Section of General Internal Medicine
Department of Medicine
Baylor College of Medicine
Annual Report 2018-2019

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Statement from Section Chief:

The section of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) is the largest and perhaps most diverse in mission and faculty in the Department of Medicine (DOM). While we are primarily focused on the clinical and clinical education missions in the DOM, as generalists we provide a broad and multi-disciplinary tent that includes the vibrant Clinical Pharmacy group and the Environmental Health Service. Like most Sections of General Medicine around the country, we include inpatient generalists, hospitalists, and outpatient primary care physicians with a concentration on the continuum of care of the patient.

We practice at the Baylor Clinic, the Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center, Harris Health System (Ben Taub and Smith Clinic), and the MEDVAMC. We provide superb care and clinical teaching with patients ranging from the Baylor faculty and families to the most marginalized in our society.

As educators, the SGIM faculty have broad impact on our learners and occupy many key educational leadership roles. Our faculty members engage in a variety of scholarly endeavors and special clinical initiatives including innovative chronic disease management, quality improvement, medical education scholarship, care of the incarcerated, domestic violence, mind-body approaches to pain, narrative advocacy and environmental exposures and health. We hope you enjoy our report of academic year 2018-2019 and we hope to continue to grow and help serve the missions of DOM and BCM in the coming years.

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

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Joey Fisher, MD, MPH, Associate Chief, GIM at Harris Health System (HHS)
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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
HIGHLIGHTS

GIM has had another great year and has met many of its strategic goals for the section.

Clinical Care

Across our affiliates (Baylor Clinic – McNair, Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center, Harris Health System, Michael Debakey VA Medical Center) combining inpatient and outpatient service, our general internal medicine faculty have cared for over 100,000 patient visits in FY19. Recruitment has been a priority and we have hired 20 stellar recruits across our pavilions-McNair Campus, Ben Taub, St Luke’s and the MEDVAMC which has helped us grow and expand our practices. Faculty continue to meet and exceed all productivity targets. Our faculty members provide high value health care with a particular focus on prevention and chronic disease management of complex patients. Faculty consistently meet major quality and utilization metrics.

Education

Our faculty are dedicated to the education mission of the Baylor College of Medicine. In addition to being heavily involved in curriculum development, direct didactic and clinical teaching, and education-related committee work, our section members serve in numerous leadership roles including at undergraduate (deans, assistant deans, course directors), graduate (associate program directors), post-graduate, and faculty levels.

Research

GIM faculty have received new grants and maintained ongoing funding for diverse projects. Our Environmental Health Service faculty were the recipients this year of a $1 Million grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The RCT will address environmental factors, medical treatment and knowledge in individuals with poorly controlled asthma and chronic rhinosinusitis.

Service/Honors

GIM faculty have received multiple prestigious college level, local, and national awards and recognition – Norton Rose Fulbright Awards for Excellence as Educators, Clinical Excellence Awards, Service Awards.

Section members are involved in several faculty and staff development initiatives. Our faculty are highly involved in service in the DOM, across the college, and within the community. Wellness activities have helped our faculty and staff achieve a better work-life balance.
GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE OUTPATIENT CLINIC- MCNAIR CAMPUS

New Faculty

The McNair General Internal Medicine provides excellent care to its patients. To help meet the demand for primary care in the Houston area and facilitate timely patient visits, the clinic has hired additional faculty. Two physicians, Dr. Vani Potluri, a BCM graduate, and Dr. Zehra Tosur, both joined the BCM family in late 2018. In addition, the clinic’s first-ever physician assistant, Isabel Valdez PA-C. Having an extensive primary care background gained during her 11 years as part of the BCM family, Ms. Valdez’s addition to the team has allowed the clinic to maintain same and next-day availability for patients with acute issues, as well as providing follow up of chronic conditions. The clinic continues to actively recruit excellent physicians, with two new faculty members expected to begin during Fall 2019.

New Initiatives

The clinic has also begun a subspecialty services to address unique women’s health needs. Dr. Sobia Khan has drawn on her women’s health training to initiate a Women’s Health Clinic each Monday and offers patients extended slots to discuss women’s health needs and provide counseling on functional medicine.

In addition to growth in the size of the team, the clinic instituted an initiative to improve access to care for patients and enhance job satisfaction for providers. As of July 1, 2019, the clinic began to offer extended clinic hours, providing office visits until six o’clock in the evening. This has enabled patients who work during business hours to attend clinic visits after work. Additionally, this has allowed flexibility of faculty work schedules to aid in physician wellness. By September 2019, four physicians are expected to offer extended hours.

