.org) Stephanie Sherman, MD

Contributing Editor, “Global Morning Report.” Human Diagnosis Project - Sargsyan, Zaven, MD

Delegate, American Medical Association, representing American College of Physicians - Sarah Candler, MD

Member, VA Task Force for the American College of Physicians & SGIM – Sarah Candler, MD, MPH

Texas ACP Wellbeing champion- Sabina Lee, MD

BCM:

BCM Faculty Senators: Anita Kusnoor, MD; Joslyn Fisher, MD, MPH

Chair, Institutional Policy Committee, BCM: Joslyn Fisher, MD, MPH

Co-Chair of BCM GME Resident-as-Teacher Committee: Stephanie Sherman, MD

Chair: Resident Service Evaluation Committee for Internal Medicine residency: Erica Lescinskas, MD

Director, Program in Narrative Medicine, Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy: Ricardo Nulla, MD

Baylor Clinic:

Medical Advisory Board of MDVIP: Steve Rosenbaum, MD
BSLMC:
Chair of Utilization Management Committee BSLMC: Elie Jarrouge, MD

Harris Health System:
Co-Chair, Pharmacy and Therapeutics– David Hyman, MD, MPH
Director, Employee Health- David Hyman, MD, MPH
Chair, Health Information Management – David Hyman, MD, MPH
Chair, Ethics Committee, HHS – Joslyn Fisher, MD, MPH
Co-chair, Inpatient Clinical Advisory Committee (IT committee)-Chirayu Shah, MD
Physician representative, Opiate/chronic pain management task force- Meroe Morse, MD

MEDVAMC
Associate Chief of Staff – Quality, Safety, Value – Jung Hyun Park, MD


Hamilton, W (PI): Pathways Linking Neighborhood Environments to Activity Behaviors. American cancer society. MRSG13145-01. Subcontract with University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. 9/1/2014-6/30/2018

Hamilton, W (PI): Protecting the Health of Houstonians and Texas Gulf coast residents. Philanthropic gift from Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation. 1/15/2018-1/14/2019


Books & Book Chapters

Dr. Lee Lu, associate professor, General Internal Medicine – Harris Health System, is an editor on a recently released book, *Leading an Academic Medical Practice*. Dr. Lu led the group of Society of General Internal Medicine academic leaders to produce the book, which discusses the key elements on how to manage a medical clinic with learners.

Dr. Wayne Shandera, assistant professor of General Internal Medicine is the editor of the recently published book entitled Sub-Specialty Care of HIV-Infected Patients. Nova Scientific, 2018. In the same book he also wrote a chapter “General medicine consultation for the HIV infected patient.”

Dr. Wayne Shandera, assistant professor of General Internal Medicine is co-author of chapter “Viral and Rickettsial Diseases”, in Mcphee SJ, Papadakis et al, 2017 edition: Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment, New York, NY: McGraw Hill.

Dr. David Hilmers, professor of General Internal Medicine, is author of two chapters in Feigin and Cherry’s Pediatric Infectious Disease 8th edition, which came out in February 2018. He authored chapter 145, “Non-veneral Treponematoses” and co-author for chapter 187, “Filoviral Hemorrhagic Fevers: Marburg and Ebola Virus Fevers”.


Peer-reviewed publications


**Candler S.** We didn’t get cold feet. Annals of Internal Medicine.

Shunk R, **Candler S**, Lieblow M. Will graduate medical education at VA hospitals survive the choice act? SGIM forum. 2018 April; 4 (4)


Przybylowicz R, Millien V, Sethness J, Kurian B, **Lu L**. I’m Just PSAying Something Isn’t Right. Journal of General Internal Medicine 2017; 2(suppl)


Salciccioli K, Ermis P, Oluyomi A et al. Geographic disparities in access to care for adults congenital heart disease patients in the United States. J AM Coll Cardiolo. 2018 Mar 10;71(11);A558


Schmidt M. Forgiveness. Literary AMWA. 2017 Dec 30 [Online]


Tschaeppe M. Representations of patients experiences of autonomy in graphic medicine. AMA J Ethics, 2018 Feb 1;20(1):122-129


Vaughan E. Integrating CHWs as part of the team leading diabetes group visits: A randomized controlled feasibility study. The Diabetes Educator. 43:6. 589-599.


