The Section of Infectious Diseases in the Department of Medicine provides outstanding state-of-the-art clinical care and 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. Dr. Thomas Giordano is the Chief of the Section. Ms. Regina Davis is the Section Administrator. The Section is the primary academic unit serving the clinical adult infectious diseases research community within Baylor College of Medicine. As such, the Section is a critical force in achieving both the strategic and mission objectives of the College.

The Section’s faculty serve vital administrative and service roles in the College, including serving on the Curriculum Committee, the Faculty Senate, Institutional Review Boards, the Biosafety Committee, the Environmental Safety Committee, the Medical Education Committee, the Dean’s Residency Manpower Committee, the College’s Rising Star and Master Clinician Awards Steering Committee, the Institutional Dual Use of Research Concern Committee, the Faculty Development Forum, and as Faculty Inclusion Ambassadors.

Thank you to the faculty, administrators and staff for another outstanding year for the Section of Infectious Diseases.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Giordano, M.D., M.P.H.
Professor of Medicine
Chief, Section of Infectious Diseases

HIGHLIGHTS

The Section had a very successful year. Major accomplishments for the year include welcoming Drs. Kulkarni and Trevino as new faculty members and adding five new co-primary faculty members into the Section. We also recruited three faculty for the next academic year. Despite being short of faculty in all clinical pavilions, the Section maintained excellent clinical productivity. Our research funding success continues: Dr. Bich Dang received her first independent research funding; Dr. Elizabeth Chiao continued her R01 funding with a new award; and Dr. Thomas Giordano is co-PI for a VA merit submission that is in “just-in-time” status. Highlights in education include Dr. Stacey Rose becoming a leader in undergraduate medical education, as Assistant Dean of Clinical Curriculum for the School of Medicine. The Section exceeded its contribution targets to the College.
FACULTY

Section Chief
- Thomas Giordano, M.D.

Primary Faculty
- Ume Abbas, M.D.
- Mayar Al Mohajer, M.D.
- Monisha Arya, M.D.
- Robert Atmar, M.D.
- Major Bradshaw, M.D.
- Katharine Breaux, M.D.
- Galant Chan, M.D.
- Elizabeth Chiao, M.D.
- Andrew Chou, M.D.
- Bich Dang, M.D.
- Charlene Flash, M.D.
- Richard Hamill, M.D.
- Penny Jaffe, M.D.
- Oyebunmi Kutemi, M.D.
- Daniel Mendoza, M.D.
- Cezarina Mindru, M.D.
- Daniel Mushru, M.D.
- George Parkerson, M.D.
- Shital Patel, M.D.
- Maria Rodriguez-Barradas, M.D.
- Stacey Rose, M.D.
- Jose Serpa-Alvarez, M.D.
- Shahriar Tavakoli Tabasi, M.D.
- Laila Woc-Colburn, M.D.
- Edward Young, M.D.

Co-Primary Faculty
- Hana El Sahly, M.D.
- Mary Estes, Ph.D.
- Wendy Keitel, M.D.
- Andrew Rice, Ph.D.
- Jennifer Whitaker, M.D.

Secondary Faculty
- Rabih Darouiche, M.D.
- Andrew DiNardo, M.D.
- Hana El Sahly, M.D.
- Wendy Keitel, M.D.
- Rojelio Mejia, M.D.
- Jill Weatherhead, M.D.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
The Section is research focused, with support from NIH, CDC, HRSA, industry, and other sources and over 250 non-duplicated publications since January 2015. Funded grants during the 2018-2019 academic year are listed below.

Chiao, Elizabeth, M.D.
- Texas Neuroaids Research Center; NIH
- The Effectiveness of Screening HIV-infected Women for Anal Cancer Precursors; NCI
- Identifying Novel Pharmacological Risk Factors for Common Non-AIDS Defining Cancers in Individuals with Well-Controlled HIV Infection; NCI
- Annual Anal Sampling Using DNA Screening to Identify Men who Have Sex with Men at Increased Risk for Anal Cancer; NIH
• Determining the Accuracy of Self and Partner Anal Exams for Detecting Anal Abnormalities; NIH
• Optimizing Age-Based Anal Cancer Screening Among People Living with HIV Using Decision Analytic Modeling; NIH
• The Effectiveness of High Resolution Microendoscopy (HRME) in High Grade Intraepithelial Lesions (HISIL) Diagnosis for People Living with HIV; NIH
• Clinical Site Agreement to Conduct AIDS Malignancy Consortium (AMC) Clinical Trials; NCI

\textbf{Dang, Bich, M.D.}

• Patient Satisfaction, Retention in HIV Care, and Adherence to Art; NIMH
• Refinement and Pilot Testing of a Highly Innovative Provider Coaching and Feedback Intervention to Improve the Patient HIV Care Experience; NIH

\textbf{Giordano, Thomas, M.D.}

• Brief Personalized Feedback Intervention for Hazardous Drinking in an HIV Clinic; NIH
• Next-Gen Oral Test for Monitoring HIV/AIDS in Point-of-Care; NIH
• Effectiveness of an Integrated Treatment to Address Smoking Cessation and Anxiety/Depression in People Living with HIV; NIH