Realizing the importance of safely transitioning hospitalized patient from the inpatient setting back into the community, the McNair General Internal Medicine has implemented a discharge transitional care program. This program is led by the clinic’s LVN and seeks to coordinate patient care during the peri and post-discharge period. The team identifies discharged patient using a dedicated “GIM hospital discharge” email or via automated discharge messages in the Epic In-basket. Working in conjunction with the patient’s primary care physician and employing a standardized protocol, staff members discuss clinical status, review medications, assess any urgent needs, make a timely follow up appointment, request any relevant hospital records, and answer any patient questions. Visits slots are purposefully reserved in each physicians’ schedule to enable patients to be seen in a timely manner, with the goal of seeing all discharged patients within one week. Since its inception, this program has facilitated hundreds (40-70 each month) of post-hospital transitions, leading to safer care, improved patient satisfaction, and reduced unnecessary readmissions and associated costs.

Exceeding Quality Metrics

The McNair General Internal Medicine clinic has provided care to approximately 16,489 patients this academic year, with an increase of 1712 new patients during FY2019. GIM continues to provide high quality care, exceeding FGP-wide quality measures targets for blood pressure management, diabetes control, and tobacco screening and cessation, as well as screening for colorectal and breast cancer and vaccination of eligible patients against influenza and pneumonia.
BAYLOR ST. LUKE’S MEDICAL CENTER

Entering the fourth year since its inception, the Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center Hospitalists Group continues to thrive. With the successful recruitment of 10 new providers (both replacement and incremental additions) for FY20, we continue to increase the level and quality of service we provide to the greater Houston area. In FY19, the BSLMC hospitalists served over 9,000 patients.

The group continues to build relationships with their Baylor colleagues and private attending physicians alike. BSLMC hospitalists are actively involved in hospital committees, scholarly activity, and quality improvement projects at BSLMC.

Building on the infrastructure set in place since 2016, the program’s focus for FY20 has shifted to fine-tuning processes so we can continue delivering measurable outcomes. This included streamlining operations by migrating to AMBS, TigerConnect, and Qgenda clinical software platforms. The creation of physician administrative leadership roles for the Hospitalist programs include a focus in case management, quality improvement, utilization management and education. There was similar growth with the administrative team to include the addition of another team member to support the growing infrastructure.

The driving force for the Baylor group to initiate the hospitalist program at BSLMC was the 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). The BSLMC Hospitalist group has demonstrated success in delivering high quality care. Upcoming opportunities for the group will include expanding the clinical footprint in Houston and the surrounding areas, and implementing operational processes for continued innovation.

Dr. Alok Bhattarai receiving the hospitalist of the year award with BSLMC faculty and Staff: From Left to Right: Dr. Elie Jarrouge, Lizbeth Persad, Dr. David Hyman, Dr. Alok Bhattarai, Dr. Umar Waheed, Dr. Neeraj Agarwal, Brittany Layton and Melissa Fusilier.
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 Hospital and Smith Clinic saw a combined 77,300 patient visits in FY19 and generated 132,000 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 117% of expected productivity for the 2019 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 direct inpatient hospital management. 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. The HOT service holds 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.

Ben Taub - 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 consistently receives outstanding evaluations from students and residents.

Harris Health System’s – Smith Clinic

Smith Clinic is our affiliate institution Harris Health’s outpatient clinic. Over 90 house staff participate in their ambulatory continuity care clinic experience at Smith Clinic. They learn preventive medicine (eg. cancer screening, PAP smears, vaccinations), chronic disease management (eg. hypertension, diabetes, heart disease), procedures (eg. arthrocentesis, Nexplanon insertion, and incision/drainage of abscesses), and counseling skills (smoking cessation, dietary modification, and goals of care). Several faculty have their own half day direct care clinics at Smith Clinic and provide primary care to patients and the VIVA clinic serves survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault. The mean patient volume ranges from 1000 to 1100 visits per month. Smith Clinic meets and exceeds quality metrics including cervical and breast cancer screening as well as diabetes-related indicators. In this past academic year, led by Dr. Lu (Director of Smith Clinic), the Smith Medicine Clinic faculty and residents completed a Quality Improvement Project on accurate blood pressure (BP) measurement. The data were presented at local conferences. The “Nurse Stat” (rapid response resident-led team) was successfully initiated and reduced the number of calls to 911/EMS services.