Wilmer S. Assessment of an Innovative Medication Adherence Training Exercise in an Interprofessional Training Program, Journal of Health and Interprofessional Practice
Abstracts/Presentations/workshops

Dr. Sabina Lee, associate professor and Dr. Sarah Candler, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – MEDVAMC, recently participated and/or presented at the The Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians annual conference in San Antonio. Dr. Lee moderated the session presented by Dr. Hashem El-Serag, professor, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, and chairman, Department of Medicine, “GI Multiple Small Feedings of the Mind”.

Dr. Daniel DeBrule, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine, presented Leveraging Whole Health and Health Psychology Interventions to Prevent Suicide in Veterans: Creating Unique Pathways Through New VHA Initiatives at the Annual Conference for the American Association of Suicidology, Washington, D.C.

Dr. Daniel DeBrule, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine, presented A Multidisciplinary, Multilayered Program for Veterans and Smoking Cessation: Vets Kick Butts. at the Annual Conference of the Society for Behavioral Medicine, New Orleans, LA

Dr. Ricardo Nuila, served on a panel in the “Reporting Health” session at the Healthier Texas Summit in Austin on November 7. This meeting is organized by the University of Texas System and convenes thought leaders and practitioners statewide to discuss innovations and trends in community and public health.

Dr. Anoop Agrawal, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine, presented “Integration of Apps into Internal Medicine Residency curriculums: A survey of IM program directors” was presented at Association of Program Director’s for Internal Medicine (APDIM) in San Antonio on March 19, 2018.

Dr. Meroe Morse, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine Presented at ACGME Florida (March 2018) Workshop on Resident Wellness Initiative with Stacey Rose, MD.

Dr. Wayne Shandera presented his abstract titled “The relationship between music and medicine as evidenced in the medical literature” was accepted in annual meeting, European Society for the Philosophy of Medicine and Health Care.


Dr. Anita Kusnoor was a co-presenter of Streptococcus constellatus brain abscesses masquerading as metastases. Presented at the Texas Chapter Annual Meeting of the American College of Physicians, San Antonio, November 11, 2017 and in National Meeting of the American College of Physicians, New Orleans, LA, April 21, 2018. She also presented It’s my fault!” Disclosing Medical Error; Assuming Blame in Interprofessional Education along with Dr. Nadia Ismail, associate professor, General Internal Medicine TEACH-S Conference, Houston, TX, May 11, 2018.
Dr. Michelle Sibille, Instructor, General Internal Medicine- VAMC presenting both a poster and a presentation titled "Morbidity and Mortality Conference: An Innovative Strategy to Teach Quality and Safety in the Outpatient Setting" at the AAMC Integrating Quality Conference, June 7-8. 2018. Her co-authors were Dr. Frene Lacour-Chestnut, Dr. Molly Horstman, assistant professor of General Internal Medicine-VAMC and Dr. Diana Stewart, assistant professor of General Internal Medicine-VAMC


Amidi O, Averyt A, Shah C. The case of acidic stabbing victim: Just follow your nose. SGIM. Denver, CO. 2018

Mammen A, Sherman S, Arnell M. A case of non-occlusive acute gastric ischemia from hypotension during dialysis, SHM, Orlando, FL. 2018

Kapuria M, Lin D. Not all psychosis is purely psychiatric- A case of Anti-NMDAR Encephalitis. SHM. Orlando, FL. 2018

Bass, M, Lim J, Sargsyan Z. Left and right you see Staph: Find the source and trace the path. SHM. Orlando, FL. 2018

Olmstead R, Sargsyan Z. Levofloxacin induced myoclonus. SHM. Orlando, FL. 2018


Hilmers D. “Medical Care of Hepatitis B Infected Patients in North Korea” at the Japanese-Korean Medical Association Annual Meeting, Kobe, Japan, November 2017.