\textbf{Mejia, Rojelio, M.D.}

• Controlled Infection Trial to Test Efficacy of Hookworm Vaccine with Different TLR Agonists. Using qPCR to Identify Those Infected with Hookworm Pre and Post Vaccination; NIH/NIAD
• Engineering Research Center on Biological and Chemical Hazards of Flooding and Hurricanes; Thrasher Research Fund
• Impact of Nitazoxanide on Cryptosporidium Burden in HIV-Infected Patients; Romark Laboratories, LC
• Engineering Research Center for Hurricane Urban Planning Hazards Research; National Science Foundation
• Health Outcomes Evaluation of Children with Gastrointestinal Parasitic and Chagas Disease Co-Infection & Clinical Characterization of Acute Chagas Disease; Thrasher Research Fund
• Prevalence and Post-Treatment Efficacy for Stronglyoidiasis in Solid Organ Transplant Patients; Roderick Duncan MacDonald Research Fund

\textbf{Patel, Shital, M.D.}

• South Central AIDS Education and Training Center Region 6 – SCAETC Program; Health Resources and Services Administration
• Flu Pandemic 2 Haiven Pilot Study; Centers for Disease Control

\textbf{Rodriguez-Barradas, Maria, M.D.}

• Alcohol and Multisubstance Use in the Veterans Aging Cohort Study: 2/6 COMPAAAS U01: Observation Study; National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
• Active Surveillance to Quantify the Burden of Viral Gastroenteritis in the U.S. Veterans Affairs Patient Population; Centers for Disease Control
• Randomized Trial to Prevent Vascular Events in HIV – Reprieve (A5322); KOWA Pharmaceuticals America, INC.
Serpa-Alvarez, Jose, M.D.
- 2018 IDSA Annual Meeting – ID Fellowship Travel Grant; JANSSEN Scientific Affairs, LLC

Tavakoli-Tabasi, Shahriar, M.D.
- Development of a Shared Decision Making Aid for Hepatitis C Treatment; Health Services Research & Development

HONORS AND AWARDS

Robert Atmar, M.D.

Mayar Al Mohajer, M.D., MBA
- Faculty of the Year award from the graduating fellows, Section of Infectious Diseases

Thomas Giordano, M.D., M.P.H.
- M.D. Anderson Foundation Chair, Baylor College of Medicine, May 2019 to present.

Katherine Breaux, M.D., M.S.
- Selected by American Academy of Physician Assistants as an occupation expert for the United States Department of Labor’s National Occupational Information Network (O*NET) Data Collection Program

Mary Estes, Ph.D.
- Elected Member, Board of Governors, American Academy of Microbiology (2019-2021)
- Invited Member, Advisory Committee, T32 in Infectious Diseases. Mayo Clinic (2019-present)
- Invited Member, External Advisory Committee, Mayo Clinic Digestives Center (2019-present)
- Advisor on Research Grants, National Crohns and Colitis Foundation, (2019-present)
- 2020 American Society for Microbiology Lifetime Achievement Award
- Named Lecture (the Mary Estes Keynote Lectore) established at the 2019 International Symposium on Caliciviruses held in Sydney, Australia

Rojelio Mejia, M.D.
- July 2018 Baylor College of Medicine Center of Excellence in Health Equity, Training and Research Junior Faculty Award
- June 2019 Visiting Professor of Tropical Diseases, Universidad Internacional De Ecuador, Quito, Ecuador

Kenneth Muldew, M.D.
- 2019: Ben Taub Hospital Physician Champion ServiceFIRST Hero, 2nd Quarter, 2019, Harris Health System, Houston, Texas
- 2018: Outstanding Clinical Faculty Award, School of Health Professions, University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas
- Certified Next-Generation Sequencing Inspector, College of American Pathologists, 2015-present
- Certified Molecular Diagnostics Inspector, College of American Pathologists, 2015-present
Shital Patel, M.D.
• Senior Fellow, a graduate of the American Leadership Forum’s Class XLVI-Healthcare (May 2019)

Stacey Rubin Rose, M.D.
• Texas Super Doctors Rising Stars 2018 (July 2018)
• Houstonia Magazine Top Doctors 2018 (August 2018)
• Sunshine Grant Awardee (Oct. 2018) for wellness activity: “From Complaints to Commitments”
• “That’s the Way” award (May 2019)

Jose Serpa-Alvarez, M.D., M.S.
• Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellent Award in Development of Enduring Educational Materials (November 2018)
• Elected as Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America
• Accepted in the Master Teacher Fellowship Program, Baylor College of Medicine

Laila Woc-Colburn, M.D.
• Infectious Diseases Fellows Faculty of the Year 2018-19
• Infectious Diseases Society of America Leadership Institute Inaugural class 2019
• AAIM Executive Leadership Course-2018

PRESS

Monisha Arya, M.D., M.P.H.
• Featured in the BCM Newslink publication about mentoring BCM and Rice University undergraduate students. “Arya mentors successful student research team.” April 27, 2018
• Featured in the BCM Family News publication about effective mentoring. “Mentorship important for effective learning.” Aug. 1, 2019

Thomas Giordano, M.D.
• Interviewed by Heather Boerner for Medscape HIV/AIDS story, “Monthly shots for HIV within reach,” published March 19, 2019

Jennifer Whitaker, M.D.