Go Astros! Left-Right: Dr. Lee Lu, Dr. Meroe Morse, Dr. Cara Foldes.
MEDVAMC Hospital Medicine

The Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Section of Hospital Medicine continued to be a productive academic group for the Academic Year of 2018-2019. As of close of June 2019, our section now consists of 17 Hospitalists comprising 15 FTE. Of those hospitalists we now have 2 members of our team who focus their clinical efforts on nocturnal work, but also contribute to the daily daytime work at point during the year.

At the close of 2018-2019 academic year we brought to fruition two new clinical teams that our team has developed to stay well positioned in leading clinical care at the VA. We created a new teaching-based admission focused team called the ‘Swing Admitter’ team that functions during the hospital peak admission times and provides one on one attending supervision of a resident trainee admitting multiple patients to the hospital. This new role was created in response to the needs of the hospital and has thus far produced an excellent record of supervised clinical care that has been important for the clinical development of the residents who have taken the role and important to help maintain the nocturnal hours of the night admitting teams and for hospital flow. In addition to this Swing Admitter, our section has converted one of our prior ward teams to a direct care team.

The direct care team matches a Hospitalist with a Physician Assistant and the two directly care for patients in the classic nonteaching Hospitalist model. This new team has been beneficial for team member direct care skill and for contribution toward VA centric goals of care. In total, our VA Hospitalist group through our work with our now 7 teams and daily Nocturnist presence provides portions of care for close to 70% of the VA inpatient admission flow.

As the new academic year 2019-2020 has kicked off, our team hopes to continue its balanced approach to clinical care, academic work and educational leadership. We are proposing an expansion package to VA leadership so that we can continue to grow our goals and provide excellent clinical care that also continues to train hundreds of learners every year. We hope to continue to develop our Pubs at Pub and Works in Progress efforts, and in doing so attract further participation from around the BCM community to increase our shared BCM experience and collaboration. The section is positioned for a very productive year and is excited to continue growing at Baylor College of Medicine.

MEDVAMC Prime Care

Primary Care Providers are the first point of contact for patients entering the VA system. At MEDVAMC, we have a robust and vibrant Primary Care section. Currently, we have 54 full time Primary Care Providers – 40 Physicians, 9 Nurse Practitioners, and 5 Physician Assistants. All our Primary Care Providers are highly driven individuals who are passionate about providing longitudinal care to our patients and establish meaningful relationships with patients over time. They are holistic in their approach, and are effective advocates, and knowledgeable about various resources available to patients.

Our veterans receive outstanding and exemplary quality of care. On a wide array of Quality Metrics such as Comprehensive Diabetes Care, controlling high Blood Pressure, Statin therapy in patients with Cardiovascular disease, medical assistance with Smoking, Cancer screenings (Breast, Cervical, and Colon) – our metrics exceed community benchmarks. Suicide prevention is our top clinical priority. With excellent integration of Mental Health services in Primary Care,
we are able to provide a comprehensive continuum of mental health care and suicide prevention services to end Veteran suicides.

As digital technology plays a more and more critical role in health care, we are able to extend our access to care beyond the traditional office visit. In the past year, 80% of our Primary Care providers connected with their patients through digital health technology – VA Video Connect. We are ready to deploy the Annie App which will enable our patients to receive automated text messages which will help them with self-care. Providers can send motivational and educational messages to encourage patients to stay on track with their care plan and achieve their goals.

The Women’s health center offers outstanding integrated healthcare with services including general primary care - gender specific, mental health, maternity care coordination, and comprehensive breast care services including breast tomo synthesis and same-day services. Health care metrics for women including breast cancer and cervical cancer screening have been consistently higher than national average. Health care disparities between male and female veterans have been reduced significantly and in some cases reversed with female veterans now having higher blood pressure control and diabetes control than male veterans.

Dr. Radha Rao is the lead clinician for our Tobacco Cessation Program, and is involved in implementing the National Policy, most recently helping make MEDVAMC a smoke free facility. She educates staff from all disciplines, serves as a consultant to Oncology and Transplant teams, and counsels and treats veterans with Nicotine addiction on a daily basis. Homeless PACT (H-PACT) continues to provide comprehensive primary care and mental health services tailored to the unique needs of homeless veterans

As set by VHA, our full time Primary Care Providers carry a panel of 1200 patients and a NP/PA carries a panel of 900 patients. On the average, about 600 patients are seen in Primary Care clinics every day.