Candler S. “Having Difficult Conversations as a Leader,” American College of Physicians’ Board of Governors meeting, Montreal, Canada.
Section-based Awards
At the Section of General Internal Medicine Annual Retreat held at McNair campus on May 9, the following awards were presented:

Dr. Lee Lu: Joseph R. Guitreau Consummate Physician Award, the highest GIM award given in honor of a former colleague

Dr. Anita Kusnoor: D.A.V.E. Award for the dedicated academician who values excellence in patient care, teaching, and scholarly activity

Drs. Allison Heinen and Elie Jarrouge: Hospitalist of the Year

Dr. Cara Foldes: Outpatient Healer of the Year

Dr. Anna Kolpakchi: Lifetime Achievement Award
DOM Awards
Residency Program Graduation Awards
- Ambulatory- Jaime Rueda, MD
- Ben Taub- Stephanie Sherman, MD
- MEDVAMC- Zaven Sargsyan, MD

BCM Awards
John P. McGovern Outstanding Teacher Excellence Award (Medical School)
- Lee Poythress, MD – Clinical Sciences
- Zaven Sargsyan, MD – Pre-clinical Sciences (2018), Clinical Sciences (2017)

Norton Rose Fulbright Award for Excellence in Teaching & Evaluation
- Andrew Caruso, MD
- Diana Stewart, MD
- Erica Lescinskas, MD

Norton Rose Fulbright Award for Excellence in Educational Leadership
- Erica Lescinskas, MD

Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care
- Dr. Stephanie Sherman
- Dr. Andrew Caruso

Graduating Class Outstanding Faculty Award
- Dr. Andrew Caruso, assistant professor
- Dr. Zaven Sargsyan, assistant professor
- Dr. Stephanie Sherman, assistant professor
- Dr. Lee Poythress, associate professor

OTHER HONORS

Dr. David Hyman, professor and chief of General Internal Medicine is listed in Castle Connolly’s Top Doctors in Houston.

Dr. David Hilmers, professor, General Internal Medicine was named as a top Internal Medicine doctor by Houstonia Magazine in July 2017.

Dr. Allison Heinen, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine was named as a Top doctor by Houstonia Magazine in August 2017.

Dr. Michelle Schmidt, assistant professor—Harris Health System was selected as one of the BCM Center of Excellence in Health Equity, Training and Research Junior Faculty Scholars for 2018-2019.

Dr. Priti Dangayach, Assistant Professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub Hospital, has received a Certificate of Recognition from the Harris Health System for distinguished service. The award recognizes for her excellence in leadership, mentoring and patient care.
Dr. Lubna Khawaja, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine - Ben Taub, has received a Certificate of Recognition from the Harris Health System for distinguished service, in recognition of her excellence in leadership, mentoring and patient care.

Dr. Lee Poythress, associate professor, General Internal Medicine, Ben Taub Hospital, has been awarded the Distinguished Consultant Award from the Department of Emergency Medicine. This award is given to the consultant who the residents and faculty feel embody professionalism, communication, teaching and outstanding patient care.

Dr. Meroe Morse, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine, is an ongoing fellow (’19) and scholarship recipient in Integrative Medicine through Arizona Center of Integrative Medicine.

Dr. Sabina Lee, associate professor, General Internal Medicine-VAMC, is a Texas ACP Wellbeing champion and will be involved with national ACP for the next 3 years for physician wellbeing.

Dr. Anita Kusnoor, associate professor, General Internal Medicine, received the Essential Skills in Medical Education (ESME) Faculty Scholarship last month from the Office of Faculty Development and the Academy of Distinguished Educators.