Primary Care physician leadership includes Dr. Kadiyala (Chief of Primary Care) and the team leaders – Drs. Frimpong-Badu, Hirani, and Adjovu. Dr. Rola El-Serag is the Medical Director of our Women’s Health Program. In addition to overseeing the day to day operations of this large section, Primary Care leadership chairs several committees, and are members of many high value committees in the hospital.
BCM Environmental health services

While the environmental service has had a very fruitful year in the research arena, in the clinical arena, of particular note is a partnership with United Healthcare (UHC) Community Plan of Texas to provide service to their members; the agreement is now in final negotiations. UHC will refer to EHS their poorly controlled asthmatics. Clinical care will be reimbursed normally. UHC will also pay through a vendor agreement with us for home assessments, home-based intervention and supplies, as well as education of primary care physicians as part of our novel hand-back program. The program is based on the findings of our HIITBAC study. The effort uses an innovative outcomes-based payment system, which is expected to serve as a model for other asthma programs and health plans across the country.

Environmental Health has continued its nationally recognized community outreach efforts, including hosting the first ever Town Hall on Asthma, working closely with the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (which was instrumental in bringing UHC and BCM together), publishing with other PCORI awardees about community engagement, and working closely with the Resident Councils at two Houston public housing complex in designing outreach efforts and an upcoming clinical trial addressing asthma and chronic rhinosinusitus.

EHS has environmental health clinics at Smith Clinic (adult; medical director: N Hanania) and the Pediatric and Adolescent Health center in Pasadena (PAHC; medical director: M Hanfling). Because EHS has no AMS FTE, the two clinics are primarily used for research and clinical care funded by outside sources (e.g., the Chevron-Phillips Chemical Company settlement). Area children with elevated blood-lead levels are routinely referred to the PAHC, which collaborates with the City of Houston and Harris County departments of health to address the exposure source(s).

We also developed a “Remember 7” campaign to help educate area residents on how to protect their health and rebuild more resilient homes (and lives) after the next flooding event.

EHS personnel after the Cuney Homes Social. Left to right: Oluyomi, Nguyen, Rangel, Haffey, Boles and Hamilton

Remember 7 Campaign.
FGP Baylor Medicine at McNair Campus

- As of February 2019, Block rotation for residents where residents can spend 2 or 4 weeks working with the clinic’s seven supervising attending’s.
- Resident continuity clinics (4 residents) allow residents the opportunity to provide care for their own panel of patients in continuity clinics. Given the private practice-oriented nature of the clinic and monthly process improvement meetings, residents will learn about clinic practice workflows, billing and coding, and clinic process improvement efforts.

BSLMC Hospitalist Program:

- In June 2018, the BSLMC Hospitalist team started the Resident Hospitalist Team, also known as RITE team, at Baylor St. Luke’s Medical Center. This rotation allows upper level residents the opportunity to experience hospitalist medicine including attending several committee meetings and multi-disciplinary rounds. Prior to starting our hospitalist rotation there were no primary services for the internal medicine residents aside from medical ICU.
- Now in our second year, we have been offered the opportunity to expand our team to include sub-intern medical students. The growth of our teaching service is in line with the overall mission of the joint venture to make BSLMC a superior academic medical center.

VAMC Hospital Medicine

- Our section continues to be primarily a teaching focused clinical group. We strive to provide evidence based timely and quality inspired supervised care to the Baylor College of Medicine trainee teams that we supervise.
- Our VA group has been working hard to increase our academic product development by creating a new ‘Works in Progress’ meeting once a month. Modeled after a traditional lab meeting, the works in progress format is a rotating schedule that requires every team member to present updates to their academic updates to the entire team. The effort is supported by a clear framework that makes the presentation style straightforward and easier to prepare, and also is mentored by BCM section lead Dr. David Hyman and HSR&D team member Dr. Molly Horstman.
- Numerous faculty hold academic leadership positions as highlighted in our academic leadership section of our report.

VAMC Primecare

- Currently 95 Internal Medicine Residents from BCM and UT have their Ambulatory Continuity clinics at MEDVAMC.
- Drs. Ashley Bose and Kamal Hirani took a lead role in organizing M&M Conferences in Primary Care. They discuss adverse outcomes associated with medical errors and systems issues, which can affect patient care. These discussions are well-received by staff as the focus is on quality improvement and patient safety.
Teaching activities at Harris health

- Smith Medicine Clinic is a Harris Health System (HHS) primary care clinic where ninety-three Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) 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.
- In this past academic year, led by Dr. Lu, the Smith Medicine Clinic faculty and residents completed a Quality Improvement Project on accurate blood pressure (BP) measuring. The data were presented at the Baylor College of Medicine 6th Annual Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Conference and at the 2019 Annual VA Quality Scholars Summer Institute Conference.
- Many clinic faculty presented lectures at the Wednesday school ambulatory curriculum, served as PP3 preceptors and participated in many educational activities.

Teaching activities HHS- Ben Taub Hospital

- GIM BT faculty are heavily involved in teaching activities throughout the college with and without institutional support.
- Our faculty are involved in teaching courses such as PPS 3, APEX, MS I and II and core clerkship lectures amongst many others. Many of our faculty also lead select elective courses across the college.
- Numerous faculty hold leadership positions in UME and GME as outlined on our academic leadership section.
RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH GRANTS

New Grants:

**BCM EHS Comprehensive Asthma Management Program. Corporation for National & Community Service** (CNCS), PI: Bruhl, Rebecca 9/1/2018–8/31/2019. This grant, administered by and with the support of the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative (GHHI), funded administrative support for the establishment a comprehensive asthma management program with UnitedHealthcare’s (UHC’s) Community Plan of Texas. The sustainable clinical effort uses an innovative value-based payment model.

**The Houston “Breathe Easy” Healthy Homes-Based Model for Multifamily Rental Communities**, Contract #12650902, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); PI: Hamilton, Winifred. 11/15/2018–11/14/2021. The EHS launched a new initiative in two large inner-city public housing communities operated by the Houston Housing Authority. The RCT will address environmental factors, medical treatment and knowledge in individuals with poorly controlled asthma and chronic rhinosinusitis. The program, with strong community involvement including CHWs from the affected communities, includes detailed home exposure assessments, as well as assessment of clinical measures such as lung inflammation, allergic status and fungal mycosis.

The Program of Narrative Medicine at BCM led by Nuila R, recently received a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The grant will be administered by a partnership between The Program of Narrative Medicine and the Rice University Humanities Research Center, and will support "Narrative Medicine in the Texas Medical Center."

Existing Grants:

**Technology to improve the health of resource-poor Hispanics with diabetes** PI Vaughan, Elizabeth. 04/01/2017 - 03/31/2022. National Institute of Health.


Gulf Coast Center for Precision Environmental Health (GC-CPEH), 1 P30 ES030285, National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), MPIs: C Walker, Cheryl CJ Elferink, E Symanski, 4/1/2019–3/31/2024
PUBLICATIONS/ABSTRACTS/OTHER SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

Books and Books Chapters


Fisher, J. Co-Author of a chapter in a recently released book titled "Trauma-Informed Healthcare Approaches: A Guide for Primary Care" published by Springer. The chapter is titled "Trauma-Informed Care: Helping the Healthcare Team Thrive"


**Peer Reviewed Publications**


**Horstman M, Salas E** *Web exclusive annals for hospitalists inpatient notes caregiver engagement in hospital medicine the next frontier* Ann intern med 2019 Jan 15 Epub ahead of print


**Lu L.** *To walk in another’s shoes.* Ann Intern Med. 2018 Aug 21;169(4):262


Poythress, E. Reorienting Orientation: Introducing the Social Determinants of Health to First Year Medical Students. MedEd Portal Sept 18, 2018


Sargsyan Z The “hemolyzed” physical examination: Situational challenges to accurate bedside diagnosis JAMA Intern Med. 2019 Feb 18. Epub ahead of print


Fleming ML, Driver L, Sansgiry S, Abughosh SM, **Wanat MA**. DEA Rescheduling of hydrocodone combination products is associated with changes in physician pain management prescribing preferences. [Accepted in Journal of Pain and Palliative Care Pharmacotherapy – December 2018].


**Abstracts/Posters**

Agrawal, Anoop; Keough, Colleen; Rodríguez, Fatima; Ghali, Bassem. Faculty development and teaching in Social Medicine: A framework for integration of social medicine into academic work through peer meetings and social medicine rounds. Social Medicine Consortium 2019. Chiapas, Mexico.


Friedland, J, Shah V, **Laufman L**. The Power of Professionalism Award: Fostering Professionalism in an Academic Institution. Association of American Medical Colleges Annual Meeting, November 2018, Austin, TX


Dicady, Mirlande; Keough, Colleen; Fameux, Edelyne; Bradke, Amanda; Official, Guerdye; Dagerus, Phélès; Georges, Néri. Triage Implementation and Evaluation in the Pediatric and Adult Emergency Rooms of a Rural Public Hospital in Haiti. The Consortium of Universities for Global Health 2019. Chicago, Illinois.


Horstman, MJ; Razjouyan, J; Shahin, J; Naik. Post-discharge resource use and 30 day unplanned hospital readmissions in patients admitted for heart failure. Society of Hospital Medicine Annual Meeting. National Harbor, MD. March 2019


Tabilona J, Lu LB. To bell or not to bell: a case of atypical facial nerve palsy. Southern Society of General Internal Medicine, Houston, TX, February, 2019.