Dr. Sarah Candler, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – MEDVAMC, received her certificate of completion of the Society of General Internal Medicine’s Leadership in Health Policy program.

Dr. Ricardo Nuila, assistant professor, General Internal medicine has received a MacDowell Fellowship to continue his journalistic work on health disparities in Texas. The MacDowell Fellowship program is one of the most competitive artistic residencies in the country. Based in New Hampshire, it provides room and board for up to two months for visual artists, filmmakers, and journalists. Nuila will complete the residency in summer 2018.

Dr. Joslyn Fisher and Dr. Cara Foldes were nominated for exemplary Baylor Women of Excellence – women who exemplify excellence as well as Baylor’s other values (respect, integrity, innovation and teamwork), in support of Women’s History Month.

Dr. Joslyn Fisher, associate professor, General internal Medicine participated in a panel discussion on Ethical Dilemmas in Health Policy with a focus on end of life care at the Texas Medical Center Headquarters in Houston.

Dr. Elizabeth Vaughan was honored by the BCM Office of Institutional Diversity, Inclusion and Equity for her efforts at the Community Health Worker Diabetes Education Program on June 30 at San Jose Clinic, where she helped educate the Health Equity Scholars in the BCM Center of Excellence in Health Equity.

Fellow, Hospital Medicine, Society of Hospital Medicine
- Andrew Caruso, MD
- Cory Ritter, MD

Fellow, American College of Physicians
- Adelaide Adjovu, MD
- Anoop Agrawal, MD
IN THE MEDIA

Dr. Sarah Candler, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – MEDVAMC, was interviewed for an April 23 article in MedPage Today titled “Do You Know Your Gen Xers from Your Millennials?”

Dr. Ricardo Nuila, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub – was interviewed for a June 6 TMC NEWS “On the Side” article, in which he talks about his penchant for great writing as well as practicing great medicine.

Dr. Niraj Mehta, associate professor, General Internal Medicine - Harris Health, was featured with a blog in kevinmd.com titled “A gentle reminder that healing begins with feeling.”

Dr. Winnie Hamilton, associate professor, General Internal Medicine, and director, Environmental Health Services, was part of a testing group that the New York Times created to study floodwaters around Houston. The resulting article, “Houston’s Floodwaters Are Tainted, Testing Shows,” ran on Sept. 11; Dr. Hamilton was heavily cited in the article. Her work and that of several others who participated in the Times’ analysis showed that two neighborhoods were contaminated with bacteria and toxins, possibly a result of several waste treatment plants, and that many other areas were also unsafe owing to bacteria and mold.

Dr. Ricardo Nuila and Dr. Michelle Schmidt were invited to speak on Pacifica Radio 90.1 KPFT – “So What’s Your Story?” on July 2018.


Dr. Rola El-Serag, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine, was interviewed by KPRC Channel 2 for an article about the VA’s fastest growing patient population; young female veterans. She also interviewed for a March 30 segment on the Houston Public Media radio show Houston Matters. The segment covered a new VA campaign to curb harassment against female veterans.
Dr. Ricardo Nuila is the Director of the Narrative Medicine Program at BCM. He has written fiction and non-fiction that has been widely-read in popular media such as The New Yorker, Texas Monthly, and medical journals such as perspective pieces in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Dr. Sarah Candler, General Internal Medicine – MEDVAMC, had a letter to the editor of the Houston Chronicle published in the paper on October 28, 2017 on Veterans Care. [https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/letters/article/Sunday-letters-Veterans-care-12314770.php](https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/letters/article/Sunday-letters-Veterans-care-12314770.php) The unedited version was subsequently published in the VA’s internal patient-facing newsletter on 11/4/17. Dr. Candler collaborated with co-authors and the Annals of Internal Medicine to develop a well-received blog, “Fresh Look” where junior clinicians’ offer written perspectives on health care and often with a focus on health policy.