Mallepally N, Lu, LB. A confusing case of confusion. Southern Society for General Internal Medicine Feb 2019

Wang T, Lu LB. An unusual case of usual knee pain. Southern Society for General Internal Medicine Feb 2019

Murphy, D. Understanding primary care physician's information needs during inbox message processing, Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., May 2019


Rose S, Morse M, Agrawal A, Lee, S. From complaints to commitments: a grassroots effort to improve faculty and staff well-being within the Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) Faculty Group Practice (FGP). Physician Health and Wellness Exchange, Texas Medical Association, March 2019.

Triozzi J, McDermott, L and Morse M. Chronic Pain Management in the Ambulatory Setting: A Learning Needs Assessment of Internal Medicine Residents and an Educational Intervention. SGIM, Southern Region: Feb 2019, Houston, TX


**Oluyomi AO**, et al. “Hurricane Harvey Rapid Health and Environmental Assessment Study: Preliminary Results.” Invitation to present at the BCM Department of Medicine Grand Rounds. Houston, TX. January 24. Houston, TX.

Escobar B, **Oluyomi AO**, Valverde I, Montealegre J, Jibaja-Weiss M. Using Geographic Information Systems Mapping to Target a Cancer Prevention Theater Outreach Program to the Medically Underserved (poster). 16th Annual Dan L Duncan Comprehensive Cancer Center Symposium, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, Friday, March 1, 2019.


Amenta, EM; Mohammed, AD; **Ritter C**. A vasopressor refractory complex shock caused by superior vena cava syndrome. Society of Hospital Medicine Annual Meeting. National Harbor, MD. March 2019


Dlouhy, LJ; **Rueda, JJ.** Hypokalemic hyperthyroidism causing paralysis. Society of Hospital Medicine Annual Meeting. National Harbor, MD. March 2019

Sanber, K, **Shah C**, **Greenberg S** Predicting risk of clinical deterioration: a closer look at resident handoffs and rapid response. Society of General Internal Medicine Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., May 2019

Johnston, W; Bhatia, R; **Schmidt, R**; **Lu, L.** The curious case of a rash and a growing abdomen, Society of Hospital Medicine Annual Meeting. National Harbor, MD. March 2019


**Herrera LN, Sherman S.** Stunned by a Strike to the Face: Case of Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy. Southern Society of General Internal Medicine. Houston, TX. February 2019.


National and Regional Presentations

Fisher JW. Challenges in the Medical Care of Immigrants, American College of Physicians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, April 2019.

Hamilton WJ. Did You Prescribe a Spacer? Findings from a Recent Clinical Trial of Houston-Area African-American Adults with Asthma. Principles of Public and Community Health, Rice University, Houston TX, April 2019.

Hamilton WJ. Environmental Exposures and Health Status Before and After Hurricane Harvey in a Cohort of Poorly Controlled Asthmatics: Preliminary Findings, Hurricane Harvey 2 Years After: A Symposium, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX, August 2019.


Oluyomi AO. Application of GIS in the Medical Field. Fundamentals and Applications of GIS, The University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, TX, November. 2018.


Sargsyan Z. Updates in Hospital Medicine 2019” Invited Plenary Presentation. Southern Society of General Internal Medicine (SSGIM), Houston, TX, 2/15/2019.


HONORS AND AWARDS

Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching & Evaluation

- Dr. Lubna Khawaja, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Doris Lin, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine
- Dr. Edgardo Ordonez, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine & Emergency Medicine

Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award for Educational Leadership

- Dr. Anita Kusnoor, associate professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Erica Lescinskas, associate professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub

Early Career Faculty Award for Excellence in Patient Care

- Dr. Priti Dangayach, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub

Graduating Class Outstanding Faculty Award

- Dr. Andrew Caruso, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – MEDVAMC
- Dr. Matthew Novakovic, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Zaven Sargsyan, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine
- Dr. Stephanie Sherman, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine

Residency Program Award

- Dr. Stephanie Sherman 2019 Baylor House Staff, Teaching Faculty Award, Houston VA Hospital.

Young Alumnus Award

- Dr. Ricardo Nuila, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub

The BCM 2019 Women of Excellence includes many women from the section of General Internal Medicine. The group was honored on March 28 at a recognition ceremony in Cullen Auditorium.

- Dr. Jennifer Chen, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Priti Dangayach, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Nadia Ismail, associate professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Lubna Khawaja, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Lee Lu, associate professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Meroë Morse, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
- Dr. Rosa Schmidt, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub
Harris Health System Award
Dr. Priti Dangayach, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine-Ben Taub, was selected as the Harris Health Physician Champion of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2018 in recognition of her dedication and excellence in service and care of patients, guests and coworkers.

Texas Medical Association Physician Wellness Exchange
Dr. Joslyn Fisher, Dr. Claudine Johnson, et al, Best Faculty Poster Award for “Sunshine Grants: Planting Seeds of Wellness in an Academic Medical Department,” Houston, TX, March 2019.

General Internal Medicine Section Awards
- Hospitalist of the Year Award: **Dr. Alok Bhattarai, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine-BSLMC**
- Barry Goodfriend Outpatient Healer of the Year Award: **Dr. Vandana Shah, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine-Smith Clinic**
- D.A.V.E.* Award (*Dedicated Academician who Values Excellence in patient care, education, and scholarly activities): Dr. Chirayu Shah, associate professor, General Internal Medicine-Ben Taub
- The Joseph R. Guitreau Consummate Physician Award: **Dr. Joslyn Fisher, associate professor, General Internal Medicine-Ben Taub**

Dr. Vandana Shah receives **Barry Goodfriend Outpatient Healer of the Year award** from Dr. Barry Goodfriend.

Dr. Chirayu Shah receives the **DAVE award** from Dr. Hyman.

Dr. Joslyn Fisher receives the **The Joseph R. Guitreau Consummate Physician Award** from Dr. Patrice Firpo.
Other Honors

Dr. Stephanie Sherman, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine had a Visiting Professorship. Teine Keijinkai Hospital, Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan and Aso Iizuka Hospital, Iizuka, Fukuoka, Japan.

Dr. David Hyman, professor, General Internal Medicine was selected as Chair of the Scientific Statement Writing Group on Adherence for the AHA Council of Hypertension in September 2018 and was listed in Castle and Connolly 2019 top doctors.

Dr. Zaven Sargsyan, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub, gave the faculty address at the BCM School of Medicine White Coat Ceremony for the class of 2022. A video of the ceremony is available.

Dr. Rola El-Serag, associate professor, General Internal Medicine – VAMC, sat on a panel discussion about women veterans’ issues with Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo and Congresswomen Nancy Pelosi and Sheila Jackson Lee at the Aug. 3 Texas Gulf Coast Region Veterans Mental Health Summit, held at the United Way of Greater Houston building.

Dr. Sarah Candler, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – VAMC, was elected to join the Board of Directors of the Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians as an at-large member, effective Jan. 1, 2019. She also was recognized as an Inspirational Physician by the Women Physicians Section of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Stephen Greenberg, Distinguished Service professor, General Internal Medicine, was installed as the 2019 president of the American Clinical and Climatological Association at their 131st meeting, held Oct. 19 in Sarasota, FL.

Dr. Rosa Michelle Schmidt, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub was selected for the Baylor College of Medicine Career Advancement Series, in the Assistant Professor Center of Excellence Scholars category.

Dr. Meroë Morse, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine-Ben Taub, has graduated from the Fellowship in Integrative Medicine at the Center for Integrative Medicine at the University of Arizona College of Medicine – Tucson.

Dr. Nadia Ismail, associate professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub, has been elected to the national Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine Council of the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine. The 11,000-member Alliance empowers academic internal medicine professionals and enhances health care through professional development, research, and advocacy.

Dr. Anne Utech, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – VAMC, was appointed to the Senior Executive Service Equivalent position of National Director, Nutrition and Food Services, Veterans Health Administration, Washington, DC. Dr. Utech will oversee veteran nutrition policies and programs, strategic planning and national external/internal partnerships, and will serve as the VA’s primary subject matter expert for nutrition & food services.

Dr. Lee Lu, associate professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub, was selected to the Spring 2019 Leading Healthcare Improvement Advanced-Level Training Course. The course is offered by BCM’s Institute for Continuing Professional Development in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, and continues from March through August of 2019. She was also selected for induction into the Baylor College of Medicine Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha.
**Undergraduate Medical Education**

Nadia Ismail, MD, MPH, MEd – Associate Dean, Curriculum

Lee Poythress, MD – Assistant Dean of Student Affairs

Cara Foldes, MD, MPH - Director of the Foundational Sciences Curriculum and Course director, CABS-Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM)

Anita Kusnoor, MD – Director of PPS3 (Patient, Physician, & Society 3); Director, Medicine Sub-internship, Chair of Baylor CPX Exam Committee, Vice Chair of Sub-Internship Committee