Dr. Michelle Schmidt, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine, submitted an essay titled "Lara and the Flood" to the storytelling event called Off Script. This collaboration between UT and BCM is part of the Narrative Medicine initiative, from the Center for Medical Ethics and Health Policy. Her essay was selected and she read it on Dec. 7 at the Off Script event at Texas Children’s Hospital.
Local: BCM Medical Student-led Wellness 5K

Global:

Dr. David Hilmers, professor of General Internal Medicine served in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh from February 18 to March 15, where he treated patients and taught national staff doctors who were working in the camps.

Mark Robinson, MD working in Haiti.
THE SGIM TEAM

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Harris Health System and MEDVAMC

Aakanksha Naik, MHA is the section administrator for the GIM operations for the Harris health affiliates and the MEDVAMC. She enjoys working on financial reports and building financial assumptions. She likes to develop new reports in BI that can help enhance provider productivity.

Raji Karna is an administrative coordinator for the section and enjoys working on the schedules and on various financial reports. She enjoys working for her doctors and administrative team very much.

Jasmine Hawthorne is an Admin Coordinator for Dr. Hyman in the Internal Medicine Dept. She has been with Baylor for 4 years.

Sandra Miller is Admin Assistant at Harris Health Smith Clinic. She takes care of the Resident Staff Schedule and works within the Harris Health System to maintain patient appointment booking slots Residents and Faculty.

Environmental Health

Jamie Boles, BPA, CCRP is the senior administrative coordinator for the Environmental Health Service (EHS). She has been with Baylor for over 10 years and prior to joining EHS in May 2015 worked as a sponsored programs analyst in the department of Pediatrics.

Gabi De la Rosa is the Recycling Stewardship & Sustainability Program (RSSP) Coordinator. The RSSP program is the largest recycling and sustainability program in the Texas Medical Center and has won numerous awards, recognitions and been the recipient of many grants.

Adriana Rangel, MPH, RRT Trained as a respiratory therapist, Adriana has a passion for asthma and working with patients to improve their health.

Ritupreet Virk, MBA, MPH, is a public health professional with expertise in data management.

Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center - Hospitalists

Melissa Fusilier, MPA is the Regional Administrator for the BSLMC and Woodlands Hospitalist programs. She directs administrative operations for faculty and staff, provides financial oversight focusing on minimizing program costs and implementing efficient workflows, manages compliance and safety protocols, and ensures employee satisfaction and engagement are optimal.

Lizbeth Persad, MPA is the Program Administrator for the BSLMC Hospitalist program. She manages daily operations of the BSLMC program focusing on enhancing programmatic efficiency to effectively highlight and support the activities of the Baylor Hospitalists.

Brittany Layton, is the Administrative Support Coordinator for the BSLMC and Woodlands Hospitalist programs. She is the Credentialing Liaison for CHI Woodlands and Baylor Medcare, supports billing and census activities, manages the Woodlands schedule, coordinates office activities including fax management and supply ordering, supports onboarding new Hospitalists with required documentation, and provides administrative support to Hospital leadership.

Baylor Clinic - McNair Campus – Faculty Group Practice

Stephanie “Steph” Richard, MBA, MHA is the Section Administrator for FGP General Internal Medicine at McNair Campus. She has been the Administrator for the section since July 2017. Steph has been with Baylor College of Medicine since 2004. Her clinical and office experience is a great additional benefit to the FGP General Internal Medicine practice operations.

Tonta Marchand is the Administrative Coordinator for General Internal Medicine. Tonta’s favorite thing about working at BCM is meeting and working with people from different places and backgrounds.
**FACULTY**

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<td>Murphy, Daniel (Director)</td>
<td>Waheed, Umar (Director)</td>
<td>Hyman, David (Section Chief)</td>
<td>Hamilton, Winnie (Director)</td>
<td>Hu, Rebecca Ouyumi, Abi</td>
<td>Hospitalists</td>
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*Also work on VAMC Hospitalist Team