Andrew Caruso, MD – Director, Internal Medicine Core Clerkship

Lubna Khawaja, MD – Director/Coordinator, Internal Medicine UME Electives

Rajeev Balchandani, MD – Assistant Course Director, PPS3

Lindsay Jordan Gay MD- Site Director Medicine Clerkship, MEDVAMC

Colleen Keough MD, MPH- Pathway leadership, Global Health of Pathway Leadership

Katie Scally MD- Course Co-Director of Transition to Clinics

Claudine Johnson, MD- Associate Director of D-DASH- Determinant, Disparities, and Social Health of Populations

Niraj Mehta, MD – Director, Ben Taub Hospital Bedside Physical Exam Rounds

Joey Fisher, MD, MPH - Course Director for electives Beyond the Exam Room: Physician as Advocate and Women & Health: Outside the Traditional Curriculum

Wayne Shandera, MD - Course Director electives for Nuclear Ethics, Human Rights and Medicine and Readings in HIV-AIDS Epidemiology

Vaclavik, Lindsay- The BCM VA Associate Director for Chief Resident in Quality and Safety (Dr. Lindsay Vaclavik) and the

Glynda Raynaldo and Dr. Jing Kees- UT Houston Site Director and Associate Site for MEDVAMC

**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)
Administrative/Other Service Leadership

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
Assistant Chief of Medicine for Education: Anita Kusnoor
Co-chair, Inpatient Clinical Advisory Committee (IT committee)-Chirayu Shah, MD
Physician representative, Opiate/chronic pain management task force- Meroe Morse, MD

Baylor Clinic:
Medical Advisory Board of MDVIP: Steve Rosenbaum, MD

BSLMC:
Chair of Utilization Management Committee BSLMC: Elie Jarrouge, MD

Department of Medicine:
Vice-Chair, Faculty & Staff Development, Joslyn Fisher, MD, MPH

BCM:
BCM Faculty Senators: Anita Kusnoor, MD; Lee Lu, MD; Jennifer Chen, MD; Michelle Schmidt, 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 Nuila, MD

MEDVAMC
Associate Chief of Staff – Quality, Safety, Value – Jung Hyun Park, MD
Drs. Erica Lescinskas, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub and Barbara Trautner, associate professor, Health Services Research, were mentioned in a July 10 article in the University of Michigan’s lab blog titled “More Than Half of Catheterized Hospital Patients Experience Complications.” They are co-authors of a manuscript that the article was based on. The information also was covered in a University of Michigan Futurity July 12 article titled “Patient reports suggest it’s better to avoid catheters.”

Dr. Ricardo Nuila, associate professor, General Internal Medicine authored an article on Maternal Mortality published in Texas Monthly, May 2019

Dr. Winnie Hamilton, associate professor, General Internal Medicine – Ben Taub, was interviewed for a Sept. 18 article for CNN titled “Pig poop and coal ash are real concern in North Carolina floods.”

The published work of Drs. Daniel Murphy, assistant professor, Ashley Meyer, assistant professor, Dean Sittig, adjunct professor, and Hardeep Singh, professor, all of Health Services Research, and Derek Meeks, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine, was discussed in an Oct. 9 article in Politico titled “Rethinking the e-trigger.”

Dr. Sarah Candler, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine – VAMC, was invited to provide an article in the Annals of Internal Medicine’s Fresh Look blog for early career and training physicians, titled “Inconceivable! What do we value in high-value care?”

Isabel Valdez, physician assistant and instructor, General Internal Medicine, was interviewed for a Dec. 20 story on Fox 26 News about cold symptoms and treatments.

Isabel Valdez, physician assistant and instructor, General Internal Medicine, was interviewed for a Dec. 31 article in Covering Katy News titled “Baylor College of Medicine offers tips on preventing and treating colds.”

Dr. Elizabeth Vaughan, assistant professor, General Internal Medicine-Ben Taub, and Noé Taracena, community health worker, General Internal Medicine-Ben Taub, were on Radio Amistad, KHCB 1400, on Feb. 6 for a one-hour Spanish program “Temas Vitals: Diabetes 101 y los beneficios de promotores” to discuss diabetes in Latinos (epidemiology, treatment, prevention) and study outcomes for the group’s CHW-led diabetes group visit clinical trial.

Dr. Niraj Mehta, associate professor, General Internal Medicine Was interviewed for a June 24 article in The Katy News titled "Birthday Cupcake Campaign at Ben Taub Hospital Reaches 1,000th Milestone."
WELLNESS

Interesting Facts@ Faculty Bingo Retreat 2019

Food as Medicine Wellness Event January 2019

GIM Admin Team Escapes the Room!